

Mediterranean Reflections

Year 2006



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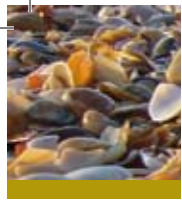
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*Influencing, encouraging and
assisting Mediterranean societies in
achieving both the conservation and
sustainable use of natural resources,
and sustainable development.*



Foreword



Dear colleagues,

As you can see in this progress report, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation made incredible progress during 2006. We validated and made available stunning facts about our Mediterranean biodiversity and its links to society. We learnt that a quarter of our amphibians are in danger of extinction; that half of the reptile species found in our region are threatened; that water pollution and extraction are pressuring 56% of our freshwater fish to disappear, and that marine resources are in strong need of protection measures due to over fishing, maritime traffic and coastal development.

Our cultural and natural heritage has been also protected through programme activities to help North African countries make a sustainable use of their natural resources and document their traditional knowledge.

New partners have joined in from the South and North of the Mediterranean to support each other in occasions of stress such as the oil spill in Lebanon, which required the concerted action of many international organisations to assess the impact and design a strategy to minimise the negative effects caused on biodiversity. We have gathered key donors and their counterparts in identifying funding options and needs, to learn from each other and create new networks, and the Centre continues to perform in an outstanding way.

For example...There is no doubt, that many of its achievements are a result of the excellent job Jamie Skinner did as Director of the Centre from the beginning in 2001 until July 2006, and the committed team working in Malaga. I only joined

the Centre a few months ago, and I have been most impressed with the quality of the work and the efficiency of this small team delivering such results.

The Centre's fund portfolio has actually augmented from 600000 euro in 2001 to 1600000 euro in 2006. The Programme has successfully implemented 12 projects only last year. None of these impressive results – represented by 18 % increase in the funds managed in 2006 with respect to 2005 – would have been possible without the continuous commitment and generous support from the Spanish authorities, in particular the Junta de Andalucía and the Ministry of the Environment of Spain, as well as many other donors to which we are extremely grateful. Special thanks go to our Members in the Mediterranean region, as well as Commission members who also worked closely with us, and made substantial contributions to the implementation of our 2006 work programme.

I hope you enjoy reading our report and share it with others so that the network of partners working on sustainable development in the Mediterranean extends. I am sure we can count on you to continue working with us and supporting our team in achieving IUCN's vision in the forthcoming years: sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through cooperation and supported by shared values and culture in the Mediterranean region.

Margarita Astralaga

Director
IUCN Centre for Mediterranean
Cooperation



Our Donors

The work of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the World Conservation Union is made possible through the generosity, trust and confidence of a growing number of partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions and nongovernmental organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals. We are most grateful for all the contributions received in 2006 to support the Centre, and therefore the Union's work.

Our core supporters

Consejería de Medio Ambiente
Junta de Andalucía



Spanish Ministry of Environment



Our project donors

Azahar Programme

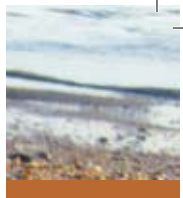


Diputación de Málaga



European Commission





French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development



French Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Fundación Biodiversidad



Italian Ministry of Environment



Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mava Foundation for the Protection of Nature



Organismo Autónomo de Parques Nacionales in Spain



Spanish Agency for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (AECI)



Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)





Highlights of the Year 2006

26
January

Who is in charge to protect the Mediterranean High Seas?

Italy presents the unique Mediterranean case - a world's leading tourist destination - on sea governance to the global conference on oceans. 30% of the international sea-borne trade volume transits through the Mediterranean Sea.

02
February

What is the link between traditional knowledge and conservation practice?

To conserve and promote traditional knowledge of local communities and increase awareness of threatened plants, a Guide to Medicinal Plants in North Africa is launched in Granada at the IV Meeting of the AD HOC Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

12
May

How can we spread best knowledge and practice?

IUCN-Med signs a cooperation agreement with Andalucia's International University to provide training to Mediterranean audiences on key environmental issues, starting with types and management challenges of protected areas.

24
May

What can one do to save our planet?

IUCN Council votes for Spain as the host country of the fourth World Conservation Congress: the main gathering of governments, NGOs, private sector and civil society will be held in Barcelona from 5-14 October 2008.

23
June

Can one protect and be economically profitable?

The economic value and benefits of Mediterranean marine protected areas receive attention as self-funding tools from tourists and related activities for biodiversity conservation during the Med-Pan Seminar held in Sardinia, Italy.

05
July

Do we really care about the environment?

Spanish national environmental congress (CONAMA) links to IUCN to feature species conservation and its challenges. "It worries that no one is worried" is the Manifesto signed by many of the 10000 participants.

13
August

Is tourism and development possible without damaging nature?

Libya integrates its tourism policy with biodiversity conservation and a legal framework for environmental protection.



14
August

Do we realise the impact of war on nature and people?

A natural resource damage assessment and emergency action plan for the oil spill in Lebanon unites international organisations to minimise its impact on nature and local communities.

19
September

Wild caught or cultivated fish?

Sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean receives official support from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, hand in hand with IUCN, for the elaboration of practical guidelines for politicians and practitioners.

03
October

To plant or not to plant?

The multifunctionality of forests with their biodiversity, social, cultural and aesthetic components need to be recognised. Planted forests can and ought to be managed to optimize the delivery of other forest values beyond that of wood fibre production.

20
November

Are politicians aware of and acting to face regional challenges?

Ministers of Environment from the 35 Euro-Mediterranean partner countries meet in Cairo to join forces and concentrate resources on the most pressing environmental problems in the Mediterranean region.

23
November

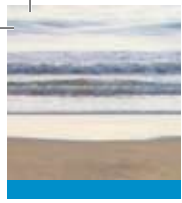
Is biodiversity information available to all?

Partnerships and alliances amongst all social actors to produce and make information available to each other are recognised by the International symposium held in Malaga as the way forward to favour and maintain biodiversity.

11
December

Which tools for species conservation?

Morocco and Tunisia incorporate red listing as part of their national strategy for biodiversity conservation, adopting the international IUCN standard tool: Red Lists of endangered species.



Programme Achievements

Conserving and managing resources

The hydrological engine of the Western Mediterranean

On the threshold to the Mediterranean, the Alboran Sea spreads between Spain, Morocco and Algeria. Its coastal zones are strategically very important due to several factors. Firstly, an increasing number of inhabitants and economic activities related to welfare and richness are located in these areas. Secondly, they are essential locations for transport and trade. Thirdly, they host some of the most valuable habitats from the point of view of their contribution to biodiversity and geodiversity. And above all, they are, at the same time, a priority resource for one of the main economic activities at global scale: tourism.

IUCN members and experts with independent institutions and specialists in the field have constituted a working group that is currently developing the first up-to-date and rigorous assessment on the future management strategy for a Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Alboran Sea. This will help identify the best strategic elements that will allow for the evaluation, monitoring and conservation of life in the Alboran Sea in a sustainable way.

*Sharing knowledge...
and responsibilities
across continents*



An Intercontinental biosphere reserve Spain – Morocco

This reserve between Andalusia and Morocco, the first one between two continents and with an Action Plan, was approved by UNESCO in October 2006. The area is more than one million hectares and its objective is the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of resources by local communities.

IUCN has provided support through the whole declaration process and keeps assisting in the implementation. One of the reasons to approve the initiative according to UNESCO has been its pioneering nature, being a conservation programme affecting two countries in two continents with very different socio-economic realities and sharing a common natural and cultural heritage. Even more, this is the first marine corridor established within a system of reserves.

Travel and nature implications

The Mediterranean is a semi-enclosed sea surrounded by more than 20 countries. It is characterized by a number of distinctive features with important implications for the conservation and management of fisheries and natural resources. One of these features is the general restraint shown by coastal States in exercising their rights to extend national jurisdiction over waters in the Mediterranean.

While most States have established territorial waters, few have claimed an Exclusive economic zone (EEZ), a fishing zone or/and prevention of pollution zone extending beyond these waters. As a result, high seas status in the Mediterranean lies much closer. The existence of a large area of high seas requires an increased level of cooperation between coastal



States to ensure the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and conservation of marine biodiversity. And we are working to ensure that high seas are also protected where needed.

Maritime traffic and present policies are under review in order to elaborate a Mediterranean and global strategy to consider its impact on biodiversity conservation, taking into account the invasion of species across countries or pollution matters in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

This project includes all shipping activities with a primary focus on international shipping and oil transport, linking the Mediterranean to existing international agreements.



Programme Achievements

Wild, protected, exploited spots?

Land, coast and seascapes hold the webnet for species life and ecosystems. Many of these are under some sort of protection, though not all serve their purpose for conservation or are managed properly for long-term sustainability.

Which money for which areas?

Protected Areas in the Mediterranean significantly contribute to sustaining the regional economy, with three main priorities identified during two days of debate in Seville: the need to work on creation of business, employment and income generation opportunities through partnership with the private sector; the need to encourage governments to increase funding commitments to their protected areas; and to foster capacity development and experience sharing to support protected area managers to face new challenges.

An initial review has demonstrated that the current financing of protected areas in developing countries is between 3%-15% of the total required. Protected area projects in Mediterranean countries should link up with conservation and poverty alleviation initiatives and highlight the ecosystem services provided to the rural poor, such as water, energy, fisheries and forest products. Generation of local jobs and projects on sustainable economic alternatives are already serving as examples shared amongst countries in the region.





Protecting to sustain economic income and social well-being

In 2006, Egypt still had no designated MPAs on the Mediterranean coast, however, there is a strong political will for the designation of Salum as the first MPA on that coast, and IUCN is supporting the Government to achieve that. The first step towards the implementation of this initiative was assessing the socio-economic viability of Salum as a Mediterranean MPA. A group of experts, economists, sociologists, local community groups and conservation experts, undertook a detailed assessment to make sure that the livelihoods of the people living in and around this area are not jeopardised by its protection, suggesting alternatives and involving them in the planning process, even before the site is officially designated.

Located across the border from Libya, this poses the future perspective of developing a transboundary marine protected area between Egypt and Libya, if it proves viable. This work in Egypt will serve as a basis for enhancing the network of marine protected areas in North Africa. It will also develop synergies within the Egyptian protected area network, build parallel approaches for similar scenarios and facilitate networking and communication between countries in the region.

Institutional management approach: Balancing Protection and Ecotourism

Government and management structures can become inappropriate through time to address conservation and the human component associated to it. The number of staff might prove inadequate or in need of practical training. In order to help improve the administration and running of zones in need, we are helping review the institutional arrangements currently used and proposing restructuring where appropriate. This includes the analysis of natural resources, ecotourism services, and public awareness campaigns as well as the involvement of the private sector and local communities in order to maximise management effectiveness. Wadi-El Rayan in Egypt is moving forward in this approach. Wadi El-Hitan or the Valley of the Whales has been declared World Heritage Site for its fossils. The core planning team has prepared a project plan to guide protection and ecotourism development activities in the area.



Programme Achievements

Grasping life forms to keep our balance

All sorts of animal and plant species inhabit our region, many still unknown and others already extinct. Some have become the icons for countries and regions, such as the Iberian Lynx or the Cedar of Lebanon, while many remain an irreplaceable source of food, raw material for industry or even a biological tool for the survival of other species, such as bees spreading pollen and fertilising the land.

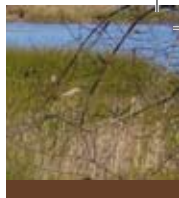
However, our knowledge about them is scattered and limited. We might know about their biology but not about their role in the ecosystem, how many are left and where or how the human factor is affecting their survival. And the Mediterranean has been widely known for the high variety of life it gathers, many forms existing only in our region.

The conservation status of species is one of the most widely used indicators for assessing the condition of ecosystems and their biodiversity. It also provides an important tool in priority-setting exercises for species conservation. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status, and distribution information on taxa that have been evaluated using the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, with the main purpose of cataloguing and highlighting those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e., those listed as *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered* and *Vulnerable*).

What is up with species in the Med?

IUCN-Med has published the detailed assessment of amphibians and reptiles, freshwater fishes endemic to the Mediterranean, as well as the preliminary assessment of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The evaluations include a Red List assessment of all species, an identification of the main threats for each, a spatial representation of the centres of diversity and threats; and a database that provides a baseline for monitoring the status of Mediterranean reptiles, amphibians and freshwater fish. The aim of these lists is to assist in regional conservation planning by assessing the status and distribution of all species occurring within the region and to develop a network of regional experts to support future assessments and information updates.





Following these, an agreement has been signed with Universidad de Alicante (Spain) to collaborate in the elaboration of a Mediterranean list of invertebrates, which, together with other freshwater species will help complete the Mediterranean series. Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey are receiving assistance from IUCN to apply IUCN criteria to their national species assessments.

Getting to know our invaders

If you know your enemies, you can control them more efficiently. Internationalisation of trade, travel and climate change are accompanied by some undesired visitors that sometimes decide to stay and occupy the space that others did. We welcome guests to the region, as far as they don't displace its usual inhabitants! Invasive species are second only to habitat destruction as the most significant cause of species extinction worldwide - in islands, they are undisputedly first.



To answer these concerns, a web-based information platform has been developed with the aim of making case studies and experiences available and shared among the different experts and actors who are concerned with the management of invasive alien species in the Mediterranean. By increasing our collective knowledge on this topic and sharing our views and experiences, we will be able to better conserve our species and maintain our ecosystem integrity. (http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/invasive_species/index_en.html)

Traditional medicine and aromatic plants

North Africa has one of the oldest and richest traditions associated with the use of medicinal plants. Medicinal plants are important for the people of the region, especially in rural areas, as in many places they are the only source of medicine available. The demand for medicinal plants is currently increasing in both developed and developing countries for the growing recognition that natural products have fewer or even no side effects; for others it would be their accessibility and affordable costs that would tip the scales. However, overexploitation can also lead to the extinction of some species.



The North Africa Biodiversity Programme was seeking to identify and conserve this important resource, safeguard the traditional knowledge related to its benefits and promote its sustainable use through community involvement. An important product is the compilation by all five North African countries – Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia - of a compendium on medicinal plants with scientific information on the plants and description of their traditional usage, together with an online database.

The Programme aimed at empowering local communities in biodiversity conservation, putting a special emphasis on women. It helped improve the livelihoods of the population by preserving natural resources, increasing revenues and improving living conditions.

(<http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/nabp>)



Programme Achievements

Sea attractions and disruptions

The Mediterranean is the largest European sea, shared by 427 million people living in more than 20 countries and territories around it and visited by some 175 million more every year. Their well-being depends upon the health of its environment. But despite nearly 30 years of international efforts to protect the sea, the Mediterranean remains fragile and continues to deteriorate as environmental pressures increase.

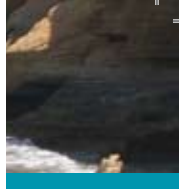

Learning from our neighbours

The good news is that some countries are realising that tourism development in the long run needs to take respect for nature into account in order to succeed – otherwise it starts suffering from water restrictions, uncontrolled increase of waste and pollution, and the ultimate destruction of valuable natural habitats and source of income for local peoples. Becoming a main attraction on the Mediterranean for its pristine landscapes and rich cultural and archaeological heritage, Libya is starting to attract environmentally unsustainable investments for the development of its coast. However, the country has reacted and the national policy bodies responsible for tourism and development have reunited with expert institutions to set the basis for a “naturally sensible” strategy for the protection of this still pristine coast.

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts

Nature knows no political boundaries. Species move from one place to another: plants disperse widely and birds fly long distances to migrate and feed. In particular, marine fauna and their larvae ride a





current dictated by sea temperatures and salinity gradients in a perpetual exchange between critical habitats. The identification and protection of these critical and representative habitats are of utmost importance. Furthermore, these areas must be managed effectively to ensure persistence of marine species and maintenance of ecosystem functioning for the future. Therefore, a representative network of marine protected areas (MPAs) is the objective of many of our activities. Not only is a network of individual MPAs useful in maintaining natural connections but, socially, these MPAs can also benefit each other by exchanging management experience, transferring funds from easily accessible areas with a high income to other less known to tourists, and developing standard codes of conduct. What we aim for is a rich mosaic of locations that ecologically and socially represents the Mediterranean.

*What we aim for
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Can we domesticate fish to replace decreasing fisheries?

Aquaculture in the Mediterranean is seen by many as the way forward for obtaining sea products instead of fisheries. However, product quality, environmental impacts such as pollution and the occupation of the coastal zone are major factors to be considered for the sustainable development of this promising alternative and can project a negative image on the local communities. In answer to these concerns, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has signed a cooperation agreement with IUCN to develop a set of guidelines for sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean, to be published in 2007 and 2008. The first in the series will analyse the interaction between aquaculture and the environment. The Guidelines are validated by a group of experts on Mediterranean aquaculture from different sectors.



Programme Achievements

Mediterranean ecosystems – a comprehensive approach

Forests, planted or not, service mankind

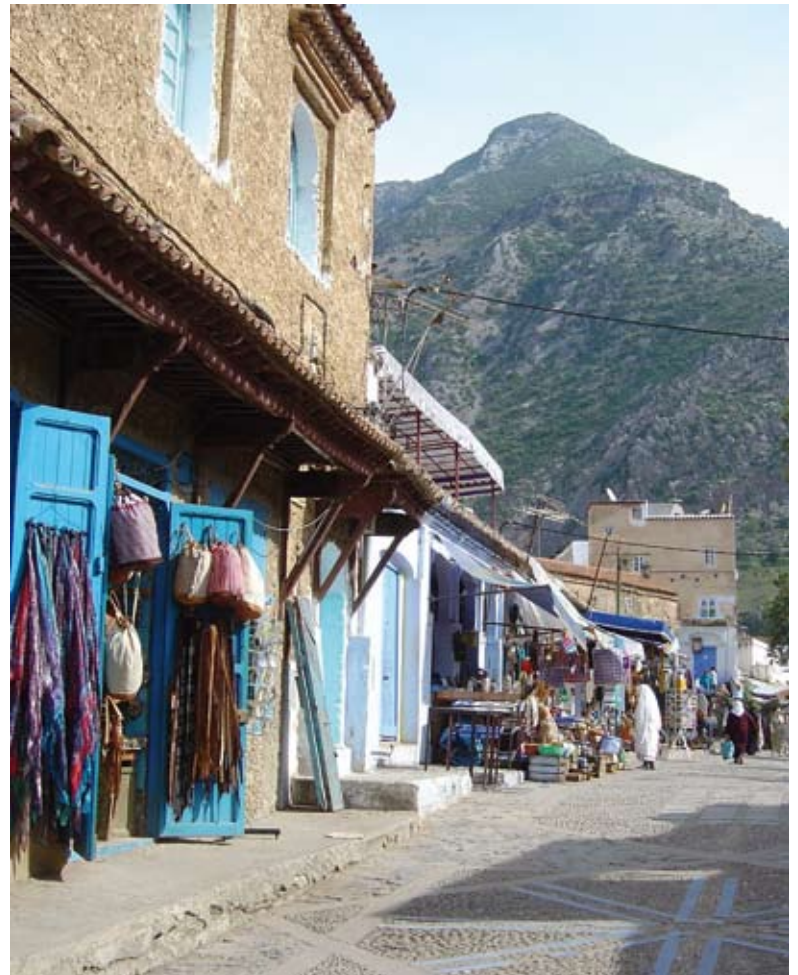
Intensive agricultural practices and climate change threaten many of the rare species that characterize the Mediterranean region. Other major causes of forest damage in the Mediterranean include fires, clearance and degradation mainly due to ill-conceived land use policies and development pressure. Moreover, grazing is still considered by many to be a threat to the regeneration of European Mediterranean forests, yet it is also a factor that maintains biodiversity richness and diversity.

Forests are a major asset in our dealing with the impacts of climate change. They help sequester carbon emissions, help contain the land organic cover and therefore combat desertification, in addition to being the natural habitat for many animal and plant species. We are helping to elaborate a regional adaptation strategy to climate change using the Mediterranean mountains as our main asset.

The effects of people's action on nature ... and nature's response

Humans see themselves at the centre of the world: we certainly influence our environment, but not everybody realises that we are at the same time influenced by it. The ecosystem approach intends to take into account all factors affecting a particular area and activity, at the same time as considering the effects of the activity itself on the ecosystem, together with other activities that might be affecting the area, and the final implications for the whole: people and nature.

A new project has started to apply the ecosystem approach to aquaculture in the Mediterranean. The first step is the development of a methodology starting with two case studies to be located in Algeria and Egypt. This should assist decision-making related to the development of aquaculture in the region, based on practical implementation in specific sites.



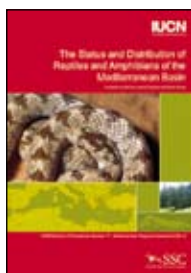
Key Publications and Critical Reports

Books



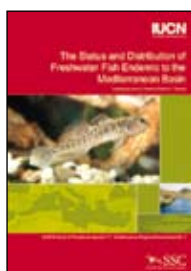
The Status and Distribution of Cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea (1)

This compilation, provided jointly by IUCN-MED and ACCOBAMS, should give governments, industries, recreationists, militaries and environmental activists in the region a common starting point for deciding how and where to allocate limited resources as they try to repair the damage and prevent further harm to ecosystems which are still, quite literally, under assault.



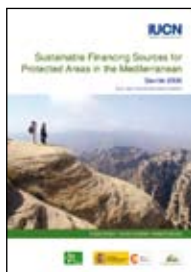
The Status and Distribution of Reptiles and Amphibians of the Mediterranean Basin (2)

Based on these scientific data, governments at every level can now take the necessary actions to contribute to the IUCN initiative 'Countdown 2010', which aims to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010, as agreed under the Convention on Biological Diversity.



The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Fish Endemic to the Mediterranean Basin (2)

Freshwater fish are indicators of the health of our freshwater ecosystems. The assessment provides the best possible scientific consensus concerning the species status in the Mediterranean to help prioritise sites for inclusion in regional research programmes and for the identification of internationally important sites of biodiversity.



Sustainable Financing Sources for Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (2)

PAs produce many undervalued good and services. The best opportunities in our region arise from water and hydropower production along with tourism-recreation and forests. Considerable income can be generated for PAs through direct charges (gate fees, permits for recreational activities) and indirect charges on hotel accommodation, airport departures and others. Only 8 countries in the Mediterranean region are taking significant advantage of these.

(1) In English

(2) In English, French, and Spanish

Key Publications and Critical Reports

CD-ROMs



The Status and Distribution of Reptiles and Amphibians of the Mediterranean Basin ⁽²⁾

The evaluation includes a Red List assessment of all species, an identification of the main threats for each, a spatial representation of the centres of diversity and threats; and a database that provides a baseline for monitoring the status of Mediterranean reptiles and amphibians.



The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Fish Endemic to the Mediterranean Basin ⁽²⁾

In total, 253 endemic freshwater fish have been assessed by expert ichthyologists in the Mediterranean region and by staff from the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme and the IUCN Red List Programme.



Financing Protected Areas in the Mediterranean ⁽²⁾

The PAs in the Mediterranean significantly contribute to sustaining the economy of the region by providing freshwater flows, important resources for hydropower, for recreation and tourism, for fisheries, biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Only between 3% and 15% of the investment needed for PAs in non-EU Mediterranean countries is covered.



Activity Report 2005 ⁽²⁾

At the beginning of that year, our core partners, Ministry for Environment and Junta de Andalucía renewed their commitment for a further 5 years, including a decision by the Minister to assist IUCN to seek international legal status within Spain.

Information



IUCN Contribution to Water Management and Economic Incentives in Drought-Prone Regions for the Mediterranean Forum on Water and Drought (Zaragoza 2006) ⁽³⁾

Drought is not any more a local problem. In the Mediterranean region, the availability of water resources is a controversial issue that can be worsen with the forecasted effects of climate change. IUCN-Med is contributing with its experience to the development of policies and strategies that will promote the management of water resources

⁽²⁾ In English, French, and Spanish

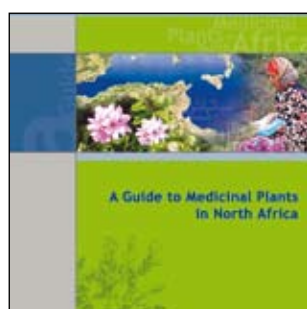
⁽³⁾ In English and Spanish

in drought scenarios and guarantee that these shortage periods do not become the cause of social fracture or have a negative impact on the environment.



Invasive Species Information Platform (2)

Responding to the need expressed at the 'International Conference on Invasive Plants in Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems in 2005, IUCN-Med has developed a web-based information platform to expose initiatives and reinforce partnerships that are relevant to management of Invasive Alien Species in the Mediterranean and provide knowledge that will help influence relevant policy plans and programmes and enhance cooperation mechanisms for the management of invasive species in the Mediterranean region. http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/invasive_species/index_en.html



Compendium of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in North Africa (4)

Aimed at promoting the conservation of biodiversity in North Africa, a sustainable use of natural resources and the empowerment of local communities, a database on the traditional medicinal use of plants in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia is available online. The background knowledge gained on medicinal plants through their cultivation and the compiling of the Guide on Medicinal Plants can be used further to build synergies with the various international processes and multilateral environmental commitments. <http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/nabp>

Spreading the word



Communication tools and activities have increased through the year, helping maintain our members and key constituencies better informed about the IUCN Mediterranean Programme. Available in the three IUCN official languages – English, French and Spanish - the new website design and an automated subscription process for the electronic bulletin reaching out to new audiences have been kept up-to-speed. Press coverage has also augmented through the year, with the regular dissemination of news and press releases amongst the media. Periodic articles on major programme activities and environmental issues of concern have been published in national and regional magazines. Spontaneous

requests for information and feature articles from the media have also increased, signalling a better awareness on IUCN activities in Spain and the Mediterranean region.

In addition, our staff has actively participated in major environmental fora; has coordinated the Mediterranean contributions to the IUCN-Reuters awards for environmental journalism; collaborated with the private sector for the dissemination of biodiversity information; and distributed our publications and reports amongst interested parties at key events and conferences and through regular mailings.

(2) In English, French, and Spanish

(4) In English, French, and Arabic



Funding Allocation

In 2006, the Mediterranean office has managed a budget of 1.348.928,53 euros in a total of 12 projects, to work on:

- Sharing experiences on sustainable financing of Protected Areas among governments, cooperation agencies and the private sector;
- Supporting the creation of the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve between Andalucía and Morocco;
- Developing Regional Red List Assessments of freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, cetaceans and sharks for the Mediterranean;
- Training and assisting Governments of Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco on the Red List process and its use as a conservation decision making tool;
- Diversification of communication actions and better information and involvement of IUCN members in our activities;
- Supporting the State member in Libya in the development of a National Sustainable Tourism Strategy;
- Providing the Government of Egypt with the knowledge and tools to effectively manage its protected areas system;
- Developing an information platform on invasive species in the Mediterranean;
- Including a socio-economic component as a major element for the designation of marine protected areas in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean;
- Enhancing cross-sectorial collaboration for the sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture in the region;
- Undertaking a review of the potential effects of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean. An enclosed sea such as the Mediterranean is particularly susceptible to ship-associated impacts due to a high-volume of shipping routes, long history of use, shallow sensitive habitats and deep sea ecosystems;
- Promoting marine biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments for Lebanon, Libya and Egypt to help establish conservation priorities. One of the initial steps in managing coastal and marine areas is to understand the ecological, social and cultural values and conditions and to develop marine managed zones that take these into consideration;

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