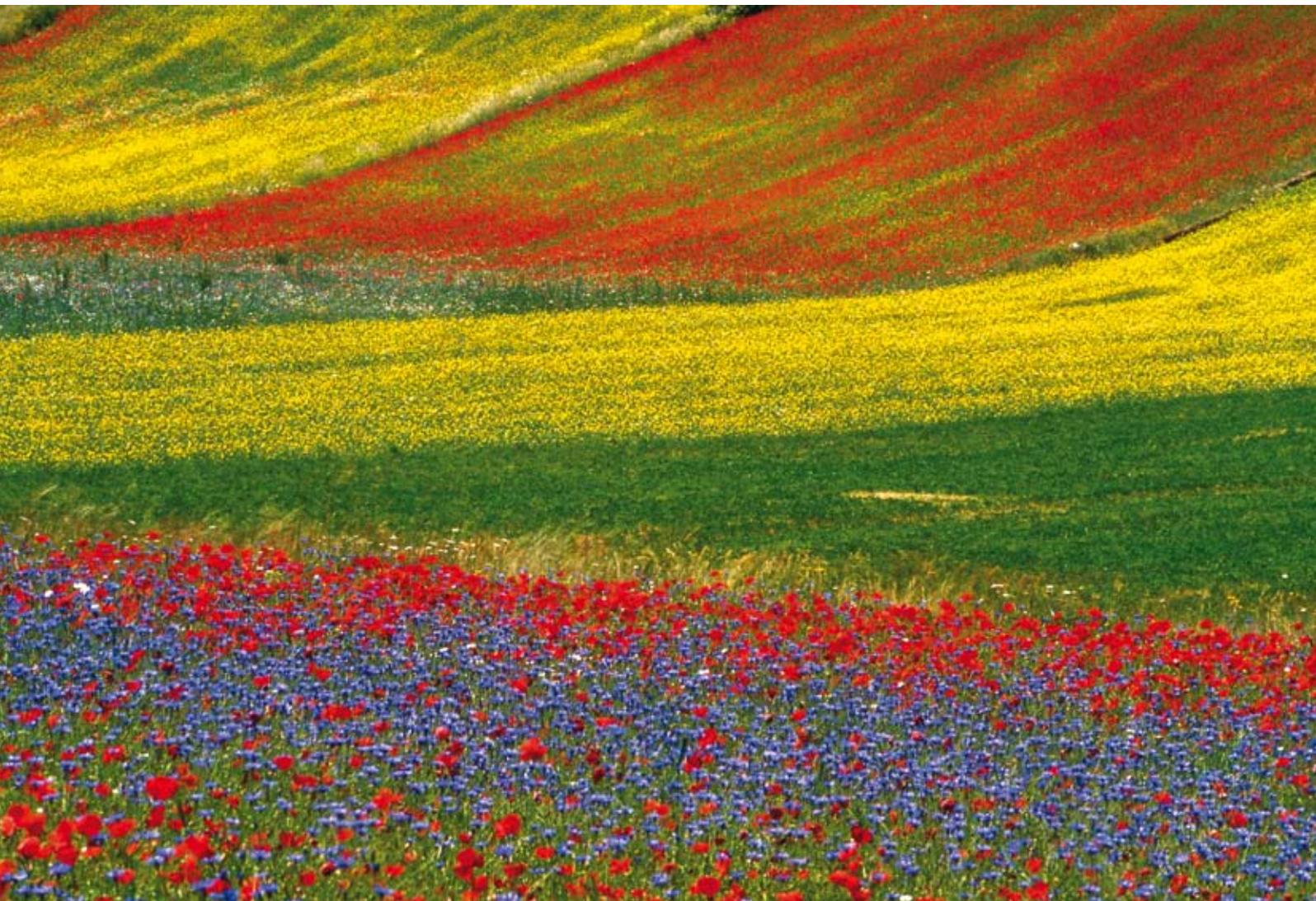




Mediterranean Reflections

Year 2007



Published by: IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Product management by: Sonsoles San Román

ISBN: 978-2-8317-1055-6

Design and layout by: Chadi Abi Faraj

Printed by: Solprint (Mijas), Málaga

Printed on:  FSC certified-paper

Cover Photo: Nino Gomei

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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,

You will see in this report that IUCN-Med had another busy and fulfilling year working closely with our IUCN partners in the Mediterranean, members, Councillors, Commission members and National Committees, learning from them, sharing our knowledge and doing our utmost to communicate better with all of them. It has been a privilege for the entire Centre's staff to have had the opportunity to get to know them better and work so closely with so many.

Throughout this testimony, our efforts and achievements regarding biodiversity conservation in freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting projects and activities in many countries of the Mediterranean, will be evident.

A special effort has also been made to give our younger generations a chance to learn about the importance of protecting vital resources such as water and biodiversity, reaching many school children in the Andalusian region and beyond. We also strived to improve the management of Mediterranean protected and important areas, strengthen maritime governance in the Mediterranean high seas and provide advice regarding sustainable aquaculture.

The Centre aims to be a strategic partner of our IUCN Mediterranean members, IUCN Commission members, as well as of our donors.

The joint effort and hard work of all in preparing the intersessional plan 2009-2012, which culminated in an extremely successful and participatory meeting last September, is proof that we are achieving our target. Moreover, the request to design a North Africa programme starting in 2008 to empower the region and strengthen the links amongst our collaborators is pointing to another busy year in preparation for the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona next October.

The year 2007 has also been successful from the fundraising point of view, as we managed to raise a total of €2 million which were invested with our members and stakeholders at the local level, as well as at the regional level. Additionally, our number of partnerships with key actors in the Mediterranean was increased, starting a few initiatives with the private sector, in particular the Chamber of Commerce and the Fundacion Unicaja in Malaga.

I use this opportunity to thank all our donors for their generosity and support which enabled us to make so much progress in the year.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks for and pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Centre's staff, as without their contribution our achievements would not have been possible.

Margarita Astrálaga

Director

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation



Our Donors

The work of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is made possible through the support, 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 2007 to support the Centre, and therefore the Union's work.

Our core supporters



Spanish Ministry of Environment



Consejería de Medio Ambiente
Junta de Andalucía

Our project donors



Chamber of Commerce of Malaga



Diputación de Málaga



European Commission



French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development



French Ministry of Foreign Affairs



MAVA
FONDATION POUR LA NATURE



Fundación Biodiversidad



Fundación Unicaja



Italian Ministry of Environment



Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ayuntamiento de Málaga



Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)





Organismo Autónomo de
Parques Nacionales in Spain



Total Corporate Foundation



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



United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

New members in the year

- Botanic Garden of the University of Valencia - Spain
- Centre for Continuing Education and the Dissemination of Environmental Information of Galicia - Spain
- Department for Town Planning and Environment, Provincial Council for Alava - Spain
- Direction de l'Environnement du Conseil Régional d'Ile-de-France
- Ministry of National Planning and Development, Environment and Tourism - Algeria
- Nature Society - Doga Dernegi - Turkey
- Noé Conservation - France
- PREVAIN Foundation - Spain
- Spanish Ornithological Society - Spain
- The Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW)

Additional partners and cooperation agreements

- A Rocha International
- Asociación Calopteryx
- Centro Iberoamericano de la Biodiversidad (CIBIO) - University of Alicante
- CIBIO - Portugal
- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
- European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
- Fundación CONAMA
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la lutte contre la désertification (HCEFLCD)
- Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INHR)
- Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM)
- Instituto Oceanográfico de España (IOE)
- International University of Andalucía (UNIA)
- Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca scientifica e tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM)
- National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
- Nature Conservation Egypt
- Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)
- The Mountain Partnership
- Tour du Valat
- Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
- World Wide Fund (WWF)

Highlights of the Year 2007



January

04

Are we reaching our target of 10% protection?

The Prime Minister of Egypt signs a decree to establish Gilf Kebir as Egypt's newest protected area, one of the world's largest, one and a half times the size of Belgium. On 30 April, Egypt signed the Countdown 2010 initiative to halt biodiversity loss.

February

06

How many endemic species are we ready to lose?

Morocco commits to national red listing of endangered species by providing training to national experts, with birds first in their red list agenda, and Tunisia agrees to test the Rapid List methodology for plant preliminary evaluations.

March

01

A new Director for the Mediterranean Centre

Margarita Astrálagu takes over IUCN-Med as new director.

April

13

The young raise their voice to protect their future

More than 100 students from Malaga schools participate in making and launching the Spanish contribution to the international IUCN Multimedia Water project video "Tales of Water - A Child's View".

April

16

Realising the importance of biodiversity for all

Andalusia's regional government reaffirms its commitment to the conservation of nature and natural resources at international level hand in hand with IUCN.

May

07

New political actors for cooperation

Algeria, the second largest country in Africa, joins IUCN as State member. The Sahara desert covers 90% of its territory and the fight against desertification is a major challenge.

May

11

Protected area? What do you mean?

Experts from 40 countries gather in Almeria to improve the internationally-recognized IUCN Categories System, a "common language" for the world's protected areas since 1994.

June

15

Empowering people to use best practice

Management challenges for Mediterranean protected areas are addressed through the first IUCN-Med training course for more than 20 protected area managers and students.





July

22

Water, our treasure and home to species

Red listing of Mediterranean molluscs as an indicator of freshwater biodiversity brings experts together in Antwerp. Dragonflies, crabs, fish and aquatic plants are also evaluated in Porto later on.

August

10

Improved solutions to common problems

Governments, producers and scientists together develop the first in a series of practical recommendations for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture.

September

08

Involvement and agreement, our keys to effective action

22 Mediterranean countries decide their priorities with a conviction: the future of environment lays in cooperation and the involvement of the society as a whole, including the private sector.

September

12

Now that we know, let us do something about it

The IUCN 2007 Red List of Threatened Species is launched. Widely recognized as the most reliable evaluation of the extinction risk of plants and animals, it proposes action to counteract it.

October

09

A multi-lens outlook, the participatory path to the solution

Lebanon oil spill documentary wins first prize at international film festival. Fishermen, scientists, government officials and locals look at how this has affected local resources and what can be done to evaluate and prevent further losses in nature.

November

16

What fish on your plate?

More than 40% of shark and ray species in the Mediterranean are threatened with extinction, according to the new report by IUCN. Bottom trawling fisheries are the main cause for Maltese Skate decline of 80%, found only in the Mediterranean, and assessed as Critically Endangered.

November

30

Policy, ecology and management for conservation

The Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea reunites experts to analyse, review and establish the most pressing issues and the potential solutions to allow for the protection of the natural resources of the ecological region of the Alboran sea touching two continents, and its people.

December

11

Our mountains, our castles of water

Safeguarding the cultural and biodiversity values of Mediterranean Mountains facing climate change implies resilience, management plans, integrated approaches and the direct involvement of the population.



Programme Achievements

Conserving and managing resources

Towards a shared management

The Alboran Sea is considered a very important area at geopolitical, strategic and scientific level, as well as the dynamic engine for biodiversity in the Western Mediterranean. It deserves, therefore, to be protected and well managed. Research organisations, universities, governments and NGOs from Morocco, Spain and Algeria have constituted a working group to discuss current data regarding the Alboran geology and physical geography, ecology and human-political geography. The resulting document has been discussed during various meetings to help identify challenges and solutions at regional level, priorities to improve the management and governance of the Alboran zone and an Action Plan for the region, including desirable tools and measures.

This initiative has started a sustainable movement for the region, as the first step in the implementation of a series of activities at all levels for the years to come. A second international conference will be organised in Morocco in 2008. This is a huge step forward towards cooperation amongst the two continents, as in the first Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve between Spain and Morocco.

Ecological connectivity for conservation

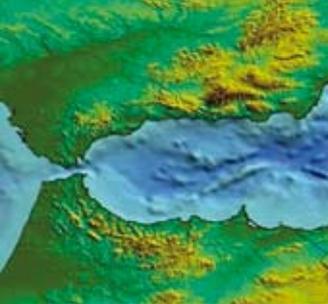
Overfishing, with better boats and more people to feed, the impacts of pollution from the coast including accidental spills of toxic materials, maritime traffic, and the evolution in the food webs caused by the disappearance of key species essential to the survival of the ecosystem are affecting the whole sea balance.

Overfishing, pollution,
and maritime traffic
are affecting the sea
balance

The evident decrease in marine resources should be leading to the protection of new sea areas in order to allow for new offspring and the recovery of species in danger of extinction. However, with only 4% of the total sea including high and deep areas protected, we are still far away from the 10% target established by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004.

To update the information regarding the protection and management of the existing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean Sea, IUCN-Med carried





out together with MedPAN / WWF-France, which is the network of managers of Mediterranean MPAs, and the official support of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), a new database of Mediterranean MPAs available from www.medpan.org. The Survey has:

- provided updated information regarding the quantity, type and distribution of Mediterranean MPAs;
- identified Mediterranean habitats and species that currently receive protection and the health status of key ones;
- defined the main threats that affect Mediterranean MPAs; and
- evaluated the level of capacity / effectiveness of the MPA management.

The 1st Conference of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network took place from 24 to 27 October 2007 on the island of Porquerolles (France), it brought together more than 110 experts in marine conservation from the management organisation of MPAs, governments, non-governmental, intergovernmental and international organisations, the French National Fisheries Committee and the scientific community. Participants drew up a Declaration to foster the development of measures designed to improve the levels of protection and conservation of the Mediterranean Sea, in a continued effort to achieve a sufficient and representative network of marine protected areas.



... local communities
have been involved in
the conservation and
development work

Acknowledging our natural heritage

Wadi El Hitan - Valley of the Whales World Heritage Site (WHS) in the Western Desert of Egypt - is one of Egypt's 27 national parks. IUCN is providing the technical and managerial oversight to enable sensitive eco-tourism development that will protect the universal values of the WHS. The strategic vision developed for the site has added an international dimension to a locally protected area. Local communities have been very involved in many aspects of the conservation and development work, resulting in pride and economic benefits. Local builders and craftsmen have made the site facilities out of mud-brick materials and signs from baked clay. In the Open Air Museum, the fossil whales are protected by clay columns and hand-braided rope from palm leaves made in a nearby village. A gift shop provides a venue for locally made handicrafts.

A variety of educational products have been professionally prepared, such as a DVD featuring award-winning BBC footage of ancient whales, display panels and a guidebook. Staff have been trained in all facets of protected area management, including planning, management effectiveness, communications, education and public awareness, enforcement, environmental impact assessment, and other topics. Through cooperation with the University of Michigan, site research and lab training in the United States is ongoing. A twinning programme between Wadi El Rayan Protected Area and the Italian Gran Sasso National Park has also provided valuable technical and financial support for the work at Wadi El Hitan, and the overall programme is funded by Italian Cooperation, thus reinforcing cooperation among Mediterranean countries for conservation of the region's ecosystems. With IUCN support, work continues on sustainable financing mechanisms, including a business plan and formation of a new NGO - the Friends of Wadi El Hitan. In February 2008, Suzanne Mubarek, First Lady of Egypt officially inaugurated the world heritage site, drawing wide media attention.



Programme Achievements

Wild, protected, exploited spots?

Promoting a common language

There are over 140 different names for protected areas around the world, creating confusion when setting standards for improving nature conservation through protected area systems. The six IUCN protected areas categories, which are based on conservation management objectives, have been adopted by various countries, and are used as guidance in the planning and management of protected areas in many others. In the Mediterranean alone, there are more than 4,400 protected areas, of which 67% have been assigned some IUCN category.

The International Summit on IUCN protected area categories organized in Almeria (Spain) in conjunction with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and members active in the field, led to a better understanding of the use of the system in the Mediterranean region, and a special emphasis on the importance of Category V in the review of the different definitions. A publication was prepared based on a preliminary study amongst protected area managers and agencies in the Mediterranean, as a tool for promoting the management of PAs in the region.



The Summit provided the opportunity to start defining concrete ways to clarify and strengthen the six existing categories and recommendations will be presented to the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona (2008), focusing on tightening standards for management and application of the system whilst keeping flexibility to allow governments, decision makers and protected area authorities to adapt the categories to their own regional or national needs.

Two protected areas in southern Spain applying the IUCN Categories System were visited: Cabo de Gata - Nijar Natural Park and Sierra Nevada National Park, clear examples of Category V, those managed for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation. Their distinguishing feature is the interaction between sustainable human activities and nature conservation, which involves a strong involvement of local communities. Cabo de Gata-

Nijar Natural Park permits traditional herding and artisanal fishing activities which would otherwise disappear. Human activities have actually shaped the biodiversity characteristics of the area, as illustrated by the presence of salt fields which play a key role in the protection of migratory bird species.

The importance of Category V and VI areas for nature conservation was made evident. The last Iberian Lynx populations are found and are recovering in Category V Areas, as well as Imperial Eagles, Brown Bears or Posidonia marine meadows.

This effort answers the needs of governments, managers and other stakeholders such as the private sector, to see clearly how these categories are applied, and the questions to be solved but, above all, how we can further improve their benefits.



Joining economic development and conservation

Libya is taking the key steps for a successful integration of environmental, social and economic perspectives in the development of a national sustainable tourism strategy. Becoming a main attraction on the Mediterranean for its pristine landscapes and rich cultural and archaeological heritage, Libya is still among the few Mediterranean countries where development has not yet gone far, and where proper collaboration between all concerned government agencies and stakeholders can still make a difference.

IUCN, along with other partners, is highlighting the opportunities that exist for linking the national tourism policy to Libyan natural and cultural assets, supported also by a national system of protected areas and national parks. A tourism policy in which environmental, social, and economic aims are fully integrated and that is effectively implemented along with regulatory, planning, economic and voluntary tools will also provide the enabling conditions for the national and international tourism service providers to meet their environmental commitments.

Better capacity for handling resources

The first course organised under the framework of the two-year cooperation agreement with the International University of Andalucia (UNIA) and the support of the Andalucia regional government was held in Malaga in June 2007. This one-week course, under the title of "Mediterranean Protected Areas from IUCN's perspective", targeted environmental science graduates and protected area managers from the region to benefit from the Mediterranean experience and know-how. Regional governments, partners, and IUCN experts, contributed to this course through exposing a theoretical and practical approach to the management of protected areas with real case studies. Our next course will empower journalists to understand nature conservation and its linkages to human wellbeing.

Improving management in Al Hoceima

Despite their utmost importance for biodiversity in terms of marine species, coastal habitats or fisheries, only 4.3% of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the Mediterranean are located on the southern shore. This low percentage does not adequately represent or protect the plethora of marine species, habitats, and fisheries characteristic of this area. Conserving marine biodiversity and sustainably



using its natural resources in the region is therefore crucial, as such is the case of the Al Hoceima National Park, situated North of Morocco.

With these objectives, IUCN-Med has developed a project to assist Morocco in its initiative to develop marine protected areas. This initiative aims at the improvement of the management plan for Al Hoceima National Park, the assessment of its marine biodiversity, and the participatory design of a governance system in association with the local communities in order to optimise social and ecological values in the area, while addressing employment options for the people.

The first meeting with the different project partners was held in Malaga on 3 September 2007. During the meeting, priority activities have been defined in accordance with Morocco's programme of work for the National Park, followed by a kick-off workshop involving the participation of the various project stakeholders and partners. Funded by the Organismo Autónomo de Parques Nacionales in Spain, this project will develop several technical aspects including the inventory of marine and coastal species and existing habitats, the identification of ecologically important areas and the drafting of a participatory management plan, including development of ecotourism and identification of income generating activities for local communities.

In particular, the project will study the evolving interaction between marine resources and local communities, including the zoning of biodiversity conservation and sustainable fishery areas, on the basis of existing ecological and socioeconomic data. The human context will be particularly considered, namely regarding identification of strategies to diversify the types of activities that generate income for the various key sectors of the local economy and exploring options for certification of certain products (apiculture and sustainable tourism), to serve as an example of best practice to other areas in the North of Africa.

Moreover, according to the priorities of the park, restoration of the forest ecosystem has been identified as a complementary initiative to be developed from 2008.



Programme Achievements

Sea attractions and disruptions

Governance: towards a concerted dialogue for ecological protection

Despite its small size, the Mediterranean is mainly under high sea status beyond national jurisdictions; because Mediterranean countries have not, or have only partially declared their Exclusive Economic Zone (200 miles from the limit of the territorial waters). This status does not allow for a competent marine biodiversity management. Consequently, IUCN has initiated a project on how to improve the governance of the zone.



of the International Maritime Organization, FRZ - Fisheries Restriction Zones of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, and further possible actions. The Black Sea and the Baltic Sea served as examples.

A second meeting will be held in July 2008. Two documents are being drafted: One referring to national law and declarations on high sea, and the other describing the characteristics of high sea pelagic habitats.

Maritime traffic: risks to biodiversity and legal framework

IUCN, along with regional experts and commission members, is analyzing the impact of shipping activities on biodiversity in the Mediterranean. More than 30 experts including technical specialists, researchers and Mediterranean partner organisations



Jurists, biologists and international organizations discussed a sea inventory in terms of biodiversity, international laws and space management tools

IUCN convened a formal consultation process in May between the riparian states, starting with the Western Mediterranean (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Spain, France, Monaco and Italy). During three days, jurists, biologists and concerned international organisations thoroughly discussed outstanding governance issues such as an inventory in terms of biodiversity, international laws and space management tools. These included SPAMIs - Special Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance under the Barcelona Convention, PSSA - Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas





together with maritime industry representatives discussed recommendations, to be published in 2008, concerning biodiversity conservation priorities within the Mediterranean insofar as they are at risk from the impacts of shipping. Tools to promote compliance with and enforcement of existing protective measures applicable in the Mediterranean region and the standards adopted within the Barcelona Convention legal framework could usefully be employed to protect the conservation priorities concerned and are at the basis of our work.

Aquaculture and the environment: new models, new partnerships

Fish farming has appeared as a possible solution to answer the growing demand for seafood which the catching of wild fish cannot provide. Yet, from the conservation point of view, aquaculture also raises a number of issues of concern for the environment. These include the release of waste materials, the occurrence of disease, maintenance and assurance of product quality and the introduction of new species.

More and more IUCN is cherishing the principles of establishing constructive relationships and long standing links with sectoral professionals. IUCN is working with aquaculture producers, scientists and governments to assure high standards in quality food production while respecting environmental considerations and consumers' demands, using a scientific base for decision making and uniting the interests of conservationists with the fishing community.

This cooperating framework is helping us identify environmental issues related to the development and

IUCN is working
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environment and
consumers' demands

management of fish farming in the Mediterranean region as well as promote the best environmental management practices for responsible fish farming within the principles of sustainable development.

This initiative contributes to the protection of biodiversity by encouraging and assisting the private sector and supporting local communities in their efforts to conserve biodiversity and to deliver sustainable economic benefits. A methodology for an ecosystem approach with aquaculture as the show case has also been worked on, to feed into the overall input for the sustainable development of fish farming and aquaculture.





Programme Achievements

Mediterranean ecosystem approach

The undervalued Mountains and adaptation to climate change

Mountains play a key role in the water cycle, influencing climate and precipitation regimes and modulating the runoff regime. Mountain vegetation and soils store rainfall water and regulate the gradual flow of water and sediments downstream, which fertilises lowland plains, replaces coastal sediments, and recharges groundwater aquifers in lowlands areas, where the demand from population centres, agriculture and industry is high. It is thus understandable that healthy mountain systems are vital not only for their inhabitants - people and nature - but also for the mitigation of risks such as landslides and avalanches, the maintenance of ecological processes, and the provision of goods and services to users.

Mountain habitats diversity and species richness are high. Mountain regions species endemism often increases with altitude, partly due to their isolation and the activation of speciation processes along geological times. Thirty-two percent of all protected areas are located in mountain regions, providing habitat for rare, relict and endangered flora and fauna, as well as corridors for many migrating species and species radiation.

Through the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, IUCN has taken the task to facilitate the implementation of Bangkok resolution 3.039:

32% of all protected areas are located in mountain regions, providing habitat for rare, relict and endangered flora and fauna

“The Mediterranean Mountains Partnership”, calling all concerned national, regional and local institutions to develop action plans for each of the major mountain ranges in the region through a consultation process with regional organisations and experts active in conservation and development of Mediterranean mountain systems. A document on key conservation and development issues will be published in 2008, based on the agreement reached during a workshop held in Malaga to elaborate the strategic guidelines for the development of Mediterranean Mountains Action Plans.





Common priorities for North Africa

Arid and semi-arid lands, characteristic of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, constitute emblematic ecosystems that have been for centuries offering services and home to the local communities. But the region also hosts valuable mountains, forests, oasis, wetlands and various ecosystems that are suffering from desertification, the impact of climate change and the effects of unplanned development activities, which might prove unsustainable in the long run. The preservation of traditional knowledge and land management techniques are at risk due to the threats posed by the overexploitation of resources and socioeconomic problems associated with poverty, lack of education and migration to other areas considered more productive, such as cities or the coast.

In 2007, IUCN members in these countries have requested that a sub-regional programme be developed for the region. A consultation meeting was held in



September, followed by the drafting of the strategic document setting up the priority areas of work, and incorporating concrete activities to be developed from 2008 onwards with our regional members and partners, thus contributing to the IUCN 2009-2012 programme and the sustainable development of the region.

There is a need for more coherent valuation of dryland ecosystem services and to integrate these values into national economic planning processes. By recognizing the significant contributions of drylands to national economies and local livelihoods, we will shift from the negative perception of drylands as wastelands. Land degradation in drylands, aggravated by climate change, will not only affect the rural poor, but will hamper economic development at national and regional levels.

Additionally, the current governance situation in many drylands can exacerbate both ecosystem degradation and livelihood insecurity. There is an urgent need to solve inequitable tenure and rights regimes, strengthen democratic decision-making, promote peace and help resolve natural resource-based conflicts. It is essential to empower indigenous and local communities, including pastoralists, in land use planning and decision-making, to enhance their security and guarantee their fundamental rights to water, food and health. Proper recognition and support to traditional management practices, adapted to high climatic variability in drylands, will enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change.

In the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals, including halving extreme poverty by 2015, the importance of ecosystem services is fundamental. IUCN is working to bring the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment into policy making and practice, moving beyond monitoring and assessments and providing a rationale for sustainable investments in drylands.





Programme Achievements

Grasping life forms to keep our balance

Expanding the knowledge base at regional level

Both sea and freshwater host a wide variety of species, and many of them are threatened. In the Mediterranean Sea, 42% of sharks and rays are suffering from fishing and bycatch as main threats. Sharks are particularly slow to reproduce and the enclosed nature of the sea together with the loss of their natural habitat is making them disappear. Shark finning is also affecting their mortality rate. During this year, we have completed our Mediterranean Red List reports with the publication on cartilaginous fishes (sharks and rays), and have sped up the preparation of the marine fish Red List.

(dragonflies) and Crustaceans (crabs) - as indicators of biodiversity in the region are helping to link the management of areas and ecosystems with the people and the wellbeing of animal and plant species that form the environment. Main threats are being assessed and, what we really aim for, actions and concrete plans for their conservation as fundamental contributors to the livelihoods of people with food, medicine, fuel, and wellbeing through the prevention of natural catastrophes, are being put together to serve conservation.

Habitat loss and degradation, followed by the use of pesticides and pollution, are the two main reasons for mammal extinction in the Mediterranean



In continental waters, it is clear from the first results, that there is a disproportionate high number of species threatened with extinction, such as freshwater fish or molluscs.

The identification and assessment of five representative freshwater taxonomic groups - Freshwater Fish, Aquatic Plants, Molluscs, Odonata

But other species are also in our working agenda. The cutting of trees, dam construction and overexploitation are causing an alarming loss of mammal species. Habitat loss and degradation, followed by the use of pesticides and pollution, are





the two main reasons for mammal extinction in the Mediterranean. These were the conclusions of a group of experts that met to prepare their Red List. Mammals are a key component in the food web, both human and animal, and are therefore essential to maintain the ecosystem balance.



And at national level

In addition to the work at Mediterranean level, IUCN-Med is collaborating with Morocco, Egypt, France, Tunisia and Turkey by providing training for national experts and government officials related to nature conservation in order to help them create and update their own national Red Lists.

As well as locally

Experts and organisations have been mobilised to integrate IUCN Red List criteria and data in their conservation initiatives. We have participated in several fora to increase public awareness regarding the current loss of biodiversity, at local, regional, national and multi-country level.

In our immediate surrounding, we have promoted cooperation between the regional government and the Science and Technology Park of Andalusia to help control and prevent invasive species in the area and promote the use of Mediterranean flora, raising awareness also amongst the local gardeners.

Other achievements in the area include the publication of the Top 50 Mediterranean Island Plants in Spanish and Greek. There are nearly 5,000 islands ranging greatly in size in the Mediterranean basin, many of which are home to an exceptionally diverse flora. Nearly 25,000 species of flowering plants and ferns are native to the countries surrounding the basin, many of these found nowhere else in the world.

IUCN-Med is providing training for national experts and government officials related to nature conservation in order to help them create and update their own national red lists





Programme Achievements

New developments, new teams

Under the thematic priority, “Greening the World Economy”, IUCN is trying to emphasize that sustainable development can best be achieved by the commitment and interaction of Government, Civil Society, Individuals and Businesses. In a globalized world, such relationships, expressed within the now commonly-used term of Corporate Social Responsibility, demonstrate businesses’ acknowledgement of their obligations and contribution to sustainable development of those three elements: Society, the Environment and the Economy.

Nowadays, most big businesses have developed their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and are already engaged for the environment but there is still a need to develop this work in partnership with all concerned actors, including the local communities that are being affected or who will benefit from those initiatives. A good example is the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, which is working with IUCN for the sustainable development of the sector.

Additional contacts and discussions have been undertaken with several private sector organisations to see how IUCN can help in integrating biodiversity conservation in their operations. IUCN-Med has also signed an agreement with Unicaja, a Spanish financial institution, to mutually support

A contribution
to sustainable
development: Society,
the Environment & the
Economy

activities related to biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean, and with the Malaga Chamber of Commerce to start a debate on sustainable tourism and development along the Mediterranean coast.

We are also exploring cooperation opportunities in the field of renewable energies through its association in Andalusia to exchange information and find the best alternatives and its links to poverty alleviation in the region. IUCN is continuing the debate to offer a discussion platform by organising regional workshops, and exploring the energy landscape in the Mediterranean to provide best solutions to local scenarios.



Key Publications & Reports



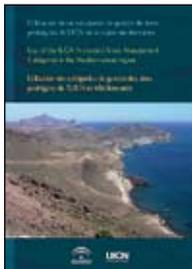
Books



Overview of the Conservation Status of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

Benthic trawl effort has augmented in the Mediterranean over the past 50 years. Increased fishing intensity and technological advancement of fishing gear has resulted in a decline in many of these species commercially captured by trawls in the north-western Mediterranean.

Available in English



Use of the IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories in the Mediterranean region

This publication analyses the use and interpretation of the different protected areas categories in the Mediterranean, gathers the ideas and proposals of agencies and other key stakeholders in the Mediterranean region, and includes the results of IUCN International Summit in Almeria, May 2007.

Available in English, French and Spanish



Guide for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment

The IUCN and the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) signed an agreement to cooperate in the development of sustainable aquaculture in 2005. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) followed to support the first “Guidelines for Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture”.

Available in English, French and Spanish



New IUCN-Med leaflet

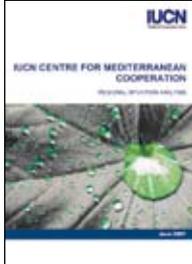
A communication tool to introduce the action programme for the Mediterranean eco-region and a cooperation Centre, decided upon by the IUCN General Assembly of 1994. Since the inauguration of the Malaga office, more than 160 IUCN member organisations in more than 20 Mediterranean countries have worked together led by a common objective: sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through international cooperation and mutual support.

Available in English, French and Spanish



Key Publications & Reports

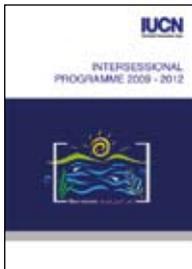
Reports



Mediterranean situation analysis

This document serves as a baseline for the development of the 2009-2012 programme discussed with members and partners and to be approved during the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Barcelona in October 2008. It sets out the information and analysis that will provide the foundation for the development of a relevant and sustainable IUCN Programme for the Mediterranean.

Available in English, French and Spanish (only digital copy in PDF format)



IUCN-Med Intersessional Plan 2009-2012

Based on broad consultation with IUCN Mediterranean members and regional partners, the IUCN-Med Intersessional Plan 2009-2012 establishes the main priority areas and programme of work for the Secretariat, members and partners in accordance with the IUCN Global Programme: Shaping a Sustainable Future.

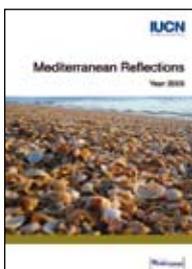
Available in English, French and Spanish (only digital copy in PDF format)



North Africa Sub-Regional Programme 2008-2012

The IUCN members of North Africa, both governments and civil society organisations, met in Malaga to discuss the priorities for the development of a sub-regional programme for the region. In line with the IUCN Thematic Priorities, it will focus on national and regional level activities to help members and partners contribute to conservation and sustainable development efforts in North Africa.

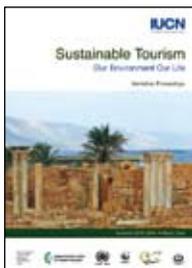
Available in English and French (only digital copy in PDF format)



Mediterranean Reflections 2006

The Centre's fund portfolio augmented from 600,000 euro in 2001 to 1,600,000 euro in 2006. This report provides an overview of the projects developed that year.

Available in English, French and Spanish



Sustainable Tourism - Our Environment Our life Proceedings of the Libya Workshop

This workshop on sustainable tourism was held in the city of Al-Bayda, from 28 to 30 of November 2006, after the noticeable increase on tourism activities in the country. For the last four decades, oil revenues has been the main source of national income, however the unspoiled historic and cultural heritage of Libya constitutes a huge attraction for the increasing number of tourists from around the world, that come and discover this less known destination.

Available in English and partially in Arabic (only digital copy in PDF format)





CD-ROMS and DVDs



DVD: Cuentos del Agua - la visión de un niño

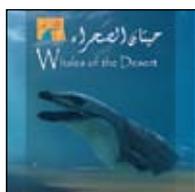
More than 100 students from Malaga participated in the international IUCN Multimedia Water project, thanks to the Consejería de Medio Ambiente and Agencia Andaluza del Agua in Spain. Bringing together schoolchildren and government officials, the Mediterranean IUCN office convened this unique public event, reuniting the actors for a common screening and presentation to the media.

Available online in low and high resolution in Spanish



Overview of the Conservation Status of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

This CD contains the Mediterranean shark report in English, French and Spanish



DVD: Whales of the Desert

Featuring award-winning BBC footage of ancient whales, this video presents the amazing case of Wadi El Hitan, a desert that used to be underwater and Egypt's first natural world heritage site.

Available in English and Arabic

Information



Mediterranean Members Meeting in Malaga

The full report of the IUCN Mediterranean members meeting held in Malaga from 5 to 8 September is available online, together with most presentations delivered during the event and a selection of pictures provided by the participants.

Available online in English, French and Spanish

WWW



All our publications and reports are free to download from www.uicnmed.org.

The website of IUCN-Med is available in Spanish, English, French.

To be informed of our activities, you can subscribe to Medflashnews, our electronic newsletter through our webpage www.uicnmed.org

Spreading the Word

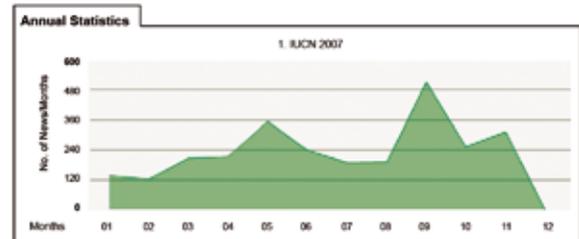


The year has seen an increase in press coverage of IUCN events and related information. For the first time, we have looked back and over our news through a professional service which has shown that our presence in the media has progressively increased in the last three years, from 844 mentions by the press in 2005 to 2,715 in 2007.

Our presence also in TV and radio in Spain has augmented, ranging from thematic interview programmes to short statements at particular events.

We consider that this most likely demonstrates that public awareness of nature conservation and the environment, especially species and climate change related issues, are capturing the journalist, policy and citizens' interest.

A survey was also carried out during the gathering of our members and partners in Malaga in September to find out what they thought about our communications strategy and actions and the response was very positive. However, specific requests were also made to increase the number



The Med office has also helped spread the message of key international issues of interest to the conservation world, such as the Lisbon meeting on biodiversity and the private sector, the celebration of the forthcoming World Conservation Congress to take place in Barcelona, Spain in October 2008 or initiatives related to the valuation of the role of women in the environment.



Species and
climate change
are capturing the
journalist, policy
and citizens' interest

of communications related to IUCN events and initiatives to foster further cooperation, and for additional copies of our publications to be circulated. Special mention was made to our efforts to publish the webpage, electronic bulletin and books in the three official IUCN languages, for which our members were grateful.

At the education level, the number of requests from NGOs, schools and universities for IUCN materials to be included in their libraries and showcased at several environmental courses is a signal of the reputation of our products, with a particular emphasis in species reports, and Tales of Water, a 10 minute video with school children in Malaga.



Funding Allocation



In 2007, the Mediterranean office has managed a budget of almost 2 million euro to work on:

- Mediterranean biodiversity assessments
- Red Lists in Egypt, France, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey
- Risks of maritime traffic to Mediterranean biodiversity
- Improvement of high seas governance in the Western Mediterranean
- Conservation and sustainable development in the Alboran Sea
- Methodological study for an ecosystem approach to aquaculture
- Guidelines for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture: interactions aquaculture and environment, site selection and management, and origin certification
- Ecosystem restoration and monitoring in Lebanon
- Capacity building for the development of a representative network of Mediterranean marine protected areas
- Support to Egypt of the creation of marine protected areas
- Egyptian-Italian cooperation programme for the environment
- Development of a North Africa Programme
- International summit on IUCN Categories for the management of protected areas
- Review of the criteria used for Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- Adaptation to climate change in the conservation and management of Mediterranean forests
- Mediterranean mountains in a changing world: strategic guidelines for the development of Mediterranean mountain action plans
- Promotion of Mediterranean landscape in the Science and Technology Park of Andalucia
- Raising awareness on gender related issues and promoting an equitable approach to nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources by empowering women
- Training regional freshwater experts and resource managers on methodologies to evaluate the conservation status of biodiversity
- Participatory process to prepare our intersessional plan 2009 - 2012.



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Outposted under the Egyptian-Italian environmental cooperation programme in Egypt, the following International Co-Managers:

- Dan Paleczny
- John Grainger
- Iacopo Sinibaldi

And in England, the Red List Officer

- Helen Temple

Additionally, the following people have been helping us through internships:

- Ignacio Fernández in the Alborán Project
- Eulalie Guillaume in translations
- Belén Rueda in protected areas
- Sandra Simoes in the Red List programme

The Mediterranean

A shared history

The Mediterranean region is identified on the basis of its common history and culture, by its common geography and ecological characteristics and by the enclosed nature of the shared sea. This “Mare Nostrum” has been the basis for concerted policies and actions in the region for more than 30 years.

The particular Mediterranean geography, where a narrow, productive coastal fringe, is bounded to the south and east by desert, and to the north often by mountain ranges, has meant that the shared sea has frequently been the inward-looking focus of civilizations for thousands of years. From the sea-faring Phoenicians, through Romans, Moors, Ottomans, and smaller States such as Navarre, Venice, Genoa - all have left their mark on the region, and contributed to making it particular and distinctive - making it the unique Mediterranean region.

These historical links have led to the establishment of trading networks, significant exchange of populations and a sense of shared culture that continues to this day. It has also led to some European countries having privileged links with particular southern and eastern Mediterranean countries through common language and a sense of shared history that still strongly influence financial flows and linkages. The Balkans are marked by their specific historical associations, and the geo-political logic often locates them as a subset of Eastern Europe, although these countries also assert their Mediterranean character.



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Barcelona 2008

The next IUCN World Conservation Congress, the most important nature conservation event, will be held in Barcelona from 5 -14 October 2008.

We hope to count on you to improve the way we manage our Mediterranean environment for better human, social, economic, and natural development.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

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Core support to the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is provided by the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the Junta de Andalucía.