



Mediterranean Reflections

Year 2008



IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation



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

As defined in the IUCN Mediterranean Strategy





Foreword

2008 has been a crucial and exciting year for everyone working in the Mediterranean. Thanks to the generosity and support of the Catalan and Spanish public administrations, active members of IUCN, and many other IUCN partners worldwide, our Centre here in Malaga has placed the Mediterranean on the world environmental map at the World Conservation Congress. This is a unique event held once every four years, and on this occasion it took place in Barcelona, a city which has historically played a key role in the development of the Mediterranean.

Over 8000 people from a wide range of social, economic and environmental backgrounds worldwide had the chance to experience this unique meeting place for biodiversity and to share concerns as well as solutions to current problems. Not only did it mark a new milestone in the action and political agenda for governments and conservationists for the coming years, but it also brought to the public's attention the need and urgency for joint and agreed action if we want to preserve not only our Mediterranean, but the planet as a whole. This Congress has helped highlight the pressing crisis facing nature and its biodiversity, which after all, forms the basis of the world economy, and this is where urgent changes are required so as to prevent further environmental degradation. Furthermore, it has been a great opportunity to discuss realistic options for sustainability as much on an environmental and social level, as an economic one.

Likewise, this '*Mare Nostrum*' has been the main focus of the European proposal for the 'Union for the Mediterranean' initiative. This idea of recognizing the region as a whole made up of numerous shorelines is being instilled within IUCN's action plans, which include the Centre's intersessional programme for the Mediterranean, and a new sub-regional plan which unites the interests and priorities of the North African countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Drafted within the framework of IUCN's global lines of work, our members and partners have helped us to shape this proposal and define a series of urgent projects and initiatives aimed at the conservation of natural resources and the well-being of the region's peoples up until 2012.

The focus of attention in 2008 has certainly been on climate change and the measures for reducing and adapting to its impact, but what has also been notable is the general awareness that the human factor is what is most affecting the environment. For this reason, those issues relating, in particular, to tourism, the use and conservation of land and sea, valuing biodiversity, renewable energy sources and sustainable development have all accompanied the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation's vision in attaining its objectives.

Many thanks to all those who make our work possible, especially to Spain and Andalucía as our core supporters, but also to our donors and partners, members, commissions, and the international IUCN team, whose continued support and enthusiasm give life and colour to this unique and valuable 'Mediterranean Mosaic'.

Margarita Astrálagua

Director

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

FOREWORD



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 2008 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)



General Secretariat for the Sea (Spain)



Autonomous Organization of National Parks (OAPN, Spain)



Diputación de Málaga (Spain)



Malaga City Council (Spain)



European Commission



Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE, France)



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



Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Italy)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGCS, Italy)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



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



Total Corporate Foundation (France)



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

Additional partners and cooperation agreements

- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
- Andalusian Public Company for Agricultural and Fishery Development (DAP, Spain)
- Association for Forest Development and Conservation (AFDC, Lebanon)
- Association of Life and Earth Science Teachers (AESVT, Morocco)
- Association for the Protection of the Environment, Al Hoceima (AZIR, Morocco)
- Association Network of the Al Hoceima National Park (RODPAL, Morocco)
- Barcelona Zoo (Spain)
- Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR, Egypt)
- Development Agency for West Morocco
- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
- Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD, Egypt)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLCD, Morocco)
- Institute for Scientific Research, Mohammed V University, Souissi (Morocco)
- Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture
- Lebanese Ministry of Defence
- Lebanese Ministry of Environment
- Lebanese Ministry of Interior
- Mediterranean Centre for Environmental Studies (CEAM)
- Ministry for Fisheries and Fishing Resources (MPRH, Algeria)
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD, Tunisia)
- Ministry of National Planning and Development, Environment and Tourism (MATET, Algeria)
- National Agronomical Institute of Tunisia (INAT)
- National Coastal Commission (CNL, Algeria)
- National Institute of Fisheries Research (INHR, Morocco)
- Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)
- Nature Conservation Sector (NCS, Egypt)
- Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- Regional Activity Centre for Priority Areas Programme (PAP/RAC)
- Regional Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Junta de Andalucía (Spain)
- SEO/Birdlife (Spain)
- Spanish Fisheries Confederation (CEPESCA)
- Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO, Spain)
- Spanish Marine Aquaculture Producers Association (APROMAR, Spain)
- Spanish National Environmental Congress (Fundación CONAMA)
- The Mountain Partnership
- University of Alicante, Marine Biology Laboratory (Spain)
- University of Malaga (Spain)
- University of Surrey (UK)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF - MedPo, Italy and WWF, Greece)

New members in 2008

- Friends of Environment (FoE, Lebanon)
- Italian Association of Protected Area Managers and Staff (AIDAP, Italy)
- Association for Forest Development and Conservation (AFDC, Lebanon)
- Malaga City Council (Spain)
- Ministry of Environment, Balearic Islands Government (CAM, Spain)
- National Botanic Conservatory of Brest (CBNB, France)
- Federation of Clubs to Know and Protect Nature (FCPN, France)
- Foundation for the Conservation and Recovery of Marine Animals (CRAM, Spain)
- Departmental Observatory of Urban Biodiversity (ODBU, France)
- Green Network of Vojvodina (GNV, Serbia)
- Croatian Herpetological Society (HHD-Hyla, Croatia)
- Spanish Geological Society (SGE, Spain)



Highlights of 2008

16th January

IUCN-Med actively participates in the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention

In Almeria (Spain), with a view to sharing and exchanging information between all countries of the Convention, IUCN-Med and its partners organize two parallel events: one concerning the status of the network of Mediterranean protected areas, and the other on the governance of the Mediterranean Sea, one of the biggest challenges for conservation and the environment.

18th January

Spain commits to international cooperation, conservation and development

The Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID) becomes an IUCN core framework donor with a voluntary contribution of €6 million aimed at promoting international cooperation, conservation and development in several priority geographic

25th February

Fisheries and aquaculture on the way to sustainability

IUCN signs a cooperation agreement with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) with the aim of promoting the ecosystem vision for fisheries and aquaculture, creating new restricted fishing zones, and exchanging information for better sustainability in the region.

28th February

The Adriatic Sea also needs protecting

Under the leadership of Montenegro's Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the 2nd round table on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Montenegrin coast (Kotor) convenes important national and Mediterranean organizations in order to identify the country's marine conservation priorities.

14th March

Cooperation unites countries against environmental degradation

IUCN members from North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) gather together to set action priorities for sustainable development in the region, offering effective solutions in facing the challenges of climate change and its effects on biodiversity and the human population during the new programme of work 2008-2012.

17th April

Adapting the management and conservation of Mediterranean forests

In Greece, the international meeting organized by IUCN and WWF on 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Mediterranean Forests' is brought to a close with an international appeal to improve the management of large scale forest fires which are being exacerbated by global change.

18th April

Protecting and designating natural heritage sites in the European Mediterranean

The Greek government invites European Mediterranean countries and advisory agencies to Corfu in order to discuss the protection status and designation of World Heritage sites in this sub-region so as to better protect regional biodiversity and cultural heritage.

7th May

More solutions for sustainable aquaculture

IUCN, in collaboration with Mediterranean producers, ministries and scientists, analyses and gives recommendations on farm selection and management, finfish certification and labelling, and the interaction between aquaculture and the environment.

26th June

A Euro-Mediterranean Union is discussed

During the Crans Montana Forum in Monaco, a debate is held over the future of the 'Union for the Mediterranean' (UPM in French), whilst later Paris holds a conference regarding a new scientific platform for discussing Mediterranean marine protected areas.

3rd July

Protecting the 'high seas'

Jurists, scientists and international organizations gather in Morocco to discuss the high sea regime which is applied to most of the Mediterranean, and responsibility for what happens in these areas.

25th August

Improving management and creation of jobs in parks

Conservation and management activities of Al Hoceima National Park unite the Moroccan government and various organizations working in the area to examine and coordinate local needs, and outline proposals to benefit its people and its natural resources.

12th September

Marine protected areas online

The new database on Mediterranean marine protected areas has been updated and new information about each site is available online.

26th September

Regional award for global conservation

IUCN-Med's effort to promote cooperation between countries and sectors of the Mediterranean for the sustainable use of natural resources receives official recognition upon obtaining the global environmental award from the Andalusian Ministry of Environment for its contribution to the conservation of global biodiversity.

5th October

United by a diverse and sustainable world

In Barcelona, the World Conservation Congress gets underway during which the new Red List of Threatened Species is presented and hundreds of events and meetings are held resulting in more than 12 recommendations and resolutions for the conservation of the Mediterranean.

12th November

Marine biodiversity – the great unknown

An assessment of the conservation status of Mediterranean fish presented at the World Marine Biodiversity Congress in Valencia reveals a large gap in the data and information available on these species which urgently need protecting.

1st-5th December

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) participates in the 11th session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in Marrakech, Morocco

The committee organizes its annual session to revise its technical, scientific and environmental activities and prepare recommendations for the annual conference of the GFCM parties.

1st-5th December

The challenge is to act

The National Environmental Congress in Spain (CONAMA) comes to a close with the challenge of facing up to global change with actions and not just words; whilst in France, so as to establish conservation action, talks are held to discuss which ecosystems from around the world are in a critical state and the Mediterranean is one of the areas highlighted.

16th December

Environmental impact of aquaculture on the Mediterranean

Following an IUCN working group proposal, the Aquaculture Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) gathers in Tirana (Albania) and adopts a measure to ensure all farm projects carry out an environmental impact study in order to obtain authorisation for production.

17th December

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean: From local to regional level, how can we stop the loss of biodiversity?

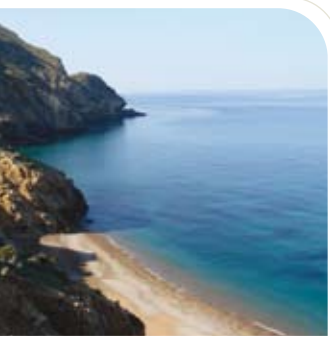
In 2008, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) adopts a protocol on ICZM. For its part, the European Union (EU), under French presidency and in connection with the 'Union for the Mediterranean' initiative, organizes a conference to present this protocol and its implications for the region, as well as to announce the EU Directive on marine strategy.

22nd December

A new integrated strategy for managing forest fires in Lebanon

With the support of IUCN and a national NGO, the Association for Forest Development and Conservation (AFDC), Lebanese governmental institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Interior, Civil Defence and Army) adopt an integrated strategy for managing forest fires.





Programme Achievements

Conserving and managing resources

A shared sea in search of sustainable development

The Alboran Sea, which represents one of the gateways to the Mediterranean, has historically been a meeting place for many cultures. Since the beginning of civilization, it has been defined as a 'sea intersection' and today it continues to play a bridging role between two continents, and likewise between the North and the South. Responsibility for its conservation falls upon all peoples surrounding the Alboran; an enclave of great ecological, demographic and economic importance which forms the basis for their development.

Several years of work have served to establish a platform for discussions and cooperation between scientific institutions, governments and experts in order to analyse the characteristics and action priorities for the conservation and maintenance of this zone which is extremely high in biodiversity and land and sea activity. On 11 June and 15 December 2008, working meetings were held between representatives from Algeria, Morocco and Spain for the conservation and sustainable management of the Alboran Sea. There are six panels for key environmental land and sea aspects that are in charge of gathering and coordinating existing data in the three countries, and this information relates to topics such as: the development of a regional network of marine protected areas; the interaction between human activity and species, especially cetaceans, birds and turtles; management of activities in the area within the framework of integrated coastal management; sustainable development of aquaculture; the inventory of biodiversity in the Alboran; and lastly, the application of international agreements and conventions to national legislation. The next working meeting is scheduled for April 2009 in Oujda (Morocco).





Ecological connectivity for conservation

Given its special ecological and historical features, the Mediterranean is an enclosed sea of unique characteristics which finds itself subjected to pressure from intense human activity, such as fishing, tourism, marine traffic, contamination, etc. In order to protect marine biodiversity, top scientific information states that it is necessary to establish an ecological network of marine protected areas.

The lack of balance and regional representation of the various marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean is clear. With the exception of the Pelagos Sanctuary, 98.9% of the marine areas under any type of protection or management can be found along the coast. 73% of marine protected areas (MPAs) are situated along the Mediterranean's north coast, thus highlighting the need to support marine conservation along the southern and eastern coasts, whilst taking into consideration the different socioeconomic contexts and promoting the sharing of experiences and information between all regional actors. Therefore, it is imperative to effectively apply this MPA network concept to include geographic zones which are not represented, as well as systems which are of vital importance for the survival of vulnerable and threatened species, such as deep-sea and high-sea areas. Likewise, processes for selecting new conservation areas must be accompanied by strengthening the capacity and availability of sufficient resources so that they can be effectively managed and avoid becoming so-called 'paper parks'.

Thanks to the study on the status of MPAs in the Mediterranean and the new electronic inventory which is available on the internet, both of which were carried

out in collaboration with MedPAN, the Network of Managers of MPAs in the Mediterranean, and WWF, figures show only 3.8% of the Mediterranean Sea is under any kind of protection or management, and that the action priorities and objective of achieving 10% protection, according to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), are far from being reached.

“ Only 3.8% of the Mediterranean Sea is under any kind of protection or management ”

In addition to identifying priority conservation areas in the Mediterranean using an eco-regional approach, and helping the growth and maintenance of a network of managers and Mediterranean MPAs, during 2008, IUCN-Med has also: worked to reinforce the institutional capacity of the Egyptian government in order to establish and manage its national network; provided technical assistance to Lebanon for an MPA monitoring programme; promoted the use of the IUCN's management categories for protected areas in the Adriatic; and joined efforts with other organizations to strengthen the management of Al Hoceima National Park, the only Mediterranean marine protected area in Morocco.

Managing and conserving our natural heritage

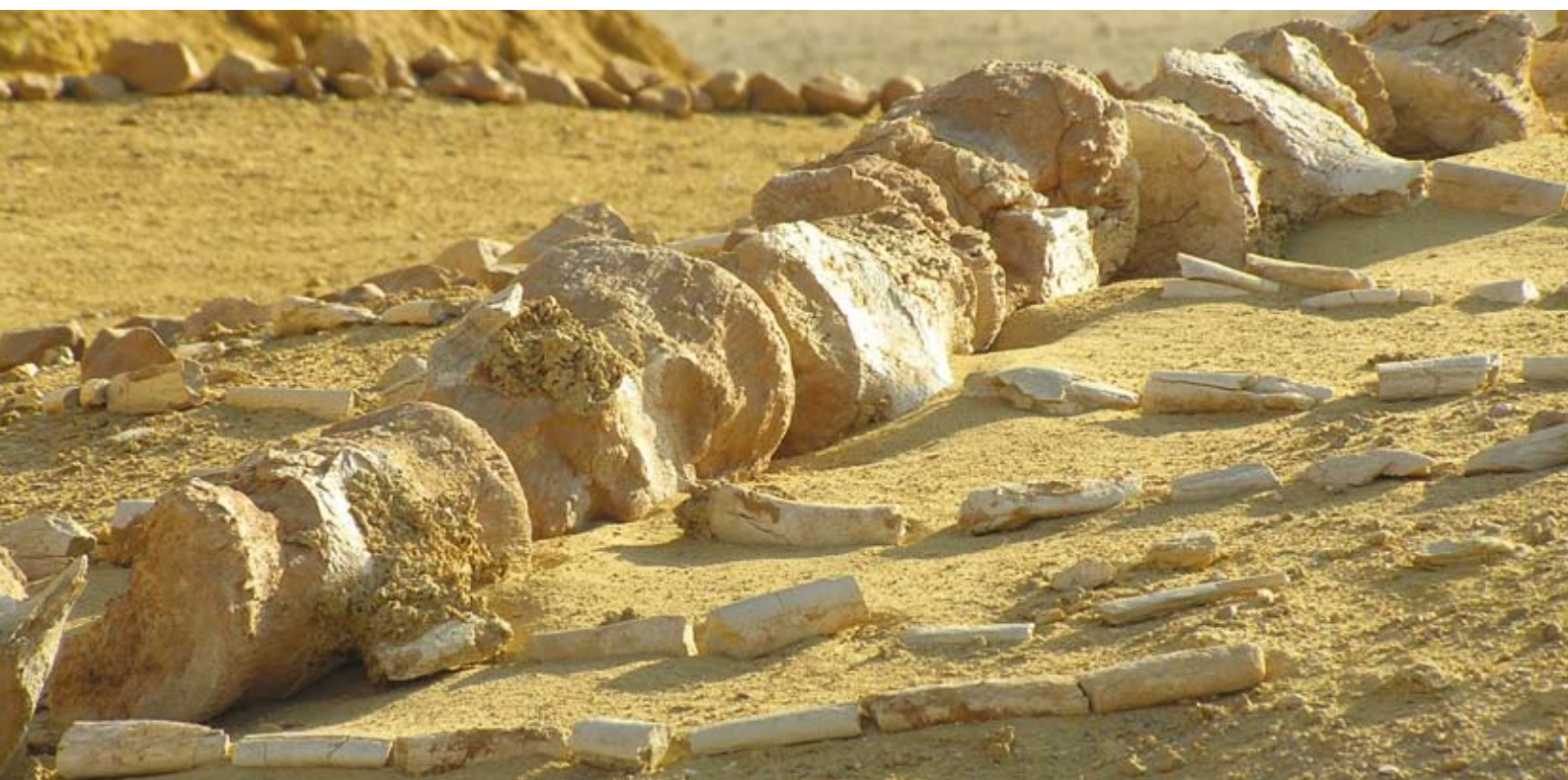
Recently, Egypt has been the setting for a project in which the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has worked in collaboration with Italy to provide technical guidance at local level, as well as managerial assistance. One of the key tasks has been to develop and improve the professional qualifications of the workers in the region and support for this was given during the planning and carrying out of project activities, and also in resolving everyday problems. This type of training in the workplace is invaluable, especially given the quality and depth which can be achieved thanks to the supervision, monitoring and continued support. In this way, IUCN has been able to present and apply the principles and practices for the effective management of protected areas, and this can be seen in the new systems and operations of the Valley of the Whales, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in the wide variety of tools, such as the new guides, information panels and maps, which have been developed for this protected area.

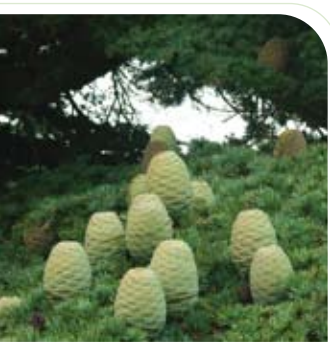
Likewise, Egypt is trying to integrate environmental criteria into all of its national policies and development plans. It is a question of preserving biodiversity as national heritage within the context of sustainable development, by following IUCN philosophy. Recognizing the value of protected areas, particularly for tourism, has contributed to increasing the level of awareness about the need for protection and searching for new forms of management. The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), a governmental body responsible for the conservation of nature, has adopted directives from the IUCN Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity. These guidelines recommend establishing capacity building programmes

for protected area staff, developing training programmes, and improving the capabilities of the managers and local people. Currently the NCS staff is made up of 500 people, but in order to fulfil the objective of doubling the number of protected areas and guaranteeing effective protection, this number would need to increase five-fold. Therefore, this means strategies need to be developed so that the protected areas can finance themselves.

“ Egypt is trying to integrate environmental criteria into all of its national policies and development plans ”

IUCN promotes the study of protected area management models, both from other countries and methods such as ecotourism, which allow the income generated by the parks to be reinvested for their own maintenance and conservation. It is about sharing the management and benefits with the local people, and for this reason 'local guards' have been employed, a concept which sees local people carrying out conservation work together with the forest rangers. Bedouin communities, for example, have played an important role in the programme to promote acacias, a type of tree which is essential to the drylands.





Programme Achievements

Wild, protected, exploited spots?

Forest adaptation to global change

The benefits offered by forests extend beyond merely reducing greenhouse gases. In addition to characterizing a wide diversity of habitats relied upon by a large number of endemic and threatened species from biological groups such as plants, birds, mammals and insects, the forests represent a landscape and spiritual value in the Mediterranean, and are also a clear source for many of the goods and services that the economic, social and cultural well-being of our societies depend upon. Forests produce many primary materials which form the base of important economic activities, some of which are well known like cork, wood and pastures, as well as numerous plants for medicinal and food uses. They also offer many environmental services which are often undervalued, such as their function as a key factor in preventing soil erosion; creating humidity; regulating water flows and temperature; and developing economic alternatives like ecotourism. Forests represent a value which needs to be justly protected, managed and appreciated.

The Mediterranean climate is one which is extreme and ever-changing and the forests have adapted to this over the millennia. This has allowed them to face water scarcity, a regional characteristic, and many large disturbances which have occurred throughout history. Numerous regional forest lands have remained stable despite being faced with past and present climate changes thanks to their high biological and cultural diversity, which has contributed to developing the traditional landscapes through land uses, as well as farming and ranching systems which are highly resistant to environmental change.

However, the climate change we are likely to face is going to have a major impact on the Mediterranean. Forests in the region faced with climate change could well become more vulnerable due to the existing management

processes and bad practices which are contributing to drastically reducing ecosystem regulating functions, water resources and the conservation status of vegetation and ground coverage. The ever-increasing water scarcity and extreme heat waves, droughts and intense storms are the real challenges posed by climate change and are probably the biggest causes of irreversible change to the ecosystems. Furthermore, desertification processes are affecting important areas of the region. In recent years, forest fires have also clearly shown the devastating effects of the increasing temperatures, with disastrous repercussions not only for the animals and vegetation, but also for the human populations



who primarily depend upon the environmental goods and services offered by the forests as part of the region's economic and cultural heritage, which in the case of a fire, would take decades to recover.

“ IUCN-Med is working with several organisations in order to find and apply the best solutions for adapting to the change ”

A study examining the consequences of past global changes provides us with a great wealth of data for drawing up strategies and action plans aimed at increasing the resilience of our forests in the near future. With this objective, IUCN-Med is working with several organizations in order to find and apply the best solutions for adapting to the change. Following an international workshop held in Athens (April 2008), IUCN, FAO and WWF presented options and recommendations at the World Conservation Congress for defining effective adaptation strategies for forests and rural communities faced with these significant challenges posed by global change. Amongst the suggestions, these institutions supported the need to apply an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of Mediterranean forests through the identification of the causes of degradation and a participatory planning of land uses which are better adapted to climate change; to incorporate environmental risks (e.g. risk of fire, torrential rain and drought) in all sectorial policies affecting forest lands; and also to develop management and restoration practices for natural resources, especially land and water, as well as innovative forestry techniques which reduce ecological and social vulnerability in the face of climate change.

Furthermore, during the Congress held in Barcelona, it was recommended that: conservation strategies be revised, promoting connectivity between forest areas which help the dispersion of species and thus recovering the specific and landscape genetic diversity in these zones; that the economic value of goods and services offered by forests be identified; that the

creation of economic incentives for rural communities in forest areas be supported; and likewise, that effective governing systems be established. Finally, evidence was also provided for the need to revise legislation and develop more flexible policies which can quickly rectify bad management practices and also immediately incorporate new effective adaptation measures.

Better capacity for managing resources

Fighting against climate change, selecting specific economic activities, or managing a natural park so as to be able to generate economic resources for it to finance itself, are subjects that require knowledge and capabilities which the local people or parties looking to develop them do not always have. IUCN-Med is working together with its members and commissions in order to respond to the training and educative needs of those eager to effectively preserve the ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore, thanks to this network of partners, information and experience is being passed and shared amongst them.

In this way, IUCN has organized training sessions for its members in North Africa, strengthened their participation in workshops, and also financed them to attend events which may improve their ability to act within the region. The training provided by our experts has also led to the circulation of information which is of interest to the Mediterranean countries, like for example, the criteria and methodology for compiling national Red Lists, as well as publications and other educational materials being distributed amongst the network of partners. The IUCN-Med staff have also actively participated in courses and conferences, both nationally and internationally, presenting the results of work carried out during recent years, and consequently affirming the importance of protecting biodiversity in order to achieve a diverse and sustainable world.





Teaching conservation values

From Alexandria, the Salum area extends 600 km towards the east and up to the Libyan border in the west. As it is the only Egyptian western coastal zone which is practically intact and without urbanization, it has been identified as the most suitable place to establish a protected area given its vast natural value, and it is hoped that this will maximize the conservation of a representative variety of natural resources in the region. Preserving the nature of the coastal areas, its unique habitats and its wildlife will help to transform these resources into significant value for the current tourism industry, and likewise for future generations.

In order to show how fragile these marine resources are, on 17 February 2008, 370 students from Salum between the ages of 12 and 13 took part in outdoor educational activities. This “Nature Day” gave these young people the opportunity to get closer to their ecological heritage in a way that was both dynamic and interactive. It was the first time that more than twenty teachers together with the education centre management team had faced the innovative challenge of outdoor nature-based learning.

Prior to this, a workshop was held on 27 January 2008 to discuss marine protected areas and the need to protect natural resources, thus strengthening talks between the different parties involved. Seventy people from Salum attended the meeting, amongst which were representatives from the local and regional governments, the coastguard service and bodies of national security, as well as Bedouin chiefs, consumers of regional resources, and influential local people.

These initiatives have been part of an awareness and information campaign carried out by the local NGO, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the Wadi Educational Centre. The aim of this initiative

has been to make the local people and Salum’s most notable authorities aware of what is at stake and the importance that marine protected areas can have. During these sessions, key steps were identified as to how to move ahead, such as analysing the importance of a community management mechanism for administering the area, and coordinating a training programme for local teachers about outdoor nature education.

“ Preserving the nature of the coastal areas, its unique habitats and its wildlife will help to transform these resources into significant value for the current tourism industry and future generations ”

Improving management in Al Hoceima

As the only national park and marine protected area established in Morocco, the Al Hoceima area is currently facing several challenges regarding the management of its land and sea resources. Despite it being a natural habitat of many emblematic Mediterranean species, the inefficient coordination between conservation and development actions within the park, the scarcity of essential human and financial resources, the lack of a regional management plan, the weak governance systems to include the local

people in the management and sustainable use of the park's resources, as well as the levels of training of local actors have been causing a chain of events which have not always benefited the conservation of resources or management in this protected area.

With the aim of acting as a meeting point for identifying areas where effective action is most urgently required for the protection of the zone's resources, and thanks to the involvement of the local government and community, IUCN-Med has held several meetings and carried out site visits in order to meet with the administration in charge of managing the park and to provide support in coordinating the actions of active players in the area. Cooperation between different sectors of society is essential for achieving medium and long-term results in regional conservation and for creating wealth and sources of sustainable livelihoods for local people.

“ Al Hoceima National Park hosts a high level of marine biodiversity, a wide variety of habitats as well as important yet vulnerable species ”

Several meetings held in Al Hoceima during the first six months of 2008 aimed to identify the various actors active within the park and its surrounding area; analyse projects carried out by these actors; and propose additional initiatives to reinforce the work already in progress and help to establish a good mechanism for coordination. In addition, these meetings also tried to give a consistency to the Al Hoceima National Park Action Plan which was proposed by the High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLCD) and financed by the Spanish government. Likewise, projects backed by the Spanish government to implement the Al Hoceima Park management plan are being managed by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, SEO/Bird Life, the Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Liberty (MPDL) and the Catalan Association for Leisure and Culture (ACTLC), in collaboration with the manager of the Al Hoceima National Park and HCEFLCD. These organizations, together with the

donors, the Autonomous Organization of National Parks (OAPN) and the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID), will sign a protocol with HCEFLCD in order to carry out current and planned actions which will be supervised, revised and approved by a monitoring committee made up of representatives from all of the institutions involved. Furthermore, several relevant local and national authorities, such as INRH (National Institute of Fisheries Research), research centres, as well as environmental and non-governmental organizations like AZIR (Association for the Protection of the Environment, Al Hoceima), AESVT (Association of Life and Earth Science Teachers), and RODPAL (Association Network of the Al Hoceima National Park), will each have a designated role in carrying out planned actions on the land, with the primary aim of strengthening civil society and the institutions linked with the Al Hoceima Park and its surrounding region.



Al Hoceima National Park is located along the Mediterranean cliffs of Morocco, in the unique ecoregion of the Alboran Sea. The Park hosts high Mediterranean and Atlantic marine biodiversity, a wide variety of habitats (vertical cliffs, superficial caves and sandy bottoms), as well as important yet vulnerable species like osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), red corals (*Corallium rubrum*) and giant limpets (*Patella ferruginea*). Al Hoceima National Park is one of four marine protected areas found along the south coast of the Mediterranean. Helping IUCN members to overcome difficulties in implementing and managing MPAs is one of our Centre's main goals and this is also helping to achieve the CBD objective to create a coherent network of Mediterranean MPAs. In 2009, work and the development of support materials will continue so as to spread marine and agro-forestry best practices with the aim of involving all actors in the management of the park; a task in which the will to cooperate will have a key role to play in this being successful.



Programme Achievements

Sea attractions and disruptions

Governance: towards a coordinated dialogue for protection

Having a platform to discuss the most pressing issues has been the first step in raising awareness about the threats facing the Mediterranean Sea. Beyond territorial waters and other forms of national and international marine protection, the lack of ownership or direct responsibility by part of the countries over a large part of the Mediterranean means there is a lack of knowledge about what may be happening in these areas, and therefore, is giving a certain freedom to those who are practising any sort of negative or detrimental activity in these waters. The illegal dumping of harmful substances, maritime accidents and over-fishing in the high seas can have disastrous effects on the ecological chain, directly impacting the sea as a whole and the natural resources of the adjoining countries, as well as those further afield.

The western area of the Mediterranean represents the frame of work for several experts interested in the conservation of our sea, and consequently they have initiated dialogue to identify the main regional threats and examine effective cooperation methods, by revising existing legal tools at international level and promoting a shared responsibility in the protection of goods belonging to everyone. At IUCN-Med, we are confident that the model being developed will serve as an example for other areas of the Mediterranean, thus enabling the separate pieces which make up the waters and currents of this sea to be shared and united, with a special focus on the protection of high sea pelagic habitats.

“ ... several experts have initiated dialogue to identify the main regional threats and examine effective cooperation methods ”

For this reason, on 2 June 2008 the Centre participated in a seminar in Cadiz aimed at Spanish judges and jurists in order to talk about governance of the sea and conservation frameworks. Also that month, we attended the Conference held in Paris regarding ‘A new scientific platform for the Mediterranean’. Later in July, jurists, scientists and international organizations gathered in Rabat (Morocco) to discuss the region’s high seas regime. Following a workshop held during



the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, IUCN members adopted a resolution which involves improving the marine governance mechanisms in the coming years.

Maritime traffic: a new course towards biodiversity

Transporting goods and people across a sea of an enclosed nature presents a series of drawbacks which are not always noticed. Certain stowaways, or rather animals and plants 'without a ticket', travel from one place to another sometimes establishing themselves in delicate areas and invading the space of others which are weaker. Other risks associated to maritime traffic include accidents between vessels and marine species like turtles, dolphins or whales; water contamination due to the illegal dumping of waste; oil or chemical spillages, which destroy habitats as well as animal and vegetation species; or simply the noise pollution caused by boats passing through the reproduction or breeding grounds of animals which are very sensitive to the noise.

A study carried out by IUCN-Med in collaboration with many experts focused on these factors, and the conclusions of this were presented and published on the occasion of the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. This investigation studied the risks of maritime traffic, as well as possible measures for their mitigation, and also the existing legal tools and frameworks applied to maritime transit. The aim of this study was to identify the possible legal gaps that companies may be using, and encourage Mediterranean countries to do what they can to control and enforce the laws. This project was carried

out thanks to the support of the Italian government in response to a resolution from the last World Congress which was held in Bangkok.

Aquaculture and the environment: production sustainability

On 6 October, IUCN renewed its Cooperation Agreement with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, also signed with the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs. The objective is that, through a continued process of discussions and consultations between the different sectors involved - producers, civil services, conservationists and local communities - a series of recommendations can be developed aimed at making aquaculture an activity which from an economic, environmental, ecological and social point of view is both productive and sustainable.

Progress made during 2008 includes the organization of several working meetings and production-site visits in Croatia, Italy, Spain and Tunisia to draft guidelines concerning the selection and management of aquaculture sites, responsible practices and certification. The first in the series was published in 2007 on the interaction between aquaculture and the environment.

The meetings held in Malaga on 10 and 11 January, and those later held in Alicante and Split in March have helped shape the content of the guidelines, taking into account aspects relating to the integrated management of coastal areas. In Hammamet (Tunisia) in June, issues relating to the certification and labelling of aquaculture-produce were also discussed.



In parallel to this, IUCN has worked with the AECID Nauta Programme on a project for analysing and applying an ecosystem approach to the sector, using as examples two sites in differing states of development: Algeria and Egypt. In carrying out a common methodology, the conclusions highlight the importance of mechanisms for involving and consulting the different pertinent sectors, as well as those for informing the society concerned by this activity about what is happening. The main challenges in implementing this approach relate to the lack of sufficient governance and consultation structures to represent the various stakeholders needed for it to be successfully applied, given that aquaculture is competing with other economic activities such as tourism and urban development. As a key outcome of the project, several proposals were presented to the governments in the region to ensure progress in the application of this approach.

“ Areas of Egypt and Algeria have served as case studies for implementing the ecosystem approach to Mediterranean aquaculture ”

The Damietta Triangle in Egypt and Wilaya of Tipaza in Algeria have served as case studies for implementing the ecosystem approach to Mediterranean aquaculture. Following a week meeting with the different local actors in the two regions, workshops were held to demonstrate the methodology used. In March, thanks to the IUCN-Med initiative, the Ministry of National Planning and Development, Environment and Tourism (MATET), the Ministry for Fisheries and Fishing Resources (MPRH) and the National Coastal Commission (CNL), gathered with scientists and fishermen in Tipaza with the aim of reaching a joint vision for governance mechanisms in this domain and to discuss key issues about the ecosystem. Likewise in April, the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), met together with scientists, aquaculture producers and fishing cooperatives in Damietta with this same objective, and there they also confirmed the importance of the Triangle's ecosystem in terms of biodiversity and

human resources for activities in the region. Finally, a workshop was held in Tunisia on how to apply the ecosystem approach to coastal areas of North Africa.

Aquaculture in Egypt has an established background whereas in Algeria it is an emerging activity. Despite their differences, many similarities have been highlighted between the two countries. Both are experiencing the same problems, such as: over-exploitation of resources and land distribution problems, with conflicts between agriculture, tourism and aquaculture; lack of available data about contamination and production; market problems; failure to comply with regulations; and a lack of communication between the parties involved. During the meeting in Egypt, certain serious problems were dealt with, such as the lack of environmental protection as well as the management of water and environmental information. However, it is also worth mentioning some important positive aspects. In Algeria, we can highlight the availability of ecosystem data; the existence of a programme managed by the CNL to develop land distribution and coastal protection; the awareness of the importance of an intersectorial approach; and the parallel development of tourism and aquaculture. Aspects considered to be positive in Egypt relate to the real will to cooperate which exists between the people and the authorities, the creation of the association of aquaculture producers, and also the importance of the ecosystem's productivity in the Triangle.





Programme Achievements

Mediterranean ecosystem approach

Action strategies for mountains to face climate change

On 11 December 2008, coinciding with the United Nations' International Mountain Day, IUCN-Med gathered representatives from IUCN member organizations and regional experts from intergovernmental organizations, governments, protected mountain area management, research centres, NGOs and the private sector to participate in a regional workshop held in Malaga. By examining regional case studies for which management strategies and practices have proved successful, during this session, members and experts alike, analysed and discussed conservation and development issues in mountain areas as well as priority courses of action for work in the Mediterranean mountains. In order to best share and spread the experiences analysed and the results obtained during the workshop, IUCN-Med has published a book which includes case studies and a series of strategic guidelines and key aspects regarding mountain conservation and development which are grouped into eight key themes. This as a whole defines a suitable integrated strategy in order to draft action plans for Mediterranean mountain ranges.

Amongst the conclusions reached during the workshop, participants came to an agreement on outstanding issues, of which the following can be highlighted: the biggest challenge in being able to implement the ecosystem approach in the conservation and management of the Mediterranean mountains is its social aspect. This means finding effective ways to involve and empower local communities by way of a transparent, fair and inclusive participatory approach, taking into account their vision and needs, and involving them in the decision making processes. In order to achieve good participation, much time must be invested in talking to the local people in order to gain their trust, and a significant effort must





also be made to communicate and raise awareness, particularly focusing on rural women and young people, and likewise on using techniques which allow good communication with the illiterate population, a common reality in the southern and eastern mountains of the region.

One of the priorities of conservation and sustainable development policies is to maintain an adequate standard of living for the mountain populations, and to do this it is necessary to take advantage of and promote economic opportunities linked to the cultural identity of these peoples and the high quality products derived from mountain agro-forestry resources. High-quality products such as mushrooms, cheese, honey or meat, with a guarantee of geographical origin and quality, allow mountain land marketing strategies to be developed, attracting 'green' tourism and promoting diverse economic development of the agro-touristic companies linked with the food, hotel and catering sectors or nature guides etc. Given all of this, it must not be forgotten that mountains can only cope with an acceptable number of inhabitants that does not exceed the capacity of the system when combined with traditional agro-forestry practices; this is essential in order to prevent the loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation.

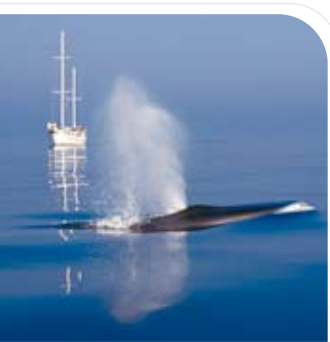
One of the other main priorities is to create systems for monitoring the effects of climate change in the mountains and the response and capability of its ecosystems to adapt. For this, it is recommended that cooperation agreements be established with the existing regional networks between pilot mountain areas which are sharing experiences, primarily active in the North of the region, and extending this to zones in the South and the East. Likewise, it is important to establish restoration networks in priority mountain areas in order to help develop good practices for the

recovery of ecosystems and local populations following the occurrence of major environmental disturbances such as forest fires. These networks also look to reduce the risk of a new disruption and create ecological, social and cultural conditions which are more resilient to global change. Recognizing the value of traditional agro-forestry systems in maintaining the biodiversity of plant species and the variety of the landscape means that they can be taken into account when developing tools for fighting the impacts of climate change and its effect on the mountain populations.

Common priorities for North Africa

The meeting held in Tunisia in March 2008, along with several consultations and working sessions held later during the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, has seen many of the expectations of the five IUCN members from the countries in North Africa defined in specific activities which were outlined in the priorities identified in 2008, and likewise in the drafting of a sub-regional programme for the area. In responding to the needs for training and for sharing experiences between the North and the South, likewise between the East and the West, platforms for discussion and information sessions were organized in order to define a more concrete frame of work. Priority action areas forming a fundamental part of this sub-regional programme include the collaboration of governments and civil society with the private sector in themes relating to biodiversity conservation, renewable energies, tourism, agricultural and forest systems, adaptation to climate change and also the development of aquaculture.

IUCN-Med is working to make its experts and its experience in different programmes and commissions available to its members and partners in North Africa, particularly in areas regarding species, biodiversity conservation, the management of protected areas, community management for the sustainable use of resources and governance systems, and likewise other effective decision-making tools in relation to the conservation of nature and sustainable development. The programme gives special importance to the measures which must be taken to ensure that ecosystems and populations adapt to the effects of climate change, in aspects concerning governance as well as strengthening the capacity and need for training and sharing experiences. Special attention will be paid to the most fragile areas of the North African region such as the mountains, drylands and coastal zones. The programme aims at developing the necessary means to ensure a fair socioeconomic development for the peoples of North Africa, also taking gender into consideration in their activities.



Programme Achievements

Grasping life forms to keep the balance

Fulfilling the vision at regional level

The main marine conservation organizations active in the region have discussed and agreed to improve their coordination and collaboration for the good of marine biodiversity. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF as well as IUCN and its commissions, have joined forces so as to support one another and maximize the results of their actions. For this reason, the Med-RAS project, "Identifying Priority Representative Areas and Species in the Mediterranean Sea for their Conservation", was presented at the Barcelona Congress in October 2008. This collaboration initiative, set to last two years, has paved the way for a science-based project which will gather data on habitats, species and marine landscapes in order to identify conservation priorities which will benefit the Mediterranean as a whole. Several further meetings of international and regional experts have also been held so as to develop a frame of work for the methodology to prioritize marine areas in order to protect the Mediterranean. This work was presented at the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Valencia (Spain) from 12 to 15 November 2008.

In February 2008, a workshop for Mediterranean experts was held in Sète (France) to draft the Red List of threatened marine fish. IUCN-Med has also participated in ACCOBAMS scientific committee meetings for the protection of cetaceans in the region.

With freshwater as the main focus, a meeting was held in Cameroon and attended by the management group of the international project to incorporate information on freshwater



biodiversity in African decision making. This has helped to apply relevant species data to the management plans of the Moulouya River, a pilot zone in Morocco, and for this, several meetings have already been planned with the involved parties in the area. Furthermore, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is exploring channels for collaborating with the Red Cross, which in November held a conference on freshwater biodiversity in Seville at which IUCN-Med's activities were presented.

“ The Mediterranean: a biodiversity hotspot at international level ”

IUCN-Med has also published a review on the conservation status of Mediterranean biodiversity, a region described as ‘a biodiversity hotspot’ at international level. Likewise, a series of information sheets has been prepared with the main facts regarding the region’s species: amphibians, reptiles, endemic freshwater fish, sharks, cetaceans and main island plants under threat, which can now be located on Google Earth®.

In December 2008, IUCN-Med participated in an important meeting, gathering major regional actors and donors in Tour du Valat (France). This meeting aimed to discuss the current status of the Mediterranean basin, the data available on biodiversity and socioeconomic factors, gaps in the knowledge, and also existing networks, in order to establish the first steps of a regional conservation strategy and priorities for funding.



Furthermore, at the European Conference on Invasive Species, which was held in Madrid in January, IUCN-Med presented its work being carried out in the region, such as the online platform for information about invasive exotic species.

Fulfilling the vision at national level

With the aim of supporting the second Objective from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, IUCN has developed a new methodology, based on the IUCN Red List criteria, which allows quick preliminary assessments to be carried out on the conservation status of plant species. In order to manage these prior assessments, an online software for fast evaluation ('Rapidlist') has been developed, where plant species are divided into three categories: 'not threatened', 'threatened/potentially threatened' and 'insufficient data'.

The Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment Initiative is currently working on evaluating main national endemic plants. In March, more than 80 endemic plants were evaluated in Tunisia (more specifically those endemic in Tunisia or Algeria-Tunisia), with the majority being classified as 'threatened/potentially threatened' or 'insufficient data'. From 11 to 13 March 2008, eight specialists from the Ministry of the Environment and other academic institutions attended a working group at the National Agronomical Institute of Tunisia (INAT) together with nine INAT Masters students of Phyto-resources and Biotechnology in order to receive training on IUCN methodologies.

Likewise, IUCN-Med is supporting the Mediterranean countries in the development of national processes and structures to assess the state of national fauna and flora, and help these countries fulfil the objectives of their international commitments (primarily those of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and the Barcelona Convention). Tunisia is one Mediterranean country which has formally requested support from IUCN in implementing an efficient conservation tool at national level.

Integrated management for the fight against fires in Lebanon

IUCN-Med is working closely with the national committee established by the Lebanese government for reviewing the national strategy relevant to fighting and preventing fires. This committee is made up of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Lebanese army, the Civil Defence, and the non-governmental organization, AFDC. This process is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and AFDC.

IUCN-Med has contributed to the drafting of this new strategy by taking part in meetings in May and October to prepare the process for reviewing the national plan, and also by providing technical support in defining the content of the new integrated strategy aimed at mitigating, preventing, preparing for and fighting against fire, and also post-fire restoration. Contributions were also made by the Plan for Combating Forest Fires (INFOCA) and the Catalanian Emergency Plan for Forest Fires (INFOCAT), and post-restoration experience was provided by the University of Granada, the Forestry Technical Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) and the Mediterranean Centre for Environmental Studies (CEAM).

The proposal elaborated by IUCN-Med was a major contribution to the process of reviewing the national strategy, which was finally approved in December 2008.

Conservation of marine biodiversity in Lebanon

An Action Plan 2009-2010 and Memorandum of Understanding have been negotiated with the

“ Tunisia has requested support from IUCN in implementing an efficient conservation tool at national level ”

Lebanese Ministry of Environment following several field visits and meetings with Lebanese government officials, and on 27 November, they were signed by IUCN-Med. These will be translated into Arabic by the Lebanese Ministry for final approval by the Cabinet, and implementing these activities will begin early in 2009. An IUCN expert will be assigned to the Lebanese Ministry of Environment in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of the marine sector, at managerial and monitoring level.





Programme Achievements

Nature's benefits for the private sector

The private sector

From its office in Spain, IUCN-Med has initiated talks with several companies. Often the motive leading the private sector to seek support from the IUCN is linked to integrating scientific considerations relating to the conservation of nature with business actions, primarily on production sites. In 2008, various companies have asked for advice in analysing and minimizing the impact of their operations in the areas where their facilities are situated, but also for incorporating basic regulations within internal operations to strengthen communication and knowledge of their employees. This has been the case for Holcim and Cespa, who the Centre has helped by way of giving technical presentations at their series of conferences for employees and other important operational partners.

Talks between the IUCN-Med and the private sector in the Mediterranean area are increasingly being strengthened and are providing a glimpse of technical solutions and considerations for ensuring better management of natural resources in certain regional economic activities. In fact, IUCN-Med has already begun many strategic analyses and discussions with organizations and companies from the sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors, as well as those from the conventional energy sector (Cespa, BG in Tunisia, Repsol and Shell in Libya) having a considerable impact on biodiversity and weather phenomena.

However, the Centre's engagement with the private sector is still quite recent and the initial priority is to develop trust and mutual understanding before carrying out joint field work for conservation. IUCN-Med continues to work closely with its headquarters and with the Business and Biodiversity Programme, which is why from 9 to 14 June 2008 we were invited to take part in a field visit with experts from IUCN-Holcim's independent

panel, in order to get a better understanding of business activities and ways of studying possible regional prospects.

In its attempt to guide businesses towards integrating biological conservation aspects within their economic operations, IUCN-Med is encouraging and suggesting the use of tools and a methodology focusing on involvement so that they may make a really positive contribution on an environmental level (biological net profit), but also socioeconomically (local populations, creation of jobs, etc.), in particular through the programme aimed specifically at development in North Africa for 2008-2012.

With this aim and following the latest recommendations from the workshop held in Tunisia in March, the members from North Africa expressed their wish to create a committee or platform for dialogue with the private sector so as to involve certain companies in pilot action for local and sustainable development.





Programme Achievements

Future priorities for the Mediterranean

World Conservation Congress

During the voting which took place at the IUCN Member's Assembly at the Barcelona Congress, from a total of 144 motions studied, seven resolutions and six recommendations having direct relevance to the Mediterranean were approved. These documents reflect the worries and action priorities of IUCN members, its secretariat and partners over the next four years, and primarily concern the following areas:

▪ Resolutions

- Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
- Conservation of the Iberian Lynx's habitat
- Accelerating the process to establish marine protected areas and networks of marine protected areas
- Artisanal fishing organizations active in the sustainable management of the Mediterranean
- The Great Ecological Connectivity Corridor: Cantabrian Range, Pyrenees, Massif Central and Western Alps
- Integrated coastal management in the Mediterranean – Barcelona Convention
- Improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea



▪ Recommendations

- Cooperation between members and committees from Latin America and the Mediterranean
- Increasing the pace and scale of conservation in the Mediterranean Biome
- Promoting categories V and VI of protected areas for biodiversity conservation
- Conservation of the Western Iberian Peninsula
- Conservation of the River Ebro
- Environmental impact of wind-based power production in Spanish and Portuguese mountain areas



Spreading the Word

The World Conservation Congress has provided the Spanish, Mediterranean and international media with a unique opportunity to appreciate and spread the importance of this democratic parliament aimed at the conservation policy of the world's resources. During the course of the year, the media coverage in Spain has doubled, and so from the 2715 mentions by the digital press in 2007, this has increased to 4192 in 2008, and if we focus solely on the coverage during the month of October 2008, we find ourselves with 927 mentions, of which it is worth noting 59 television and 97 radio appearances.

Following the famous Stern report, the press and the public have shown a great interest in the economic value of the goods and services offered by ecosystems, for example, how to account for water, plants or a mountain, so as to be able to use information from values previously considered to be more spiritual or intangible when compared to an industry and business based on economic figures and financial capital, and to also show that without primary materials, that is to say, without natural goods, neither development nor the local or global economy would exist.

“ Media coverage in Spain has doubled from 2715 mentions by the digital press in 2007 to 4192 in 2008 ”

This added effort to show that nature is a necessary part of a modern and developing landscape has led IUCN-Med to rethink and design new information and communication tools which can reach beyond the usual channels. For this we have begun developing a new database in order to manage communications with all of our members and

partners, and likewise to be able to personalize the type of information and data they receive. With this new tool we are looking to reduce the flow of messages in this age of information where, more often than not, too much data is received but yet lacking sufficient relevance.

Likewise, IUCN has unveiled its new logo and launched a new webpage based on a content management system. As of this year, data concerning the activities of the Mediterranean office will be included on the new global IUCN webpage, however information and documentation produced between 2001 and 2007 will remain available to the public on the former website: www.iucnmed.org.



Furthermore, our electronic newsletter has been redesigned and is available in three separate language versions as a pdf format, making for easier distribution. Other new communication products include fact sheets on projects and initiatives, as well as the new trilingual publication entitled 'Mediterranean Mosaic', which was presented at the Congress in Barcelona to chronicle the activities carried out by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation since its creation in 2001 and provide facts about the history and ecology of the region.

The IUCN-Med staff have also made a considerable effort in 2008 to actively participate in both national and international courses and conferences held in Spain so as to make the activities of the centre better known, and to share its knowledge about conservation and development.



Key Publications & Resources

IUCN online

All our publications and reports are free to download from www.iucn.org/mediterranean.

For all documentation prior to 2008, please visit www.uicnmed.org.

To be informed of our activities, you can subscribe to Med flashnews, our electronic newsletter available in three languages, via our webpage.

Books



Adapting to Global Change

Mediterranean forests

This publication represents a first step for developing a joint programme of work and strategy on the adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change, including the input of international organizations like FAO, UNDP, GTZ, WWF and IUCN, partners and member organizations, forest managers and users, governments, research institutions and the private sector.

Available in English, French and Spanish (trilingual document)



Maritime Traffic Effects on Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea

Volume I: Review of impacts, priority areas and mitigation measures

An enclosed sea such as the Mediterranean is particularly vulnerable to ship-associated impacts due to a high-volume of shipping routes, long history of use, and sensitive shallow and deep-sea habitats. This report describes the potential effects of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and recommends measures for management and mitigation.

Available in English



Maritime Traffic Effects on Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea

Volume II: Legal mechanisms to address maritime impacts on Mediterranean biodiversity

The challenge facing international law and policy makers is to devise a framework of governance that can integrate both the navigational interests of shipping and the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity. One of the important outcomes of the workshop held in Istanbul in September 2007 was the preparation of four background papers outlining the measures available; these papers have been collected together in this volume.

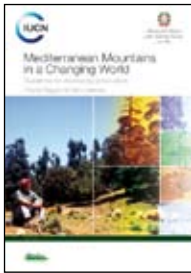
Available in English



Status of Marine Protected Area in the Mediterranean Sea

This study of the status of Mediterranean marine protected areas is the result of a joint initiative between IUCN, WWF and MedPAN (Network of Managers of MPAs in the Mediterranean) together with RAC/SPA and around one hundred MPA administration agencies and managers.

Available in English



Mediterranean Mountains in a Changing World

Guidelines for developing action plans

This resource book, moving from the workshop held in Malaga in December 2007, gathers the outputs of the rich debate that emerged from the case studies and lectures of representative examples of practical experiences in Mediterranean mountain conservation and management. It also presents the challenges of global climate change that the countries in the region could face in the near future.

Available in English



Mediterranean Mosaic

A mosaic is an artistic expression that originated in the Mediterranean, which is itself a mosaic of interrelated ecosystems. The key to the Mediterranean's natural wealth is the multitude of coexisting habitats, conditioned by the region's haphazard relief. This book offers an overview of the different pieces which constitute the nature and people of the region from a historical perspective and through the eyes of IUCN.

Available in English, French and Spanish (trilingual document)

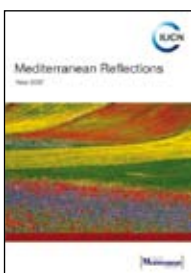
Reports



The Mediterranean: a Biodiversity Hotspot under Threat

This chapter included in the new publication of the Red List 2008 provides an overview of the status of main species assessed at regional level: mammals, birds, dragonflies, crustaceans, cartilaginous fishes, amphibians, reptiles and endemic freshwater fish. It also offers a geographical analysis of their distribution, threats and conservation measures for their protection, as well as a wealth of photos and maps.

Available in English in digital format



Mediterranean Reflections 2007

This is a report of the work carried out in 2007 by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) in Malaga. During this time a meeting was held between regional members, and a programme of work was drawn up for the coming years, including a new programme for North Africa.

Available in English, French and Spanish

Fact sheets

The aim of these fact sheets is to briefly outline the key facts of recent projects and studies carried out by IUCN-Med.



The Mediterranean: a Biodiversity Hotspot under Threat

A presentation of the conclusions which were reached following the assessment of the groups of species studied to date, including statistics, maps, threats and proposed solutions for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity.

Available in English, French and Spanish



Conserving Marine Biodiversity

A review of the conservation status of the Mediterranean Sea and the projects and initiatives carried out by IUCN-Med together with its partners for the protection of key habitats and species.

Available in English and Spanish

Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture

This series of practical recommendations is directed at decision makers, like aquaculture producers, with the aim of making this activity an example of sustainability in the region, guaranteeing food safety, and serving as an accompaniment to the area's increasing decline in fishing grounds.



Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment

This fact sheet is an overview of the guide published in 2007 in which a group of Mediterranean experts from various backgrounds - scientists, administrators and producers - discussed topics including: Domestication; Introduction of marine species; Capture of wild stocks; Feed ingredients; Organic matter in the effluents; Pathogen transfer; Therapeutic products; Antifouling products; and the Effects on local flora and fauna.

Available in English and Spanish



Selecting and Managing Areas for Aquaculture

The problems facing this sector's development are mainly due to wrong decisions being made in the process of selecting and managing areas for aquaculture. This fact sheet is a summary of the guide divided into three main parts: concepts which must be put into practice, such as the importance of knowledge, or the participatory approach; legal, sectorial and organizational frameworks; and methods and tools, such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), or the ecosystem approach.

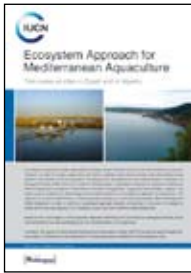
Available in English and Spanish



Responsible Aquaculture Practices and Certification

This fact sheet refers to the guide dealing with questions relating to: Codes of conduct and best practice; Basics for certification schemes; Classification of certification schemes; and Certification for sustainability. Although it seems difficult to certify the three pillars of sustainability - environmental, social and economical -, this guide provides preliminary considerations and ideas in dealing with certification for sustainability.

Available in English and Spanish



Ecosystem Approach for Mediterranean Aquaculture **Two Case Studies in Egypt and Algeria**

Based on the 12 principles of the ecosystem approach defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN has developed a five-phase method for how it can be implemented. The two case studies have validated this method and also led to further proposals for projects to be carried out in each country in collaboration with their respective governments.

Available in English and Spanish

Threatened Species Red Lists

The IUCN's Red List includes species assessed according to the categories and criteria of the Union. For each species, the threat category and relevant criteria are indicated, in addition to the area where the species is found and also the specific actions which can be taken to avoid it becoming extinct.



Mediterranean Amphibians

Of the 115 species of amphibians (frogs, toads, newts and salamanders) found in Mediterranean countries, a much higher number than can be found in central and northern Europe, 28.7% is threatened with extinction.

Mediterranean Cartilaginous Fish

Sharks play a very important role in the Mediterranean Sea's food chain. As top predators, they feed by killing sick or weak prey and thus keep the marine ecosystem healthy.

Cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Nine cetaceans are qualified as threatened in the Mediterranean basin. This includes the Mediterranean populations of Sperm Whale, (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and the Common Dolphin, (*Delphinus delphis*).

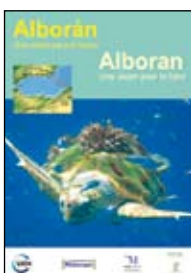
Endemic Freshwater Fish of the Mediterranean

Water pollution and water extraction are the two greatest current threats to the future of Mediterranean endemic fish.

Mediterranean Reptiles

The arid and semi-arid habitats found in the Mediterranean region are an ideal habitat for these reptiles, and almost half of the region's species (170 in total) are endemic.

These fact sheets are available in English and Spanish



Alboran: A Vision for the Future

This leaflet, put together by the main partners of the project, focuses on the main threats and opportunities looming over this shared sea between Spain, Morocco and Algeria.

Available in Spanish and French (bilingual document)



Funding Allocation

In 2008, the Mediterranean office has managed a budget of almost €2.6 million to work on:

- Adaptation to climate change in the conservation and management of Mediterranean forests
- Support to Egypt in the creation of marine protected areas
- Support in organizing the IV World Conservation Congress in Barcelona
- Supporting safety and sustainable livelihoods by developing the governance systems and sustainable management of agro-forestry resources in priority areas of North Africa
- Raising awareness on gender-related issues and promoting an equitable approach to nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources by empowering women
- Capacity building for the development of a representative network of Mediterranean marine protected areas, especially in Lebanon
- Conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources in high priority areas of the Mediterranean
- Conservation and sustainable development in the Alboran Sea
- Development of the North Africa Programme
- Methodological study for an ecosystem approach to aquaculture
- Mediterranean biodiversity assessments: marine fish, mammals, and freshwater species
- Promoting talks with the private sector for the inclusion of biodiversity in its actions
- Training regional experts and resource managers on methodologies to evaluate the conservation status of biodiversity
- Training on climate change policies for North Africa
- Integrated management and capacity building for the control of forest fires in Lebanon and post-fire restoration in pilot areas
- Guidelines for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture: Site selection and management, and origin certification
- Identification of representative areas and species for their conservation in the Mediterranean Sea
- Inclusion of new information technology and communication (GIS, databases, Google®...)
- Mediterranean mountains in a changing world: Strategies for the development of action plans
- National Red List of Plants in Tunisia
- Improvement of high seas governance in the Western Mediterranean
- Improving the management of the Al Hoceima National Park in Morocco
- Participatory process to prepare the intersessional plan 2009-2012
- Egyptian-Italian cooperation programme for the environment
- Risks from maritime traffic to Mediterranean biodiversity: Legal framework and impact mitigation measures



The Malaga Team

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Barcelona

Establishing world environmental foundations

“Biodiversity underpins the well-being of human societies and their economies”, these were the words of the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, on the occasion of the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in October 2008.

With debates, exchanges and analysis, over the ten days more than eight thousand world leaders from governments, NGOs, the private sector, the United Nations and the academic world made key decisions regarding the sustainable development of our planet.

For decades our wounded planet has been subjected to damage caused both naturally and by the actions of man, and already the consequences of this abuse are starting to show.

That said, this meeting proved to be promising. “The tide is turning in our favour, we have the scientific knowledge and we have the governmental willpower to put the solutions in place”, said IUCN’s new President Ashok Khosla.

Barcelona: a before and after in the conservation of nature.



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