



2014/2015 IUCN

MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS

The IUCN Mediterranean Reflections 2014-2015 report summarizes the activities undertaken by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med) based in Malaga in 2014 and 2015.

# MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS

2014/2015

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is supported by:



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ISBN: 978-2-8317-1773-9

Published by: IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Produced by: IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Malaga, Spain

Management: Lourdes Lázaro Marín

Writer: Sonsoles San Román

Design and layout: EcoAvantis, Spain

Photos: IUCN Photo Library, IUCN-Med and collaborators as they appear next to the photo.

Cover: *Parnassius apollo* subsp *nevadensis* © J.M. Barea Azon

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# MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR

You will find in this report an overview of the main projects and achievements by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) in 2014 and 2015. Some thirty projects are running in the present IUCN Mediterranean portfolio to empower civil society and policy makers in preserving nature and achieving a sustainable development through cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The frame of action for IUCN-Med has focused around the IUCN **One Programme** 2013-2016 areas. **For Valuing and Conserving Nature**, the overarching theme, we are carrying out the assessment of over 3800 plant and animal species in the Mediterranean and the identification and appraisal of important habitats, both at terrestrial and marine levels. New red lists of ecosystems in danger and green lists of well managed areas are also being developed to assist policy making and informed decisions in favour of conservation. The **effective and equitable** governance of nature's use is being pursued through cooperation with Mediterranean institutions and governments, among countries and among different society sectors.



**ANTONIO TROYA**  
Director and Programme Coordinator  
IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

A participatory and consultative approach involving public, private and civil society stakeholders for a shared and integrated management of natural resources leads the way into Mediterranean research and measures for protecting and enhancing the knowledge and use of nature at different levels in the short and long term. Our work for the **deployment of nature-based solutions to climate, food and development** has concentrated in the Mediterranean on ecotourism and social development and will continue in 2016. The new IUCN Green List of Protected Areas in the Mediterranean and the SEARCH project for strengthening the social, ecological and agricultural resilience of Mediterranean ecosystems and watersheds towards global change are examples of how to enhance the capacity of the population to understand and address climate change and related consequences through nature-based solutions.

To these ends, institutional relations with international and regional organizations such as the Barcelona Convention and FAO's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are consolidating, accompanied by new agreements with different governments and sectors at country and local level for specific environmental governance projects.

As an example, IUCN-Med in the new FishMPABlue project is looking at governance models for the participation of artisanal fishermen in the management of fisheries resources inside and around marine protected areas.

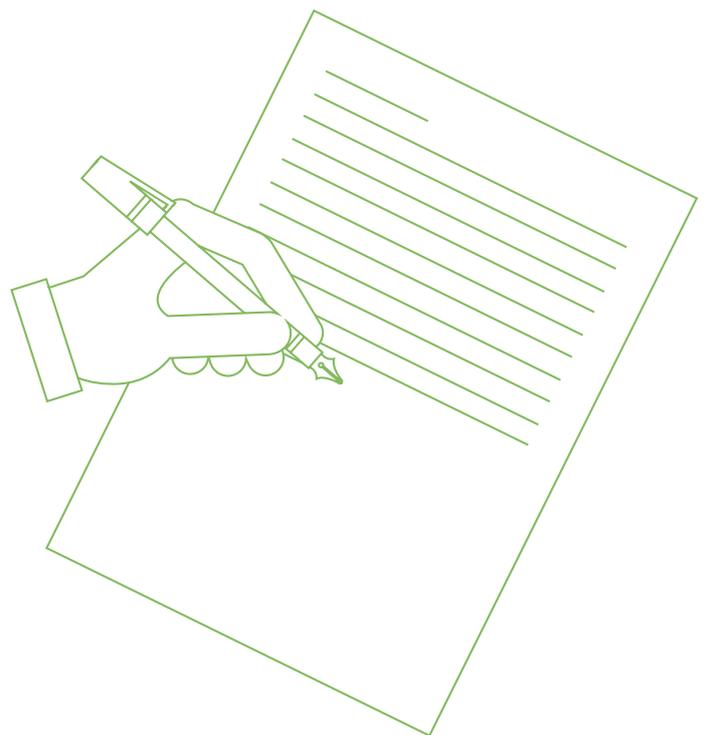
Based on a strong demand from Members, training workshops and practical hands-on experience sessions for civil society organizations and government officials constitute a crucial element for the long-term sustenance of our projects. By compiling the best science available and spreading it through our networks, we are increasing the impact and empowering partners in achieving a sustainable Mediterranean. Capacity building, knowledge products and events are so ranging from the preparation of species and habitats' red lists and conservation plans at national level to training for partners on administrative requirements for project proposals to European Union institutions.

On the operational side, IUCN-Med is strongly promoting the use of new information and communication tools to keep pace with the digital era and maintain contact with its partners and younger generations. Social media strategies have been put into place to energize the interaction with our associates and all those interested in protecting and valuing our natural resources. In brief, IUCN-Med is better equipped to empower Mediterranean governments and communities towards a more effective protection of our natural resources. Our gratitude goes to the Spanish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Environment, the Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Junta de Andalucía and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development, for maintaining their support to IUCN to continue operating from Malaga.

Furthermore, the financial and institutional support from the MAVA Foundation, the French Global Environment Facility, the European Commission and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a sign of the trust and credibility achieved by the Centre in its 15 years of work.

Likewise, a big thank you to all those individuals and institutions that collaborate with IUCN for a more united Mediterranean, particularly those in North Africa, without whom our endeavours would be unattainable. IUCN-Med will continue fostering, with your assistance, the integration of social, economic and cultural considerations into conservation strategies. And this can only be done through cooperation, joint innovative ventures and deploying nature-based solutions among Mediterranean societies.

We look forward to working with you towards a better valued and jointly-looked-after Mediterranean.



# IUCN AT A GLANCE

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals, including on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

Combined, our knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. As the only environmental organisation with official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.



Prickly pears (*Opuntia* sp) in Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia).



IUCN's expertise and extensive network provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information which feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, voting Resolutions which drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme.

IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. We continue to help these conventions strengthen and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises 1,000 staff in 45 countries.

# PROGRAMME WORK & MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The three main areas of work set by the IUCN Global Programme together with the priorities identified by IUCN Members and partners in the Mediterranean constitute the four-year framework for projects and activities at the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. These projects and activities are developed and implemented by the Malaga office Secretariat in the past two years combined the efforts and participation of 203 IUCN Member organizations and 1600 IUCN Commission experts.

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Built on the IUCN vision, a just world that values and conserves nature, the work of IUCN-Med in 2014 and 2015 is highlighted below according to the main IUCN global programme areas for 2013-2016. In addition to the IUCN Mediterranean Programme, the resolutions and recommendations adopted by IUCN Members during the IUCN World Congress 2012 held in Jeju and directly affecting the Mediterranean, also led the action of IUCN Members and partners in the region, in particular:

- ✓ **Combating the illegal or unsustainable capture, trade or killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean (WCC-2012-RES-029)**
- ✓ **Promotion of sustainable tourism, rural development and the value of natural heritage (WCC-2012-RES-114)**
- ✓ Offshore oil drilling in the Mediterranean (WCC-2012-REC-174)
- ✓ Transboundary ecological corridors in the Western Iberian Peninsula (WCC-2012-REC-149)
- ✓ Preservation of oasis ecosystems (WCC-2012-REC-160)
- ✓ Protecting the Critically Endangered Balearic Shearwater in the Ebro Delta, Spain (WCC-2012-REC-161)



The IUCN One Programme structure is accompanied now by the new strategic programme of work aligned with the MAVA Foundation, as it has become one of the key donors

supporting the IUCN office for the Mediterranean. This new agreement involves work in the following priority areas:

- ✓ **Strategic Line 1: Enhance cooperation and coordination** between all Mediterranean stakeholders in order to influence governance and institutional processes for effective conservation and sustainable management of Mediterranean biodiversity and natural resources.
- ✓ **Strategic Line 2: Improve knowledge on biodiversity and on management** of areas of importance for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Region.

- ✓ **Strategic Line 3: Foster networking, capacity building, and exchange** of experiences for effective conservation of Mediterranean socio-ecological and cultural systems.
- ✓ **Strategic Line 4: Empower civil society** for the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural resources through Nature-Based Solutions.
- ✓ **Strategic Line 5: Promote nature conservation via innovative information and communication tools** to meet ongoing needs for environmentally sound decision-making and effective knowledge sharing on the status of Mediterranean biodiversity

Additionally, the IUCN North Africa Conservation Forum in Cairo, Egypt in October 2015 has provided the opportunity to compile further recommendations and priorities from regional organizations and IUCN Members including NGOs

and governments for the new subregional programme of work for North Africa to be adopted in 2016 and strengthen the presence of IUCN's work and partners in the region.

# VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

## IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ITS TRENDS

### RED LISTS OF SPECIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL

New **Red Lists of Threatened Species for the Mediterranean** region are underway for around 3800 terrestrial and marine species being assessed since 2011 by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation with the support of species experts from the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Red List Unit and the IUCN Global Marine Assessment programme. Of the total number of species under study, the results of this new **Mediterranean Red Lists of Threatened Species** are revealing the status, distribution and major threats for 426 **butterflies**, 500 saproxylic and 232 dung **beetles**, 1500 **monocotyledon plants**, 138 **anthozoan** and 3 **seagrasses**.

These taxonomic groups are of the most unknown and underrepresented groups in the Red List. Among these, 365 butterfly, 92 dung beetle and 138 anthozoan species regional assessments are already published in the official Red List website. Species assessments for the remaining species are currently under review and will be published in 2016.

The **Eastern Mediterranean** region has also benefited from the achievement of a **Red List of Freshwater species** under threat. Of the 1,236 species of **freshwater fish, mollusc, odonatan** (dragonfly and damselfly), **freshwater plant, bird, amphibian, crustacean, and mammal**, 368 species (29.8%) are endemic to the Eastern Mediterranean region (i.e. they are found nowhere else in the world).



*Silybum marianum*. Photo: Igor Borsik



Experts in the field work on the Long Beach and Ada Bojana IPA (Montenegro)  
Photo: Liz Radford

## IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The project on Key **freshwater biodiversity** areas in the Mediterranean has resulted in the identification of 167 sites in the Mediterranean Basin covering a total area of 302,557 km<sup>2</sup>. These results set the ground for the creation of a network of representative protected areas for freshwater species, providing at the same time information on key sites for freshwater biodiversity for public managers responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater resources in the Mediterranean basin.

Additional workshops held in November 2015 have provided a stakeholder's validation of freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in North Western Mediterranean according to newly set criteria. At North Africa level, 43 key freshwater biodiversity sites have been identified, with 88% of them located outside protected areas. These are considered crucial at international level for the conservation of threatened species and sites.

The project "Promoting the **value of key biodiversity** areas through the involvement of civil society organizations in their conservation and management **in North Africa**" is a subregional project aimed at improving the management and governance of protected areas and key biodiversity areas namely in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Relying on its network of partners, IUCN-Med will set up a framework for dialogue between different stakeholders, representing government, civil society and research institutes. Collaboration Agreements signed with the relevant authorities responsible for the KBA management aim at monitoring the project activities, ensuring the involvement of other partners in training activities, and validating the different deliverables elaborated under the project.

Additionally, key freshwater biodiversity areas in the **north-western part of the Mediterranean** covering the Iberian Peninsula, southern France and most of Italy have now been identified during a workshop held in Madrid in November 2015, with the assistance of some 20 freshwater biodiversity experts and the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit.

On the other hand, the IUCN-Med initiative to develop **plant conservation actions in the South and East of the Mediterranean region** (including north Africa, middle east and Balkans) combines the expertise of Plantlife International and IUCN in documenting the status and distribution of selected plant species and habitats, including a list of selected endemics and habitat distribution as tools for conservation and management.

The project will undertake plant conservation and management actions on selected IPAs; ensure the transfer of results to relevant policy mechanisms at national, regional and global level; and improve communication mechanisms and networking among practitioners for plant conservation. Another line of work offering first results in 2014 has been the Red List of Ecosystems. Within the project POCTEFEX-TRANSHABITAT, the **Red List of Forest Ecosystems in Morocco** has been finalized and is currently under validation. The work of experts is helping identify if an ecosystem is vulnerable, endangered or even critically endangered, based on a set of internationally accepted criteria regarding the assessment of the risk of collapse. In the same area, IUCN-Med staff is also participating in the development of the Red List of Ecosystems in Europe which is coordinated by the IUCN office in Brussels.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION HUB

Nine environmental international organizations across the Mediterranean gathered in July in Malaga to discuss how to give shape to an initiative that seeks **cooperation in the field of biodiversity data and information** in the region. This was the second meeting of a think-tank made up of institutions such as ACCOBAMS, Tour du Valat/Mediterranean Wetland Observatory, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan / Plan Blue, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of Barcelona Convention, the network of Mediterranean marine protected area managers (MedPAN), WWF Mediterranean Programme, and IUCN-Med.

The regional government of Andalusia and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment were invited along with the European Environmental Agency and the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity.

Discussions will continue in 2016 to achieve more integrated and efficient information as to develop a state and trends of the biodiversity in the Mediterranean to influence policy-makers about the importance of preserving our environment, and how each organization can contribute with their resources and expertise.

This initiative will go in parallel with the promotion of a network of media agencies and journalists interested in improving the quality and quantity of **environmental news and information** for the region.



Participants of the 2nd Think-Tank Meeting held in Malaga to develop a Mediterranean biodiversity platform.

## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

At marine level, coordination with major regional institutions such as the Barcelona Convention continues to identify and propose new **key marine areas** for protection based on the most recent scientific ecosystem and species information. This area of work involves particularly sites beyond national jurisdiction, which involves most of the Mediterranean Sea, and **deep and high** sea areas.

To this end, several initiatives underway are compiling and analyzing the current **legislative framework for sea protection** at country and regional levels with a view to propose improvements and policy changes for the designation and the implementation of new key sites and more effective management tools for marine protected areas and other such as their nomination as **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas** (EBSAs) in underrepresented regions, in particular in North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean.

Together with the French Agency of Marine Protected Areas, the first Mediterranean Deep-Sea Ecosystems meeting was organized in 2015 at Station marine d'Endoume (IMBE, Marseille, France) to examine current and past research programmes relevant to conservation of deep sea ecosystems in the region and discuss views and proposals to guide an effective strategy and action plans for Mediterranean deep-sea conservation, management and monitoring.

The newly published Atlas of the Mediterranean Seamounts is also providing significant information potentially leading to consideration in the future as marine conservation or protection areas, based on their importance for different species. Additionally, in cooperation with ACCOBAMS, an Assessment of whale watching activities in the Gibraltar Strait has started in 2015.

The newly published Atlas of the Mediterranean Seamounts is also providing significant information potentially leading to consideration in the future as marine conservation or protection areas, based on their importance for different species. In addition to influencing current **governance models** for a better management of marine resources, a common feature of the initiatives developed in the past two years has been the efforts to increase the capacity to understand and deal with the effects of **climate change** and human related impacts affecting Mediterranean marine protected areas.

The involvement of additional Mediterranean communities beyond governments and institutions has been pursued for artisanal fishermen in North Africa, tourism and related actors, divers and local businesses has been sought through initiatives like MedMIS to improve monitoring of **marine invasive** species in MPAs or the MEET project to sustain the deployment of **sustainable tourism practices** in key protected areas with the involvement of nearby communities.

## IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENTS AND MANAGERS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Support and training is being provided to three countries in North Africa to prepare **conservation strategies and national action plans** for emblematic species like the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Morocco, the macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) in Algeria and the Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) in Tunisia, as well as a transnational conservation strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) in the Maghreb.

IUCN's approach has involved to date the participation of around 70 stakeholders ranging from public authorities, conservation planning specialists and NGOs in the review of the status and distribution of these species and the identification of major threats and key priority actions to ensure their survival in the short and medium term.

To be published shortly, IUCN-Med is already working on mobilizing resources and commitments to implement urgent actions identified in the action plans in the coming months. In addition, a workshop on birds of prey and their conservation across countries has highlighted the key aspects to consider for the joint management and monitoring of ten species of birds of prey to be found in Spain and North Africa, with the involvement of public authorities, the corporate sector and the conservationist community.

To strengthen the **capacity of civil society** for environment conservation in **North Africa**, 249 applications received from young civil society organizations in Algeria (55), Libya (10), Morocco (78) and Tunisia (106), have been evaluated and 53 projects entered the second selection phase in the PPI-OSCAN project.

This phase consisted in preparing a full proposal, after receiving the necessary training organized by four national Programme coordinators based respectively in Algiers, Tripoli, Rabat and Tunis. A total of 38 proposals have now been selected for implementation in 2016. Information on key actors and topics covered can be accessed in:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/iucnmed/?22070/38-initiatives-environnementales-pretas-a-demarrer-en-Afrique-du-Nord>

In relation to **ecotourism**, different activities have been conducted to improve the skills of MEET Members where 1 and 2 day visit **training workshops** were organized for the 8 countries participating in the MEET project between February 16 – 22 March 2015, to redefine the products that make up the MEET Catalogue and to establish a shared vision among **Protected Area managers and local tour operators**.

A regional ecotourism and interpretation training workshop was organized by IUCN ROWA for Tour Leaders, Guides and Local Tour operators. Twenty four participants from Lebanon, Greece, Italy, Spain, Jordan, France and Tunisia benefitted from the training. IUCN has also co-organized with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature a Study Tour to Jordanian Protected Areas for 12 representatives of public administration and civil society organizations from Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of the IUCN-Med/CEPF project on valuing key biodiversity areas in North Africa.



Representatives from Tunisia and Algeria during the IUCN North Africa Regional Conservation Forum held on 4-6 October 2015 in Cairo.

# EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNANCE TOOLS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

In the framework of legislation and international protocols affecting the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med has strengthened its presence and tightened links at various levels, in particular:

### AT MEDITERRANEAN LEVEL

#### THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Collaboration with the Barcelona Convention continues to be reinforced in particular as related to the Specially **Protected Areas** and Biological Diversity Protocol and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). IUCN-Med is collaborating with UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA to define priority areas, including supporting countries in describing Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMIs), to present to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Contributions to the implementation of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** have focused on the process of identification and designation of new ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through the organization of Mediterranean regional workshop in Malaga in 2014 in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), which resulted in an agreement on descriptions of 17 areas meeting EBSA criteria.

#### UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

To optimize resources allocated to IUCN initiatives **supporting civil society organizations**, a coordination meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat took place in July 2015 to complement actions specifically through the UfM Blue Green project and IUCN PPI-OSCAN (Small Scale Initiative Programme for CSOs in North Africa).

Discussions have also taken place with the UfM and with UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, WWF Med Programme, University of Barcelona and MedPan (Association of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Managers) to launch a joint initiative on governance of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs).

## MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IUCN-Med participated in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) Steering Committee meeting in June 2014 to initiate the review of the Mediterranean strategy following recommendations adopted by the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention at the last COP Meeting in Istanbul, December 2013.

**The new strategy** on sustainable development for the Mediterranean was adopted during the 16th Meeting of the MCSDD in Marrakech in June 2015. The Steering Committee is composed by representatives of the Plan Bleu, Mediterranean Action Plan/PNUF, Malta, Egypt, France and two regional organizations. From January 2016 onwards, IUCN-Med will become full member of the Commission and the IUCN **Green List of Protected Areas** has been included in the strategy as one of the main tool to achieve a good conservation status of Mediterranean protected areas.

## FAO GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The coordination of activities with the GFCM concerning the conservation of Mediterranean marine resources and ecosystems continues through the participation in relevant scientific committees, the organization of joint missions and a better coordination of Mediterranean contributions to conservation. This was reflected in the **agreement** signed between IUCN and GFCM in May 2014. A meeting between the Executive Secretary of the GFCM on 30 October 2015 in Malaga, for the follow up of the activities in 2016 and 2017 to focus on (a) the development of small scale fisheries and aquaculture inside and around marine protected areas, (b) the analysis of existing spatial management measures applied to **fisheries** restricted areas (regional and national) as conservation areas according to their objectives , and (c) reports on regional labels for marine conservation and management and on invasive species status in the Mediterranean.

## AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK AND MEDITERRANEAN SEAS AND OF THE CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC WATERS (ACCOBAMS)

The collaboration between ACCOBAMS and IUCN has developed since the adoption of the Agreement agreed upon in 1996 and in force in 2001. During the period 2014-2015, it has been strengthened through several joint activities. In 2013, with applicability in 2014-2016, the 5th Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS decided to share the duties related to the Scientific Committee activities between IUCN-MED and CIESM and organized a rotation of the presidency of the Scientific Committee on a 3 yearly basis between these two institutions.



## AT SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

The North Africa subregion in the Mediterranean constitutes an area of work with its own programme of activities identified and agreed among IUCN Members and the Malaga Secretariat in line with the IUCN Global Programme.

Thus, IUCN-Med provides support and assistance for countries in the Maghreb in particular to pursue the **Aichi biodiversity targets** and better comply with international commitments at national and subregional level.

Transnational initiatives such as the conservation strategy for Cuvier's gazelles among Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are part of the collaborative work to ensure the region's common responsibility in biodiversity protection.

## ARAB MAGHREB UNION

IUCN and the Arab Maghreb Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Rabat on 18 March 2014 to promote mutual cooperation as to create and implement joint initiatives in the field of conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the Maghreb countries.

Priority collaboration areas identified concerns the protection and sustainable management of **oasis**, conservation of **marine biodiversity**, and protection of biodiversity in **mountains**.

## UNESCO'S MAN AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Building on the work accomplished in 2012 for the governance and management of biosphere reserves (BR) in North Africa, in 2015 a comparative analysis has kicked off to support and help the development of management tools and specific documentation, including the zoning to clearly identify the **objectives and management scheme of Biosphere Reserves in North Africa** in a participatory approach involving main BR actors in the Mediterranean.

This study covers the current governance model, institutional organizations and legal framework for BRs in various countries; a summary analysis of their conservation status with the identification of common problems, challenges and synergies at the governance and management level; and assist in the identification of two BRs per country that offer potential criteria to be considered for the development of collaborative initiatives in 2016.

Furthermore, the study will assist in establishing a scheme for the creation of a Mediterranean BR Network and potential sites for a second intercontinental BR in the Mediterranean. In November 2015, regional workshops were held in Tunisia and Morocco to share some of the results and agree on the way forward, including the use of indicators to monitor governance and management in Mediterranean biosphere reserves.



Doñana National Park (Spain)

## AT NATIONAL LEVEL

### ALGERIA

With the support of the Algerian General Directory for Forestry and other authorities, a conservation strategy and action plan for the Barbary macaque is under preparation, calling on the expertise of national and international experts in biology, conservation planning and management.

Algeria is also collaborating in the transnational strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle, the Key Biodiversity Areas for plants project, in the PPI-OSCAN initiative and takes part of the Water 5+5 Strategy adopted at the First 5+5 Ministerial Water Conference in Algiers, on 31 March 2015.

### EGYPT

The organization of the IUCN North Africa Conservation Forum in October 2015 with the support of the Ministry of Environment of Egypt and IUCN Member Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) has reinforced the interaction among Members for the identification of priorities in the forthcoming North Africa Programme 2017-2020, and preparations for potential recommendations and resolutions to the World Conservation.

The Memorandum of Understanding in January 2014 with the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Countries and Europe (CEDARE) is earmarked to further strengthen cooperation between the two institutions.

### ITALY

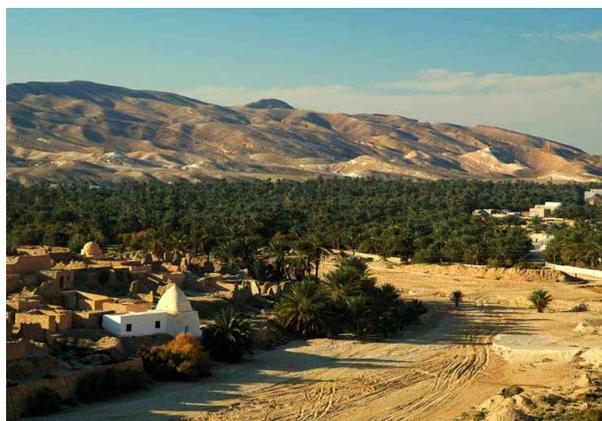
The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and the Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves (Federparchi) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IUCN in March 2014 to support common endeavours related to marine and terrestrial protected areas, species and ecosystems evaluation, cooperation, communication and dissemination.

### TUNISIA

Collaboration with Tunisia has been strengthened at national level through a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly work on **Key biodiversity areas** and strategic planning of ecotourism in the Mediterranean. The conservation strategy and **action plan** for the Barbary sheep have also involved the national and local administrations together with local experts to achieve a consensus on the priority actions needed to preserve the species at national level.

### MOROCCO

Several cooperation activities are being implemented with the support of various government offices, in particular the High Commissariat for Water, Forest and Combatting Desertification (HCEFLCD), to help comply with Aichi biodiversity targets and other international commitments such as the CBD/Barcelona convention and ICZM related to marine and terrestrial protected areas, spatial planning, ecotourism and species conservation. Another line of work offering first results in 2014 has been the Red List of Ecosystems. Within the project POCTEFEX-TRANSHABITAT, the Red List of Forest Ecosystems in Morocco is under validation and will contribute to strengthening conservation planning tools.



Oasis and the old village of Tamerza - southern Tunisia.  
Photo: Imène Meliane

# DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Key initiatives in this area have focused on adaptation to climate change through participation in the Social, Ecological & Agricultural **Resilience** in the Face of Climate Change (SEARCH) project in collaboration with IUCN ROWA office, particularly concerning the case study in Morocco. The SEARCH team came up with a 2020 vision identifying two pillars: the improvement of the living conditions of the population by building and improving the infrastructure (roads, electricity, water...) and providing access to basic social services and various economic activities. Further info on:

[https://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/rowa/iucnwame\\_ourwork/iucnrowa\\_cc/search\\_2/](https://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/rowa/iucnwame_ourwork/iucnrowa_cc/search_2/)

The expansion of invasive species across Mediterranean marine protected areas is also related to climate change and being monitored through the MedMIS initiative which has launched a new application for smart phones and an online tool to help managers of marine protected areas (MPAs) control the spread of invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea. The presentation took place during the workshop on **Climate Change and Marine Protected Areas** held in Cadaqués (Spain) in April 2015, organized by the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP RAC/SPA) in collaboration with the Generalitat of Catalunya, and with the support of the Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency and the MAVA Foundation. Further info:

<http://www.iucn-medmis.org/?c=Map/show>

Two new EU funded projects dealing with climate change have started running in 2015, both under the leadership of the Andalusian government, IUCN Member. The Life Natura Blue project aims to establish new methodologies for the quantification of the blue carbon, i.e. the carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems such as marshes and seagrass, including *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in Andalusia. These ecosystems are important carbon sinks both because of their high efficiency in assimilating the organic form of the gas and their capacity for storing it during thousands of years (sequestration).

However, despite their important role in mitigating the climate change and the important ecological services they provide, their habitats are disappearing in a rate four times higher than for the terrestrial forests. The AdaptaMed project on the other hand will develop and disseminate adaptive management measures to mitigate the effects of rising global temperatures caused by climate change on key ecosystems. Three nature sites in Andalusia will be participating to exemplify a wetland, a high mountain and a subdesertic coastal area. Key ecosystem services are essential to the socioeconomic development of rural communities in terms of soil retention, pollination, maintenance of pastures, temperature regulation, water supply, prevention of forest fires and desertification



**Sinis Marine Protected Area (Italy).** Marine Protected Areas such as Sinis could play an important role as nature-based solutions.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The final Conference of the MEET project held in Barcelona on 10-11 December 2015 has been the last public event of the 3-year **“Mediterranean Experience of Eco-Tourism”** project, co-funded by the EU Cross Border Cooperation Programme ENPI-MED under the leadership of Federparchi-Europarc (Italy) and involving eight Mediterranean countries (Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Malta, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia). The main achievement of the project has been the establishment of a Network of 24 Protected Areas and the setting up of a Catalogue of ecotourism packages designed and managed by the same Parks and local stakeholders.

The MEET partnership has involved eight other organizations, including IUCN-Med and ROWA, the French National Parks Association, MedPAN, Lazio and Catalunya regional governments, the Jordan Royal Society for Conservation of Nature and the Al-Shouf Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon.

The final conference has helped finalize the policy recommendations and launch the follow up of the project as a “MEET Destination Management Organization”.



Participants testing one of the ecotourism packages of the MEET project.

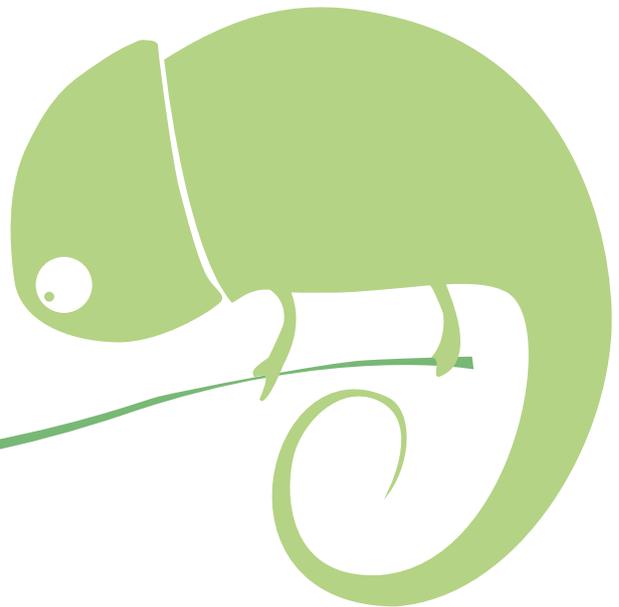
# KEY FIGURES 2014/2015

 **4.500.000€**  
managed

 **5** TRAINING  
courses on  
SPECIES  
CONSERVATION  
and 50  
beneficiaries

 **8** new  
web  
TOOLS

**more than**  
**1.200**  
species assessed



 **20**  
DONORS

 **30** PROJECTS  
implemented

10 international events in Malaga and more than 50 in the Mediterranean



3 PROJECT BULLETINS IN 2 languages

11 INTERNS

6 MEDITERRANEAN NEWSLETTERS IN 3 languages

20 NEW collaboration agreements

6 REVIEWS of national legal and institutional ASSESSMENTS of MPAS



33 publications edited



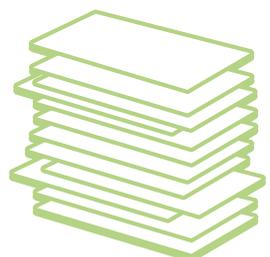
20 workshops on ECOTURISM



followers: 6.253 (Facebook), 1.116 (Twitter)



2 PROGRAMMES settled more than 15 proposals prepared



# HIGHLIGHTS 2014

## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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- Meeting with Libyan government and civil society actors to launch the IUCN-Med/CEPF project on Valuing key biodiversity areas in North Africa and prepare the PPI-OSCAN project on strengthening civil society organizations in North African countries.
- The PEGASO final conference takes place in Antalya (Turkey), gathering institutions and networks from the Mediterranean and Black Sea and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) initiatives.
- Participation in an event organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat of EU ENPI CBC Med cooperation programme in Valencia to capitalize tourism and culture projects by assembling and analyzing emerging good practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of ENPI CBC MED projects. IUCN-Med is a partner in the MEET project on "Mediterranean Experience in Ecotourism".
- The IUCN-Med/CEPF project on Valuing key biodiversity areas in North Africa kicks off in Algeria in collaboration with the Algerian forest department and the Directorate of the Djurdjura National Park.

- Meeting in Seville as part of the IUCN Green List Initiative for protected areas to foster the participation of Spanish partners (CMAOT and OAPN) and organize the establishment of a national working group to work with France and Italy, under the umbrella of IUCN-Med coordination for Mediterranean partners.
- The International Wetland Day is celebrated in Tunis together with a regional workshop organized by the Forest Department and a consortium of partners including MedWet, WWF, Tunisian association Friends of Birds, environmental authorities and IUCN-Med. Key Biodiversity Areas and Strategic Planning of Ecotourism in the Mediterranean are the object of agreements signed between IUCN-Med and the Tunisian Forest Department.
- Participation to the advanced course on Payment for Environmental Services in Zaragoza organized by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ), the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED) and IUCN-Med.
- Attendance to the Barcelona Process 5+5 Dialogue Workshop in Valencia on a Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean, under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) and involving Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya

- Mediterranean Coordination meeting for the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas in La Concepción Botanical Garden in Malaga with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, to assist France, Italy and Spain in the organization of national working groups and the agreement of common standards to feed into the Mediterranean approach to the Green List.
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) workshop in Marrakesh and signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) to work on oasis, marine biodiversity and mountains as priority areas.
- The coordinators of the Social, Ecological and Agricultural Resilience in the face of climate change in the Mediterranean Region (SEARCH) project meet in Tetouan to plan next steps for the initiative.

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### The work of IUCN-Med and its presence in the Mediterranean:

- Marine Programme
- Species Programme
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
- North Africa Programme
- Institutional relations



© Mar Cano



- Regional workshop in Malaga to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the Mediterranean in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Mediterranean Action Plan – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-MAP). EBSAs are a tool to protect Mediterranean marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.
- Workshop in Istanbul for a species conservation strategy in Turkey and the reinforcement of IUCN – Turkey relations organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and the IUCN Turkish National Committee.

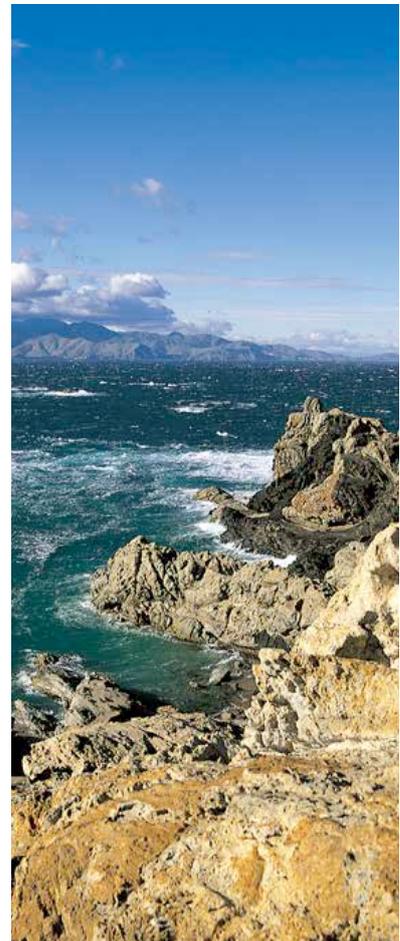
- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) to respond to newly emerging issues affecting the conservation of the Mediterranean sea and ecosystems by sharing their experiences and expertise through the organization of joint missions, common training activities and information sessions.
- Experts and stakeholders' validation workshop for the preparation of a national Conservation strategy and action plan for the Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) in Tunisia.
- Training sessions for the development of sustainable ecotourism products for the 23 protected area members of the MEET Network, to grasp the basic principles of sustainable ecotourism product definition and promote interaction among the network members.

- IUCN-Med joins Malaga in the celebration of the World Environment Day with ludic and educational activities about the marine environment and environmental challenges such as climate change and its effects, the rising level of the sea and the impacts of trash accumulation.
- Part of the Poctefex Transhabitat project, workshop in Tangier to present the Moroccan Red List of Ecosystems initiative and validate the results of the application of the RLE methodology with country representatives of Morocco, members of CEM, and independent experts.
- The Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN) funded by the FFEM and MAVA Foundation kicks off with representatives from environmental, agriculture and tourism ministries, public administrations and national NGOs in Tripoli, followed by kick off meetings in Tunis on 24 June and Algiers on 4 November.
- Presentation of results for the Morocco component of the SEARCH Regional project led by ROWA, to improve the community resilience in the face of climate change in the watershed of Oued el Martil in the north of Morocco.

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- Meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfM), UNEP / Mediterranean Action Plan, WWF Med Programme, University of Barcelona and MedPan for a joint initiative on governance of Mediterranean Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs).
- A new framework agreement to support the IUCN offices in Malaga and joint projects between IUCN and Andalusia are discussed and agreed.
- Workshop in Doñana National Park for the assessment of dung beetles in preparation for a Mediterranean Red List of Threatened Species for beetles.

- Meeting with the IUCN Spanish Committee to discuss the national Nature Conservation Forum, the World Parks Congress in Sydney and areas of potential collaboration.
- Mediterranean Important Plant Areas (IPAs) meeting in Malaga with participation of the project Steering committee, IUCN Member Plantlife International and SSC members.

- The Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN) funded by the FFEM and MAVA Foundation kicks off in Rabat with representatives from Moroccan environmental NGOs and public administrations.
- The preparation of a Great Bustard conservation strategy and action plan for Morocco gathers bird and conservation planning experts together with government representatives in Assilah, Morocco.

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- International marine experts meet for a workshop to prepare the Red List assessment of Mediterranean Anthozoans or marine “flower animals” in Genoa, Italy.
- Several symposia on the conservation of coralligenous and other calcareous bi-concretions, dark habitats and marine vegetation take place in Slovenia.
- Mission to Tunisia to follow up activities by local partners and work with national authorities on future plans. The National Park of Boukornine and the Ramsar site of Chikly island are selected for pilot actions in the MEET project.

- Launch of the Important Plant Areas initiative with IUCN SSC-Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group in Morocco (2-4 November), Algeria (4-7 November), and Lebanon (25-28 November)
- Annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the IUCN-Spain Protocol of Collaboration for IUCN-Med with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA), the Regional Government of Andalusia (CMAOT) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).
- The World Parks Congress in Sydney brings about collaboration arrangements with Mediterranean countries to move forward a better mapping and management of protected areas, particularly in North African countries.
- Presentation of Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Priorities for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot project results and the publication “Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot” in Sydney.
- Steering Committee meeting of the CEPF project for Valuing Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa hosted by the Tunisian Forest Department authorities

- The geoportal on natural resources and biodiversity in the Alboran Sea goes online in three languages as part of the EU Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Spain-External Borders (POCTEFEX) to foster partnerships and shared management between Spain and Morocco.
- The status and distribution of freshwater biodiversity in the Eastern Mediterranean report and the associated data on Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the wider Mediterranean Basin makes key information available to help integrate biodiversity needs into water development planning processes within an Integrated River Basin Management approach.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2015

## JANUARY

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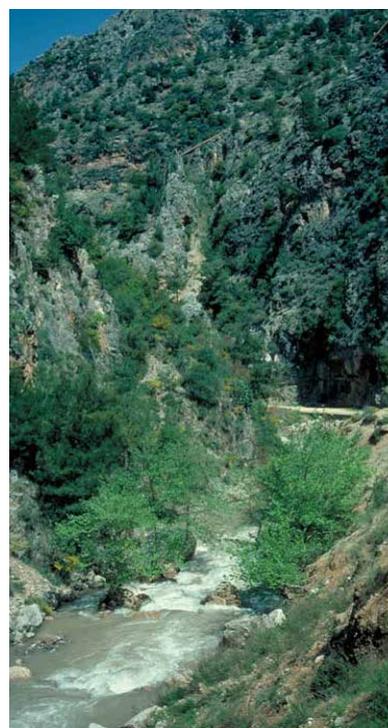
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- Implementation and partnership possibilities with the Union for the Mediterranean and WWF Med Initiative are explored for a project on Networking Civil Society in the Mediterranean Region through Environment and Water issues.
- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IUCN Red List, European experts analyze how IUCN Members and Committees have contributed to gather data about species conservation in Spain and the impact of the IUCN Red List at national level during the XI International Forum for the Conservation of Nature, organized by the IUCN Spanish Committee in Malaga.



- Celebration of International Wetland Day in Morocco and signature of an agreement with the High Commissariat for Water, Forest and Combatting Desertification to develop a project on conservation and management of wetlands in Morocco.
- Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD UNEP/MAP) in Malta to discuss the draft Strategy before endorsement by the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Rabat. The Green List of Protected Areas is included in the Strategy as a main action to be implemented at regional level



- Two national meetings (Morocco and Algeria) and one regional meeting (Tunisia) for promoting the value of key biodiversity areas through the involvement of civil society organizations in their conservation and management in North Africa with government authorities, NGOs and IUCN Commission members.
- Meeting of the regional organization committee of the first North Africa Congress on Nature Conservation at the Algerian Ministry of Environment premises with delegates from the Algerian, Tunisian and Egyptian Ministries of Environment
- Capacity building workshop in Ifrane for 15 Moroccan civil society organizations shortlisted in the framework of the PPI-OSCAN Programme on strengthening CSOs capacity in North Africa.

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### The work of IUCN-Med and its presence in the Mediterranean:

- Marine Programme
- Species Programme
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
- North Africa Programme
- Institutional relations

- For the first time, three environmental documentary films are screened during the Malaga Cinema Festival and debated with the Spanish National Committee and IUCN Member Aula del Mar.

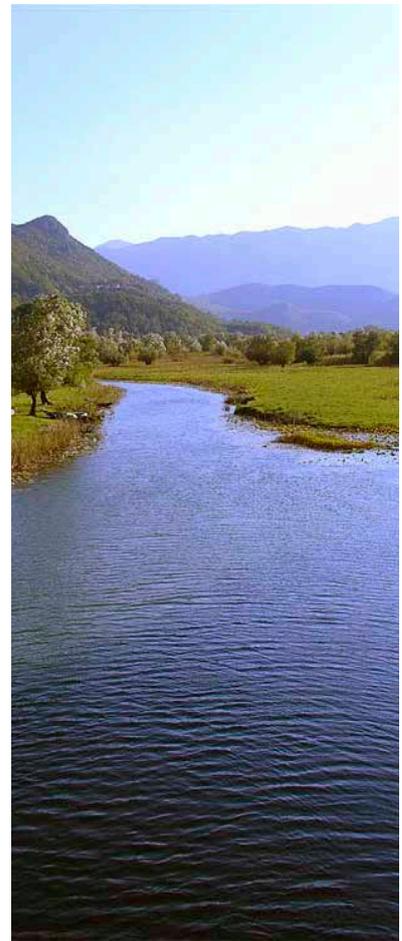
- The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and the High Commission for Water, Forests and Combatting Desertification (HCEFLCD) in Morocco release a new IUCN-Med publication about the biological and ecological values of marine and terrestrial resources and the socio-economic and cultural values of the Cap des Trois Fourches in Morocco.
- The 12th Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea (SPAs) in Athens, part of the Barcelona Convention process, prepares the next Conference of the Parties to be held in 2016.
- The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) holds a mid-term assessment meeting in Montenegro for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot with IUCN-Med presenting the MEET project and providing input to the Mediterranean Ecosystems Profile review.

- To celebrate the World Environment Day, the Council of Malaga, IUCN Member, promotes environmental awareness through public activities and a micro-story contest with the UN motto "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care".
- The 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Marrakech adopts a new strategy, with IUCN-Med becoming a full member of the Commission in January 2016 and the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas included as a tool to promote a better conservation status of Mediterranean protected areas.
- Joint RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas of UNEP/PAM), GFCM (FAO - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and ACCOBAMS (Bonn Convention - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Sea) meetings in Tunis to prepare a joint strategy for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine environment in support of the Aichi Targets.
- EU INTERREG MED Programme 2014 - 2020 kick off meeting in Marseille on the new interregional cooperation programme architecture, thematic priorities and expectations for future support to Mediterranean initiatives.

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- The Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform think tank of key regional institutions dealing with nature conservation and sustainable development meet in Malaga to discuss next steps towards the creation of a Mediterranean information consortium and communication initiative.
- Cooperation agreement signed with EFE Press Agency in Spain to launch the first Mediterranean press agencies platform to improve the quality of environmental information in Mediterranean media. .

- Meeting in Bonn for the establishment of a European Red List of Habitats in collaboration with the IUCN Global Species and Global Ecosystem Management Programmes

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) reunites in Jordan 80 national and convention focal points with key stakeholders from North Africa and West Asia to keep abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures linked to lessons learnt and their transfer into national policies. IUCN accredited as GEF Project Agency in August 2014.
- IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders meet in Abu Dhabi on networking, learning, sharing experiences and encouraging new partnerships and collaborations.

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- Egypt hosts the IUCN North Africa Conservation Forum with 19 IUCN Members in the region discussing the draft IUCN Programme 2017 – 2020 and creating consensus on actions and commitments towards its implementation at national and regional levels.
- Visit of Tunisian General Director for Forests to IUCN-Med and Andalusian environmental government representatives to explore potential areas of cooperation towards the conservation of forest ecosystems and fire risk reduction.
- International experts and government representatives meet in Agadir to devise and agree a transnational conservation strategy and action plan for the Cuvier's gazelle across Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
- The SwitchMed project led by RAC / SPC reunites stakeholders in Barcelona to provide tools and connections for social and eco innovations, to achieve productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean, with ecotourism featuring hard in the agenda.

- Workshop in Malaga for the conservation and management of migratory vultures and raptors between Spain and North Africa.
- Morocco and Spain authorities meet with UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme representatives in Tetouan to agree on a set of indicators for monitoring the management of Biosphere Reserves and Moroccan protected areas in cooperation with the National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN) of Spain.
- Regional workshop on Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean held in Tunis to boost partnerships among northern and southern Mediterranean countries on sound and efficient BR management and governance.
- The MedPAN regional experience sharing workshop in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Penisola del Sinis - Isola di Mal di Ventre (Sardinia, Italy) explores the topic of sustainable tourism in Mediterranean MPAs through EU projects.

- Mediterranean meeting of experts brings about the latest data available to prepare the Red List of Saproxyllic beetles for the region.
- Mediterranean State press agencies meet in Malaga to explore ways to improve the quality of environmental information in the Mediterranean through a discussion forum and platform for enhanced professional opportunities in environmental journalism.
- Meeting in Montpellier to assess more than 500 monocotyledon plants in the northwest Mediterranean.

# INFORMING THE MARE NOSTRUM

## SPREADING THE MESSAGE

### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

The transfer of knowledge and skills to Mediterranean people is considered a pillar stone in our fight against biodiversity loss. In addition to the various capacity building workshops organized in the framework of IUCN-Med projects for a better management of ecosystems and species towards conservation, **the digital dimension of knowledge transfer and training** has been reinforced at various levels, beyond IUCN's official website. Within this context, IUCN-Med has promoted public access to key information on Mediterranean biodiversity and IUCN-Med conservation initiatives namely through the following channels:

- New geographically referenced information tools for data sharing and better decision making across borders, as in the Alboran Geoportal between Spain, Morocco and Algeria. <http://www.iucn-geoportalalboran.org/es/>
- The IUCN Mediterranean Documentation Platform providing access to the latest knowledge in the form of presentations, calendar of events and more. <http://www.iucnmed.org/projects/documentationplatform/>
- The support to the eLearning platform for young communication professionals in North Africa under the leadership of Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection (FM6E).
- Stronger presence in social media through new strategies for Twitter ([https://twitter.com/IUCN\\_Med](https://twitter.com/IUCN_Med)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNMed/>) and the presence of Secretariat staff in professional networks such as LinkedIn.

**Face-to-face training** sessions have however continued being an important component of IUCN-Med projects. To mention some, the PPI-OSCAN initiative is strengthening the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in four North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) to develop specific field projects and contribute to the implementation of strategies and national actions plans for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, and mitigation of negative climate change effects.

Various **workshops** dealing with **sustainable tourism products** have also helped improve the capacity of Mediterranean tour operators to deploy better ecological services and products in protected areas. Emblematic species conservation strategies and action plans for North Africa on the other hand are bringing together public administrations, researchers and CSOs working on feasible and urgent measures to protect key biodiversity and habitats such as Important Plant Areas across the Mediterranean, the Great bustard in Morocco, the Barbary sheep in Tunisia, the Barbary macaque in Algeria, or the Cuvier's Gazelle across the three countries. IUCN-Med also collaborates with the University of Cadiz with practical lessons on Red Listing.

Poster for the 2015 World Environmental Day celebrations in Malaga.



## DISSEMINATION AND EVENTS

IUCN-Med **knowledge products** in the form of publications and reports have been distributed among Members and partners in the region, with a significant decrease in hard copy materials to promote the use of digital formats and diminish the consumption of paper among our constituency.

The involvement of the IUCN Secretariat in **regional meetings** and events in support of Members and partners has also helped spread the word on IUCN's mission, work and achievements in the Mediterranean. Networking and partnerships with key institutions have been fostered at government, NGO and scientific level as a requirement for the implementation of conservation activities in the Mediterranean. In particular, the participation at the World Parks Congress in Sydney and the organization of the second **IUCN North Africa Conservation Forum** in Cairo, Egypt, from 4 to 6 October 2015, which has resulted in more than 70 people debating under the theme 'Conserving Nature in North Africa: A common challenge for a prosperous future'. The Forum concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthen membership in the region and the involvement of IUCN Members in the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020 at North Africa level.

## PRESS AND WEB CONTENTS

Relationships with Mediterranean media in the past two years have focused, in addition to the cover of IUCN-Med key news stories, on achieving a regional dimension towards better environmental information. At Mediterranean level, a new agreement signed with the leading Spanish speaking EFE press agency in June 2015 has set the path to establish a framework for the development of initiatives that will help **improve environmental information quality** in the Mediterranean.

Thus, the first environmental forum for Mediterranean press agencies has been held in Malaga in December 2015 to strengthen and deepen cooperation with intergovernmental organizations involved in natural resource conservation and its media coverage in the region. Additionally, the **eLearning** initiative for communication professionals in **North Africa** supported by FM6E in Morocco has been expanded with the participation of journalists beyond the North African region.

## RAISING AWARENESS

In partnership with IUCN Member Malaga Council, IUCN-Med celebrated the **World Environment Day** on 5 June through the organization and participation in open activities to raise awareness on the importance of Citizens' participation under the motto of "Raise your voice, not the sea level" in 2014 and "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care" in 2015. Initiatives organized gathered several schools on the beach and various town locations to witness the importance of marine pollution, an exhibition of artistic works made of recycled materials, craft workshops and a micro-story contest under the United Nations motto among others.

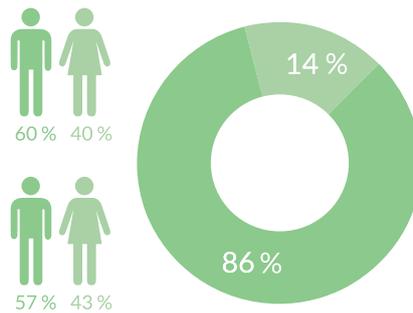
In collaboration with the IUCN National Committee, the Malaga **Cinema** Festival hosted in March 2015 for the first time a special section on environmental issues which included three films followed by a public debate and a nature photography workshop. IUCN-Med also collaborated with Onda Azul Malaga, a local TV station, in several interview programmes to help raising awareness on environmental issues of Mediterranean relevance.

## SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In line with the current efforts of IUCN to reach a wider audience, new communication strategies have been put in place to have a presence in social media platforms.

Since the creation of our Twitter account in October 2013 and Facebook in June 2014, the number of IUCN-Med followers has significantly increased, reaching 6.253 Likes on Facebook and 1.116 Followers on Twitter in December 2015.

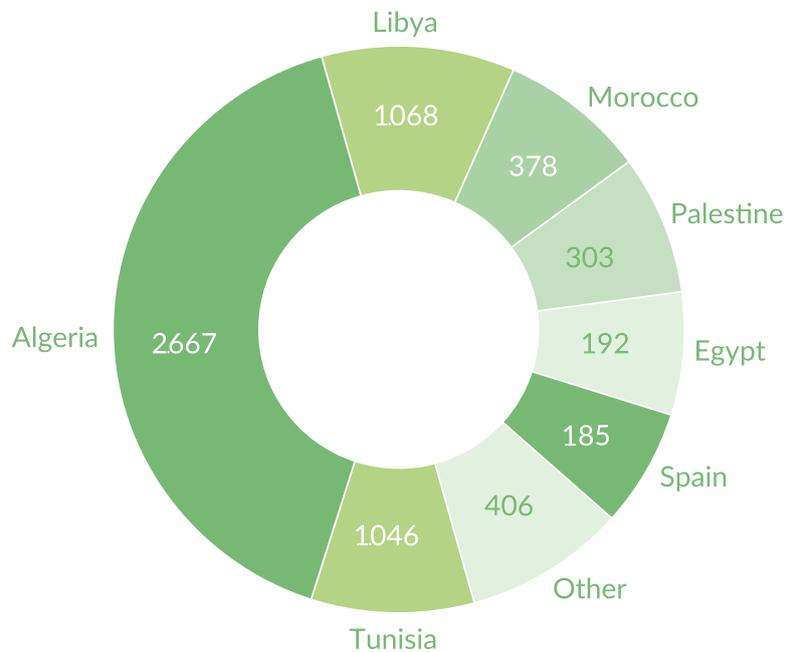
### NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS



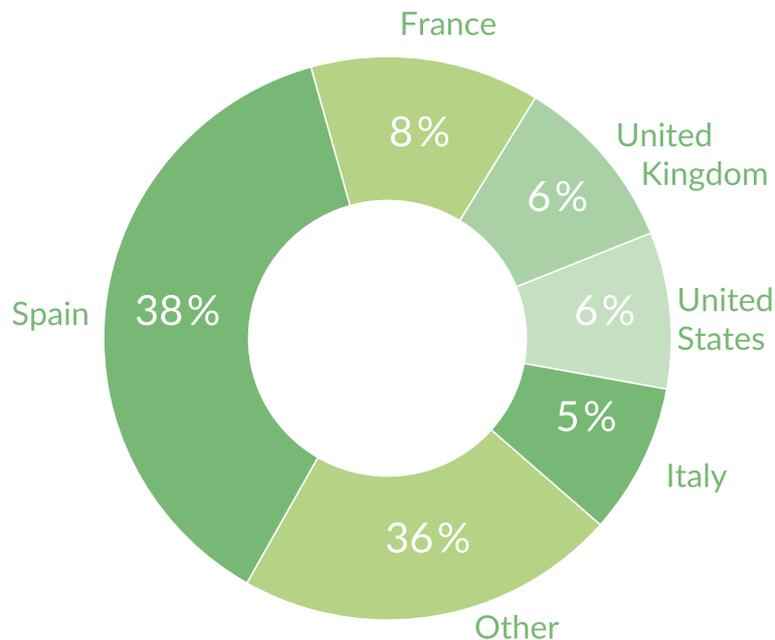
# FOLLOWERS GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



## Facebook followers geographical distribution



## Twitter followers geographical distribution



Our Facebook and Twitter accounts have different audiences, which is helping us reach different Mediterranean sectors. Indeed, our Facebook followers are located in North-Africa and are French and Arabic speaking, while our

followers are mostly located in Europe. You can check our publications and multimedia section to access the various portals and project websites developed in the past two years.

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## CORE DONORS

The work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation owes its presence to the generosity, trust and credibility provided by a growing number of associates and partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions and non-governmental organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals. The fundamental support provided by the **Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA); the Regional Ministry of Environment and Land planning,**

**Junta de Andalucía (CMAOT); and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)** through their renewed agreement with IUCN is crucial for maintaining the Centre's operations. The five-year agreement recently signed with the **MAVA Foundation** to support operational costs and new activities in the Mediterranean has also proved to be crucial for the maintenance of IUCN activities in the Mediterranean, for which we are extremely grateful.

## DONORS

In addition to the core office support provided by our main donors, individual projects in the past two years have received funding from the following organizations:



## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The work of IUCN-Med in partnership with organizations linked to IUCN and comprising Members, Commissions and other institutions, is reflected in the new cooperation agreements signed in 2014 and 2015 with the following institutions:

- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) - Monaco
- Agence Française des Aires Marines Protégées (AFAMP) - France
- Agencia EFE - Spain
- Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) - Egypt
- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) - Egypt
- Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement (CPIE) Côte Provençale - France
- Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF) - Tunisia
- Fundación González Bernáldez - Spain
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - Italy
- High Commissariat for Water, Forest and Combatting Desertification (HCEFLCD) - Morocco
- International Marine Centre of Oristano - Italy
- IUCN French National Committee - France
- L'Union du Maghreb Arabe - Morocco
- Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement - Algeria
- Ministry of Environment - Italy
- Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) - France
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid - Spain
- Universidad de Cádiz - Spain
- Universidad de Granada - Spain
- Universidad de Málaga - Spain

Beyond the formal signature of these agreements, the participation of IUCN-Med in projects and initiatives has been based on partnerships with IUCN Commissions and Members, regional government agencies, NGOs and scientific organizations at local, national and regional level.

# MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

IUCN is only as strong as the collective power of its membership. We are proud that over the past five years we have seen a significant growth of Membership in the region, from 170 in 2010 to 211 at the end of 2015, 20% more. Membership in our Commissions in the region has also increased considerably.

IUCN Members benefit from being part of the world's largest environmental network, working together to address sustainability issues which could never be solved by one organization working alone.

## IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

State Members	11
Government Agencies	24
International NGOs	12
National NGOs	149
Affiliates	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24)	22

## IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA

State Members	3
Government Agencies	-
International NGOs	-
National NGOs	16
Affiliates	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5)	4

IUCN's six Commissions unite over 15,000 international experts, of which more than 1,600 are from the Mediterranean countries.

## IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (2013-2016)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	227
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	987
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	147
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	118
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	106
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1695</b>

## IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA (2013-2016)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	39
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	68
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	41
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	23
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	9
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>190</b>

## NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### SPAIN

- Acción por el Mundo Salvaje
- Asociación Herpetológica Española
- Grupo para la Rehabilitación de la Fauna Autóctona y su Hábitat
- Sociedad Española para la Defensa del Patrimonio Geológico y Minero (SEDPGYM)
- 27 organisations in the Mediterranean region have joined IUCN during 2014 and 2015

### FRANCE

- Association Les Eco Maires
- Awely, des animaux et des hommes
- Direction Energie-Environnement - Conseil Régional de La Réunion
- Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs

### GREECE

- Hellenic Botanical Society

### ITALY

- Unione Zoologica Italiana onlus
- Università degli Studi di Catania - Centro universitario per la tutela e la gestione degli ambienti naturali ed agro-ecosistemi

### JORDAN

- Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia
- The Jordanian Society for Microbial Biodiversity
- United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment (USDWE)

### LEBANON

- Association for the Development of Rural Capacities
- Friends of Nature Association
- Lebanese Environment Forum
- Mada Association
- Operation Big Blue Association

### MOROCCO

- Club Marocain pour l'Environnement et le Développement
- Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc

### PALESTINE

- The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem Society (ARIJ)
- The Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (EEC)
- The Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water and Environmental Resources Development - Research and Development

### PORTUGAL

- Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas

### UNITED KINGDOM

- Department of the Environment & Climate Change, Government of Gibraltar

### TURKEY

- Kaz Dagı ve Madra Dagı Belediyeler Birliği, (KMBB)

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

During the period 2014-2015, the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been implementing different projects with

the support of the following IUCN Members and Commission experts from the region.

## ALGERIA

Ministère des Ressources en Eau et de l'Environnement

- PPI OSCAN project

Direction Générale des Forêts

- IPAs project

## SPAIN

Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

- 1st Meeting on Environmental from News Agencies in the Mediterranean
- Alboran Geoportal

Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía

- 1st Meeting on Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean
- IUCN Green List
- Alboran Geoportal

Aula del Mar

- 1st Meeting on Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean

Ayuntamiento de Málaga

- 1st Meeting on Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean

Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat, Generalitat de Catalunya

- MEET project

## FRANCE

Parks Nationaux de France

- MEET project

## ITALY

Federazione Italiana Parchi e Riserve Naturali

- MEET project

## JORDAN

Royal Society for Conservation of Nature

- MEET project

## LEBANON

Al Shouf Cedar Society

- MEET project

## MOROCCO

Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD)

- 1st Meeting on Environmental Journalists from the News Agencies in the Mediterranean
- Cap des Trois Fourches
- Red List of Ecosystems
- IPAs project
- PPI OSCAN project
- CEPF (KBAs North Africa)
- Alboran Geoportal

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

- PPI OSCAN project

Association Marocaine pour l'Écotourisme et la Protection de la Nature (AMEPN)

- CEPF (KBAs in North Africa)

Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature (SPAN) y en la segunda columna

- CEPF project

## TUNISIA

Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable

- PPI OSCAN project

Direction Générale des Forêts

- CEPF (KBAs in North Africa)

Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

- CEPF (KBAs in North Africa)

## IUCN COMMISSIONS

Total: 33 Commission experts involved

SSC (25 experts)

- Conservation strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa (7 experts)
- Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas – North Western Med (10 experts)
- Red List Review Workshop of Mediterranean Monocots - Western Med (8 experts)
- IPAs

WCPA (6 experts)

- Red List Review Workshop of Mediterranean Monocots - Western Med (1 expert)
- MEET (5 experts)

CEM (1 expert)

- Red List of Ecosystem

CEESP (1 expert)

- Conservation strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa (1 expert)

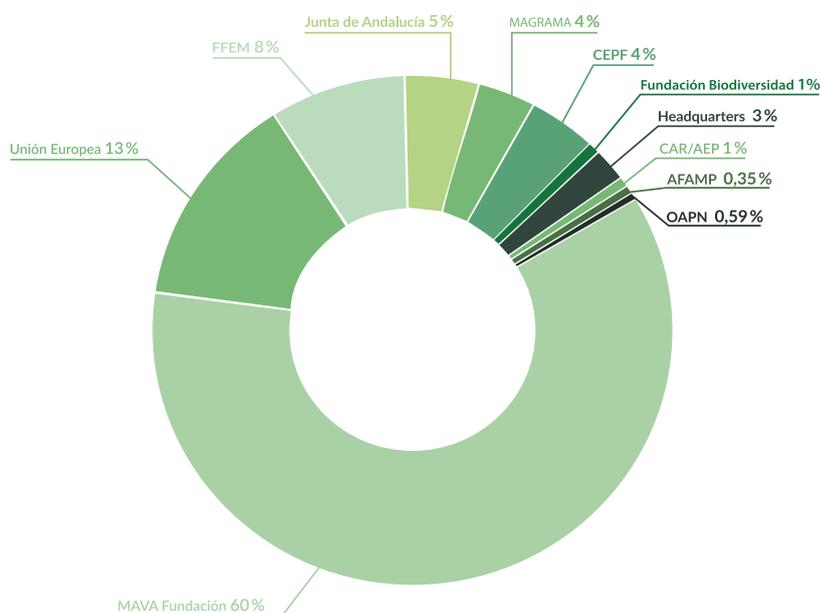


# REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

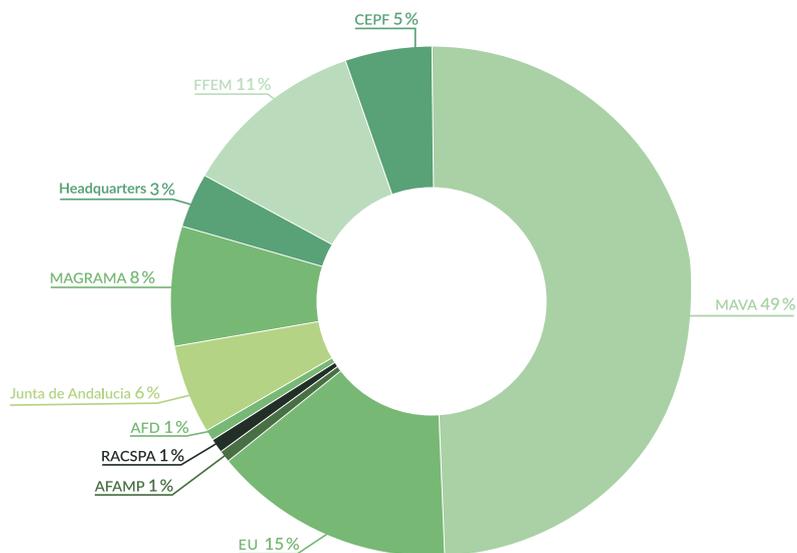
In the past two years IUCN-Med has managed around 30 projects with a budget of approximately € 4,5 million. For 2104, the amount of implemented activities reached 1.981.000 € (Figure 1). The total expenses for 2015 summed up to € 2.516.000 € (Figure 2).

Of this, 49 % of the funding came from the MAVA Foundation, 15 % from the European Union, 11 % from the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), and 14 % from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA) and Andalusia's Regional Government (CMAOT). The rest is distributed among the CEPF, RAC/SPA, and other donors.

An addendum to the Protocol between IUCN and the Spanish Government was signed in 2015 for 2 years, with a view to renew it for a 5-year period in due course. In the framework of this addenda, both Spanish administrations (Ministry of Environment and the Regional Government of Andalusia) will maintain the same level of funding for 2016 (123.000 € and 142.000€ respectively).



Funding percentage per donor in 2014



Funding percentage per donor in 2015

# GENERAL OPERATIONS

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<b>Junta de Andalucía</b> 2014-2015, Office Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	Finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding.	Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio, Junta de Andalucía (CMAOT)
<b>MAGRAMA</b> 2014-2015, Office Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	Finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding, Chapter 4.	Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAGRAMA)
<b>MAGRAMA</b> 2014-2015, Activity Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	Finance part of IUCN-Med's activity plan, Chapter 7.	Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAGRAMA)
<b>MAVA</b> Office and Activity Support 2015  <i>Ongoing</i>	Finance part of IUCN-Med staff, office and activity costs according to a joint strategy programme.	MAVA Foundation

# MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
Mediterranean <b>Biodiversity Assessment</b> (Phase II)  <i>Ongoing</i>	To assess the state of conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity - plants and invertebrate groups – for a regional Red List and the Identification of Key Freshwater Biodiversity Areas.	MAVA Foundation, CEPF, Junta de Andalucía, OAPN, MAGRAMA, AECID
Structure and development of Mediterranean <b>Species Action Plans</b>  <i>Ongoing</i>	Capacity building for making Species Conservation Strategies in three Maghreb countries.	MAVA Foundation, OAPN, FB
Assessment of the <b>socioeconomic value</b> of species  <i>Completed</i>	Assessment of the socio-economic value of freshwater fish and plants in North Africa and dissemination of information among managers and decision makers.	Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)
<b>Conservation and monitoring of prey birds</b> through collaboration and exchange of experiences between Spain and North Africa  <i>Completed</i>	Capacity building for managing and monitoring migratory prey birds between Spain and North Africa.	Fundación Biodiversidad

# NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<p><b>Support to conservation</b> in North Africa</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation</p>
<p><b>Key Biodiversity</b> Areas in North Africa</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Promote the value of Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa by strengthening the role of NGOs in their management and conservation.</p>	<p>CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund)</p>
<p><b>IUCN Forum on Nature</b> Conservation in North Africa</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Organization of a Regional Nature Conservation Forum and IUCN Members meeting in 2015</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation, IUCN Global</p>
<p><b>PPI-OSCAN</b> Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations through the implementation of site projects on biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation, French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)</p>
<p>Strengthening partnerships for the sound and efficient management and governance for <b>biosphere reserves</b> in the Mediterranean</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Prepare a roadmap for the management of Biosphere Reserves in North African countries and validate it in joint workshop with managers and stakeholders.</p>	<p>OAPN</p>

# MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<p><b>SEARCH</b> Social, Ecological and Agricultural Resilience in the face of climate change in the Mediterranean Region</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p>	<p>A three year regional project working in five countries to develop and pilot a resilience framework for local action planning capacities, and methodologies to increase climate change resilience through joint learning, planning and testing by stakeholders through demonstration sites.</p>	<p>European Union (EuropeAid)</p>
<p><b>MEET</b> Mediterranean Experience on Ecotourism</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Improve the sustainability and the rationalization in distribution of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region. In the framework of cross-border cooperation, under the strategic line "Promoting sustainable tourism for the socio-economic development and enhancement of territories", this strategic project involves 10 countries: Italy, France, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Greece and Tunisia.</p>	<p>European Union (ENPI)</p>
<p><b>TRANSHABITAT</b> Sustainable development of transboundary areas belonging to Natura 2000 and Habitats of Common Interest between Andalucía and Morocco</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p>	<p>Action 1.1. Transfer of knowledge and experience to Moroccan partners. Action 1.2. Foster Spanish-Moroccan synergies in relation to species and habitats. Action 1.3. Cooperative Environmental Management Programme.</p>	<p>European Union (Poctefex)</p>
<p><b>IUCN Green List</b> of Protected Areas</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Coordinate the Mediterranean contribution to an IUCN Green List of Protected Areas with effective management plans</p>	<p>OAPN</p>
<p><b>IPA-Med</b> Conserving wild plants and habitats for people in the South and East Mediterranean</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Work on Important Plant Areas to help and encourage public citizens, management authorities, local and national governments, experts and NGOs to conserve this subset of Key Biodiversity Areas with a special emphasis on 20 IPAs in Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Macedonia FYR, Croatia and Turkey.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation, EuropeAid (Macedonia), Ernest Kleinwort Foundation (Balkans)</p>

# MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<p><b>LIFE AdaptaMed</b> Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of Climate Change endangered Mediterranean Socioecosystems</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Mitigate the negative effect of Climate Change on key ecosystem services that representative Mediterranean Natural Protected Areas provide to local inhabitants and their socioeconomic sector in a Mediterranean wetland (Doñana); a high mountain range (Sierra Nevada); and a subdesertic coastal area (Cabo de Gata).</p>	<p>European Union (Life), Aguas Font Vella y Lanjarón S.A.</p>
<p><b>RBIM and Moroccan PA workshop</b> Mediterranean Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve and Moroccan Protected Areas workshop</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Support for the implementation of a workshop for RBIM and other Moroccan protected areas, focusing on indicators' development and participatory bodies.</p>	<p>OAPN</p>
<p><b>EUObs</b> Eco-neighbourhoods versus rehabilitation</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Improve neighborhoods obsolete in terms of sustainability by providing models of analysis of urban land and ecosystem management based on IUCN's experience.</p>	<p>Fundación Habitec</p>

# MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<p><b>Marine Protected Areas for Fisheries</b> in Morocco</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Develop a strategy for the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for fisheries in Morocco and the creation of Marine Protected Areas in pilot sites.</p>	<p>Millenium Challenge Corporation</p>
<p><b>FishMPABlue</b> Fishing governance in MPAs: Potentialities for a Blue Economy</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Develop a relevant state of the art of artisanal fisheries in 20 MPAs to propose recommendations for improvement of governance models in transnational actions involving artisanal fishermen and relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>European Union (MED)</p>
<p><b>PEGASO</b> People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and Coast</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Identify the necessary tools and strengthen capacities to implement the principles of the ICZM protocol (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in order to help countries put the Protocol into practice.</p>	<p>European Union (FP7)</p>
<p><b>MEDINA</b> Marine dynamics and ecosystem indicators for North Africa</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Improve the capacity of North African countries to implement environmental policies, agreements and protocols to maintain and improve the quality of their marine and coastal ecosystems.</p>	<p>European Union (FP7)</p>
<p><b>Life+Posidonia Andalusia</b></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Conservation of Posidonia oceanica meadows along the Andalusian coast.</p>	<p>European Union (Life+), FB, MAGRAMA</p>
<p><b>ALBORAN</b> Common management of a natural cross-border space</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Action 1.1. Establishment of an Alboran Observatory for conservation and sustainable development.</p> <p>Action 1.2. Alboran artisanal fishing network.</p> <p>Action 1.3. Cooperative working group on “shared management of marine protected areas and biodiversity.”</p> <p>Action 3.1. Advance on Cape Three Forcas pilot appraisal, following the Marine Strategy.</p> <p>Action 3.3. Cooperative proposal for the creation of a Centre for Marine Environmental Management on the south shore.</p>	<p>European Union (POCTEFEX), FB</p>

# MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

<b>PROJECT</b> 	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>MAIN DONORS</b> 
<p><b>NEREUS</b> Identification of areas, features, species, ecosystems and threats in the Mediterranean for the construction of a representative network of Marine Managed Areas for Conservation</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Collect, produce, synthesize, and communicate information on the marine environment (species, features, resources, and threats) to identify priority areas for conservation in the Mediterranean Sea.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation</p>
<p><b>PROMETEOS</b> PROtection of the MEdiTErranean Open Seas</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Provide the best information available on mountains and sea canyons and research some case studies.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation</p>
<p><b>MedOpenSeas</b> Establishment of SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep sea</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Advance work on the spatial planning and evaluation of priority areas in the Adriatic Sea, Alboran Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau.</p>	<p>The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (PNUMA PAM – RAC / SPA)</p>
<p><b>Legislation in the Adriatic</b></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Analyse the legal and institutional framework for the creation of Marine Protected Areas in Adriatic countries.</p>	<p>The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (PNUMA PAM – RAC / SPA)</p>
<p><b>Inventory of seagrass</b> angiosperms in Spain</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>	<p>Edition and production of a collective work for a Spanish Atlas of marine meadows.</p>	<p>Fundación Biodiversidad</p>
<p><b>Life Natura Blue</b></p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Establish new methodologies for the quantification of the blue carbon, i.e. the carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems such as marshes and seagrass, including Posidonia oceanica meadows.</p>	<p>European Union (Life), Cepsa</p>
<p><b>Alien invasive species</b> in Mediterranean marine protected areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Improvements to the monitoring of invasive species in marine protected areas through the use of the MedMIS tools in Spain</p>	<p>Fundación Biodiversidad MAVA Foundation and AFAMP</p>

# 2016 PROGRAMME FORECAST

In addition to new projects to be launched and continuing building on the achievements of those already finished, IUCN Mediterranean partners and Secretariat have engaged in preparing their contribution to the **World Conservation Congress 2016** to be held in Hawai'i under the motto "Planet at the crossroads".

Benchmarking projects on conservation and sustainable development will be showcased and shared at international level to prove the value of nature-based solutions to preserve the Mediterranean and the planet at large.

Among the proposals submitted to the World Conservation Congress, IUCN-Med is supporting a Knowledge Cafe on Biosphere Reserves to present the Mediterranean experience and another one on "Data cold spots – How **citizen science** can help fill the information void in understudied areas of various regional seas, in addition to a workshop entitled "Are we forgetting plants? How to integrate **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)** for plants into spatial planning?" and a Poster on Conserving wild plants for people in the south and east Mediterranean.

## MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS

Following the World Parks Congress in 2014 "Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions", the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation will continue working with the French, Italian and Spanish governments to coordinate the Mediterranean dimension within the IUCN **Green List of Protected Areas (GLPA)**.

The GLPA is intended to highlight global successes in protected areas in relation to progress towards a fair, effective and innovative management, acknowledging the efforts made primarily in management.

Among the advantages of belonging to the Green List there is a better international recognition, more political support, interest in quality tourism and a boosted motivation among protected area managers and staff. In Europe, five sites in France, two in Spain and one in Italy conform the current Green List of Protected Areas.

In relation to ecotourism in protected areas, IUCN-Med will continue supporting the network created through the MEET project to expand the Mediterranean Experience in Ecotourism with the 20 protected areas participating as pilot sites and the involvement of tour operators and related tourism industries. In parallel, various training activities for protected area managers and participatory processes for the creation and promotion of ecotourism products will be coordinated and promoted, through channels such as the World Travel Market in London.

Further work will be developed for the identification and better awareness of **Important Plant Areas** and the general concept of Key Biodiversity Areas in the Mediterranean, as well as the monitoring of climate change on key ecosystem services in the Mediterranean context through LifeAdaptaMed.

IUCN-Med is also participating in the development of the **Red List of Ecosystems in Europe** which is coordinated by the IUCN office in Brussels. Based on the experience collected during the preparation of the Red List of Forest Ecosystems in Morocco, the work of experts will help identify if an ecosystem is vulnerable, endangered or even critically endangered, based on a set of internationally accepted criteria regarding the assessment of the risk of collapse.



## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Within the Mediterranean marine programme, efforts will continue to improve the legal, policy and institutional framework to encourage the creation and better management of marine protected areas with a focus on non-European countries.

The Centre will be assisting RAC / SPA in the assessment of priority areas for conservation in the Mediterranean, in particular in Alboran, the Strait of Sicily and the Adriatic.

The involvement of the fishing community as a key stakeholder will be sought in devising nature-based solutions both in protected areas and other beyond national jurisdiction.

Collaboration with the Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers (MedPAN) will continue to improve the monitoring of climate change and invasive species. The new Life project will also assist in assessing the carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems such as marshes and seagrass.

## NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

Two significant projects will continue in 2016 for North Africa. The Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia; and the project for the promotion of the Value of Key Biodiversity Areas through the participation of civil society organizations in the conservation and management of natural resources in four countries in North Africa. In addition to this, IUCN-Med will be promoting the participation of North African Members and partners in the World Wide Congress 2016 and the completion of the current and future programme of work for the region.

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

A new Protocol of Collaboration will be negotiated with the Spanish institutions that support the Centre for a five year commitment to maintain the offices in Malaga. The support provided by the MAVA Foundation under the framework agreement remains crucial to complement and consolidate the basic operating funds for staff and project activities. Additionally, increased collaboration with the IUCN Members, Commissions, new partners and other regional offices will be pursued.

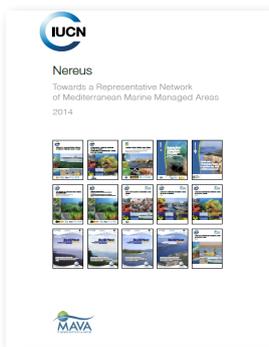
The Management of IUCN-Med will work on expanding and strengthening collaborative links with governmental Members and key international and regional institutions in the Mediterranean, and with local and national partners and institutions for the implementation of local actions.

# IUCN World Conservation Congress Hawai'i 2016

# PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2014-2015

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, FACT SHEETS...

## MARINE



### NEREUS. TOWARDS A REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN MARINE MANAGED AREAS (2014)

A project report towards the identification of areas, features, species and threats in the Mediterranean for building a representative network of marine managed areas for conservation dealing with the project's cooperation and coordination with other partners, activities in countries, communication and outputs.

Report available in English.



### CAP DES TROIS FOURCHES: AN IMPORTANT SITE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF MOROCCO (2014)

The Alboran project for a shared management of a natural cross-border space aims to promote and strengthen cooperation to better foster the conservation of this sea. The Cape Three Forks was identified as an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) of Priority 2, in Morocco's Master Plan of Protected Areas in 1996.

Booklet available in French.



### FACT SHEETS OF CETACEANS AND MARINE TURTLES IN THE ALBORAN SEA (2014)

The Alboran Sea is a critical transit connection between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean seas. Most of these species are characterized by migratory and travel long distances, especially turtles, hence the good condition of the waters of the Alboran Sea and good regulation of human activities are critical to their survival.

Fact sheet available in French and Spanish.



### INTEGRATED REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ICZM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA BASINS PEGASO (2014)

PEGASO's main objective was to support the implementation of the UNEP-MAP Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol for the Mediterranean and the development of a similar policy instrument in the Black Sea. PEGASO bridged the gap between science and policy-making by providing easy-to-use tools for the final users, to help them make science-based decisions that promote the sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas.

Technical series paper available in English.



### STUDY ON THE PROTECTION STATUS OF MARINE SEAGRASSES IN ANDALUSIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (2014)

This study provides an analysis of the protection grades applied in marine Natura 2000 sites with a presence of seagrass in Andalusia. It concludes with a series of management recommendations and zoning proposals to help optimize the network of marine coastal areas for the protection of seagrass meadows.

Book available in Spanish.

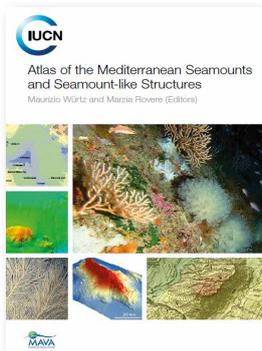


### PROMETEOS PROJECT: PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN OPEN SEAS: CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OVER OFFSHORE SEAMOUNTS AND SUBMARINE CANYONS (2015)

This report summarizes the results obtained during thirty months of research at sea, the taxa investigated, and maps developed by means of predictive models showing areas with the highest biological diversity. Further result of the project is the upcoming publication of the Atlas of Mediterranean seamounts.

Final scientific report available in English.

## MARINE



### ATLAS OF MEDITERRANEAN SEAMOUNTS AND SEAMOUNT-LIKE STRUCTURES (2015)

With the aim to produce a useful tool for research planning, this Atlas contains detailed maps drawn using a GIS software with geographical locations and depth data, morphological and geological descriptions, data about benthic communities and the pelagic life around seamounts when available.

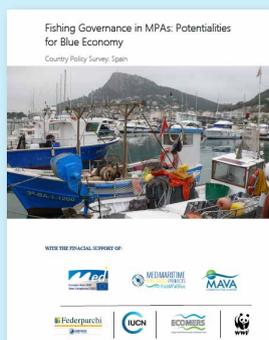
Book available in English.



### DESIGNING NEW MODELS OF GOVERNANCE OF MPAS WITH ARTISANAL FISHERIES



### BROCHURE. SMALL SCALE FISHERY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION: SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ALLIANCE



### COUNTRY POLICY SURVEY: SPAIN

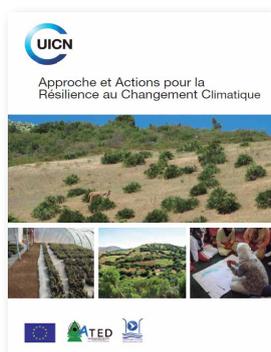


### REVIEW OF EXISTING MEDITERRANEAN MODELS OF GOVERNANCE OF MPAS WITH ARTISANAL FISHERIES

These documents were developed under the umbrella of the project "Fisheries governance in the Marine Protected Areas: Potential for Blue Economy" (FishMPABlue). This one-year project analyzed existing conflicts between fishery and ecosystem components, and proposed adequate measures to solve them. It focused on artisanal fisheries inside and around Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This project was approved in April 2014 by the MED Selection Committee with a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Available in English.

## ECOSYSTEMS



### RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: APPROACH AND ACTIONS (2014)

Produced as part of the Project "Agricultural, Ecological and Social Resilience in the face of Climate Change in the Mediterranean region (SEARCH)" in Morocco, this document is intended for the sharing of approaches, methodologies and pilot experiences, in the Western Rif or elsewhere, towards change climate.

Book available in French and Arabic.



### THE MEDITERRANEAN EXPERIENCE OF ECO-TOURISM (MEET) CATALOGUE (2015)

The Mediterranean Experience of Eco-Tourism (MEET) is an international network built in the framework of a cross-border cooperation project funded by the European Union in the framework of the ENPI-CBC Mediterranean Programme 2007-2013. This is the catalogue of European Spring and Autumn Familiarization tours for groups of 4-12 people to Mediterranean protected areas held in 2015.

Catalogue 2015 available in English.

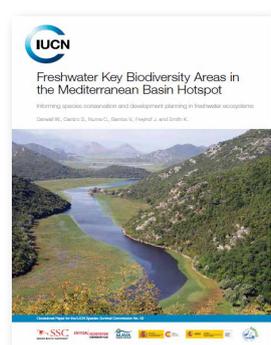


### CONSERVING WILD PLANTS AND HABITATS FOR PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH AND EAST MEDITERRANEAN (2015)

The objective is to help and encourage public citizens, management authorities, local and national governments, experts and NGOs to conserve Important Plant Areas.

Calendar 2016 available in English and French.

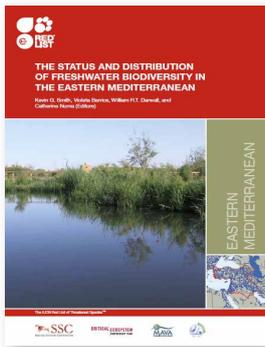
## MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES



### KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN HOTSPOT (2014)

In this assessment, IUCN reveals that at least 167 sites in the Mediterranean Basin qualify as freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) covering a total area of 302,557 km<sup>2</sup>. Of these KBAs, 40 also meet the criteria qualifying them as Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, representing some of the last remaining refuges for one or more Critically Endangered or Endangered species. KBAs are globally significant areas for the persistence of biodiversity and can guide the selection of new protected areas or the expansion of existing site networks.

Book available in English and French. Executive summary in English, French, Croatian, Turkish and Arabic.



## THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FRESHWATER BIODIVERSITY IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (2014)

Nineteen per cent of the freshwater species assessed are globally threatened. However, if we consider only species endemic to the region (species which, if lost, will become globally extinct) this level of threat rises to 58.2%.

Water stress and pollution has led to this high level of threat in freshwater biodiversity. The provision of information to help incorporate biodiversity needs into water development planning processes within an Integrated River Basin Management framework is crucial to aquatic biodiversity.

Book available in English. Executive summary in English, Turkish, Arabic.



## TRANSNATIONAL CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (2015)

Promotional two-page leaflet to promote shared management and conservation of birds of prey between Spain and North Africa

Diptych available in French and Spanish.

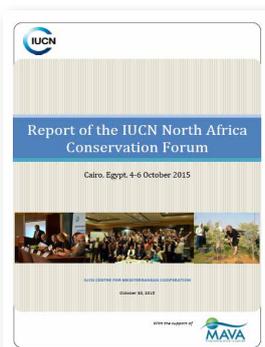
## NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME



## SMALL SCALE INITIATIVES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AFRICA (2015)

The overall objective of this programme is to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in the four North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia); so that in the short-term they are able to develop specific field initiatives, and in the longer term, contribute to the implementation of strategies and national actions plans for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, and mitigation of negative climate change effects.

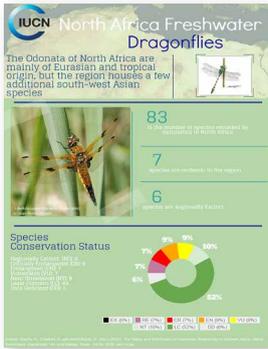
Leaflet available in French and Arabic.



## REPORT OF THE IUCN NORTH AFRICA CONSERVATION FORUM (2015)

The 2nd Regional Conservation Forum for North Africa was held in Cairo, Egypt from 4 to 6 October 2015. Around 70 participants attended the three days event representing IUCN Secretariat, Members, Partners and Commissions. Held every four years, the Forum was an ideal opportunity for IUCN Members in North Africa to prepare and discuss proposals for the IUCN North Africa Programme 2017-2020 in view of its formal approval at the World Conservation Congress, to be held in Hawaii in September 2016. It has also offered IUCN Members the opportunity to review, with the Secretariat, current and potential joint initiatives related to the Red Lists of species and ecosystems, to the Green List of Protected Areas, and to Key Biodiversity Areas particularly in North Africa.

Report available in English and French.



## FACT SHEETS ABOUT NORTH AFRICA (2015)

On the occasion of IUCN's North Africa Regional Conservation Forum held in Cairo (Egypt) from in October 2015, a series of fact sheets were prepared and circulated through social media channels.

- Key Biodiversity Areas
- Status and distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity
- IUCN-Med North Africa Programme to date
- Endangered Marine Mammals
- IUCN Members
- IUCN Commission Members.

Fact sheets available in English.

## CORPORATE



## IUCN MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS 2012-2013 (2014)

A summary of the main activities of IUCN-Med developed by the various programmes operating from Malaga in 2012 and 2013 in collaboration with Mediterranean partners and institutions.

Booklet available in French, English and Spanish.

## WEB SITES AND TOOLS



## GEOPORTAL FOR THE ALBORAN SEA GOVERNANCE (2014)

It aims to put into action a common environmental management system in the Alboran Sea, facilitating the exchange of experience to identify and unite priorities to improve its management.

Available in English, French and Spanish.



## POSIDONIA OCEANICA AND SEAGRASS VIRTUAL LIBRARY (2014)

An information platform on seagrass beds in Andalusia, providing access to details on current legislation, maps, biology, threats and pressures, protection measures applied and relevant research from local to international level.

Available in Spanish.

## WEB SITES AND TOOLS



### MEDMIS APP AND WEBSITE (2014)

MedMIS is an online information system for web and phone for monitoring invasive non-native species in MPAs. Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of both MPAs and the Mediterranean Sea.

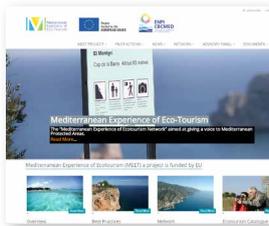
Available in English, French and Spanish.



### IUCN-MED DOCUMENTATION PLATFORM (2014)

A document and graphic material repository for IUCN Mediterranean events and their participants, open to the public or restricted to particular working groups, to share presentations, photos and more.

Available in English.



### MEET PROJECT SITE (2014)

Under the strategic line "Promoting the sustainable tourism for the socio-economic development and enhancement of territories", this strategic project involves 10 countries of the Mediterranean: Italy, France, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Greece and Tunisia.

Available in English, French and Arabic.



### IUCN MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS 2012-2013 (2014)

An interactive web platform to facilitate the access to IUCN-Med activities and project information in 2012-2013.

Available in English, French and Spanish.



### MEET NETWORK SITE (2015)

New web platform to exchange information and share experiences and expertise between protected area managers and tourism operators, fostering the development of sustainable activities relevant to ecotourism in Mediterranean protected areas.

Available in English.

## VIDEOS



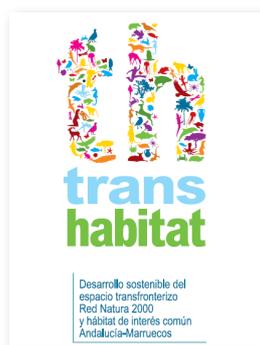
### PPI-OSCAN

General presentation of the PPI-OSCAN project.

Available in French.

Overview of the results of the second phase of the PPI-OSCAN initiative.

Available in French.



Seven clips have been produced to showcase the shared natural values between Andalucía and Marruecos.

Available in Spanish.



### MEET

Promotional scenes on Mediterranean Protected Areas tourism highlighting the uniqueness of nature together with their people, traditions and culture.

Available in English.



### LIFE POSIDONIA ANDALUCIA

More than ten videos are available on the values on Posidonia oceanica and the activities developed as part of this Life+ project.

Available in Spanish.



### MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AS NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS (2015)

Video animation on the effects of climate change on marine protected areas prepared on the occasion of the COP21, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, which for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.



### 15 YEARS OF IUCN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (2015)

Promotional video illustrating the mission and results of IUCN in the Mediterranean since its establishment in 2001.

Available in English, Spanish and French (subtitles).

## ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation also disseminates digital newsletters to inform about project activities and joint initiatives of relevance to Mediterranean cooperation.

- IUCN Mediterranean Flashnews in English, French and Spanish
- Pegaso News in English and French
- Transhabitat electronic bulletin in French and Spanish
- MEET Newsletter in English

# THE MALAGA TEAM



**IUCN-MED DIRECTOR AND MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME COORDINATOR**

Antonio Troya: antonio.troya@iucn.org



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND MEMBERSHIP**

Arantxa Cendoya: arantxa.cendoya@iucn.org  
Sonsoles San Román (2014)



**NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME**

Maher Mahjoub: maher.mahjoub@iucn.org  
Irene Morell: irene.morell@iucn.org



**SPECIES PROGRAMME**

Catherine Numa: catherine.numa@iucn.org  
Violeta Barrios: violeta.barrios@iucn.org  
Elisa Alcázar: elisa.alcazar@iucn.org  
Sonsoles San Román (2015)



**PPI-OSCAN COUNTRY COORDINATORS:**

Farida Ait-Kaci - Algeria  
Ibrahim Elkahwage - Libya  
Brahim Abouelabbes - Morocco  
Hichem Salem - Tunisia



**MARINE PROGRAMME**

Alain Jeudy de Grissac: alain.jeudy@iucn.org  
Maria del Mar Otero: mariadelmar.otero@iucn.org



**TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS**

Marcos Valderrabano: marcos.valderrabano@iucn.org  
Carla Danelutti: carla.danelutti@iucn.org  
Teresa Gil: teresa.gil@iucn.org  
Natalie Lobartolo: natalie.lobartolo@iucn.org



**CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT**

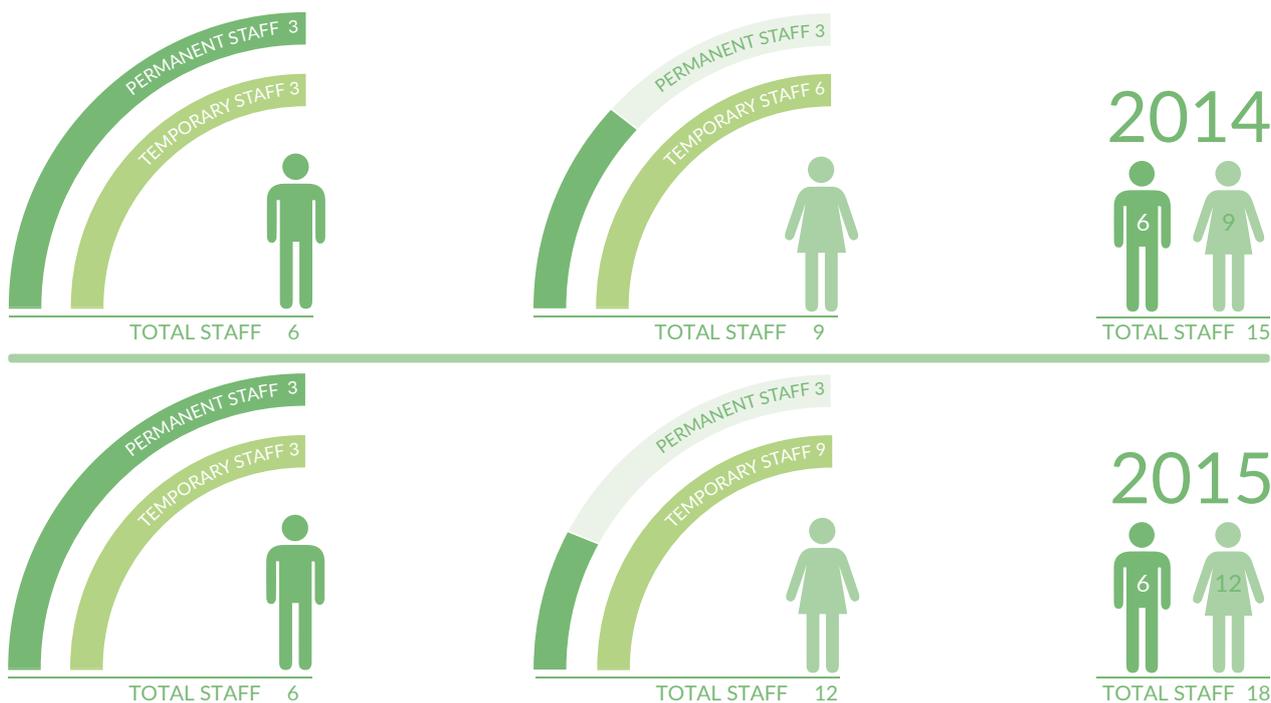
Lourdes Lázaro: lourdes.lazaro@iucn.org  
Andrés Alcántara: andres.alcantara@iucn.org  
Sonsoles San Román



**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

Mohamed Karmass: mohamed.karmass@iucn.org  
Miriam Puga: miriam.puga@iucn.org

Three new staff members have joined the office for specific projects in 2015.



The following people also worked with us temporarily through several cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and further in the Mediterranean:

2014

## CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Alice Portevin  
University of Paris, (France)

Daniela Talamo  
Fundación F. G. Bernáldez (Spain)

## TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

Gisela Coppola  
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

## MARINE PROGRAMME

Daniela Rubio  
Jean Monnet University (France)

2015

## CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Yasmina Remmal  
McGill University of Canada

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Nestor Soler  
University of Malaga (Spain)

## SPECIES PROGRAMME

Nazaret Campos  
University of Cadiz (Spain)

Blanca Alonso  
University Complutense of Madrid (Spain)

Ana Isabel Martinez  
University of Granada (Spain)

Ana Martinez Richart  
University of Granada (Spain)

## MARINE PROGRAMME

Justine Brossard  
University of Aix-Marseille (France)

# ACRONYMS

## **ACCOBAMS**

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area

## **AECID**

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development

## **AFAMP**

French Agency for Marine Protected Areas (Agence des aires marines protégées de France)

## **AFDB**

African Development Bank

## **AMU / UMA**

Arab Maghreb Union (Union du Maghreb arabe)

## **AOYE**

Arab Office for Youth and Environment

## **CBD**

Convention on Biological Diversity

## **CEAM**

Centre for Environmental Studies in the Mediterranean (Centro de Estudios Ambientales del Mediterráneo)

## **CEM**

IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

## **CEPF**

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

## **CIHEAM**

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

## **CMAOT**

Andalusia's regional ministry of environment and land planning (Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía)

## **CSO**

Civil Society Organization

## **GFCM**

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

## **ECAP**

Ecosystem Approach

## **EFARO**

European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organization

## **EFIMED**

Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute

## **ENPI CBCMED**

Multilateral cross-border cooperation "Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme", part of the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and of its financing instrument (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument - ENPI)

## **EU**

European Union

## **EDRF**

European Development Regional Fund

## **FB**

Biodiversity Foundation (Fundación Biodiversidad)

## **FFEM**

French Global Environment Facility (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)

## **GIS**

Geographical Information System

## **GLPA**

IUCN Green List of Protected Areas

## **HCEFLCD**

High Commission for Water, Forests and Combatting Desertification in Morocco (Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la lutte contre la désertification)

## **IAMZ**

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza

**ICZM**

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

**IPA**

Important Plant Area

**IUCN**

International Union for Conservation of Nature

**IUCN-MED**

Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

**KBA**

Key Biodiversity Areas

**MAGRAMA**

Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente)

**MAP**

Mediterranean Action Plan (Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée-PAM)

**MCSO**

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

**MEDINA**

Marine dynamics and ecosystem indicators for North Africa project

**MEDMIS**

Smartphone and online information system for monitoring invasive nonnative species in Mediterranean marine protected areas

**MEDPAN**

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean

**MEDRAS**

Project to identify Priority Representative Areas and Species in the Mediterranean Sea to Conserve

**MEET**

Mediterranean Experience on Eco-tourism project

**MENBO**

Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations

**MIO-ECSDE**

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

**MDG**

Millennium Development Goals

**MPA**

Marine Protected Area

**OAPN**

National Parks Autonomous Agency in Spain (Organismo Autónomo de Parques Nacionales)

**OTREMED**

Project for the establishment of a Territorial Observatory of Mediterranean Regions (Observatorio Territorial de las Regiones Mediterráneas)

**OZHM**

Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Observatoire des Zones Humides Méditerranéennes)

**PEGASO**

People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and Coast project

**POCTEFEX**

Programme for Spanish Cooperation across Borders belonging to the European Development Regional Fund (EDRF)

**PPI-OSCAN**

Small Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa (Programme de Petites Initiatives pour les Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique du Nord)

**RAC/SPC**

Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

**RAC/SPA**

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Marines Protégées-CAR/AEP)

**RAED**

Arab Network for Environment and Development

**RLE**

Red List of Ecosystems

**ROWA**

IUCN Regional Office for West Asia

**SAP BIO**

Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

**SBEI**

Site of Biological and Ecological Interest

**SEARCH**

Project on Social, Ecological and Agricultural Resilience in the face of climate change in the Mediterranean Region

**SPAMI**

Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance

**SSC**

IUCN Species Survival Commission (Commission pour la Sauvegarde des Espèces-CSE de l'IUCN)

**TRANSHABITAT**

Project on Sustainable development of transboundary areas belonging to Natura2000 and Habitats of Common Interest between Andalusia and Morocco

**UAL**

University of Alicante

**UNDP**

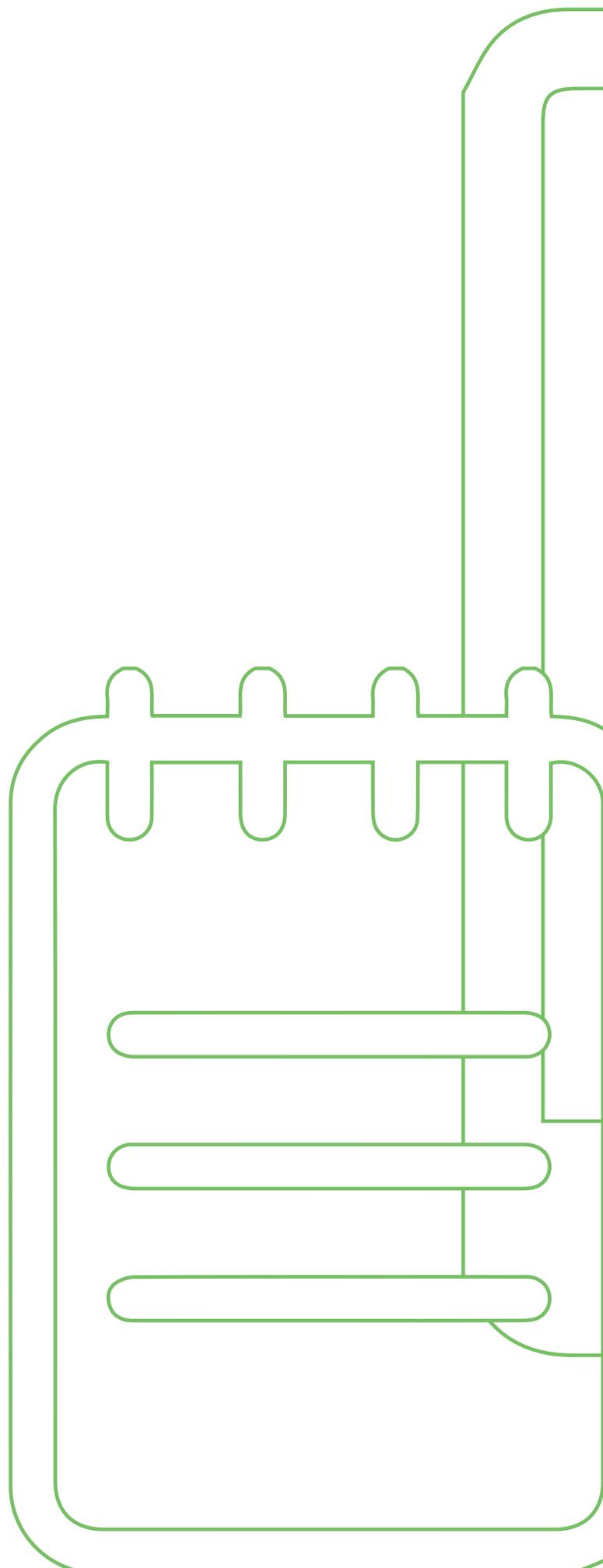
United Nations Development Programme (Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement-PNUD)

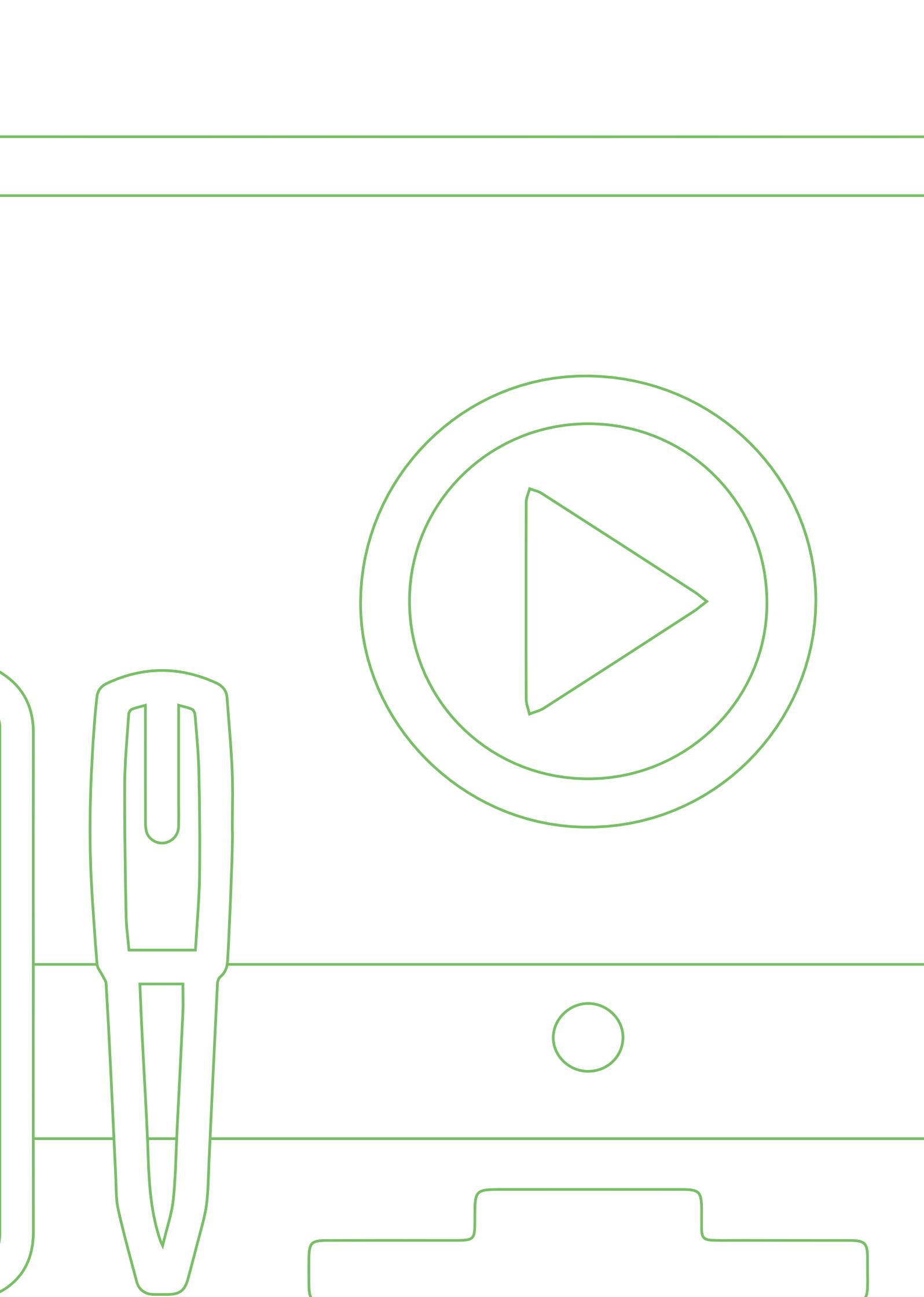
**UNEP**

United Nations Environment Programme (Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement-PNUE)

**WCPA**

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (Commission Mondiale sur les Aires Protégées-CMAP de l'IUCN)









- A reliable scientific voice in a complex socio-economic scenario where different actors come into play with various kinds of abilities and skills.
- A strong advisory body to find solutions to the major environmental challenges in the region.
- An organization that focuses on innovation by designing new alternatives for sustainable development, combining traditional knowledge with new technologies.



**INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

**CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN  
COOPERATION (IUCN-MED)**

C/ Marie Curie 22 – Andalucía Science and Technology Park  
29590 Campanillas

Malaga, Spain

Tel. +34 952 02 84 30

Fax +34 952 02 81 45

[iucnmed@iucn.org](mailto:iucnmed@iucn.org)

<http://www.iucn.org/mediterranean>

