



Mediterranean Reflections

Year 2009



IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

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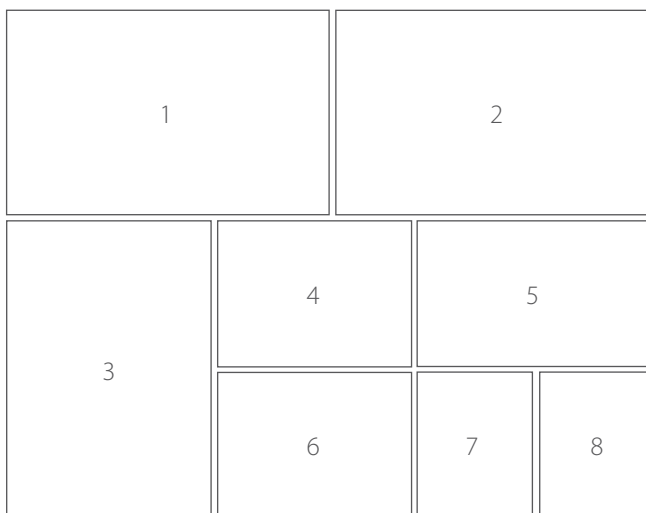


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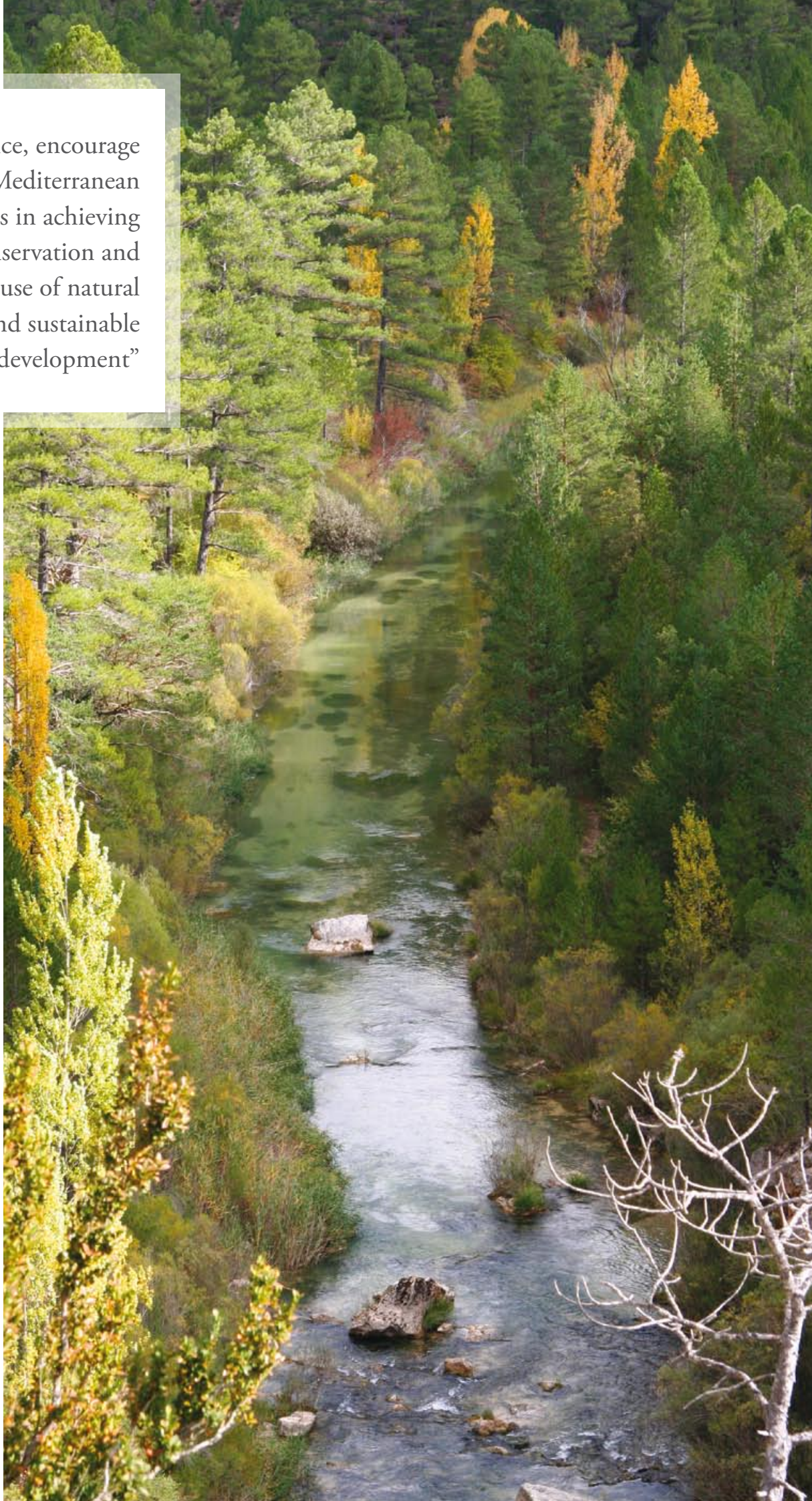
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“To influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies in achieving both the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable development”

As defined in the IUCN Mediterranean Strategy

Mediterranean Reflections 2009

02



Foreword

In 2009 we all witnessed a global economic crisis that has affected a significant percentage of the world population at different levels. The average economic growth of all Mediterranean countries declined substantially, while the problems caused by global changes have become ever more apparent.

This annual report once again highlights the relevance of our work and the critical importance of this programme in the Mediterranean, as well as our long-term commitment to supporting countries and members in the region in initiatives to achieve the UN Millennium Goals. Joint implementation of the decisions of the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in 2008 has formed a crucial part of our goal of shaping a better and more sustainable life for everyone in the Mediterranean.

The current crisis has, however, made us think of new options for sustainable development. Therefore, the Centre focused its efforts on key issues such as improved management and use of natural resources in the southern Mediterranean countries, which predictions suggest will be more affected by the impacts of climate change. In particular, we worked on strategies for adapting to and mitigating global change through the intelligent use of natural resources, as an indispensable tool for the conservation of biodiversity and the welfare of communities that depend on them.

Throughout this year we have emphasised the contribution that the mountains, forests and drylands of the Mediterranean make to the maintenance of the goods and services that these ecosystems provide, as well as the threats looming over them. The importance of protecting our biodiversity against uncontrolled development and use of species and habitats by means of new legal and management tools, and the involvement of their users and direct

beneficiaries, has been at the core of our efforts to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of our region and to provide sustainable sources of income for rural communities in the short, medium and long term.

Marine resource management has also been widely discussed, particularly the need for dialogue and international cooperation at all levels; among coastal states and different sectors such as the tourism, fishing and shipping industries. As can be seen in the report, we have worked closely with other agencies and experts from the region to help identify priority areas for the conservation of ecologically important species and habitats, by documenting and promoting the implementation of existing legislation and the best national and regional mechanisms for their official protection. The indispensable role of the seas, as a habitat for emblematic marine species and a link binding together Mediterranean culture and cuisine, has been accentuated this year on account of their major contribution as a carbon sink.

Finally, 2009 has helped us to plan new strategies for 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, during which we hope to celebrate and continue to protect the ecological and cultural systems that shape the unique heritage of the Mediterranean region, our biodiversity, and thus safeguard the future of all our lives and yours.

In April 2010, my professional life takes me back to Latin America and the Caribbean, and I take this opportunity to thank all our donors, members and partners for their commitment and support over the past three years, and all my colleagues at the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation for their dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.



OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

The work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is made possible through the generosity, trust and confidence of a growing number of partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions, non-governmental organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals. We are most grateful for all the contributions received in 2009 to support the Centre and therefore IUCN's work.

Our core supporters



Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM)



Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía (Spain)

Our project donors



Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID, Spain)



French Development Agency (France)



Marine Protected Areas Agency (France)



Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA, Tunisia)



European Commission



Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía (Spain)



Department for International Development (UK)



Diputación de Málaga (Spain)



Total Corporate Foundation (France)



MAVA Foundation for the Protection of Nature (MAVA, Switzerland)



Holcim (Spain)



Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Territorial Development (MEDD, France)



Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM, Spain)



Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Italy)



Autonomous Organization of National Parks (OAPN, Spain)

New members in 2009

- Al Shouf Cedar Society (ACS) - Lebanon
- Fondation Prince Albert II - Monaco
- French Association of Zoos (AFdPZ)
- Institute for Conservation of Nature in Albania (INCA)
- Jordanian Society for Organic Crop
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro
- Moroccan Association for Ecotourism and Nature Conservation (AMEPN)
- Scientific Committee on Environmental Issues (SCOPE) - France

Additional partners and cooperation agreements

- A Rocha
- African Development Bank
- Agency Watershed Moulouya (ABHM) in Morocco
- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
- Asian Development Bank
- Association of Marine Aquaculture Companies in Andalusia (ASEM)
- Barcelona Convention
- Development Agency of Eastern Morocco
- Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLCD, Morocco)
- Islamic Culture Foundation (FUNCI)
- Lebanese Ministry of Environment
- The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAP) of the Junta de Andalucía of Spain
- National Institute of Fisheries Research (INHR, Morocco)
- Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA)
- Spanish Fisheries Confederation (CEPESCA)
- Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)
- The Mountain Partnership
- University of Malaga (Spain)
- University of Surrey (UK)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

“IUCN has evolved over 6 decades into the largest community of experts in the world. By joining us, you advance your own cause and increase our collective strength to overcome barriers to a sustainable future”



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009

11 JANUARY

A workshop to prepare the Red List of threatened Mediterranean marine flora, such as phanerogams or seagrass meadows, was organized in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

23 MARCH

Holcim Spain and IUCN-Med signed an agreement to promote environmental and biodiversity protection initiatives and to advise Holcim on integrating environmental and social aspects into the implementation of an Integrated Restoration Plan for the Torredonjimeno quarry in Jaen.

19 JANUARY

Experts on freshwater biodiversity in North Africa received training in Tunisia in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), with support from the Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency and the European Commission.

15 APRIL

The main foundations with interests in the region met in Monaco under the auspices of the Albert II Foundation, now a member of IUCN, to discuss funding priorities for conservation projects in the Mediterranean.

Highlights of
2009

06

4 FEBRUARY

The Mountain Partnership met in Rome (Italy) to strengthen collaboration and help implement guidelines for the conservation of the main Mediterranean mountain ranges.

16-18 APRIL

The second International Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea, attended by over 100 representatives from Spain, Morocco and Algeria, agreed to draw up an Action Plan based on the 'Oujda Declaration on the conservation and sustainable development of the Alboran Sea'.

15 MARCH

Experts from around the world met in Nairobi to develop a Strategy for Drylands, which are spreading in the region, and to restore their real value to society.

27-29 APRIL

Some 40 experts in maritime law and marine biodiversity and representatives of Mediterranean organizations met in Nice to discuss improving governance in the Mediterranean Sea and to open an international consultation process.

18 MARCH

IUCN-Med with the FAO and WWF presented their joint work on Mediterranean forests and adaptation to climate change at the Special Event on 'Fire and Climate Change' held during the 19th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in Rome.

15 MAY

A new national strategy supported by IUCN-Med was approved by the Council of Ministers of Lebanon; it addresses the need to adapt to climate change so as to reduce the risk of devastating wildfires and to enhance social and ecological resilience to the impacts of global change.

29 MAY

The Mediterranean Mosaics initiative brought together experts from five countries in Portugal to establish a strategic alliance and to launch an innovative project to increase ecological, social and cultural resilience to global change in rural areas of high conservation value, using a new rural development and conservation model integrating adaptation needs at a landscape level. The project includes areas of high ecological and cultural value in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon.

8 JUNE

The film 'A changing sea: Imagine a world without fish' was given its first official public showing in Malaga. It tells the story of a grandfather and grandson faced with the acidification of the oceans.

6 JULY

IUCN-Med moved offices in the Andalusia Technology Park.

12 JULY

The Director General of IUCN visited North African countries for the first time with Margarita Astrálag, the Director of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, in the context of the IUCN subregional programme for the region.

27 AUGUST

An assessment of 163 species of Mediterranean dragonflies and damselflies showed that one in five is threatened with extinction at regional level because of the increasing shortage of fresh water, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

21 SEPTEMBER

The new collaboration agreement with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation was adopted in plenary by the Malaga Provincial Government, advocating the protection and conservation of the Alboran Sea in cooperation with Andalusia, Morocco and Algeria.



27 SEPTEMBER

The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) hosted a meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) in Cairo to discuss adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, based on experience and strategies in the Mediterranean region.

1 OCTOBER

The Bern Convention held the first meeting of its group of experts on European island biodiversity. IUCN-Med hosted a second international meeting in Malaga in November to establish a platform for dialogue and make progress in conservation. The Mediterranean has over 5,000 islands.

7 OCTOBER

Granada hosted the first international workshop on Botanical Gardens of the Mediterranean, within the FUNC1 MED-O-MED project: Cultural Landscapes of the Mediterranean and the Middle East; the experience of Al-Andalus was highlighted.

22 OCTOBER

IUCN-Med worked with the FAO and other international institutions to organize an event on 'Dryland forests: challenges and opportunities in light of global change' during the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, with a presentation of work in the region on adaptation to climate change in the management and conservation of Mediterranean forests. IUCN-Med has facilitated the development of a Mediterranean initiative on forests and adaptation to climate change, led by GTZ and involving other international organizations such as the FAO and EFIMED.

5 NOVEMBER

Four new Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) were approved during the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP16) of the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention, held in Morocco: the Natural Reserve of the Bouches de Bonifacio (France), the Protected Marine Areas of Capo Caccia-Isoia Piana and Punta Campanella (Italy) and the National Park of Al-Hoceima (Morocco).

16 NOVEMBER

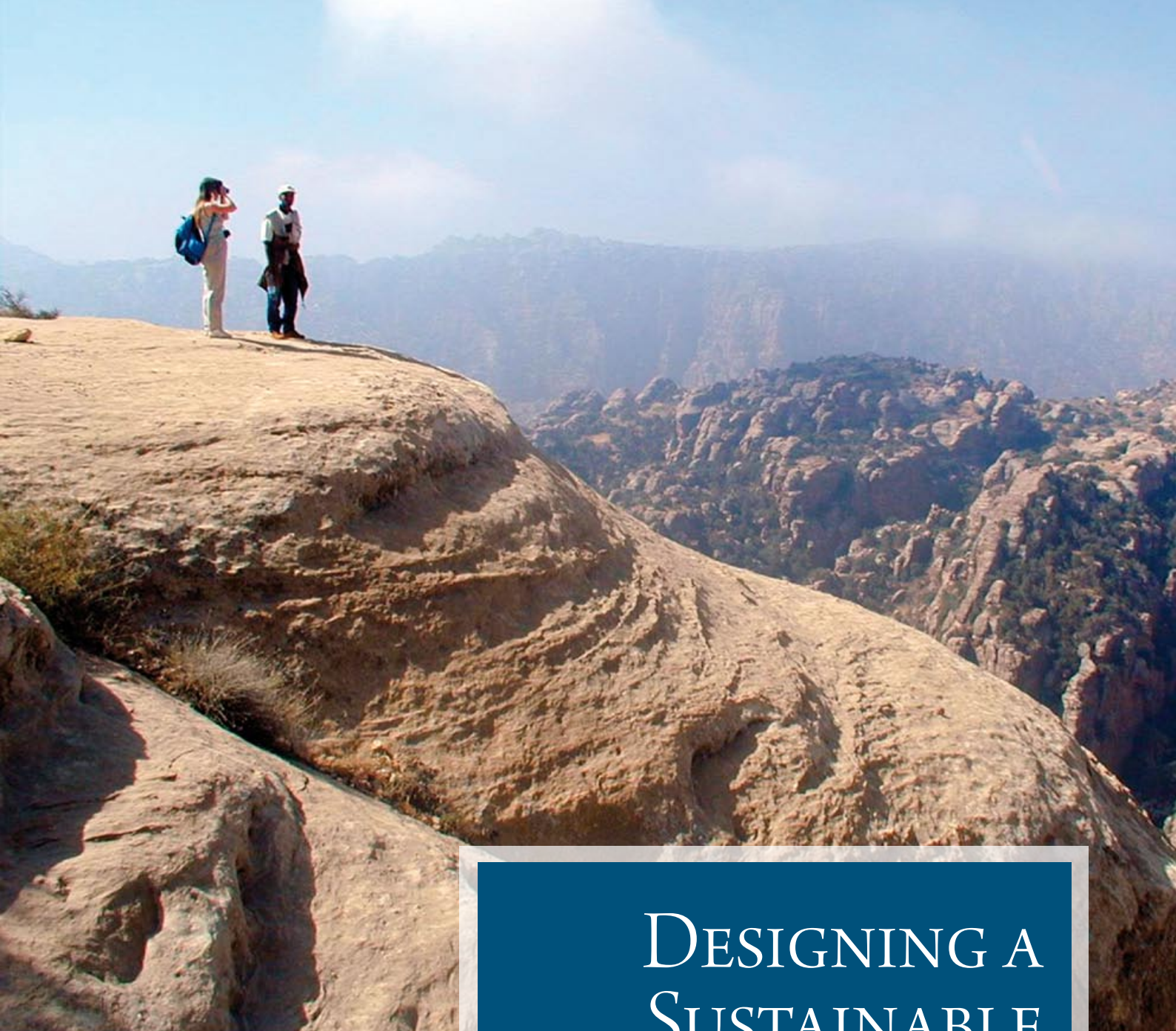
The International Summit on protected areas and climate change culminated in the Declaration of Granada, highlighting the fundamental role of these areas as natural solutions for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

17 DECEMBER

The Regional Department of the Environment of the Andalusian Government signed an agreement with IUCN at the Copenhagen Summit to promote joint activities and support the role of protected areas in the fight against climate change.

18 DECEMBER

Experts in Mediterranean forests and flora met to coordinate efforts to identify Key Biodiversity Areas in each country in the region, in order to include this information in the identification of conservation priorities for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).



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DESIGNING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY



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Ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity both locally and globally

The Mediterranean region is regarded as a biodiversity hotspot because of the number of species that are endemic or unique to the region: it has over 25,000 endemic plant species. This year it has seen a major increase in information and data on the conservation status and geographic distribution of several taxonomic groups of species. Based on assessments carried out in the region, the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation this year published regional reports on mammals, dragonflies and damselflies with the following results:

Conserving
biodiversity

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Thirsty dragonflies

The assessment of 163 species of dragonflies and damselflies in the Mediterranean shows that 5 are Critically Endangered, 13 are Endangered, another 13 are Vulnerable, 27 are Near Threatened, 96 are of Least Concern and 6 are Data Deficient, i.e. the information needed to assess their current status is unavailable, but they might be threatened.

The growing water shortage seems to be the main threat to these species, but this first regional report also points out other factors that affect them, such as climate change and habitat degradation due to changes in land use. Four species are already listed as Extinct in the Mediterranean region: *Agriocnemis exilis*, *Ceriagrion glabrum*, *Rhyothemis semihyalina* and *Phyllomacromia africana*.

Dragonflies are known to be good indicators of water quality. Sixty-seven percent of these Mediterranean species are threatened by changes to their habitats and pollution.

The status of these species is likely only to worsen, as climate change and increasing water demand have a negative impact on them. The dragonfly *Sympetrum depressiusculum*, for example, once common in the Mediterranean, is now classified as

Vulnerable and is in decline because of the intensification of agriculture in rice fields.

Fourteen percent of these insect species live only in Mediterranean freshwater ecosystems, which include some of the most threatened and biodiverse habitats; nine of these are



Endangered or Vulnerable. According to the report, the highest concentration of endemic dragonflies is in the southern and western Mediterranean; the Maghreb and the Levant are areas of regional importance in terms of the number of endemics. Most of the threatened species are concentrated in the Levant, southern Turkey and the Balkans, north-eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia. The damselfly *Calopteryx exul*, for example, is in decline and classed as Endangered. It lives in aquatic environments in the Maghreb, where ecosystems are affected by human exploitation of water resources, pollution, irrigation and drought.


While some species are already subject to protection measures under international law, as in the case of *Coenagrion ornatum*, which is included in the European Habitats Directive, others are not protected at all, despite being endangered. Coordinated, long-term action at regional, national and international levels is therefore required. The results of this report underscore the responsibility held by Mediterranean countries to protect global populations. It is vital to select and protect the most important areas to ensure the survival of these species. To this end, their ecological requirements must be taken into account in the planning and management of water resource use, especially in agriculture or infrastructure development. IUCN Red List data can help to clarify both processes.

Habitat protection, the priority for mammals

The first assessment of the status of Mediterranean mammals for the IUCN Red List shows that one in six is threatened with extinction at a regional level. The study, which assesses the status of 320 species, with the exception of whales and dolphins, estimates that three percent are Critically Endangered, five percent are Endangered and eight percent are Vulnerable. Another eight percent are Near Threatened and three percent are Extinct or Regionally Extinct. Of the 49 threatened mammal species, 20 are endemic.

The main threat is habitat destruction, which affects 90 percent of threatened species. Agriculture affects 65 percent of threatened mammals, hunting and trapping 60 percent, and invasive species 50 percent. In total, the populations of more than a quarter (27 percent) of Mediterranean mammals are in decline and 31 percent are stable, while the population trend for more than 40 percent is unknown. Only three percent of populations have increased, often thanks to conservation efforts.

The study shows that rodents, bats, shrews, hedgehogs and moles, which constitute the majority of Mediterranean mammals, are finding it increasingly difficult to survive because of agriculture, pollution, climate change and urbanization. Large herbivores like deer, carnivores, and rabbits and hares are particularly threatened. Eight species belonging to these groups have become



“The main threat is habitat destruction, which affects 90 percent of threatened species. Agriculture affects 65 percent of threatened mammals, hunting and trapping 60 percent, and invasive species 50 percent”



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Biodiversity as a factor in water management

The assessment of freshwater biodiversity in the Moulouya basin in Morocco and integration of these considerations in management of the basin form part of the North African section of the project for the 'Integration of freshwater biodiversity in the development process throughout Africa', funded mainly by the European Commission. The main objectives are to assess the state of freshwater biodiversity across Africa and to show how this information can be applied in environmental and developmental planning at four pilot evaluation sites, one of which is the Moulouya river.

Extinct in the Mediterranean region, including the Mesopotamian fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*) and the common hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*).

Mammal biodiversity is greater in the mountainous areas of the region, with particularly high concentrations of threatened species in the mountains of Turkey, the Levant and north-western Africa. Although the Sahara has relatively low number of species, many of them are threatened.

This IUCN initiative is being developed in Morocco in partnership with the Moulouya Water Basin Agency (ABHM), the University of Oujda and the IUCN Regional Councillor Brahim Haddane. The key species identified and studied at the Moulouya site comprise 5 freshwater taxa: fish, crabs, aquatic plants, dragonflies and molluscs, with their associated habitats.

The initiative has also provided training workshops for freshwater experts and managers from North African countries and for ABHM staff in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a tool for integrating the various data on biodiversity.

During the week of 9–13 February 2009 the assessment workshop for the Red List of aquatic plants of North Africa and the Mediterranean took place in Tabarka (Tunisia), in association

Conserving biodiversity

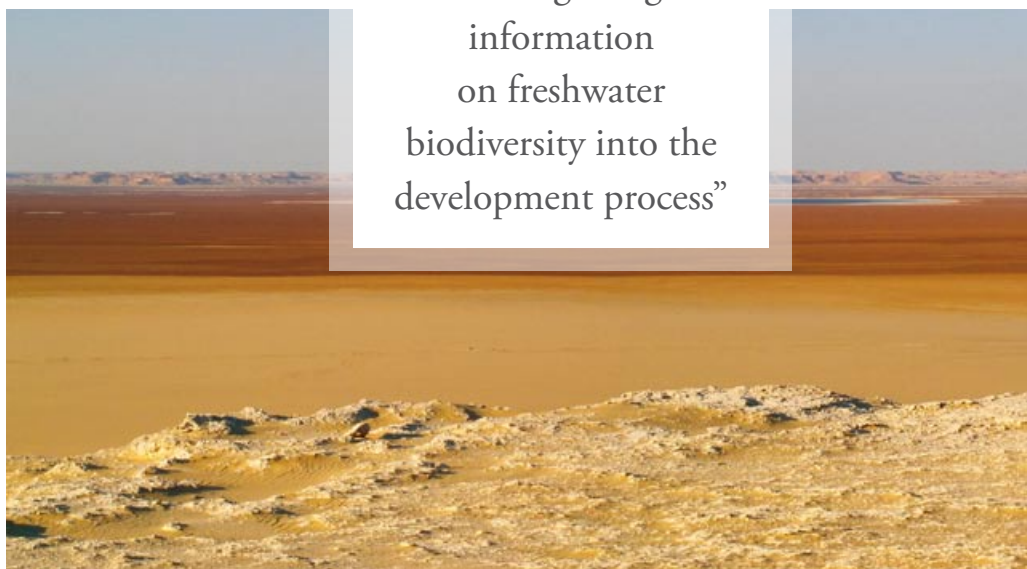
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The Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) are both Critically Endangered. The IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Barcelona in October 2008, called for international action to preserve their natural habitats.

To ensure the survival of large herbivorous and carnivorous mammals in the Mediterranean we must restore habitats and the food chain. We need to encourage people to accept large predators and we must improve both the management of protected areas and the enforcement of hunting laws.

“An IUCN initiative in Morocco is integrating information on freshwater biodiversity into the development process”

© Joana Cebrian ►



with the IUCN National Committee in Tunisia. In total, 23 experts from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Israel, Turkey, Italy, France, Croatia and Montenegro worked together to determine the conservation status of over 500 plant species. The experts were trained in applying the Red List Categories and Criteria and the IUCN Species Information System (SIS). The assessment of the Red List of aquatic plants for North Africa has now been completed, including the data analysis and the digitization of distribution maps. This work has provided the basis for an assessment of aquatic plants throughout the Mediterranean, to be published in 2010.

Oujda University has worked closely with IUCN-Med to plan further activities, present the results of the local biodiversity assessment to policy makers and develop awareness-raising campaigns and events for local communities, including a caravan that has travelled along the Moulouya river with information materials for various different audiences.

In addition to the above, a monitoring network to improve communication among the parties involved in biodiversity and water management in the region has been developed, including the formulation of basic guidelines for including species conservation measures in the sustainable management of water resources.

The main conclusions arising from the freshwater biodiversity project in North Africa, to be published as a report in 2010, include:

- More than a quarter (27 percent) of the North African freshwater species analysed are threatened with extinction at regional level, with 9 percent classed as Near Threatened and another 14 percent as Data Deficient.

- Eighteen species are globally Extinct, including the endemic fish *Salmo pallaryi* and 17 molluscs, mostly native to the North African Palaeartic region (the Maghreb). Another 30 species are Extinct at a regional level, which means that they have disappeared from the region but are still present in other parts of the world. Six odonata are regionally Extinct. However, the mollusc species *Margaritifera marocana*, which had been considered Extinct, was rediscovered and subsequent genetic research revealed it to be a separate species.
- Freshwater molluscs and aquatic plants are groups that make the North African region unique, and together they account for 81.5 percent of the region's endemic species.
- Due to the limited number of river systems and wetlands in North African countries, freshwater species are concentrated in the Mediterranean Maghreb, the River Nile in Egypt, southern Algeria and the Libyan Arab Republic.
- Habitat loss and degradation, due mainly to water extraction and infrastructure development, as well as pollution, are the main causes of the decline in North African species.

During the week of 23–27 November 2009 the assessment workshop for the Red List of Mediterranean and European freshwater molluscs was held in Budapest (Hungary) in association with the Hungarian National Committee of mollusc experts.

A total of 15 experts on freshwater molluscs in the region worked together to determine the conservation status of more than 250 species. This information is a contribution to



the Mediterranean freshwater biodiversity assessment, which will be published in 2010.

The assessments and available information for the Mediterranean region can be found in the new section of the IUCN Red List website at <http://www.redlist.org/initiatives/mediterranean>.

More research for marine fish

Among the other Mediterranean species being assessed at regional level are marine fish. Their study has shown the pressing need for more research in the marine environment, as for many of these species there are not enough data to assign them to a threat category with the necessary information. Of the 522 species studied, about 30 percent have been listed as Data Deficient (DD). The critical state of marine fish species considered Endangered, such as Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, as well as guidelines for their conservation, will be published in the coming months.

Understanding the environment and its components in order to protect them

The planning and the efficient, integrated management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) require, among other things, that priority areas and species for conservation be properly identified. The MedRAS project (Identifying Priority Representative Areas and Species in the Mediterranean Sea to Conserve) promoted by IUCN and launched in late 2008 aims to identify priority habitats and species so that they can be appropriately protected and managed. The project aims to define scientific criteria for visually identifying and selecting ecologically and biologically significant areas in need of protection so that the network of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea can be managed holistically and consistently.

The MedRAS project has established the Alboran Sea and Libya as pilot experimental areas in order to start off the process of identifying a network of areas for conservation in these regions, to identify their most significant marine features and elements, and to illustrate the application of criteria for identifying important areas for conservation. A



future regional analysis will include other regions of the Mediterranean. The first workshop for Design and Planning of a Marine Protected Area Network in the Alboran Sea was held at the Malaga Provincial Government Civic Centre on 6–7 July 2009. The workshop, which was attended by over 20 experts and representatives and the Spanish and Moroccan authorities, enabled participants to start compiling existing information on the Alboran Sea region in order to establish an ecologically representative network of marine habitats and ecosystem functions, while also taking socio-economic aspects into account.

In view of the basic information that is available, this project will also focus its activities in Libya in drawing up a set of criteria and methodologies and the current knowledge available to identify areas of conservation interest.

The MedRAS project has developed its own web page, where information on the project will be kept up to date: <http://www.uicnmed.org/medras>.

The Alboran initiative

The Alboran Sea is the westernmost part of the Mediterranean. It is located in the centre of the geological region known as the Gibraltar Arc and, as the Mediterranean’s entrance and exit and the point of contact between Africa and Europe, it is regarded as an area of great geopolitical, strategic and scientific importance. Moreover, given the importance of its ecosystems and its biodiversity, it can be seen as the driving force behind the biodiversity of the western Mediterranean. Algeria, Morocco and Spain are working together with IUCN to protect the Alboran Sea, and have made advances in Mediterranean transnational cooperation.

In April 2009 the 2nd International Meeting for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea was held in Oujda (Morocco). This meeting of experts and representatives from both sides of the sea agreed to draw up an Action Plan for the Alboran region, based on the ‘Oujda Declaration on the conservation and sustainable development of the Alboran Sea’.

“Although it is a biodiversity hotspot, information is still lacking on the eastern and southern parts of the Mediterranean in particular”



Cooperation is vital for conservation

The conservation of natural resources and biodiversity requires cooperation at various levels. The Mediterranean Sea, in particular, offers a special challenge with regard to the protection of marine resources and the management of the various uses and factors that affect it.

IUCN-Med has worked on incorporating all the available information from the Red Lists of threatened species of different taxonomic groups as well as in the analyses performed within the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) project, whose aim is to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in the Mediterranean region. As part of the CEPF project, IUCN-Med is leading the process of identifying key areas for maintaining the region's rich plant diversity and numerous forest habitats because, although this has been the main factor identifying the Mediterranean region as a global biodiversity hotspot, there are still large gaps in the information available concerning the south and east of the region.

Discussions with the Ministry of Planning and Environment of Montenegro have also been held to define the topics and logistics of a workshop on marine protection. The focus of this workshop is to address the categories of protected areas, the guidelines and criteria for their identification and monitoring, as well as an analysis of needs and coordination with neighbouring countries for their management. The purpose is to support national experts in Montenegro and to give them more training on innovative approaches to the management of Marine Protected Areas by identifying regional and national opportunities. Local capacity-building for the planning and proper management of MPAs at both national and regional level will take place at an initial meeting to be held in Montenegro in early 2010.

IUCN-Med has also worked during the year to support the creation of Marine Protected Areas, especially in Lebanon, Egypt, Montenegro, Libya and in the Alboran Sea between Spain, Morocco and Algeria. Some of these initiatives have been conducted as part of the MedRAS project on Identifying Priority Representative Areas and Species in the Mediterranean Sea to Conserve. Participation in the activities of the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), has also been

encouraged with special emphasis on under-represented areas, namely the southern and eastern Mediterranean. We have supported the distribution of the publication "Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea" in its English version, and have contributed to the French translation to be published in 2010. The book "How is your MPA doing?" is soon to be published in Arabic, thus facilitating the spread of this knowledge in the countries of North Africa.

Governance of the sea

In 2008, experts and institutions from various countries in the western Mediterranean area set up a platform for dialogue with the aim of promoting marine and maritime governance, in association with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and with the support of the French Marine Protected Areas Agency since September 2009.

This initiative moved forward with the inclusion in 2009 of several experts from the eastern Mediterranean to continue the work of two expert workshops held in 2007 and 2008. This group of specialists is not a negotiating forum but rather an informal discussion group committed to exchanging information from multiple disciplines—an essential factor in modern governance, which combines scientific, legal and economic knowledge and skills. The results of this debating forum of 40 experts were reflected in Resolution 4066 of the Congress, which during the year made further progress in its work at the workshop organized in Nice in May 2009 and the coordination meeting in Gland in October 2009. The latter meeting resolved to continue the discussion on a variety of specific topics, such as the protection of pelagic habitats, seamounts and undersea canyons; illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing; criminal activities at sea; pollution from maritime traffic; and governance of straits. These discussions are reflected in several publications available through the IUCN website.

High seas beyond national jurisdiction make up most of the Mediterranean Sea. With the support of the European Commission, RAC/SPA has developed an initiative to encourage the creation of an ecologically representative network of protected areas in the Mediterranean through the SPAMI (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean

Importance) system, which will include high-sea areas. This initiative will contribute to the long-term sustainability of human activities in the region by improving the future of all coastal states. The committee that has been formed for this purpose, which includes Mediterranean and international institutions, met for the second time in Genoa on 18 November and prepared a list of Mediterranean high-sea sites so that SPAMIs can be declared in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

“Exchanging information from multiple disciplines is an essential factor in modern governance, which combines scientific, legal and economic knowledge and skills”

Protecting the undersea canyon fauna

Submarine canyons are a unique formation in the Mediterranean Sea and are associated with a geological history that includes a period when the sea almost totally dried up. These undersea canyons play a significant role both in the general circulation of surface waters and in the formation of important breeding areas for such well-known species as prawns and hake. In conjunction with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), IUCN-Med supported the recommendation (GFCM/33/2009/1) approved in Tunis in March 2009 to restrict fishing in an area of canyons in the Gulf of Lion in southern France. The decision includes a request to the GFCM Scientific Committee (SAC) to study these submarine canyons and plan their protection. IUCN is actively involved in these studies through its network of experts and their ability to involve other institutions such as RAC/SPA.

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Integrated resource and area management

IUCN-Med continues to support the management of Al-Hoceima National Park (PNAH) in Morocco with the help of the Autonomous National Parks Body of Spain. The agreement signed on 30 January between HCEFLCD (High Commission for Waters and Forests and the Fight against Desertification) and IUCN-Med outlined an approach for improving the management of this national park based on 4 axes: strengthening of conservation actions for habitats and species; organization and implementation of the recreational and educational uses of the park; organization and assessment of ecotourism; and support for actions promoting sustainable development for local populations.

From 10 to 16 May 2009, IUCN-Med held a meeting in order to settle the administrative aspects and the launch of the activities with the Director of the Park. The meetings held with the local authorities and associations active in the region of Al-Hoceima National Park have helped define the individual activities and those that will be carried out jointly. At an initial meeting with the officials in charge of fisheries, the issues were set out and a calendar of actions was prepared for the marine area, including the marking out of exclusion areas for certain kinds of fishing, zoning and their

management principles. The mission conducted from 23 to 30 September for the preparation of an Action Plan for the Al-Hoceima National Park (PNAH) has allowed the negotiations between the new Park Director, government representatives and other local stakeholders to make progress on the various components of the project. The issues addressed relate to equipment for the zoning of the sea, reforestation options, socio-economic studies, information on ecotourism and coastal management plans, marine resources and collaboration with the Delphis 2009 cetaceans initiative in conjunction with local associations. These activities are expected to continue over the coming months, together with development of the communication strategy, an ecotourism plan with digital zoning of the park's natural and human resources, a register of associations and cooperatives that are active in the area and a proposal for management support in the PNAH.

The Barcelona Convention and Specially Protected Areas

The Ninth Meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas under the Barcelona Convention was held in Malta from 3 to 6 June 2009. IUCN-Med took part in this opportunity to exchange information on activities



conducted during the 2008–2009 period aimed at implementing the 'Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean' in the various countries in the region, and also to review the activities of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) since the last meeting on National Focal Points–NFP (Palermo, June 2007) and coordinate efforts.

The ordinary meeting and the ministerial session of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 2 to 5 November (COP 16 of the Mediterranean Action Plan), during which the regional work programme and the budget for 2010–2011 were approved, particularly for marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean,

including the high seas. Four new SPAMIs (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean importance) were accepted: the Natural Reserve of Bouches de Bonifacio (France), the Marine Protected Areas of Capo Caccia–Isola Piana and Punta Campanella (Italy), and Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco).

The programme will include two major activities: first, the establishment of Specially Protected Areas and the creation of a representative network of well-managed protected areas (with financial support from the Global Environment Facility–GEF) and, secondly, the implementation of the decisions adopted at the meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria in January 2008 on biodiversity conservation and climate change.



The Mediterranean - Al Idrisi 1154

CHANGING OUR CLIMATE FORECAST



▲ © Chadi Abi Faraj

Taking account of biodiversity issues and the potential of policies and practices to tackle climate change

Changing our
climate forecast

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Mediterranean mosaics: a strategy to increase adaptability to climate change

Many of the region's traditional landscapes have remained very stable despite past and present climate changes, thanks to their high biological and cultural diversity and their strong identity. However, Mediterranean social ecosystems may become more vulnerable to climate change through existing processes and poor management practices that contribute to a significant reduction in the regulatory functions of ecosystems, their water resources and the conservation status of ecosystems and soils. Many researchers believe that once negative interactions among ecological, socio-economic and cultural systems exceed certain thresholds, the resulting changes could have a domino effect and cause unwanted, irreversible alterations, such as the impoverishment of natural and social capital and the loss of the landscape's ability to provide the goods and services upon which society depends.

Maintaining and enhancing diversity at all levels (genetic, species, landscape, socio-economic and cultural) is the best strategy

for adapting to climate change and results in a greater number of resources, opportunities and options for dealing with environmental, social and economic changes, thus ensuring the sustainability of socio-ecosystems. We can therefore hope that the Mediterranean mosaics, with their high biodiversity, their strong regional identities based on local traditions, socio-economic systems and products, and their culturally rich populations, will reduce the likelihood of overstepping the thresholds of system change.

During 2009, as part of the Mediterranean Mosaics initiative, the socio-economic impacts of climate change and the opportunities for adapting to it in the various sectors of rural development and biodiversity conservation were analysed in areas of high ecological and cultural value in five Mediterranean landscapes: the Almonte river basin in Spain, the lower Guadiana valley in Portugal, Terra dei Vestini in Italy, the Shouf Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon, and the arid steppes and mountains of El Bayadh in Algeria and Zaghouan in Tunisia. This joint effort, in which organizations and experts active in those areas have taken part, has given rise to a document or project proposal that will lead to a new model of rural development and nature conservation with an ecosystem-based focus on increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change. The next phase of the

project involves preparation of the results of the analysis and case studies, to be presented at the Mediterranean Mosaics conference to be held in 2010.

Understanding climate change in the Mediterranean

Under the general heading of 'Adaptation to climate change—Experiences and Challenges in the Mediterranean,' members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and climate experts met in Cairo from 27 to 30 September hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Environmental Affairs. The purpose of this meeting was to identify concrete measures that would lead to the development of Mediterranean adaptation strategies for making the best use of the

opportunities offered by the new adaptation regime, emerging trends in renewable energy and the experiences of other regions.

IUCN-Med contributed to this meeting by presenting the IUCN position paper on Adaptation to Climate Change prepared for the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15). The main message that emerged from the experts' discussion was the importance of an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation to climate change, poverty reduction and development planning using innovative resources and new channels.

The IUCN-Med, FAO and WWF joint initiative has also promoted at regional level the recommendations and guidelines on adaptation to climate change in the management and conservation of Mediterranean forests prepared in late 2008, through participation in various regional events, such as the Special Event on 'Fire and Climate Change' organized during the 19th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in Rome and the World Forestry Congress held in Buenos Aires.

“Civil society is an essential actor in negotiations to express local concerns, to implement initiatives and to help establish links between real needs and political priorities”



Encouraging NGO participation

Global agreements and conventions follow a process of negotiation in which the main stakeholders affected by climate change are not always involved. As part of a global initiative to improve their ability to take part in such international negotiations, NGOs from 13 countries met in La Marsa (Tunisia) from 25 to 27 May for a workshop organized by IUCN and the Tunisian Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (ATPNE), funded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

This initiative was developed as a result of climate-change discussions held in Bamako (Mali) in May 2008. IUCN and the ENDA Climate and Development Network, led by the Climate Action Network (RAC) jointly organized a workshop offering an opportunity for NGOs to work together and draw up a joint statement expressing their requests and concerns—the Tunis Declaration—for presentation to the COP 15 during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. This joint declaration, which represents the African position, sends out a clear message with concrete recommendations and actions to politicians and governments in the northern hemisphere. The issues raised include: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change, energy access in developing countries, technology transfer, financing, and combating deforestation and degradation in line with the REDD concept, which IUCN promotes to enhance the key role of forests in biodiversity.

Civil society and NGOs are essential actors in these negotiations to express local concerns, to implement relevant actions and to help establish links between real needs and political priorities.

The latent value of drylands

Drylands occupy more than 41 percent of the earth's land surface and are home to more than one third of world population. Ensuring the sustainable development of these areas where many of the world's poorest people live was the challenge facing policy makers who gathered in Buenos Aires in September for the UN meeting on combating desertification, where

IUCN presented its strategy for promoting the importance of arid and semiarid areas.

The countries and people of North Africa are affected by increasing aridity and the effects of desertification, with significant ecosystem degradation and socio-economic impacts that adversely affect their security and sustainable livelihoods. Drylands are much more than just deserts, however; they include steppes, scrublands, grasslands, dry forests and savannas that are home to some unique biodiversity. They are productive and resilient places that provide water, food, animal fodder, fuelwood, shelter, medicinal plants and globally valued raw materials such as gum arabic, esparto and cashmere. These facts are often overlooked, however, and there is a widespread misconception that drylands are wastelands where only drought and famine flourish.

One of the most serious threats to drylands is climate change, but these lands also play a key role in change mitigation and adaptation, through carbon sequestration, climate regulation and watershed protection. Moreover, people living in drylands have extensive knowledge of how to adapt to a changing and unpredictable climate, and this should form the basis for development planning. What we need is to adopt a wider landscape or ecosystem approach, taking into account the complex relationship between people and their natural resources and how external pressures, such as economic markets, are affecting them. Through its extensive network of member organizations, both governmental and civil society, and leading experts on ecosystems and biodiversity, IUCN is ideally placed to offer practical guidance and solutions for the sustainable development of drylands.

IUCN was present at the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. A new publication launched on 22 September, "Dryland opportunities: A new paradigm for people, ecosystems and development", emphasises the key steps needed at national and international levels, with contributions from the Mediterranean area. It aims to see a shift in focus away from desertification and land degradation towards maximizing the opportunities that exist for sustainable dryland development and the empowerment and training of local people, since proper dryland management should start with strengthening the capacity of the people who depend on the biodiversity of these lands

to adapt to changing conditions. Governments need to recognise and accord greater value to the services that dryland ecosystems provide both for the livelihoods of local communities and for the national economy.

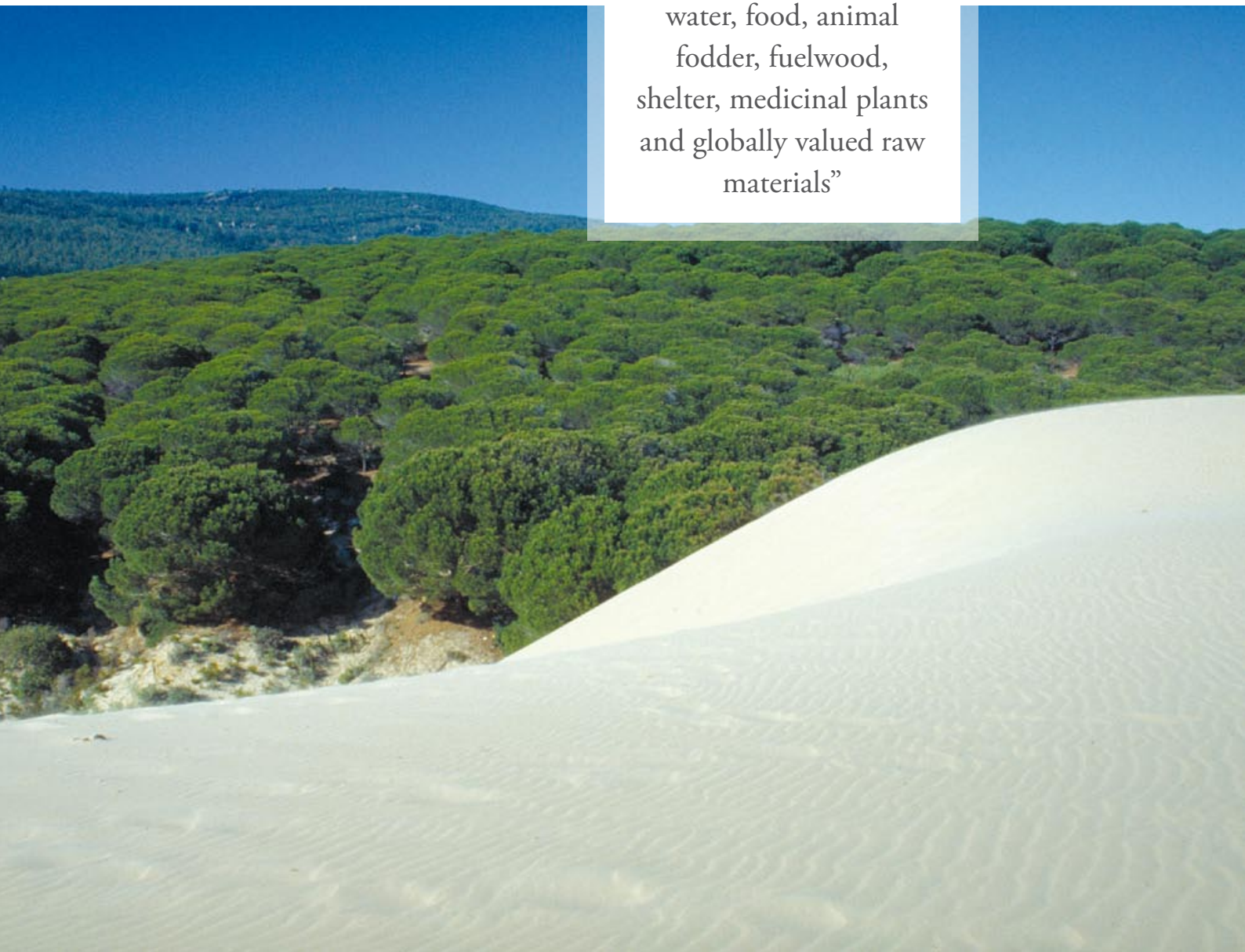
This new focus promotes a better, more constructive image of drylands not as unproductive deserts, but as ecosystems that are economically viable, both locally and in terms of biodiversity conservation, but need better legislative tools. They do not always tend towards irreversible desertification, since they are resilient places that help address the effects of climate change.

IUCN-Med has developed a project to improve governance structures, combining

legal and institutional reforms, economic and social development strategies, international cooperation, training and economic sustainability in North Africa. The promotion of sustainable ecosystems management in this region is based partly on innovative economic sectors such as ecotourism or new market opportunities for agro-forestry and craft products, and partly on the enhancement, diversification and innovation of traditional practices and ancestral technical knowledge on the multiple management and use of natural resources. Several pilot projects to recover these practices and disseminate them in a sustainable form are also supported by this initiative, which is backed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

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“Drylands are productive and resilient places that provide water, food, animal fodder, fuelwood, shelter, medicinal plants and globally valued raw materials”



NATURALLY ENERGIZING OUR FUTURE



▲ © Chadi Abi Faraj

Implementing energy systems that are ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been working with the IUCN global Business and Biodiversity programme to explore options for collaboration with companies in the region. To that end, a training workshop was organized in Malaga during the first half of the year with senior staff from the Mediterranean programme and from headquarters in Switzerland to review the guidelines for collaboration with industry from the IUCN viewpoint.



Collaboration options within the Desertec project, the aim of which is to promote solar energy in North Africa, were also explored. The impact on local communities and biodiversity, and ensuring that affected populations have access to the energy produced were topics discussed in this project, which will have a great impact on the region.

Similarly, in the tourism sector, we have been working to help draw up and disseminate guidelines for the Accor hotel chain in North Africa: *Biodiversity: My hotel in action*.

“Most products or services, such as energy, do not include the real value of ecosystems or the cost of their degradation in the final price.

Incentive schemes in the form of quotas, credits, taxes, etc. can serve as a management tool”

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MANAGING ECOSYSTEMS FOR HUMAN WELLBEING



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Improving livelihoods,
reducing poverty
and vulnerability and
enhancing environmental
and human security
through sustainable
ecosystem management

Living in, with and from nature

IUCN-Med has worked on a project to support security and sustainable livelihoods through better governance systems and the sustainable management of agro-forestry resources in priority areas of North Africa, with support from Spanish Development Cooperation.

During 2009 important work was done on legislation and management categories for protected areas in Tunisia, culminating in the drafting of a new national law on marine areas, which helps address some of the shortcomings identified during the project.

In the same country, the participation of women in the creation of sustainable local employment opportunities has been encouraged through the Alliance Femme et Environnement (AFE) section of the Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne (UNFT), to set up a pilot project for the sustainable management of esparto fields in the surroundings of Zaghuan National Park and El Chaambi National Park, near Kasserine. Cooperation protocols are currently being agreed and implemented with public bodies, such as the National Office of Tourism, the Directorate General of Forests and the Rural Development Administration (RDA), and with municipalities and local organizations.

In Algeria, a similar project is under way, through the Mouvement Écologique Algérien (MEA), as well as another initiative to increase social and ecological resilience in the El Bayadh forest-steppe landscape unit, with field visits to initiate partnership agreements with relevant local organizations and authorities with the participation of the Algerian Directorate General of Forests (DGF) and Ministry of the Environment. El Bayadh is part of the IUCN-Med 'Mediterranean Mosaics' regional initiative, which covers five forest landscape units of high cultural and ecological value.

Through the Directorate General of Forests, Algeria has asked IUCN-Med and MEA to take part in the management and harvesting of esparto in the Tebessa region near the Tunisian border, to help find effective solutions to the social and ecological problems of exporting Algerian esparto to the Kasserine paper pulp factory in Tunisia.

IUCN-Med is also collaborating with the Algerian Ministry of the Environment to assist in the planning and management of two protected areas, the Lagarmi area in the region of El Bayadh, and the Tinerkouk area in the desert region of Timimoun in the Great Western Erg. This involves topics such as the sustainable management of oases and includes aspects of governance, efficient water management, improved production and markets for natural

products, and increased tourism potential. IUCN-Med is also working on the recovery and sound management of dryland ecosystems and the conservation and reintroduction of endangered species, with the aim of promoting cooperation between experts from the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) and Spanish research centres with extensive experience in these matters.

Learning to be more fire resilient

Lebanon is known worldwide for its unique *Cedrus libani* forests, which have survived for thousands of years thanks to continuous efforts to control the extraction and sale of their valuable timber resources.

A new national strategy, developed with support from IUCN-Med and adopted on 15 May by the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, addresses the needs of adapting to climate change to reduce the risk of wildfire damage and increasing social and ecological resilience to the impacts of global change.

Until June 2006, the cedar forests and other forested land covered about 13.5 percent of Lebanese territory. In the last few years, climate change has exacerbated the impact of the many fires started by people, which every year have catastrophic effects on the environment, the rural population and the economy. To address this alarming situation, the Lebanese Government set up a national committee to review and adapt the National Forest Fire Strategy so as to make it effective in the current scenario of global change.

The IUCN-Med project provided the technical expertise and resources needed to develop a new forest fire strategy. The National Forest Fire Strategy was officially adopted in 2009 and the actions to be taken will be the result of agreement among all stakeholders involved in their implementation. The launch of the new strategy will help prevent devastating fires and reduce the risk in and around key biodiversity areas, such as the Arz El Shouf and Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserves.

IUCN-Med is represented on the national committee set up by the Lebanese prime



minister to develop and implement the new strategy, and is helping to introduce specific actions that respond to different aspects of the national strategy, mainly those aimed at reducing and preventing the risk of fire. In particular, Lebanon is part of the Mediterranean Mosaics initiative, which promotes actions to increase ecological, social and cultural resilience to fire risk through the planning and identification of resilient land uses and to increase ecosystem resilience through management, conservation and restoration measures.

In addition, IUCN-Med, together with members and supporters from Lebanon, Spain, Tunisia, Greece, Italy and Portugal, has participated in the development of a regional project proposal submitted to the European Commission, to begin implementation.

Within the ecological restoration plan aimed at increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change, IUCN-Med is bringing together ministries, NGOs, cooperation agencies, FAO and the European Union to promote the development of a national vision



▲ © Marco Pagliani

on the restoration of forest landscapes, by organizing a national seminar in the first half of 2010 and contributing practical experience of ecological restoration with social benefits gained from a pilot area of mountain forest of high conservation value, involving local communities, NGOs and managers in the Shouf region. As part of this process, a pilot native plant production unit has been established at the Ramlieh nursery run by AFDC, an IUCN member, which plans to produce 36 native species of trees and shrubs, collect seeds and cuttings of 15 species, and commence production activities in the nursery as well as activities relating to compost production using forest and agricultural waste.



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MANAGING THE WORLD ECONOMY



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Integrating ecosystem conservation values into economic policies, finance and the markets

Working with Holcim to protect the environment

UIUCN-Med and Holcim Spain signed a cooperation agreement in March 2009 to develop a series of joint activities aimed at incorporating ecosystem conservation and restoration work within Holcim's operations in Spain.

gravel pit in Seseña (Toledo), examining how the natural landscape can be reinstated and how sensitive restoration of mining sites can benefit biodiversity.

Aquaculture producers continue to work with IUCN

With financial support from the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM), IUCN-Med is publishing a series of Guides for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture, which are the result of constructive discussions among representatives of the industry in the Mediterranean, conservation organizations and scientists.

The two new guides for the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean continue IUCN-Med's collaboration with the aquaculture industry through the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP). The second volume of these guides, which deals with the identification and management of aquaculture sites, addresses issues of land use and the administrative requirements for establishing aquaculture farms in different countries.

Although aquaculture offers solutions to the present crisis facing fish stocks in the Mediterranean, it has to compete with other activities in the same areas, particularly in cases where aquaculture farms are set up in

Managing the
World economy

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The cooperation agreement was in force for 6 months (April–September 2009) and took up IUCN-Med's commitment to assess the restoration work at El Puente gravel pit near Aranjuez, and to advise Holcim on the how best to incorporate environmental and social aspects in the final restoration of the Torredonjimeno quarry near Jamilena in Jaén province.

To carry out this plan, IUCN-Med staff and collaborating experts visited the quarry in Jaén to meet Holcim technicians and to see the plans and work already done. Subsequently, mining site restoration experts associated with IUCN-Med made a number of recommendations so that Holcim could incorporate ecological factors in its work in the quarry.

The ultimate goal of these activities is to ensure that all parties involved in the restoration of this quarry understand the process from beginning to end and participate in it by contributing their ideas. In addition, the agreement between Holcim and IUCN-Med also includes IUCN-Med's input to a book published on the El Puente

coastal zones. Andalusia uses Geographic Information Systems in identifying and managing aquaculture sites, showing the benefit of using new technologies for management and for obtaining an overview of land uses and the various factors that may affect particular areas.

The shared use of public areas and conservation policies for the Mediterranean Sea both reduce the availability of sites for aquaculture. However, the demand for aquaculture products is increasing, largely due to the ability of the Mediterranean aquaculture industry to provide a steady supply of quality products at stable prices. Even greater efforts are needed, therefore, to ensure that aquaculture in the Mediterranean develops in a sustainable manner. To this end, the selection and management of aquaculture sites are important processes that need to be carried out sustainably. Most problems stem from a poor understanding of all the essential factors that must be taken into account in the site selection and management process. Wrong

decisions based on incomplete information may jeopardise the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean. This guide aims to provide readers with a full set of parameters and ideas to consider and later apply when selecting and managing aquaculture sites. Although a few aspects may not have been addressed, a real effort has been made to include those points that are sufficiently important and relevant to sustainable work.

Volume 3, the guide on responsible practices and certification in aquaculture, covers issues relating to the role of the consumer in establishing markets for aquaculture products, as well as codes of conduct for aquaculture producers. There are several systems for certifying aquaculture products, and this guide encourages producers, distributors and consumers to regard the environment and the conservation of biodiversity as crucial factors in the marketing of farmed seafood. The guide will be available in three languages in early 2010.

“The shared use of public areas and conservation policies for the Mediterranean Sea both reduce the availability of sites for aquaculture”

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MEDITERRANEAN PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

During the voting that took place in the IUCN Members' Assembly held at the Barcelona Congress, a total of 136 resolutions and recommendations were approved that reflect the concerns of IUCN's members, Secretariat and partners and their action priorities for the next four years.

The main contributions by IUCN-Med in this area during 2009 are described below.

Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal (Resolution 4023)

The new Red List of Mediterranean Mammals considers the species *Monachus monachus* to be Critically Endangered and helps regional conservation planning by providing information about its geographical distribution and major threats, while also promoting the creation of a network of regional experts to support future initiatives.

Conversations have been held in Morocco with various groups of people and the national authorities on the Al-Hoceima National Park, as this species used to be found in the area. In Libya, national authorities (EGA), are conducting a study on the caves in the Tobruk area. Other conservation initiatives are being discussed with the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs and the Balearic Islands Regional Government in Spain. In addition, several experts from the Species Survival Commission (SSC) are completing a nationwide study in Greece to obtain further data about their conservation status and main threats.

In Turkey, the Underwater Research Society of the Mediterranean Seal Research Group (SAD-AFAG) continued its work of monitoring this species in the Foça SEPA (Special Environmental Protection Area) in 2009, in conjunction with EPASA (Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas). Regionally, the RAC/SPA is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Monk Seal Action Plan.

“More networking is required: the relevant officials and scientists need to meet to define good conservation measures, and funds must be made available for concrete actions”

Mediterranean
priorities for the
future

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More networking is required, however, and the relevant officials and scientists need to meet to define good conservation measures based on scientific knowledge. Funds must also be made available to help implement concrete actions.

Conservation of the habitat of the Iberian lynx (Resolution 4024)

The species *Lynx pardinus* is one of the world's most threatened mammals and is considered Critically Endangered by Mediterranean Red List, which identified the main threats to its survival in order to help conservation efforts at local and regional levels using the latest scientific data.

IUCN-Med is supporting partners in Spain and Portugal to conserve it as part of the Mediterranean Mosaics initiative. Among other topics, this project proposes to restore habitats and the rabbit population—the lynx's main prey—in the Lower Guadiana basin, where there is an extension of the Sierra Morena population towards Portugal. This work is integrated with management practices and

wildfire risk reduction measures so that conservation actions can be implemented on the ground and experiences exchanged with the Government of Andalusia in Sierra Morena.

Artisanal fishing organizations active in the sustainable management of the Mediterranean (Resolution 4046)

Contacts have been established with key stakeholders such as WWF and Acciónnatura in Spain and with the FAO regional project ArtFiMed (Artisanal Fisheries in the Mediterranean). In Morocco, through the Al-Hoceima National Park conservation project, artisanal fishing is at the heart of the conservation and management concerns of the park and meetings have been organized with local NGOs and fishermen's associations to discuss the sustainable management of fisheries and the delimitation of fishing zones in the park. IUCN-Med continues to work to bring other institutions on board and to share experiences and examples of good practice.



Integrated coastal management in the Mediterranean – the Barcelona Convention (Resolution 4064)

The adoption of the Mediterranean Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in 2008 is one of the most important steps towards improving the management of coastal areas nationally and meeting the new environmental challenges in coastal areas. The new protocol, which is a unique legal instrument in the international community, is considered the best means of ensuring sustainable coastal development, as it provides an effective way to ensure that human activities take into account the balance of economic, social and environmental priorities and objectives over the long term. Mediterranean countries must ratify the ICZM Protocol for it to enter into force.

Dialogue and coordination with the main organizations in the region have begun within the framework of the EU PEGASO programme for Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean, of which IUCN-Med is one of the partners for the 2010–2012 period.

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and other UN partners in the proposed Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Association, in conjunction with the World Bank, UNEP and the Global Environment

Facility (GEF), have contacted IUCN to be part of the Monitoring Committee for protected areas and integrated coastal zone management aspects in marine areas (marine spatial planning). The project on Large Marine Ecosystems addresses the priorities identified by countries in the region, whose interventions are reflected in two Strategic Action Plans: SAP-BIO and SAP-MED. Its aim is to be a catalyst for political, legal and institutional reforms, as well as new sources of funding to reverse the degradation of the Mediterranean basin, its habitats and marine resources.

Improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea (Resolution 4066)

The international working group on Mediterranean Sea governance consists of about 40 experts, who met in Nice in May and in Gland in October 2009. The next meetings are scheduled for January in Istanbul and October 2010 in Naples. This initiative is financed by the Framework Agreement between the IUCN and France and by the RAC/SPA, the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas and other local partners.

“Its aim is to be a catalyst for political, legal and institutional reforms, as well as new sources of funding to reverse the degradation of the Mediterranean basin, its habitats and marine resources”





▲ © NASA World Wind - Author: Eric Gaba

Increasing the pace and scale of conservation in the Mediterranean biome (Recommendation 4121)

IUCN-Med has helped identify key areas for biodiversity in the Mediterranean region within the CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) project, by performing analyses for the identification of endangered species in certain taxonomic groups, such as wetlands species, providing information from the Red Lists of threatened species in the region, helping to process all the digital information, and taking part in discussion groups with numerous experts and regional organizations, in order to select the most important areas for biodiversity. Furthermore, IUCN-Med is leading the process of identifying key areas in which to maintain the region's very high floristic diversity and numerous forest habitats. Although this is the main reason why the Mediterranean has been designated a major global hotspot, there is a lack of sufficient information in the south and east of the region.

A Mediterranean section on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species website, www.redlist.org, has also been created with data

on conservation status, geographical distribution and the actions needed to protect the species assessed. The aim is to facilitate access to existing data, as well as to encourage the exchange of knowledge on Mediterranean ecosystems and to help policy makers, managers and experts at regional and national level obtain a more accurate picture of the state of biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

Conservation of the western Iberian Peninsula (Recommendation 4131)

IUCN-Med is working with the Spanish Committee of IUCN on the Life + Nature project entitled 'Conservation of Biodiversity in Western Iberia: the Campanarios de Azaba Reserve' launched in 2010 by the Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre in the Campos de Azaba in Salamanca province (Spain) and in Malcata (Portugal). This is a border area of Mediterranean pasture woodland, where active integrated management is planned to favour species that are more effective at dispersing (birds, plants and insects). The aim of this collaboration is to share experiences between western Iberia and North African countries with similar ecosystems.

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INFORMING THE MARE NOSTRUM

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

This year our communications have focused on providing information about the importance of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation; how to value and appreciate the various elements that influence nature and how they contribute to life; and the importance of the unique and unusual parts that make up our Mediterranean Mosaic: animals, plants, landscapes and people with different traditions but the same cultural and economic roots. We accept that climate change is already a fact, and we have tried to show that nature offers us the most effective solutions to mitigate its effects and to adapt to a new, changing scenario.

With a list of priorities for the Mediterranean identified by IUCN members at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, 2009 was clearly a year of activity marked by a work agenda aimed at strengthening collaboration with various sectors in IUCN, society and the media. We have expanded our news distribution lists to include new organizations and journalists who have requested our assistance, and we have also learnt that, without the cooperation of the scientists, experts and institutions that form the basis of our work, it would be impossible to respond to the media's thirst for stories and details.

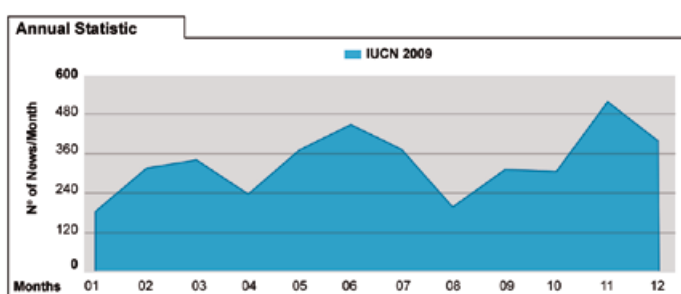
IUCN members and Secretariat staff have appeared numerous times in the print media as well as on the radio, especially in Spain. Although climate change and carbon emissions associated with industry and the energy sector have been at the heart of the environmental debate, particularly in relation to the Copenhagen climate change summit and the high expectations of the conservation

sector, biodiversity and the threats facing Mediterranean species have remained a focus of strong interest in the reporting of IUCN's activities in Malaga.

This year, at the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, we have also developed new tools for channelling information and news through a system that produces and sends out electronic newsletters, which we began to use in the last quarter of the year. This new tool, which is in line with the system for managing the content of the new, integrated IUCN International website, makes it easier for us to produce news in three languages in an attractive, easy-to-use format. Our intention is for each programme area to make use of this new facility during the International Year of Biodiversity to increase the number of news stories about conservation in the Mediterranean, reach a wider range of audiences and inform IUCN's associated experts and partners about the development of our projects and initiatives.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has also continued its efforts to deliver most of the information in the three official languages of IUCN, and this year we managed to create the Spanish version in the new portal of the IUCN Content Management System (CMS) online.

In late 2009 we concentrated on planning the new communications strategy to celebrate Mediterranean Life with a view to the International Year of Biodiversity, to assist in the efforts to make people realise that nature is not just a gift, but a capital need that must be protected to keep us alive.



PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

IUCN on the Web

Our publications and reports can be downloaded in digital form from our website:
www.iucn.org/mediterranean.

All IUCN-Med members and partners receive our publications free of charge. For documentation prior to 2008, please go to www.uicnmed.org.

If you would like to be kept informed of our activities, you can subscribe online to Medflashnews, our electronic newsletter in three languages. The Mediterranean section of our website is currently in English and Spanish.

Other developments this year include:



The Mediterranean on the IUCN Red List website:
<http://www.redlist.org/initiatives/mediterranean>

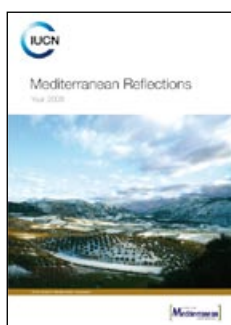
Publications
and resources

36



The MedRAS project: identifying priority representative areas and species in the Mediterranean Sea to conserve:
<http://www.uicnmed.org/medras>

Reports



Mediterranean Reflections 2008

Report on the results of the work done by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) in Malaga during the year in which the World Conservation Congress took place in Barcelona.

Available in English, French and Spanish

2010 Calendar

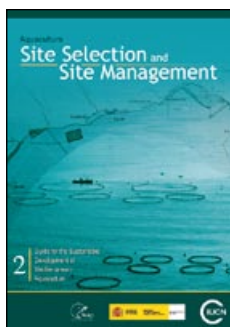


International Year of Biodiversity

To mark the celebration of Mediterranean Biodiversity in 2010, IUCN-Med has produced a desk calendar to remind us all of the wealth and the natural, social and cultural heritage of this biodiversity hotspot.

Single version in three languages

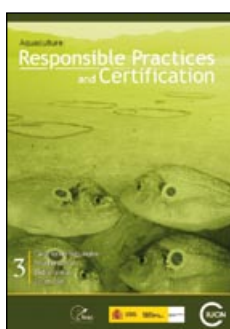
Books



Guide for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture (Volume 2) - Site selection and site management

Most of the problems affecting development of the sector are the result of poor decision making during the aquaculture site selection and management process, due to a lack of information. This new guide is divided into three main sections: concepts to be put into practice, such as the importance of knowledge or the participatory approach; legal, sectoral and organizational frameworks; and methods and tools, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or the ecosystem approach.

Available in English, French and Spanish



Guide for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture (Volume 3) - Aquaculture: Responsible Practices and Certification

The third guide discusses the issues of: codes of conduct and better aquaculture practices; bases for certification schemes; types of certification schemes; and certifying sustainability. Although it would seem difficult to certify the three pillars of sustainability - the environmental, social and economic pillars - this guide provides some basic thoughts and ideas on how to certify sustainability.

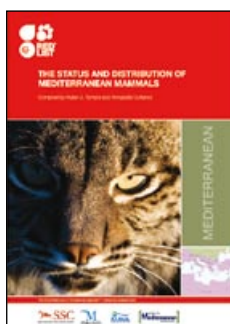
Available in English. French and Spanish in 2010



The status and distribution of dragonflies of the Mediterranean basin

This report shows where the highest diversity, highest level of endemism and the highest proportion of threatened dragonflies are found within the Mediterranean region. Based on these data, five areas of high conservation concern were selected: the Maghreb, the Levant, Crete, the southern Balkans and the western Mediterranean.

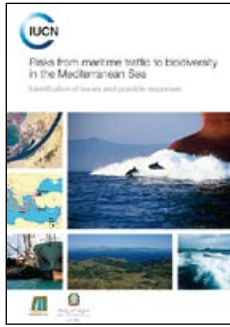
Available in English. French and Spanish in digital version



The status and distribution of Mediterranean mammals

All terrestrial mammal species native to the Mediterranean or naturalized since before 1500 are included in this report. One marine and coastal species, the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*, is also included. Mediterranean cetaceans (dolphins and whales) are covered in a separate publication.

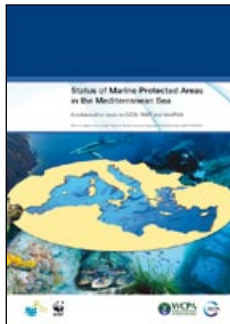
Available in English. French and Spanish in digital version



Risks from maritime traffic to biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea - Identification of issues and possible responses

A closed sea like the Mediterranean is especially sensitive to the impacts from vessels due to the large number of shipping routes, its long history of use, and the existence of sensitive shallow habitats and delicate seabed ecosystems. This report describes the potential effects of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and recommends measures for their management and mitigation.

Available in English



Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea

The study of the status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean is the result of a collaborative initiative of IUCN, WWF and MedPAN - the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean - in collaboration with RAC/SPA and over a hundred agencies that administer and manage MPAs.

Available in English and French



IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, Version 3.1 - Arabic version

There are nine categories in the IUCN Red List system, ranging from species that are not threatened (Least Concern) to species that have already disappeared (Extinct). This new version aims to promote the creation of Red Lists in Arabic speaking countries, both nationally and regionally.

Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic

FUNDING ALLOCATION

In 2009, the Mediterranean office has managed a budget of more than €2.2 million to work on:

- Adaptation to climate change in the conservation and management of Mediterranean forests
- Capacity building for the development of a representative network of Mediterranean marine protected areas, especially in Lebanon
- Conservation and sustainable development in the Alboran Sea
- Conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources in high priority areas of the Mediterranean
- Conservation priorities for marine fish
- Development of the Mediterranean Mosaic initiative to improve and restore ecological resilience, social and cultural development of rural and natural areas in five countries of the Mediterranean
- Development of the North Africa Programme
- Fostering a dialogue with the private sector for the inclusion of biodiversity in its actions
- Guidelines for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture: Site selection and management, certification and responsible practices
- Identification of representative areas and species for their conservation in the Mediterranean Sea: MedRAS project
- Improvement of high seas governance in the Mediterranean
- Improving the management of the Al Hoceima National Park in Morocco
- Inclusion of new information and communication technology (GIS, CMS, SGC, TRADOS, databases)
- Integrated management and capacity building for the control of forest fires in Lebanon and post-fire restoration in pilot areas
- Integration of Mediterranean species data to identify priority areas for conservation (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund - CEPF)
- Management support and participation in the World Conservation Congress
- Mediterranean biodiversity assessments: marine fish, mammals, and freshwater species
- Promoting cooperation to develop botanical gardens in the Mediterranean
- Raising awareness on gender-related issues and promoting an equitable approach to nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources by empowering women
- Risks from maritime traffic to Mediterranean biodiversity
- Support to Egypt in the creation of marine protected areas
- Supporting safety and sustainable livelihoods by developing the governance systems and sustainable management of agro-forestry resources in priority areas of North Africa
- Training on climate change policies for North Africa
- Training regional experts and resource managers on methodologies to evaluate the conservation status of biodiversity

THE MALAGA TEAM

The following people have worked with IUCN-Med during 2009



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Outside Malaga, based in Cambridge (UK)

- **Melanie Bilz**, in the red list assessment of Mediterranean plants
- **Helen Temple**, in the red list assessment of mammals

Additionally, the following people have been helping us:

- **Tania Calleja**, in communication (for maternity leave)
- **Silvia Casellas**, in communication (for maternity leave)
- **Hannah Elliot**, in translations
- **Stacey Dean**, in translations





Biodiversity is Life.

Mediterranean Biodiversity, Our
Life



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