

2016 IUCN  
MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS

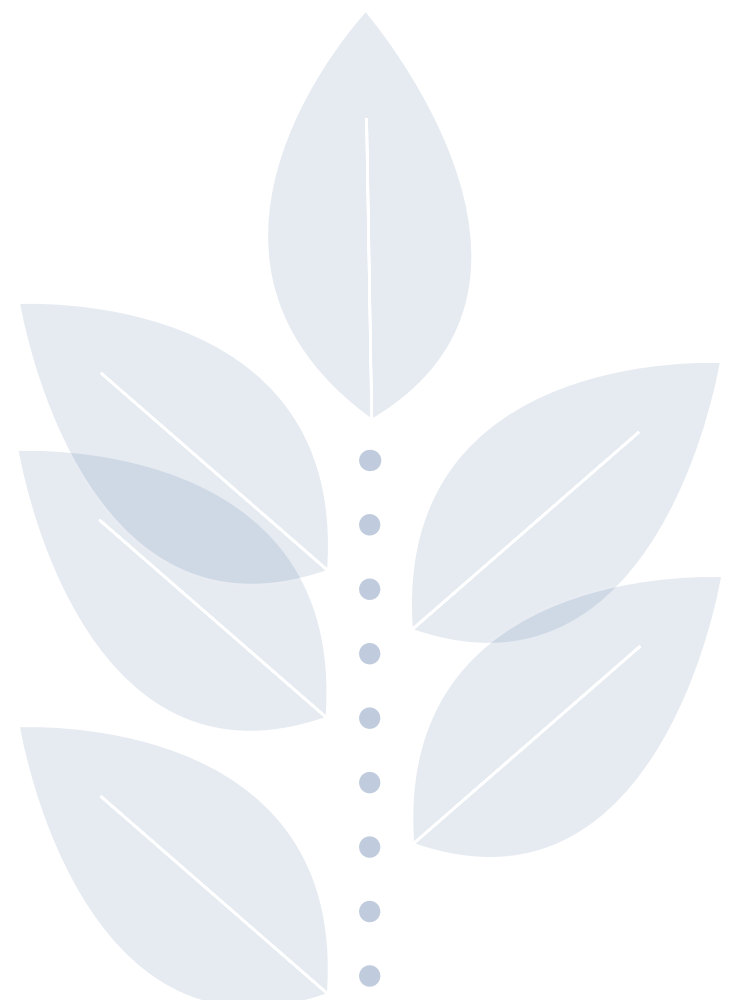
# MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS

2016

The IUCN Mediterranean Reflections 2016 report summarizes the main activities undertaken by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med) based in Málaga.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is supported by:





# CREDITS

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An interactive web version of IUCN Mediterranean Reflections 2016 is available from:  
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# MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR

## Dear friends,

I invite you to read this annual report on the activities of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. It has been a year marked by a busy World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, where the Mediterranean was prominently on the agenda, and by a successful COP22 on Climate Change in Marrakech.

Building up to Hawaii in collaboration with IUCN's Members in the region, our work in 2016 has focused once more on Valuing and Conserving Nature, an area where we have made progress in identifying 630 Key Biodiversity Areas and assessing more than 550 species in the Mediterranean. This work has contributed to the updating of the Ecosystem Profile for the Mediterranean in collaboration with Birdlife International. In coordination with the European Commission, we have contributed to the publication of the first ever assessment and Red List of 47 marine habitats in Europe, an important step on the path to identifying and protecting those most in danger. Furthermore, we have been busy making sure we have reliable, up-to-date information layers as a basis for regional databases that can feed into online information nodes such as the Alboran geoportal and the World Database on Protected Areas.

Civil society organisations in the region have been empowered to carry out conservation initiatives and follow new guidelines for the implementation of sustainable practices related to tourism, a key issue in the Mediterranean particularly along its overdeveloped coast. The organisation of training activities and workshops aimed at building the capacity of Protected Area managers and other stakeholders has also kept the Centre busy throughout the year.

From practice to policy, IUCN has continued to advocate a more effective and equitable use of nature through its active participation in Mediterranean governing bodies affecting natural resources, fostering the incorporation of the latest scientific information in the criteria underpinning regional policies on biodiversity protection. Hence, we have represented our IUCN Mediterranean and North African Members and coordinated

their expertise in order to play a role in international fora such as the Conference of Parties (COP18) in Barcelona, the COP22 on Climate Change in Marrakech and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

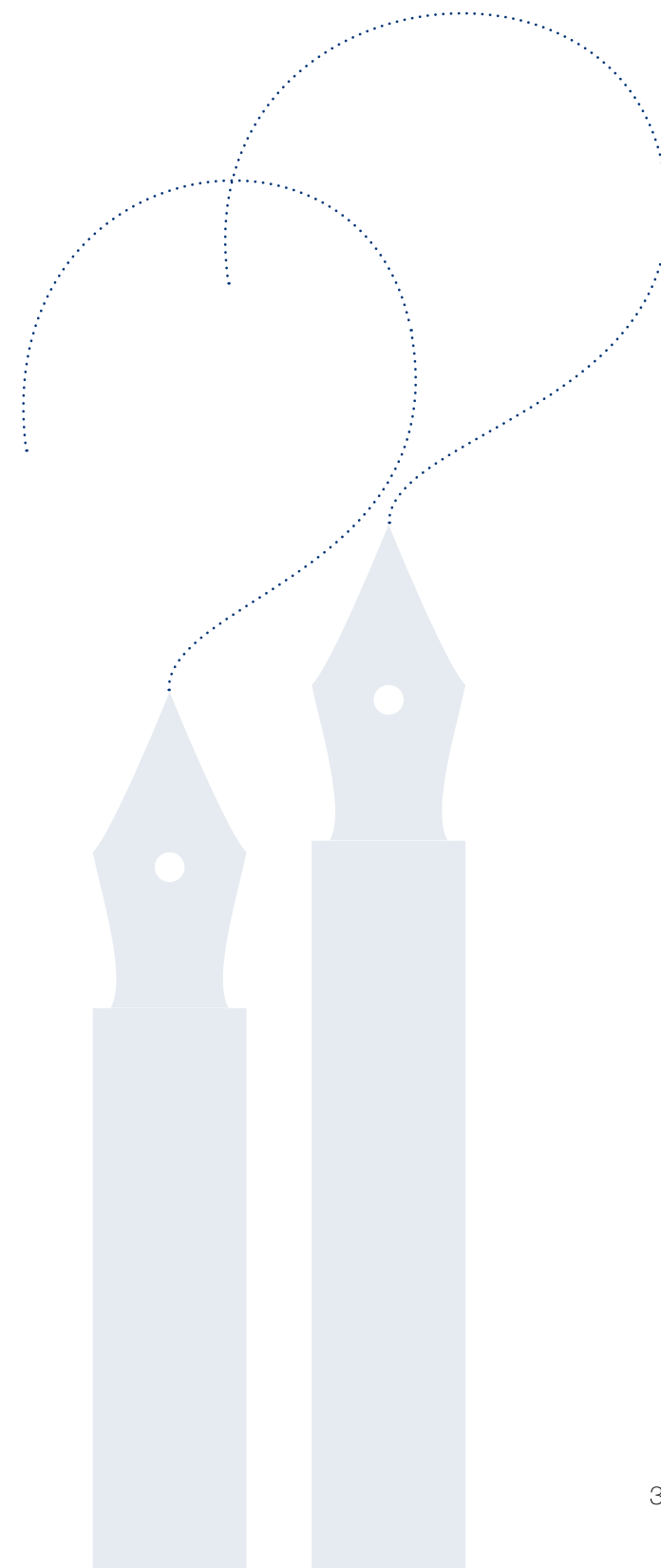
Deploying Nature-based solutions (NbS) in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) by North African countries, in particular Morocco and Tunisia, has been supported through several initiatives. Climate adaptation and mitigation measures have been proposed to make varied use of the potential represented by better management of forests, wetlands, coastal ecosystems and marine areas. Conserving and managing important natural areas in the Mediterranean has been pursued as one of the most effective ways of doing this.

I am pleased to say that the work done this year has included successfully leveraging additional funds to implement four new projects, thanks to IUCN-Med's convener role as revealed by the increasing number of requests to join IUCN and to participate as Mediterranean experts in the six IUCN Commissions.

We look forward to strengthening our interaction with all of you for the sake of the Mediterranean region and its biodiversity. Keep following us on social media to learn more about our work on the impact of energy infrastructures on birds of prey, the establishment of a marine protected area (MPA) in Lebanon, new ecotourism developments, and much more.



ANTONIO TROYA  
IUCN-Med's director  
©IUCN







# 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 16,000 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 people's 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.



Participants from the North Africa region at the World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii in September 2016 ©IUCN

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 our Members and partners in the Mediterranean constitute the framework for the projects and activities developed and implemented by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. For this the Malaga office Secretariat relies on the efforts and participation of 228 IUCN Member organisations and over 1,600 IUCN Commission experts in the region.

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Built on the IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature, the work of IUCN-Med in 2016 is outlined below according to the main IUCN Global Programme areas.

In addition to the new IUCN Mediterranean Programme 2017–2020, the resolutions and recommendations adopted by IUCN Members during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 held in Hawaii that directly affect the Mediterranean and North Africa guide the actions of IUCN Members and partners in the region, in particular the following:



- ✓ **WCC-2016-Res-002 Conservation measures for vultures, including banning the use of veterinary diclofenac**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-023 Protection for the serranids and syngnathids occurring off Spanish coasts**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-027 Strengthening the implementation of the Bern Convention for migratory bird species**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-029 Incorporating urban dimensions of conservation into the work of IUCN**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-042 Protection of biodiversity refuge areas in the Atlantic**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-051 Ecological connectivity on the north coast of the Alboran Sea**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-098 Preventing electrocution and collision impacts of power infrastructure on birds**

### OTHER IUCN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITH A GLOBAL SCOPE AFFECT THE MEDITERRANEAN, IN PARTICULAR:

- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-069 Defining Nature-based Solutions**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-060 Improving standards in ecotourism**
- ✓ **WWC-2016-Res-041 Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for safeguarding biodiversity**

The IUCN One Programme structure is accompanied by the Mediterranean strategic plan of work in association with the MAVA Foundation, one of the key donors supporting the IUCN office in the Mediterranean. This has been the second year of

implementation of these five-year programmes. The agreement for 2016, which will continue in 2017, has involved work in the following revised priority areas:

✓ <b>Strategic Line 1:</b> Improving the conservation status of <b>Mediterranean Species and ecosystems</b>	<b>human well-being, and economic and social development</b>
✓ <b>Strategic Line 2: Governance</b> at all levels in the Mediterranean region integrating nature and civil society for conservation	✓ <b>Strategic Line 4: Building a strong and active conservation community in the Mediterranean region</b>
✓ <b>Strategic Line 3:</b> Understanding and valuing the contribution of healthy and restored ecosystems to address the challenges facing Mediterranean societies from <b>climate change, food security,</b>	✓ <b>Strategic Line 5:</b> Promote nature conservation via <b>innovative information and communication tools</b> to meet ongoing needs for environmentally sound decision-making and effective knowledge sharing on the status of Mediterranean biodiversity

The 2017 action plan will continue to support the work of delivering on the goals identified for the year in the Joint IUCN–MAVA Programme for 2015–2019. At a subregional level, the new IUCN programme for North

Africa adopted in 2016 brings together the recommendations and priority areas for the next three years and continues to strengthen the work of IUCN and its partners in the region.







# VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

## IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ITS TRENDS



Participants at the Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week held in Montenegro  
©IUCN/Pilar Valbuena

### RED LISTS OF SPECIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL



Angel shark (*Squatina squatina*) ©Simon Rogerson

The IUCN Mediterranean Red List of Threatened Marine and Terrestrial Species has been enriched with the publication of new assessments for 73 chondrichthyan species (**sharks, rays, chimaeras**) on the Red List website and a summary report. The conservation status of 14 **seahorses** has been assessed and a summary factsheet with the main results produced. There are 462 **butterflies** native to the Mediterranean region and an assessment recently published by IUCN reveals that 19 butterfly species are threatened with extinction in the region, and of these 15 are endemic. The results of the assessment of 136 **anthozoan** species in the Mediterranean were presented at the 19th Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in February 2016.

At the Eastern Mediterranean **monocotyledon plant** Red List assessment review workshop held in Athens, Greece, in February, expert botanists produced an evaluation of 300 plant species, while the North Africa regional Mediterranean monocotyledon plant Red List assessment workshop held in Rabat, Morocco, at the end of March studied a further 200–250 species. A parallel event to the XV Meeting of the Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA) in Montpellier in June helped

disseminate the importance of Red List assessments and *in-situ* conservation for plants.

The conservation strategy for the **Barbary macaque** in Algeria moved forward with the organisation of a national workshop in Béjaïa, Algeria, in October. In Tunisia, a debate was organised on sustainable hunting management at the beginning of November. The conservation of threatened species in North Africa was highlighted during the meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) in Barcelona in May, organised by IUCN Member the Sahara Conservation Fund in collaboration with the Barcelona zoo.

Mediterranean threatened **raptors** and the mortality caused by power lines on their migratory routes were studied at a workshop held in Tarifa, Spain, in November involving electricity companies from Spain and North African countries; monitoring techniques and potential conservation measures were identified. Further work in this area was reinforced by the event held during the World Conservation Congress on strategic planning for the conservation of threatened species and the interaction of wild fauna with infrastructure. IUCN-Med participated in the meeting of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species working group on illegal bird killing and in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of **Migratory Birds** in the Mediterranean, organised by UNEP/CMS in Cairo in July 2016.

The **Red List Methodology** was promoted among Master's students at the University of Cadiz through the organisation of a workshop in December and among botanists responsible for the national red listing of plants at an event at the University of Lisbon. The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Conservation Forum 2016 in May provided a good opportunity for IUCN to present the North Africa experience in **strategic planning** for the conservation of threatened species.

### IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The project 'Promoting the value of key biodiversity areas in **North Africa** through the involvement of civil society organisations in their conservation and management' is a subregional project aimed at improving the management and governance of protected areas and key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Relying on its network of partners, IUCN-Med has set up a framework for dialogue among stakeholders representing government, civil society and research institutes. Collaboration agreements signed with the relevant authorities responsible for KBA management aim at monitoring project activities, ensuring the involvement of other partners in training endeavours and validating the deliverables produced within this project. In relation to this, three reports have been published to promote the work done in the three study cases in Algeria, Morocco and Tunis.

IUCN-Med's initiative to develop plant conservation actions in the South and East Mediterranean 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 the distribution of habitats as tools for conservation and management. The IPA-Med project undertakes plant conservation and management in selected **Important Plant Areas (IPAs)**; ensures the transfer of results to relevant policy mechanisms at national, regional and global level; and improves communication mechanisms and networking among practitioners for plant conservation.

IUCN-Med was invited to participate in the updating of the Ecosystem Profile for the Mediterranean. In this framework, diverse habitats were studied and recommendations made for the conservation and management of priority sites in the Mediterranean in 2016. More than 630 KBAs were identified by gathering data from IPAs, Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Freshwater KBAs in the Mediterranean, establishing a basis for future conservation investment priorities in the Mediterranean. The Ecosystem Profile, promoted by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), is an extensive document describing the conservation status of the region, covering socio-economic issues, threats to biodiversity and all the existing data on flora and fauna.

This year IUCN-Med has coordinated and carried out activities in 16 pilot **Important Plant Areas** in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey, and three national workshops in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have validated the studies carried out. In Montenegro, the first Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week was organised in October, with the participation of 80 experts in training sessions, conferences and exchanges. The results of this IUCN-Med initiative have been placed on a new website for the IPAMed project. Beyond the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med also participated in the preliminary work for the identification of IPAs in Cabo Verde in October.

Another line of work bearing fruit in 2016 has been IUCN-Med's participation in the development of the **European Red List of Habitats**, coordinated by the EU Commission, which includes the terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitat assessments.





## DEVELOPMENT OF A BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION HUB

In its efforts to facilitate open access to information on Mediterranean conservation science and data, IUCN-Med has been working on the design of a new IUCN **Mediterranean Viewer** aiming to showcase the status and distribution of the Mediterranean species assessed and highlighting the areas where biodiversity is the object of present and future conservation measures. To this end, IUCN-Med has collected 109 GIS layers to be displayed via an online platform together with descriptions of their trends, and 41 new layers of data have been included in the **Alboran geoportal** for integrated management of the natural resources in the region. The MedMIS platform for the localisation and monitoring of **marine invasive alien species** in marine protected areas continues to improve with the inclusion of Natura 2000 in the network.

In parallel to this, the establishment and promotion of a network of media agencies and journalists interested in improving the quality and quantity of **environmental news** and information for the region are paving the way towards a better-informed Mediterranean society. Achievements in the year include the second meeting of Mediterranean news agencies and journalists in Morocco during the COP22 on Climate Change and the creation of an online group of journalists for the dissemination of news on Mediterranean biodiversity and better reporting of environmental news at all levels. Thanks to this initiative, the Moroccan news agency Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) has started a new project, MAP-Ecology, to support environmental reporting in the country.

## PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES

Developments in the year have focused on enhancing current knowledge of Mediterranean species such as sharks, chimaeras, rays, anthozoans and seahorses, as deep-sea habitats, and the legislation concerning their protection. The contribution made by **marine resources** such as seagrass meadows to a Blue Economy in the fight against climate change has also been assessed.

A new consultation platform has been established to identify and prepare further initiatives on **Blue Carbon** compensation, after an initial meeting of 15 institutions took place in Malaga in September. In November the Life Blue Natura technical meeting on the conservation of coastal carbon sinks was held in Malaga, with the involvement of several Spanish regional authorities and the Office for Climate Change. The new MPA-Adapt initiative will also help build resilience in **marine protected areas** and and

enhance the capacity to monitor changes and address management for adaptation.

This year the first Atlas of Seagrasses of Spain was published, and the approval of a new Interreg Med project entitled Posbemed will involve further research into conservation and management **Posidonia banquettes** in Mediterranean beaches.

A significant contribution by the Mediterranean marine office in 2016 was the publication of the first European List of Marine Habitats. The marine team at IUCN-Med also participated in a number of regional and international meetings on marine governance and management alongside significant institutions such as UNEP-MAP, the Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS, MedPAN and the GFCM-FAO, with a view to preparing a strategic alliance and jointly promoting conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources through marine protected areas, fishery reserves and other conservation measures. IUCN-Med is also collaborating in the first review of international, regional and national certification of the status of conservation areas in non-European Mediterranean countries and a proposal for specific actions in Libya.

Led by IUCN-Med, the Mediterranean **Deep Sea Biodiversity** network of more than 20 experts from 8 countries has developed a strategic action plan for its members and other institutions, and a publication on its biodiversity hotspots is on the way. Its first results identifying Vulnerable Biodiversity Hotspots were presented at the FAO/GFCM Workshop on the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean. In Lebanon,



Eagles over the valley  
©Yanstav | Dreamstime.com

the Deep Sea project in cooperation with Oceana, RACSPA Secretary and the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon has initiated the field works to identify potential sites in canyon ecosystems and coastal areas for protection. The Atlas of Mediterranean Seamounts is also providing significant information potentially leading to their designation in the future as marine conservation or protection areas, based on their importance for numerous species.

In cooperation with ACCOBAMS, an assessment of commercial **whale-watching** activities in the Gibraltar Strait was carried out in 2016, to help implement a future 'High Quality Whale-Watching®' Certificate in the region.

IUCN-Med has also participated actively in the creation of the Mediterranean MPA Trust Fund association. In addition to influencing current governance models to improve the management of marine resources, a common feature of the initiatives developed in 2016 has been the effort to improve our



*Posidonia oceanica* in Almería (Andalusia) ©Mar Otero

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

IUCN-Med has organised 10 regional events in collaboration with State and NGO Members together with Commission experts covering various areas of work. In 2016 we gathered expertise to promote sustainable tourism in Protected Areas, coordinate the **Protected Area Green List** process in the Mediterranean, spread the use of the Red List methodology at national level, agree on the assessment of Mediterranean plant species, foster participatory management of PAs and of hunting and its implications for nature conservation in North Africa. We also organised training courses to mitigate the impact of power lines on migratory raptors.

Support and advice are being provided for three countries in North Africa to implement conservation strategies and national action plans for emblematic species like the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Morocco, the Barbary 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.

understanding and increase our ability to deal with the effects of **climate change and human-related impacts** affecting Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas. This will be the focus of the four new Interreg Med projects: (1) DestiMed for monitoring sustainable tourism in Mediterranean protected areas (PAs), (2) PosbeMed for the sustainable management of Posidonia beaches, (3) MPA-Adapt to help marine protected areas adapt to climate change by building resilience and adaptation, and (4) Fish MPA Blue II to test a new tool kit for fishing governance in MPAs and reveal the potential for a blue economy.

Initiatives to involve Mediterranean communities, and not just governments and institutions, have targeted artisanal fishermen in North Africa, divers and local businesses. They have included MedMIS, to improve the **monitoring of marine invasive species** in MPAs, and the MEET project, to promote sustainable tourism practices in key protected areas with the involvement of local populations and protected area managers.

IUCN-Med has mobilised resources and commitments and provided the necessary knowledge and skills to implement urgent actions, such as in the case of birds of prey and their conservation in Spain and North Africa, with the involvement of public authorities, the corporate sector and the conservation community.

To strengthen civil society's capacity for environmental conservation in North Africa through the **PPI-OSCAN initiative**, 37 projects including 10 in Algeria, 10 in Morocco, 12 in Tunisia and 5 in Libya are under way and scheduled to finalise in May 2017. Capacity building and best practice dissemination have also been aimed at improving ecotourism activities in Mediterranean Protected Areas.



Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*)  
©CSIC/Mar Cano







# 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



Experts at the validation workshop of the Cuvier's Gazelle transnational conservation strategy in Agadir (Morocco) ©IUCN

## THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

IUCN-Med's close collaboration with the Barcelona Convention has continued, particularly in relation 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, and to improve the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest process, for recommendation to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The 2016 Red List assessment results for **anthozoans** have been presented to countries to inform their future proposals for the annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, and a proposal on this has been prepared in collaboration with a group of experts for further consideration by the Spanish authorities.

## MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IUCN-Med participated in the 18th Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) Steering Committee meeting in January 2016 to discuss progress towards the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 (MSSD 2016–2025) and its monitoring plan, initiating preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the MCSD in 2017 and its possible contribution to the COP20.

IUCN-Med has been a full member of this Commission since January 2016, and the MSSD considers the IUCN **Green List of Protected Areas** to be one of the main tools for achieving good conservation status for Mediterranean protected areas. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of the Plan Bleu, Mediterranean Action Plan/UNEP, Malta, Egypt, France and two regional organisations.

## FAO GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The coordination of activities with the GFCM concerning the conservation of Mediterranean marine resources and ecosystems has continued through IUCN-Med's participation in relevant scientific committees, the organisation of joint missions and better coordination of Mediterranean conservation actions.

Activities in 2016 have included the coordination of contributions to develop a strategic action plan with IUCN Members and other institutions, and the preparation of a publication on biodiversity hotspots. Led by IUCN-Med, the Mediterranean Deep Sea Biodiversity network presented initial results on the identification of Vulnerable Biodiversity Hotspots during the FAO/GFCM Workshop on the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean. An analysis of fishing regulations in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia has also been conducted and shared with FAO/COPEMED for further discussion and input from the countries concerned.

## 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 been strengthened through several joint activities. IUCN-Med has supported the participation of Species Commission experts in preparing the 6th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties and their Work Programme 2017–2019, and in the Scientific Committee.

Among the activities agreed for joint actions are the assessment of new species groups such as **cetaceans** in the ACCOBAMS area, according to an ACCOBAMS Resolution and its Work Programme 2017–2019. An assessment of commercial cetacean watching activities in the Gibraltar Strait has been jointly prepared to support the future implementation of a 'High Quality Whale-Watching®' Certificate in the region.

A collaboration scheme has been prepared that will also involve UNEP-MAP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS and MedPAN in jointly supporting conservation and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Sea.



## AT SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

The North Africa subregion of the Mediterranean constitutes an area of work with its own programme of activities identified and agreed by IUCN Members and the Malaga Secretariat in line with the IUCN Global Programme. IUCN-Med provides support and assistance to 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 led by IUCN, such as PPI-OSCAN, are part of the collaborative work to ensure the region's common responsibility in biodiversity protection. The new North Africa Raptors Interest Group has created a network of 40 people.

IUCN now has 24 Members in North Africa. In 2016, 22 new Mediterranean organisations joined IUCN as Members, 5 of them from North African countries.

## UNESCO'S MAN AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Building on the work accomplished in 2015, a comparative analysis of the governance and management of **biosphere reserves (BR)** in North Africa has been promoted in 2016 to support and help in the development of management tools and specific documentation. It was discussed at the UNESCO International Centre for Biosphere Reserves in Barcelona in September and the Arab-African Congress on Biosphere Reserves held in Tangier in October. Work will continue in 2017 with further exchanges between BR managers from the south and north of the Mediterranean.

The analysis covers the current governance model, institutional organisations and legal framework for BRs in various countries, as well as their conservation status, with the identification of common problems, challenges and synergies at the governance and management level. It will assist in the identification of other potential BRs.

## AT NATIONAL LEVEL

### ALGERIA

With the support of the Algerian General Directorate for Forestry and other authorities, a conservation strategy and action plan workshop for the **Barbary macaque** brought together national and international experts in biology, conservation planning and management in Béjaïa, Algeria.

Algeria has also updated its national profile of Important Plant Areas with field surveys of more than 150 endemic plants that have restricted ranges or are important in key biodiversity areas. A review of fishing regulations at national level has been finalised and the country is actively participating in the North Africa Raptors interest group, the network of BR managers and civil society support projects through the PPI-OSCAN initiative.



Barbary macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*)  
©HUNDA - CC BY-SA 2.0



Field work: how to react when facing a wounded raptor ©IUCN

### LEBANON

Various collaborative activities have been carried out with Lebanese civil society organisations (CSOs), scientists and public authorities, mostly concerning ecotourism and important plant areas. An initiative worth noting in 2016 has been the **Deep-Sea Lebanon Project**, involving a research expedition into marine canyons, which has helped increase knowledge on the new marine species for the Mediterranean. This initiative aims to help Lebanon to fulfil its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and achieve the CBD Aichi marine target for the protection of at least of 10% of marine eco-regions in the world by 2020. It followed the adoption of the Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy in 2012.



The Deep Sea Lebanon Project team analysing some samples ©OCEANA

### TUNISIA

Collaboration with Tunisia has been extended at national level through joint work on Key Biodiversity Areas and the strategic planning of **ecotourism** in selected areas in the Mediterranean. IUCN-Med has agreed to run a co-management scheme in two protected areas in Tunisia in collaboration with the National Directorate of Forests for the deployment of ecotourism activities under the MEET principles, with the participation of four civil society organisations. In association with the forest and environmental departments, the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by Ichkeul National Park has also been calculated.

Progress has also been made on the conservation strategy and action plan for the Barbary sheep with the assessment of the status of captive and semi-captive populations in Tunisia and recommendations for improving their management.

### MOROCCO

Several cooperation activities are being implemented with the support of various government offices, in particular the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (HCEFLCD), to help the country comply with the Aichi biodiversity targets and other international commitments such as the CBD/Barcelona convention and ICZM related to marine and terrestrial protected areas, spatial planning, and species conservation. A field evaluation of raptor mortality due to electrocution in south-western Morocco has been carried out and its results published, with the active participation of the **North Africa Raptors Interest Group**.





# DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Key 2016 initiatives have focused on adaptation to climate change. Two case studies on 'Nature-based solutions' (NbS) as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to protect, restore and maintain ecosystems to fight climate change in Morocco and in Tunisia were developed and presented in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) during the COP22 on Climate Change in Marrakech, giving further visibility to NbS in the Mediterranean region.

Various EU funded projects dealing with climate change have moved forward during the year. The Life Natura Blue project has initiated the quantification of 'blue' carbon, i.e. the carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems such as marshes and seagrass beds, including *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in Andalusia. The technical meeting on blue carbon organised

in Malaga attracted more than 80 participants including scientists, NGOs, MPA managers and other stakeholders to discuss the value of these ecosystems as important **carbon sinks** because of their high efficiency in assimilating the organic form of carbon dioxide and their capacity for storing it for thousands of years (sequestration). The recently established Advisory Group for the identification of blue carbon projects in North Alboran/Spain has also produced its first set of recommendations.

The new Interreg Med project MPA-Adapt started at the end of the year with the objective of guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: building resilience and adaptation. A new proposal to enhance policy makers' understanding of climate change impacts on **Mediterranean**

**Islands** and PAs in collaboration with the IUCN Global Marine Programme has been funded by Foundation Albert II, with Corsica as the pilot implementation site.

The Life AdaptaMed project on the other hand has disseminated **adaptive management measures** to mitigate the effects of rising global temperatures on key ecosystems. Three nature sites in Andalusia have held participatory workshops to exemplify wetland (Doñana), high mountain (Sierra Nevada) and subdesert coastal (Cabo de Gata-Nijar) ecosystems. Campaigns to raise public awareness of

climate change adaptation have involved local communities in maintaining essential ecosystem services, such as oil retention, pollination, maintenance of pastures, temperature regulation, water supply, and the prevention of forest fires and desertification.

Climate change adaptation and tourism impacts and opportunities have been put forward for integration in the updated 'Roadmap 2020 for MPAs' through the Tangier declaration issued during the Mediterranean MPA Forum 2016.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The three-year 'Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism' (MEET) project, co-funded by the EU Cross Border Cooperation Programme ENPI-MED under the leadership of Federparchi-Europarc (Italy) and involving eight Mediterranean countries (France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Spain and Tunisia), has established a network of 25 **protected areas** and set up a catalogue of ecotourism packages designed and managed by the same parks and local stakeholders. IUCN-Med is now co-coordinating a subgroup on regional sustainable tourism initiatives within the TAPAS group of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and has contributed to a publication on the approach to sustainable ecotourism development in protected areas.

As a follow-up to the MEET project, a new Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism Network has been officially created, for which IUCN-Med is a board member and holds the Secretariat. The socio-economic development of protected areas in relation to ecotourism is being encouraged through the participation of two protected areas in Tunisia, and initial work has been carried out to test ecotourism standards and monitoring tools in protected areas in France, Spain, Lebanon and Portugal.



Raising awareness activities on climate change effects at Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park within the Life Adaptamed project ©IUCN

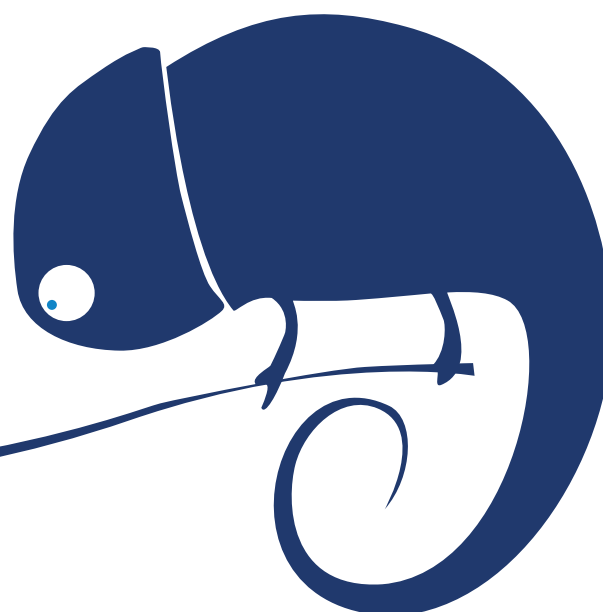




## KEY FIGURES 2016

more than  
**550**  
species assessed

and 256 published  
on the Red List website



**22**  
new MEMBERS

**17**  
CSOs involved in  
CONSERVATION



**10**  
CAPACITY  
building  
WORKSHOPS



new  
**4**  
PROJECTS

**6** MEDITERRANEAN  
NEWLETTERS IN  
3 languages and 1 video

**47** marine  
habitats  
ASSESSED

**522**  
KBAs  
identified

**13** NEW  
collaboration  
agreements

**8**  
INTERNS

**11**  
NETWORKS  
animated

**17** publications  
edited

followers  
**f** 9.963 ↑51%  
**t** 1.869 ↑81%



# HIGHLIGHTS 2016

JANUARY						
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- An inaugural workshop launched the cooperation project with Algeria on Conserving wild plants and habitats for people in the South and East Mediterranean (IPAMed) in the National Park – Biosphere Reserve of Gouraya.
- Over 242 seamounts, banks, rises, highs, hills, spurs and other kinds of sea floor elevations in the Mediterranean were identified and described in the project 'Atlas of the Mediterranean Seamounts and Seamount-like Structures'. Seamounts are hotspots of biodiversity and affect the productivity of offshore ecosystems and the distribution of pelagic top predators.

- More than 300 assessments of monocotyledon plants were reviewed by botanists from Eastern Mediterranean countries to be included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.
- The assessment of 136 Mediterranean species of anthozoans (corals, anemones, sea pens, etc.) native to the Mediterranean Sea for the IUCN Red List showed that nearly 13% are threatened and more than half of the species lack the information needed to estimate their risk of extinction.

- The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas was recognised as a Flagship Initiative under the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016–2025, adopted during the 19th Convention of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Athens.
- During a high-level event of the Barcelona Convention COP19 meeting in Athens, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Ministers endorsed the new text of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and its Action Plan 2016–2021.

- 15 March: As part of IUCN-Med's Conserving Wild Plants and Habitats for People in the South and East Mediterranean (IPAMed) project, Dr Karim Omar, environmental researcher and IUCN Red List Global Assessor, and his team investigated environmental threats to natural resources in two Egyptian Important Plant Areas (IPAs) and made recommendations to address them.
- 29 March: The last workshop to review the Red List assessments of Mediterranean monocotyledon plants opened in Rabat with experts on North African flora.



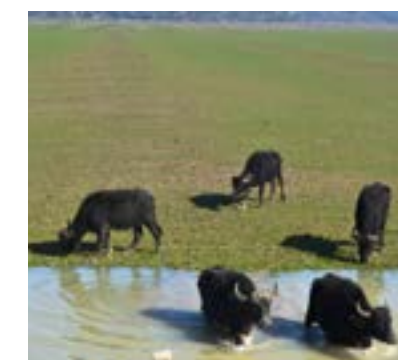
## The work of IUCN-Med and its presence in the Mediterranean:

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

- A visit to the Jebel Bou Naceur IPA in Morocco was organised in the framework of the IPAMed cooperation project.
- Three capacity-building workshops were held during April 2016 in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia within the Small Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa Programme (PPI-OSCAN). These events brought together selected civil society organisations that participate in the programme (10 in Morocco, 10 in Algeria and 12 in Tunisia) to undertake a mid-term evaluation of the projects that they are implementing.



- The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), an IUCN Member, organised its Conservation Forum 2016 in Fuengirola, Spain, showcasing IUCN-Med initiatives related to marine invasive species in Mediterranean marine protected areas and strategic planning for the conservation of threatened species in North Africa.
- More than 20 experts on flora and natural habitats in Morocco met at the Forest Research Centre in Rabat to review and update IPA boundaries in Morocco.



- The Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA) held its 15th meeting in Montpellier (France), at which IUCN-Med organised an open workshop entitled 'Round trip from Red List data to *in-situ* conservation of Important Plant Areas'.
- The project entitled 'Promoting the value of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in North Africa through the involvement of civil society organisations in their conservation and management', funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), concluded with the publication of three country studies conducted in the Ifrane and Toubkal National Parks in Morocco, the Djurdjura National Park in Algeria and the Ichkeul and Sebkhia Sidi Mansour National Parks in Tunisia.
- A new action plan was devised for the Moroccan population of the Great Bustard, a Vulnerable species according to the IUCN Red List, which is surviving mainly in two breeding areas (leks) and numbers some 40 to 50 birds.
- Three protected areas in Tunisia – Ichkeul, Boukornine and Chikly Island – hosted the last pilot actions to be carried out within the Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism project (MEET), thanks to the partnership convention signed with the General Directorate of Forests in Tunisia.





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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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- Dr Luc Hoffman, one of the patrons of Mediterranean biodiversity conservation, passed away in the Camargue leaving behind an exceptional record in the history of conservation achievements.
- The Moroccan city of Tangier hosted the 2nd Conference of Parties of the countries bordering the Mediterranean on Climate Change – Med COP22 – attracting over 1,000 representatives of States, institutions, cities and regions, companies and NGOs at the opening ceremony.
- The Mediterranean Ecosystem Profile, supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, was updated. It aims to create a platform for funders interested in making grants to civil society in the Mediterranean basin and to align with existing investment by government and other donors in the region.



- The Life Adaptamed project organised public awareness-raising activities in Granada and Almería, Spain, on climate change and the need for ecosystems and socio-economic activities to adapt to it, particularly in protected areas.



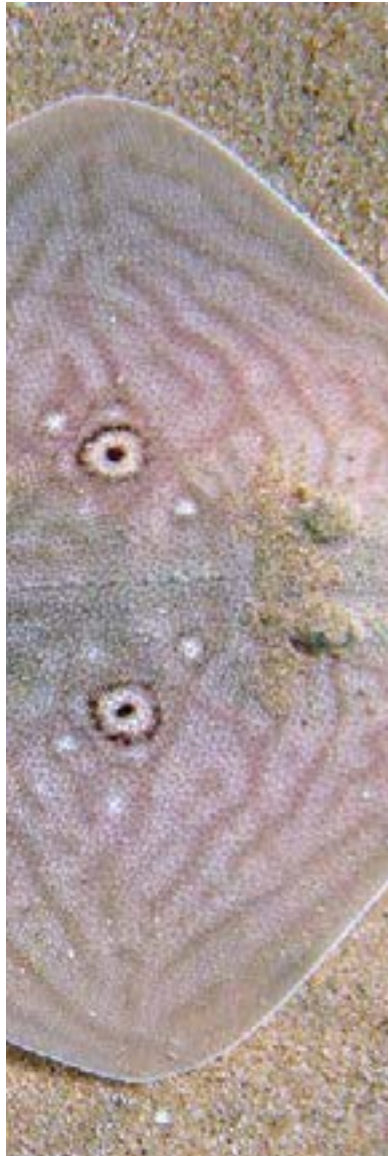
- IUCN-Med participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii by organising Mediterranean workshops and events and taking part in several fora.
- The first assessment of the conservation status of 462 butterflies in the Mediterranean, published by IUCN, revealed that 19 butterfly species are threatened with extinction in the region, and 15 of these are endemic.
- The MEET Network released the MEET manual: A guide to discover the MEET approach, to provide local people, businesses, NGOs and especially protected area managers with clear guidance on planning and improving ecotourism in their areas.



- Algeria's Directorate General of Forests and IUCN-Med held a joint workshop in Béjaïa to draft the national conservation strategy for the Barbary macaque, a species endangered by deforestation and agricultural changes in North Africa.
- Eighty participants from 18 countries met for the 1st Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week in Ulcinj (Montenegro), to build a network to conserve plants and cultural diversity across the Mediterranean.
- MedEvenTun II started in Tunisia with three events: Nature-based solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions in Tunisia (31 October), Joint management of protected areas in Tunisia (1 November) and Management of hunting and its implications for nature conservation in North Africa (3–4 November).



- Three trainings in finance procedures for NGO held in Tunisia, and Morocco as part of the capacity building strategy of the PPI-OSCAN Programme.
- The 2nd Meeting of Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean was held in Marrakech during the COP22 on Climate Change and a new guide for environmental journalists was released.
- IUCN-Med and IDDRI presented an initiative to reflect on the implementation of nature-based solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions through case studies in Morocco and Tunisia at the COP22 on Climate Change in Marrakech.
- The Life Blue Natura project held a conference on coastal carbon sink conservation of seagrass and coastal wetlands in Andalusia.
- Spain welcomed Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia to a workshop in Tarifa to identify the best strategies for reducing the impact of powerlines on the mortality of birds of prey.
- Regional workshop in Tanger to validate CEPF Mediterranean Ecosystem Profile gathered institutions to agree on key priorities for conservation in Mediterranean.



- The IUCN 2016 regional assessment of the Mediterranean Sea revealed that at least half of the rays (50%, 16 of 32 species) and 56% of the sharks (23 of 41 species) face a high risk of extinction.





2nd meeting of the environmental journalists from Mediterranean News agencies at Marrakech during COP 22  
©IUCN/Pilar Valbuena

# INFORMING THE MARE NOSTRUM

## SPREADING THE MESSAGE

### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

The transfer of conservation knowledge and skills to Mediterranean people is crucial in the fight against biodiversity loss. At a technical level, various demonstration and capacity-building actions have been organised within IUCN-Med projects to improve ecosystem and species management for conservation. Open events have also been held to communicate the importance of Mediterranean nature-based solutions and biodiversity protection, including a film forum.

The digital outreach of IUCN knowledge products has been reinforced at various levels, including on the official IUCN website. IUCN-Med has been working to increase public access to key information on Mediterranean biodiversity and IUCN-Med conservation initiatives through the following channels:

- Enriched georeferenced information tools for data sharing and better decision making across borders, with new data sets from Spain and Morocco and documents on the protection of natural resources now included in the **Alboran Geoportal** involving Spain, Morocco and Algeria. <http://www.iucn-geoportalboran.org/es/>
- The compilation of key IUCN Mediterranean biodiversity data, with a map viewer to show information on the distribution of species and key biodiversity areas in a format that allows the download of GIS layers and the presentation of material accessible to the general public.
- The launching of a new web group for **Mediterranean journalists and communication officers** to share news and stories about the Mediterranean and its environments, in collaboration with EFEverde and the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies. <http://www.medgreenjournalism.net/>
- Stronger presence on **social media** through specific campaigns and the posting of IUCN content to increase

the number of followers on Twitter ([https://twitter.com/IUCN\\_Med](https://twitter.com/IUCN_Med)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNMed/>) and LinkedIn.

Face-to-face training sessions and workshops have also continued to be an important component of IUCN-Med projects. To mention a few examples, the PPI-OSCAN initiative is helping CSOs in four North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) to develop 37 field projects and contribute to the implementation of strategies and national action plans for **biodiversity conservation** and enhancement, the sustainable management of natural resources, and the mitigation of negative climate change effects. Various workshops dealing with sustainable tourism products have also helped improve the capacity of Mediterranean tour operators and PA managers to deploy better ecological services and products in protected areas. Emblematic species conservation strategies and action plans for North Africa have brought together government authorities, researchers and CSOs to work 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 macaque in Algeria, seagrass meadows as carbon sinks and migratory raptors across countries. IUCN-Med is also collaborating with the University of Cadiz to provide practical training in red listing.

### DISSEMINATION AND EVENTS

IUCN-Med **news, publications and reports** have been distributed in electronic format to Members and partners in the region, with a significant decrease in the number of hard-copy materials sent out, thus reducing our paper consumption. The IUCN Secretariat's involvement in regional meetings and events in support of Members and partners has 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 since they are essential for the implementation of conservation activities in the Mediterranean. In particular, the participation of IUCN-Med staff in the **World Conservation Congress** in Hawaii resulted in international exposure for initiatives like MEET for sustainable tourism in protected areas and the Green List for acknowledging well-managed protected areas. It also raised awareness of the importance of plant areas in the Mediterranean, highlighted the danger facing forest ecosystems in Morocco, and promoted citizen science for monitoring data cold spots.

### PRESS AND WEB CONTENTS

The events organised back-to-back with the **COP22 on Climate Change** have helped spread the importance of cooperation between governments, scientists and civil society, with the active participation of committed media. The encounter jointly organised by IUCN-Med and the Spanish news agency EFE in conjunction with the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN) from 11 to 13 November 2016 in Morocco brought together more than 45 journalists and climate change experts who are now better empowered to disseminate environmental news at regional level. It was also the occasion for IUCN to present its new publication **Environmental information in the Mediterranean: A journalist's guide to key questions and institutions**, with contributions from 14 journalists in the region.

A new online group has been created for environmental journalists interested in the Mediterranean.

During the year, IUCN-Med released nine international and six national press releases and answered a large number of media enquiries, particularly regarding invasive species, such as the lionfish, and the updated IUCN Red List of Mediterranean Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras.

### RAISING AWARENESS

In partnership with IUCN Member Malaga Council, IUCN-Med celebrated **World Environment Day** on 5 June by organising our second microstory competition under the United Nations motto 'Go Wild for Life'.

More than 80 participants from 18 countries met from 24 to 29 October for the 1st **Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week** in Ulcinj (Montenegro), with the objective of building a network to conserve plants and cultural diversity across the Mediterranean region. This interactive meeting provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the essential role of local people in conserving the Mediterranean flora and to explore cross-regional cooperation to support cultural conservation practices and community conservation areas.

Complementing the COP22 in November, an environmental film forum was organised in collaboration with Cadi Ayyad University and the Higher Institute for Visual Arts in Marrakech. Five documentaries were scheduled under the slogan 'Climate change: understand and act', followed by a debate with Moroccan experts and students.



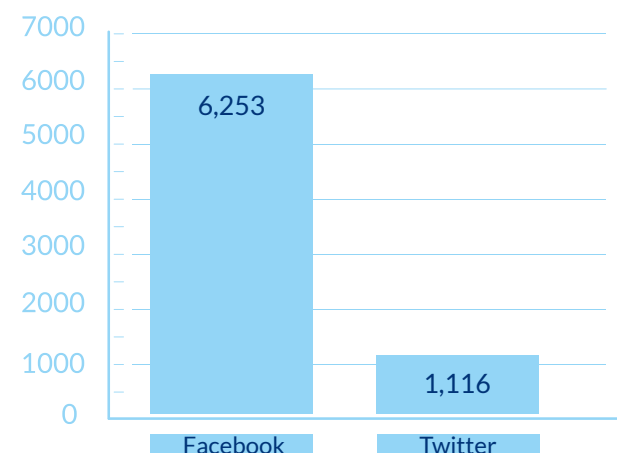
Poster for the 2016 cycle of cinema-debate held in Marrakech in October 2016  
©IUCN

## SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

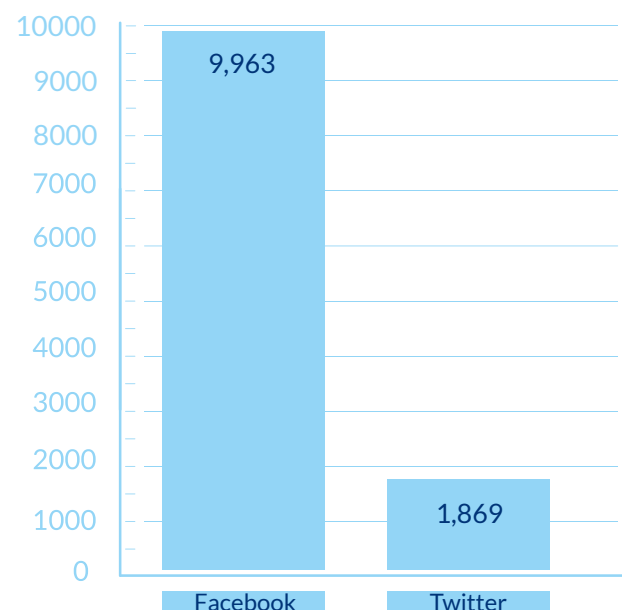
In line with IUCN's current efforts to reach a wider audience, new communication strategies have been developed to expand our presence on social media. Since the creation

of our Twitter account in October 2013 and our Facebook page in June 2014, the number of IUCN-Med followers has grown significantly, reaching 9,963 followers on Facebook (an increase of 51% over the year), and 1,869 on Twitter (an 81% increase). This is the result of more regular information feeds and the creation of new IUCN content for that purpose.

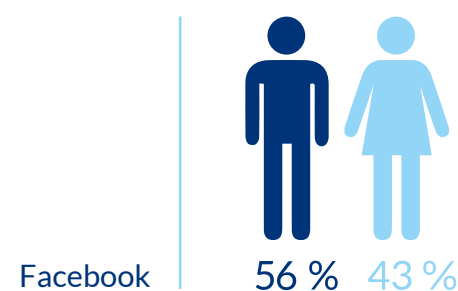
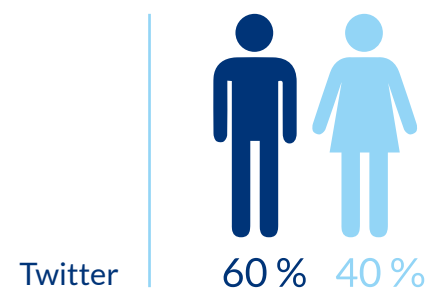
## NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS



December 2015



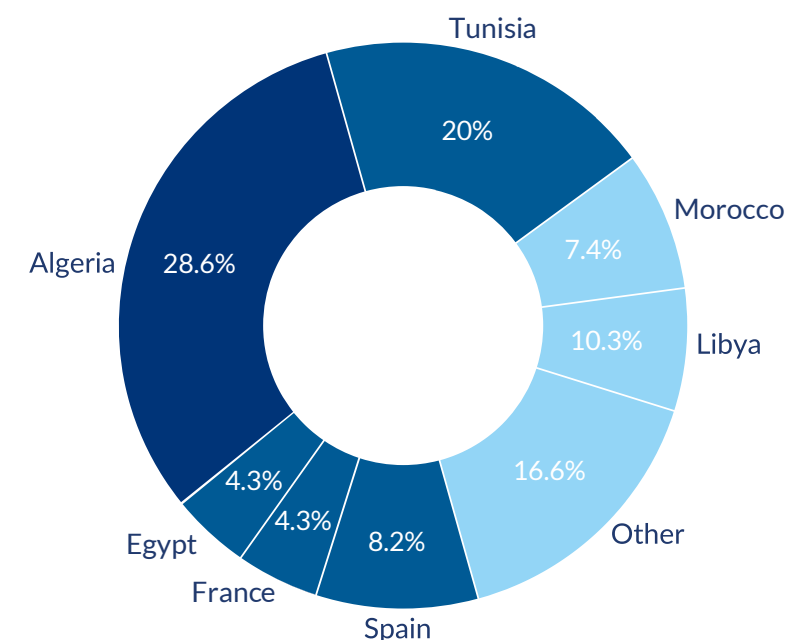
December 2016



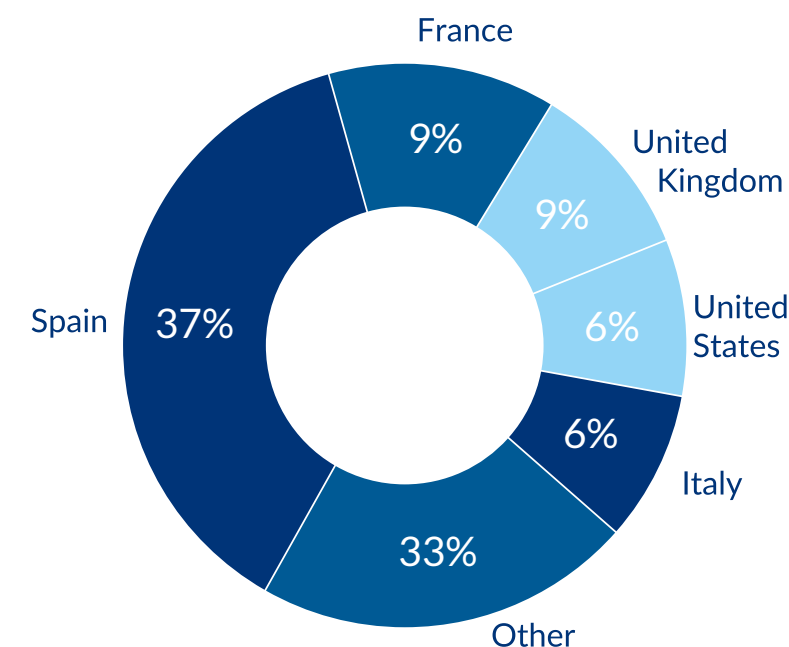
## FOLLOWERS GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



### Facebook followers geographical distribution



### Twitter followers geographical distribution



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

mostly located in Europe. Please see our publications and multimedia section to access the various portals and project websites developed to date.



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## CORE DONORS

The work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation owes its existence to the generosity, trust and credibility provided by a growing number of associates and partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions, non-governmental organisations, foundations, corporations and individuals. The fundamental support provided by the Regional Department of Environment and Land Planning of the Junta de Andalucía

(CMAyOT), the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) through their agreements with IUCN is crucial for maintaining the Centre's operations. The five-year agreement with the MAVA Foundation to support operational costs and activities in the Mediterranean has proved vital for IUCN's activities in the Mediterranean, for which we are extremely grateful.

## DONORS

In addition to the core office support for IUCN-Med provided by our main donors, individual projects and activities in 2016 have received funding from the following organisations:



Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)



French Agency for Development (Agence Française de Développement-AFD)



Habitec Foundation



Fundación Biodiversidad (FB)



Regional Ministry of Environment and Land planning, Junta de Andalucía (CMAOT)



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



Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)



Ernest Kleinwort Foundation (Balkans)



European Commission Life+ Programme



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Headquarters



MAVA Foundation



Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAPAMA)



European Commission EuropeAid



European Commission Med Programme



French Global Environment Facility (Fonds Français pour l'environnement Mondial-FFEM)



European Commission ENPI CBCMed Programme



Spanish National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN)

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The work of IUCN-Med in partnership with organisations linked to IUCN, including Members, Commissions and other institutions, is reflected in the 13 new cooperation agreements signed in 2016 with the following institutions:

- Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, Bahrain
- Biosfera, Cabo Verde
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF), Algeria
- Fundación Monte Mediterráneo (FMM), Spain
- Green Home, Montenegro
- Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales, France
- Institut Scientifique Université Mohammed V Rabat, Morocco
- Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza, Spain
- Junta de Andalucía, Conserjería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio, Spain
- OPTIMA, France
- The American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Beyond the formal signing 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 organisations 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 six years we have seen a significant growth in the number of Members in the region, from 170 in 2010 to 228 by the end of 2016. Membership of 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 organisation working alone.

IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN	
State Members	11
Government Agencies	22
International NGOs	12
National NGOs	168
Affiliates	15
TOTAL	228
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24)	22

IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA	
State Members	3
Government Agencies	-
International NGOs	1
National NGOs	21
Affiliates	-
TOTAL	25
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5)	4

IUCN's six Commissions rely on more than 16,000 international experts, more than 1,600 of whom are from Mediterranean countries.

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (2013-2016)	
World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	248
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	1026
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	111
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	116
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	116
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	116
TOTAL	1784

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA (2013-2016)	
World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	39
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	71
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	40
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	24
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	9
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	10
TOTAL	193

## NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### EGYPT

- Arab Network for Environment and Development
- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe

### FRANCE

- Nature Reserves of France

### ITALY

- Emergenza Sorrisi, Doctors for Smiling Children

### JORDAN

- Basmet Elkhair Women's Charitable Association
- Faculty of Science / American University of Madaba
- Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities Members in the Environmental and Educational Fields
- Haya Cultural Center
- Jordan Society for the Conservation of Turtles & Tortoises
- Jordanian Beekeeper's Union
- Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs
- West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Institute

### MOROCCO

- Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre
- Association Marocaine pour la Chasse Durable

### PALESTINE

- Land Research Center
- Palestinian Livestock Development Center
- Union of Agricultural work Committee

### SPAIN

- Consellería de Medio Ambiente e Ordenación do Territorio, Xunta de Galicia
- Fundación Entretantos

### TURKEY

- KuzeyDoga Society

### TUNISIA

- Bizerte Association for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

During 2016, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been implementing a number of projects with the support

of the following IUCN Members and Commission experts in the region.

### ALGERIA

Ministère des Ressources en Eau et de l'Environnement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening Biosphere Reserve management in North Africa</li> <li>Regional Programme on Small-Scale Initiatives for CSOs in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN)</li> <li>Validation of a conservation strategy for the Barbary Macaque in Algeria</li> </ul>
Mouvement écologique algérien	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of powerlines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean</li> </ul>

### SPAIN

Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio – Junta de Andalucía (CMAyOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation of a training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of powerlines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean</li> <li>Support for Green List Promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe</li> <li>Participation in two LIFE projects: LIFE BLUE NATURA and LIFE ADAPTAMED</li> </ul>
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involvement in the Workshop on Blue Carbon-Life Blue Nature</li> <li>Associated Partner in Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: building resilience and adaptation-MPA-Adapt project</li> </ul>
IUCN Spanish National Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>XII IUCN Spanish Members Congress</li> <li>Knowledge Café at the IUCN World Conservation Forum</li> </ul>
Ayuntamiento de Málaga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebration of 2016 World Environment Day</li> </ul>
Fundación Biodiversidad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alboran geoportal: Identification of new GIS layers on biodiversity in the Alboran Sea</li> </ul>

Fundación Monte Mediterráneo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in a bioblitz for improving knowledge and raising awareness of biodiversity in Mediterranean wooded pastures (dehesa)</li> </ul>
Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat, Generalitat de Catalunya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the MEET Network Association</li> </ul>
Europarc, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe</li> </ul>

### FRANCE

Parks Nationaux de France Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network (MedPAN) IUCN French Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the MEET Network Association</li> <li>Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe</li> </ul>
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### MOROCCO

Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature-based solutions in NDC</li> <li>Regional Programme on Small-Scale Initiatives for CSOs in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN)</li> <li>Strengthening Biosphere Reserve management in North Africa</li> <li>Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of powerlines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean</li> </ul>
Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional workshop on hunting management and its implications for nature conservation in North Africa</li> </ul>
Association Ribat Al Fath (Rabat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of powerlines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean</li> </ul>
Association AGIR (Alhoceima)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional workshop on hunting management and its implications for nature conservation in North Africa</li> </ul>

### ITALY

Federparchi Europarc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the MEET Network Association</li> <li>Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe</li> </ul>
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JORDAN

Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of the MEET Network Association</li></ul>
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LEBANON

Al Shouf Cedar Society (ASCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of the MEET Network Association</li></ul>
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TUNISIA

Ministère du Développement local et de l'Environnement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nature-based solutions in National Determined Contributions (NDC)</li><li>National Workshop on Protected Areas comanagement in Tunisia</li><li>Regional Programme on Small-Scale Initiatives for CSOs in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN)</li><li>Strengthening Biosphere Reserve management in North Africa</li><li>Regional workshop on hunting management and its implications for nature conservation in North Africa</li></ul>
Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage	
Fédération Nationale des Associations de Chasse et des Associations de Chasse Spécialisées	

UNITED KINGDOM

Plantlife international	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implementation of regional initiative codirected with one Member and one Commission on Important Plant Areas (15 countries, 20 partners)</li></ul>
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Association de Développement de l'Apiculture de la Métidja Bida (Algeria) working on the economic valorisation of pollen production ©IUCN/PPI-OSCAN



IUCN COMMISSIONS

Total: 79 Commission experts involved

Specialist Group	Activity/ Work
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SSC 62 EXPERTS

8 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	IUCN Red List Assessment Review Workshop – Athens
1 IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group	
4 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	IUCN Red List Assessment Review Workshop – Rabat
2 IUCN SSC Freshwater Plant Specialist Group	
2 IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority	Publication: Conservation strategy and action plan for the Great Bustard ( <i>Otis tarda</i> ) in Morocco 2016–2025. Malaga: IUCN, HCEFLCD, 2016.
1 IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Subcommittee	
1 IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group	
1 IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group	Publication: Identification de la mortalité des rapaces par électrocution dans le sud-ouest du Maroc (Raptor mortality due to electrocution in south-western Morocco). Malaga: IUCN, 2016
1 IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority	
1 IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group	Publication: The conservation status of Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras in the Mediterranean Sea. Malaga: IUCN, 2016
3 IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group	
1 IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Subcommittee	Workshop: Conservation Strategy for the Barbary macaque in Algeria
1 IUCN SCC Primate Specialist Group	





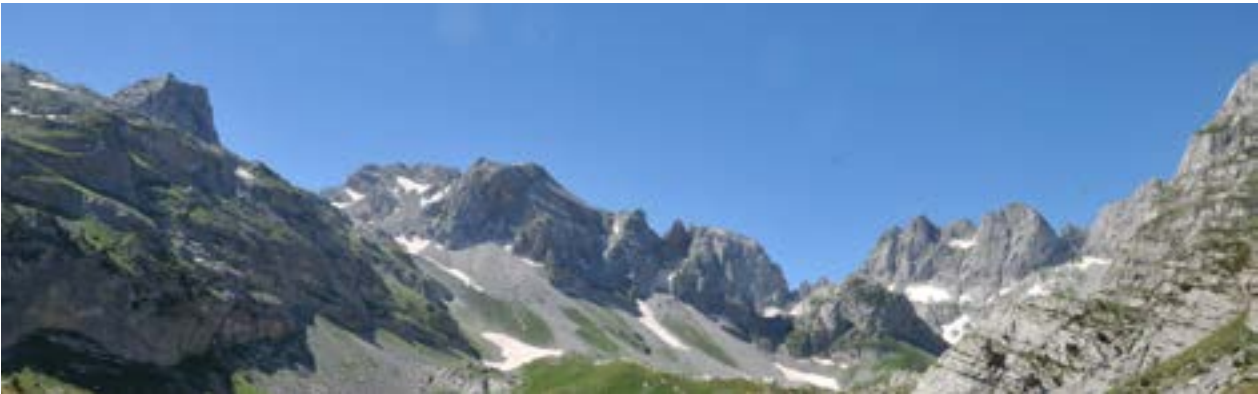


Specialist Group	Activity/ Work
1 IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group	Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of powerlines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean
1 IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority	
1 IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group	Fact sheet: 'The IUCN Red List of seahorses and pipefishes in the Mediterranean Sea'
13 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week
12 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	Med Monocot Red List
2 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	IPA Cabo Verde
1 IUCN SSC Butterfly Specialist Group	Publication: The status and distribution of Mediterranean butterflies. Malaga: IUCN, 2016
4 IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	CEPF Ecosystem Profile update

CEM: Commission on Ecosystems Management

SSC: Species Survival Commission

WCPA: World Commissio on Protected Areas



Specialist Group	Activity/ Work
WCPA 13 EXPERTS	
1 IUCN SSC/WCPA Protected Areas and Biodiversity Task Force	Publication: The status and distribution of Mediterranean butterflies. Malaga: IUCN, 2016
8 WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Group (TAPAS)	1 expert - Joint draft of Mediterranean experience of eco-tourism: MEET manual
	1 expert - Organisation of training on limit of acceptable change for tourism in Mediterranean PAs
	1 expert - Continuous information and update to TAPAS about work on tourism and PAs at Mediterranean level
	5 experts - Organisation of a section on regional sustainable tourism initiatives during WCC
1 WCPA	Study on co-management of protected areas in Tunisia
3 WCPA	Training course on socio ecological planning of protected areas

CEM 4 EXPERTS	
1 CEM	Participatory governance models for information on climate change adaptation in three protected areas in Andalusia
2 CEM	Peer review study on economic value of ecosystem services in Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia
1 CEM	Nature-based solutions in INDC (Morocco and Tunisia)

Prokletije National Park, Montenegro ©Boris Erg

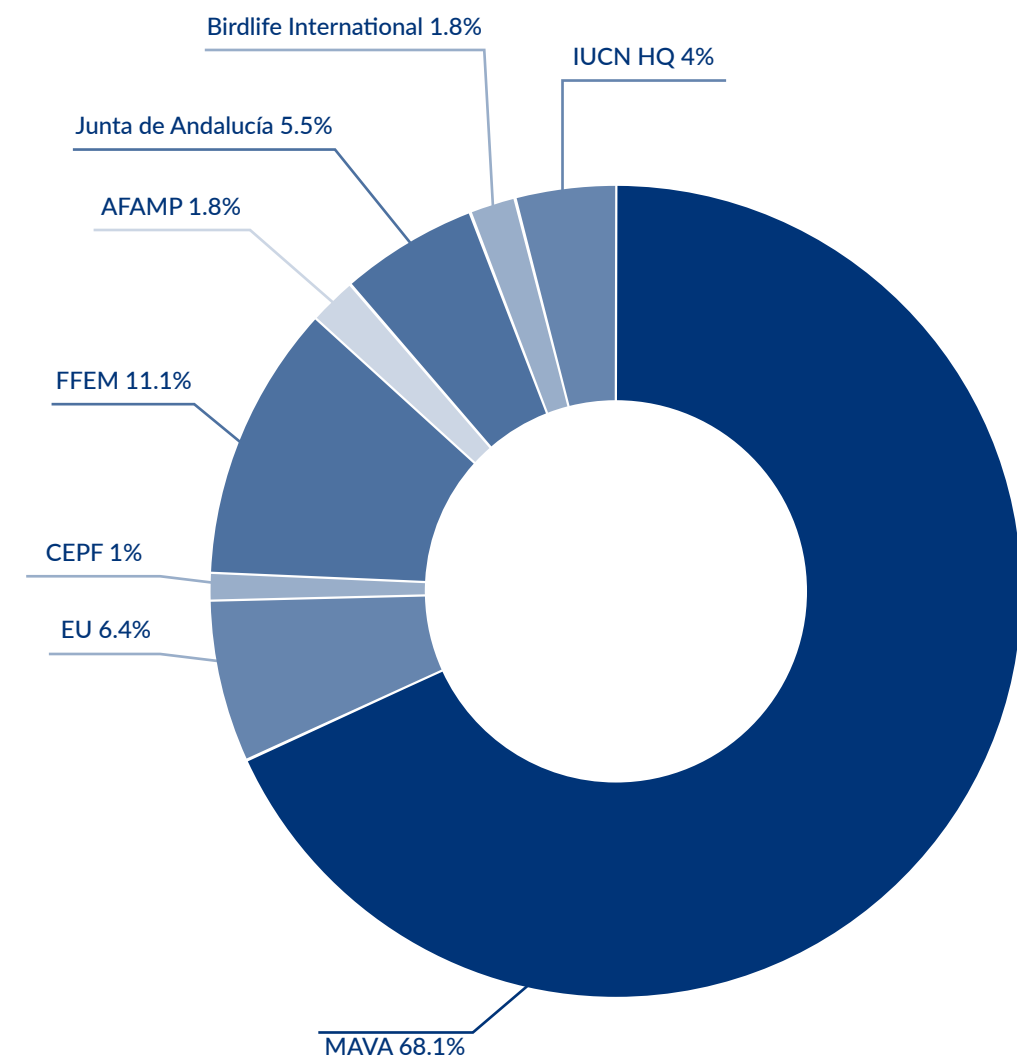


# REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2016 IUCN-Med has managed around 20 projects with a budget of approximately €2.5 million. Of this, 68.1% came from the MAVA Foundation, 11.1% from the FFEM, 6.4% from




the European Union, and 5.5% from Andalusia's Regional Government (CMAyOT). The rest was from the IUCN Global Programme, AFAMP, Birdlife International, CEPF and Oceana.

Funding percentage per donor of 2016











GENERAL OPERATIONS

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>Junta de Andalucía</b> Office Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	To 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>MAPAMA</b> Office Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	To 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 y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAPAMA)
<b>MAVA</b> Office and Activity Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	To finance part of IUCN-Med staff, office and activity costs according to a joint programme with five main strategic areas and yearly work plans	MAVA Foundation
<b>IUCN Global Programme</b> Office Support  <i>Ongoing</i>	To finance part of IUCN-Med operational costs	IUCN

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME




PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
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, MAPAMA, AECID
Structure and development of Mediterranean <b>Species Action Plans</b>  <i>Ongoing</i>	To build capacity to produce Species Conservation Strategies in three Maghreb countries.	MAVA Foundation, Fundación Biodiversidad

NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME




PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>Support to conservation</b> in North Africa  <i>Ongoing</i>	To provide institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme.	MAVA Foundation
<b>Key Biodiversity Areas</b> in North Africa  <i>Completed</i>	To promote the value of Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa by strengthening the role of NGOs in their management and conservation.	CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund)
<b>PPI-OSCAN</b> Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa  <i>Ongoing</i>	To strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations through the implementation of site projects on biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources.	MAVA Foundation, IUCN Global
Strengthening partnerships for the sound and efficient management and governance of <b>BIOSPHERE RESERVES</b> in the Mediterranean  <i>Completed</i>	To prepare a roadmap for the management of Biosphere Reserves in North African countries and validate it in a joint workshop with managers and stakeholders.	OAPN



MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL  
ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>MEET</b> Mediterranean Experience on Ecotourism  <b>Completed</b>	To improve the sustainability and rationalisation of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region. In the framework of cross-border cooperation, under the strategic heading of 'Promoting sustainable tourism for the socio-economic development and enhancement of territories', this strategic project involves 10 countries: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Spain and Tunisia.	European Union (ENPI)
<b>IUCN Green List</b> Protected Areas  <b>Ongoing</b>	To coordinate the Mediterranean European contribution to the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas with effective management plans	OAPN
<b>IPA-Med</b> Conserving wild plants and habitats for people in the South and East Mediterranean  <b>Ongoing</b>	To work on Important Plant Areas to help and encourage citizens, management authorities, local and national governments, experts and NGOs to conserve this subset of Key Biodiversity Areas, with special emphasis on 24 IPAs in Algeria, Lebanon, Macedonia FYR, Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey.	MAVA Foundation, EuropeAid (Macedonia), Ernest Kleinwort Foundation (Balkans)




MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL  
ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>LIFE AdaptaMed</b> Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of Climate Change endangered Mediterranean Socioecosystems  <b>Ongoing</b>	To mitigate the negative effect of climate change on key ecosystem services that representative Mediterranean Natural Protected Areas provide to local inhabitants and their socio-economic sector in a Mediterranean wetland (Doñana), a high mountain range (Sierra Nevada) and a subdesert coastal area (Cabo de Gata), Spain.	European Union (Life), Aguas Font Vella y Lanjarón S.A.
<b>DestiMED</b> Mediterranean Ecotourism Destination: main components (joint planning, monitoring, management and promotion) for a governance system in Mediterranean protected areas  <b>Started in Nov 2016</b>	To prepare the ground for a Mediterranean destination management organisation (DMO) to harmonise quality standards and tools so as to monitor compliance and promote attractive ecotourism provision in protected areas.	EU – Interreg MED MAVA








MEDITERRANEAN MARINE  
PROGRAMME

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>PROMETEOS</b> Protection of the Mediterranean Open Seas <b>Completed</b>	To provide the best information available on mountains and sea canyons and to research some case studies.	MAVA Foundation
<b>Life Natura Blue</b>          <b>Ongoing</b>	To quantify carbon deposits and sequestration rates of seagrass meadows and marsh habitats in Andalusia in order to evaluate the environmental services provided by these habitats in mitigating climate change; and to explore and encourage existing initiatives to finance projects to conserve and restore blue carbon sink-habitats through climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, with special emphasis on carbon emissions trading or carbon markets.	European Union (Life), Cepsa
<b>Invasive alien species</b> in Mediterranean marine protected areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network  <b>Ongoing</b>	To improve the monitoring of invasive species in marine protected areas through the use of the MedMIS tools in Spain and the Mediterranean.	Fundación Biodiversidad, MAVA Foundation, AFAMP
<b>Deep-Sea Lebanon</b>          <b>Ongoing</b>	To fulfil Lebanon's commitments towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and target the protection of at least 10% of marine eco-regions in the world by 2020. It follows the adoption of The Lebanon Marine Protected Areas Strategy in 2012, in which four deep-sea sites were identified as potential MPAs.	OCEANA, MAVA Foundation
<b>French Framework Agreement -</b> Mediterranean MPA/ICZM          <b>Completed</b>	To analyse the situation of marine protected areas and review the legislation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (joint initiatives of the French authorities and IUCN Global).	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

MEDITERRANEAN MARINE  
PROGRAMME

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<b>FishMPABlue2</b> Fishing governance in MPAs: Potentialities for a Blue Economy          <b>Started in Nov 2016</b>	To test and demonstrate the effectiveness of the region-based governance toolkit developed by the original FishMPABlue project, which carried out an analysis of the management of small-scale fisheries (SSF) within and around a set of Mediterranean MPAs. The toolkit is designed to strengthen MPA management capacity.	EU – Interreg MED MAVA Foundation
<b>POSBEMED</b> Sustainable management of the <i>Posidonia seagrass</i> meadow and beach systems in the Mediterranean region          <b>Started in Nov 2016</b>	To manage conflicts and opportunities along the Mediterranean coast, particularly coastal protected areas and Natura 2000 habitats where interdependence between seagrass meadows, dunes and beaches occurs, and to develop a Mediterranean strategy and governance model for more effective management.	EU – Interreg MED MAVA Foundation
<b>MPA-ADAPT</b> Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: building resilience and adaptation          <b>Started in Nov 2016</b>	Develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for MPAs that enhance their resilience to climate change impacts.	EU – Interreg MED MAVA Foundation

CORPORATE  
PROGRAMME

<b>EUObs</b> Eco-neighbourhoods versus rehabilitation  <b>Completed</b>	Improve neighbourhoods that are obsolete in terms of sustainability by providing models for the analysis of urban land and ecosystem management based on IUCN's experience.	Habitec Foundation
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# 2017 PROGRAMME FORECAST

## MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation will continue working with the French, Italian and Spanish governments to coordinate the Mediterranean European dimension within the IUCN **Green List of Protected Areas** (GLPA). The GLPA is intended to highlight global successes in protected areas, acknowledging the efforts made primarily in management. A proposed project assessing the feasibility of applying the Green List procedure to the terrestrial Natura 2000 Network aims to expand work in this area to include North African countries.

In relation to ecotourism, IUCN-Med will coordinate a new regional initiative for the development of new tourism sustainability monitoring tools and participatory processes for the creation and promotion of ecotourism products. The ecological footprint of at least 10 Mediterranean tourism destinations will be assessed and the outcomes will feed into IUCN resolution WCC060 on ecotourism standards.

In parallel, we will continue supporting the network created through the MEET project to expand the **Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism** beyond the 25 protected areas participating as pilot sites, with the involvement of 8 different countries. IUCN-Med is a board member and holds the new association's Secretariat.

An improved methodology will be developed for identifying, improving awareness of and implementing conservation actions in **Important Plant Areas** (IPAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the Mediterranean. Field actions are to be conducted in 12 IPAs to control invasive species and protect endangered species. The 5th Mediterranean Forest Week will be organised in Morocco in 2017.

IUCN-Med is also participating in the development of the **Red List of Habitats** in Europe, an area where 47 marine habitats have been assessed for the first time. Based on the experience gained during the preparation of the Red List of Forest Ecosystems in Morocco, further work is expected for Lebanon and/or Tunisia.

## MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES

The regional **Mediterranean biodiversity assessments** will continue in 2017, in particular with the publication of results for 500 species of monocot plants and the evaluation of 50 species of endemic trees and shrubs in North Africa. Several events will be organised to present the current status of Mediterranean Biodiversity assessments and the Red List methodology, with a view to promoting national Red Lists of Threatened Species in Mediterranean countries.

Among the activities planned, IUCN-Med will work on a feasibility analysis for estimating a Red List Index for wetland species and identifying potential trigger species in groups currently not included in the study of **Key Biodiversity Areas** in the southern Mediterranean. Furthermore, actions to control and eradicate invasive plant species in selected pilot IPAs in countries such as Macedonia and Montenegro will be tested with the support of civil society.

Plans for 2017 also include a proposal to **improve the conservation status** of large carnivores and their coexistence with people, work to promote the development of rural populations in the Mediterranean, actions for protecting migratory birds and the development of conservation strategies for new species such as freshwater molluscs in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the IUCN SSC.



Mediterranean coastline ©Philip Haslett - CC BY-SA 2.0

## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Collaboration with the Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers (MedPAN) will continue to improve the monitoring of **climate change** and invasive species, and an updated report on Mediterranean Marine Protected Area members of the network will be published.

New projects under way will help assess the **carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems** such as marshes and seagrass beds in the Alboran Sea. The Centre will also be updating the information included in the Alboran geoportal. Mediterranean seagrass and dune ecosystems and their management will also be among the key tasks for the year under the new EU funded Interreg Med project Posbemed.

The involvement of the fishing community as a key stakeholder will be sought in devising nature-based solutions both in protected areas and in other areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the testing of co-management mechanisms and participatory approaches for **fisheries** in MPAs.

The MedMIS tool for monitoring **marine invasive alien species** (IAS) in Mediterranean MPAs is expected to be improved and to be used by additional countries.

## NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

Two significant projects for North Africa will continue in 2017: the Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN), strengthening the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, which to date has helped 37 local initiatives; and Promoting the Value of Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa through the involvement of civil society organisations in their conservation and management, operating in four countries in North Africa.

In addition to this, IUCN-Med will be promoting the participation of North African Members and partners in current and future work for the region, particularly in the evaluation of management effectiveness in protected areas and biosphere reserves using IUCN Green List criteria, the analysis of the vulnerability of freshwater KBAs to climate change in North Africa and the preparation of a training course for bird monitoring across waters.

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

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 IUCN Members, Commissions, new partners and other regional offices will be pursued. Just as the cooperation agreements signed with 13 different organisations and partners brought in new projects this year, IUCN-Med will keep working towards a stronger Mediterranean network for the protection of nature.

The IUCN-Med management will continue to strengthen collaborative links with governmental Members and key international and regional institutions in the Mediterranean with a view to developing joint initiatives, and with local and national partners and institutions to implement local actions.





# PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2016

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, FACTSHEETS...

## MARINE PROGRAMME

### ASSESSMENTS OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN ALBANIA, CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO

The three separate country reports provide information on the legal and policy frameworks for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including governance and management, and identify the main gaps in existing procedures and decision-making processes for the creation of MPAs. Furthermore, the reports make general recommendations to assist MPA managers and national and local policy makers in improving MPA systems and sources of funding in each country. They have been published as part of the MedMPANet project to promote the establishment of new MPAs.

Reports available in English and the respective national language (Albanian, Croatian or Montenegrin).



## MARINE PROGRAMME

### ATLAS OF SEAGRASS MEADOWS IN SPAIN

This publication is the first to be produced at a national level addressing the distribution and ecological status of underwater seagrass meadows along the Spanish coast. The Atlas has been coordinated by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), IUCN-Med and the Institute of Littoral Ecology (IEL).

Report available in English.



### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION SYNERGIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The report provides information to underpin the outcomes of COP21 and in particular to demonstrate the importance of the role of MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Prepared by the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme, it was presented during the COP22 in Marrakech with the Mediterranean contribution, bringing together scientific information on how MPAs can help to solve climate change issues in coastal and marine ecosystems. The focus is on ocean warming, sea-level rise, changing currents and other associated phenomena, and covers all marine ecosystems from coastal to open and deep sea.

Book available in English.





MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME



CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREAT BUSTARD (*OTIS TARDA*) IN MOROCCO 2016–2025

The Moroccan population of the Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, a Vulnerable species according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, is small and declining, surviving mainly in two breeding areas (leks) and numbering some 40 to 50 birds. The goal is that by 2025 the key leks of Araoua and Tleta-Rissana will be safeguarded by appropriate national designations and strong community support, with the Great Bustard population increased to 80–100 birds and starting to expand into former areas.

Book available in French (printed and online) and English (online version only).



THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDITERRANEAN BUTTERFLIES

In the Mediterranean region 463 species of butterflies are recorded, 98 of them endemic (which means that they are unique to the Mediterranean and found nowhere else in the world). Overall, about 5% (19 species) of butterflies are threatened in the Mediterranean region. The highest diversity of butterflies is found in mountainous areas in southern Turkey, northern Greece and southern France.

Book available in English.



THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF SHARKS, RAYS AND CHIMAERAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The IUCN 2016 regional assessment updated the one released 10 years ago with information on 73 species. This regional assessment reveals that at least half of the rays (50%, 16 of 32 species) and 56% of the sharks (23 of 41) face a high risk of extinction, whereas the only chimaera species (*Chimaera monstrosa*) is considered to be of Least Concern in the Mediterranean Sea. Angel sharks are among the most threatened families of chondrichthyans, along with sawfishes and guitarfishes.

Brochure including selected species factsheets available in English.



RAPTOR MORTALITY DUE TO ELECTROCUTION IN SOUTH-WESTERN MOROCCO

Based on the recommendations of a workshop on Transboundary Cooperation and Birds of Prey in the Mediterranean in 2015 and field observations, this report quantifies for the first time the impact of electrocution on power lines as a serious threat to the conservation of raptor populations in North Africa.

Bilingual version available in French and Spanish.



MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME



FACTSHEET: MEDITERRANEAN ANTHOZOANS

A total of 136 species of anthozoans native to the Mediterranean Sea have been assessed for the IUCN Red List. Nearly 13% are threatened and for more than half of the species there is not enough information to estimate their risk of extinction. Anthozoans include deep-sea and shallow-water corals, gorgonians, zoanthids, sea anemones and sea pens. By-catch and physical damage from fishing techniques are the main causes of decline.

Factsheet available in English.

ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME



MEDITERRANEAN EXPERIENCE OF ECOTOURISM: MEET MANUAL: A GUIDE TO DISCOVER THE MEET APPROACH

In the past three years, the MEET project has supported 25 protected areas (PAs) in the Mediterranean region in developing sustainable tourism and improving their ecotourism provision. Building on the knowledge, experience and lessons learned from eight Mediterranean countries (France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Spain and Tunisia), the MEET Network has released the MEET Manual – A guide to discover the MEET approach. The main objective of this manual is to provide local people, businesses, NGOs and especially protected area managers with clear guidance on planning and improving ecotourism in their areas. Technical series paper available in English.



HABITAT MAPPING IN IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS: A METHODOLOGY HANDBOOK

This study is designed to propose habitat mapping methodologies, and to coordinate training workshops to enable national teams to incorporate habitat information into their work programme. It is part of a project focusing on Important Plant Areas (IPAs): sites of international importance for plants. IPAs are designated according to a set of defined criteria, based primarily on the occurrence of threatened species, species richness and the presence of threatened habitats. The handbook plus an analysis of habitat mapping in the South and East Mediterranean are both available from the Centre for Middle Eastern Plants IPA Med Documentation Platform.

Book available in English and French.



## NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME



### SMALL INITIATIVES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN NORTH AFRICA (PPI-OSCAN)

This brochure describes the 37 projects funded by PPI-OSCAN. 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 action plans for conservation and biodiversity enhancement, sustainable management of natural resources, and mitigation of negative climate change effects.

Brochure available in French and Arabic.



### THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE ICHKEUL NATIONAL PARK, TUNISIA

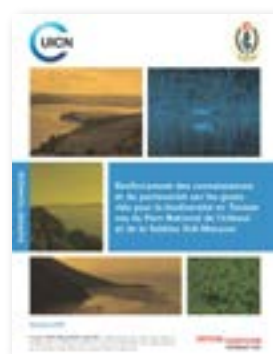
This study has been published in the framework of the project 'Promoting the value of key biodiversity areas in North Africa through the involvement of civil society organisations in their conservation and management', funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Technical report available in French.

### STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE AND PARTNERSHIPS IN KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS: THE CASES OF THE DJURDJURA NATIONAL PARK IN ALGERIA; THE TOUBKAL AND IFRANE NATIONAL PARKS IN MOROCCO; AND THE ICHKEUL AND SEBKHA SIDI MANSOUR NATIONAL PARKS IN TUNISIA

The project entitled 'Promoting the value of key biodiversity areas in North Africa through the involvement of civil society organisations in their conservation and management', implemented with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), has produced a situation analysis of the economic value of ecosystem services in selected KBAs, namely the Ifrane and Toubkal National Parks in Morocco, the Djurdjura National Park in Algeria, and the Ichkeul and Sebkh Sidi Mansour National Parks in Tunisia. The project has involved knowledge-expansion activities and capacity building for KBA managers from the five sites with the aim of reinforcing the biodiversity hotspots approach and contributing towards a regional strategy for the conservation and management of these sites.

Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia country reports available in French.



## CORPORATE PROGRAMME



### ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A JOURNALIST'S GUIDE TO KEY QUESTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

This guide, designed as a consultation tool for environmental journalists in the Mediterranean region, is the result of the collaboration agreement signed in June 2015 by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) and Agencia EFE in Spain, through EFEverde, with the support of the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN). It was presented at the Second Meeting of Environmental Journalists from Mediterranean News Agencies on 12 November in Marrakech (Morocco) during the COP22 on Climate Change.

Booklet available in French, English and Spanish.



### MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS 2014/2015

A summary of the main IUCN-Med activities carried out within the various programmes operating from Malaga in 2014 and 2015 in collaboration with Mediterranean partners and institutions.

Booklet available in French, English and Spanish.  
Interactive web version in French, English and Spanish.

## VIDEOS



### THE MEDITERRANEAN HOTSPOT: FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION TO PRESERVE ITS BIODIVERSITY

Infographic video about current conservation actions and the conservation status of more than 3,000 species in the Mediterranean, with key figures for all the taxonomic groups assessed in the last 10 years, as well as the Key Biodiversity Areas identified by IUCN-Med. This work helps support countries in planning and implementing conservation measures in line with their commitments under international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi Targets 11 and 12) and the Barcelona Convention.

Video available in English.

## ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

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

- IUCN Mediterranean Flashnews in English, French and Spanish
- IPAMED Network Newsletter in English
- Life ADAPTMED Informa bulletin in English and Spanish
- PPI-OSCAN News in French and Arabic



# THE MALAGA TEAM



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Though there has been a 16% decrease in the number of staff, the new projects starting this year will involve the hiring of more human resources for IUCN-Med.

The following people also worked with us temporarily in 2016 through several cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean:

2016

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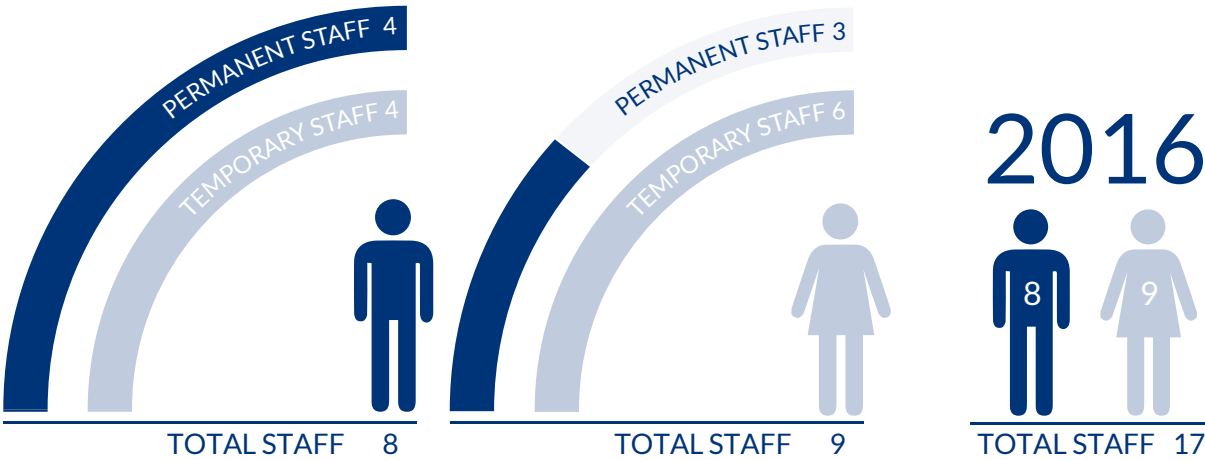
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# ACRONYMS

**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)

**AFD**

French Development Agency (Agence française de développement)

**AMAN**

Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies

**BR**

Biosphere Reserve

**CBD**

Convention on Biological Diversity

**CEM**

IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

**CEPF**

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**CMAyOT**

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

**CMS**

Convention on Migratory Species

**COP**

Conference of Parties

**COPEMED**

Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean

**CSO**

Civil Society Organisation

**DGF**

Forestry Department (Direction Générale des Forêts), Algeria

**DSF**

Deep-Sea Fisheries

**EAZA**

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

**ENPI-MED**

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

**EU**

European Union

**FAO**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**FFEM**

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

**FMM**

Fundación Monte Mediterráneo, Spain

**GFCM**

FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

**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)

**IAS**

Invasive Alien Species

**IBA**

Important Bird Area

**ICZM**

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

**IDDRI**

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales), Paris

**IEL**

Institute of Littoral Ecology (Instituto de Ecología Litoral), Alicante, Spain

**IEO**

Spanish Institute of Oceanography (Instituto Español de Oceanografía)

**INDC**

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

**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

**MAPAMA**

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

**MCSD**

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

**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

**MEET**

Mediterranean Experience on Eco-tourism project

**MPA**

Marine Protected Area

**MSSD**

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

**NDC**

Nationally Determined Contributions

**NGO**

Non-Governmental Organisation

**OAPN**

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

**OPTIMA**

Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area

**PA**

Protected Area

**PPI-OSCAN**

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

**RAC/SPA**

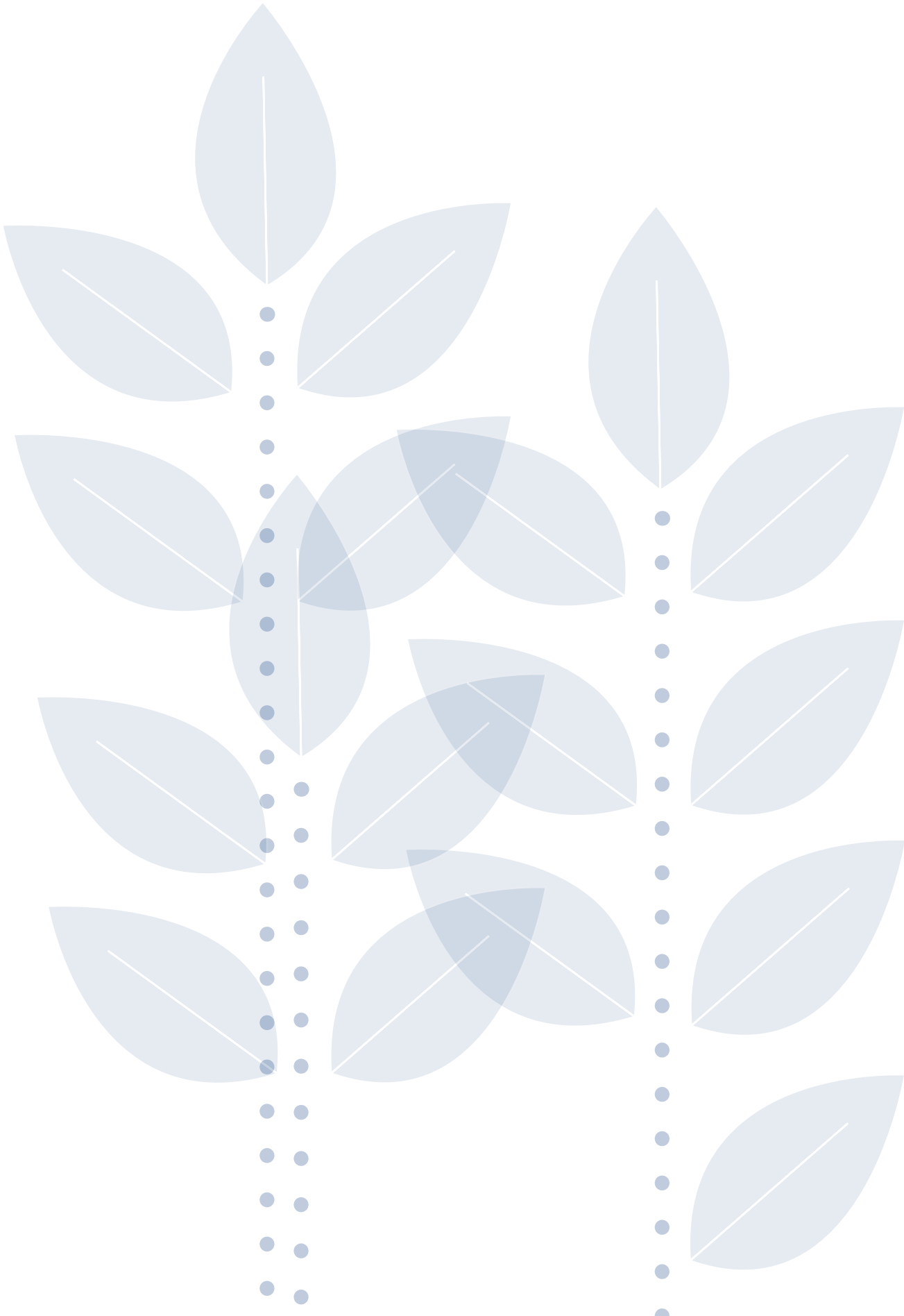
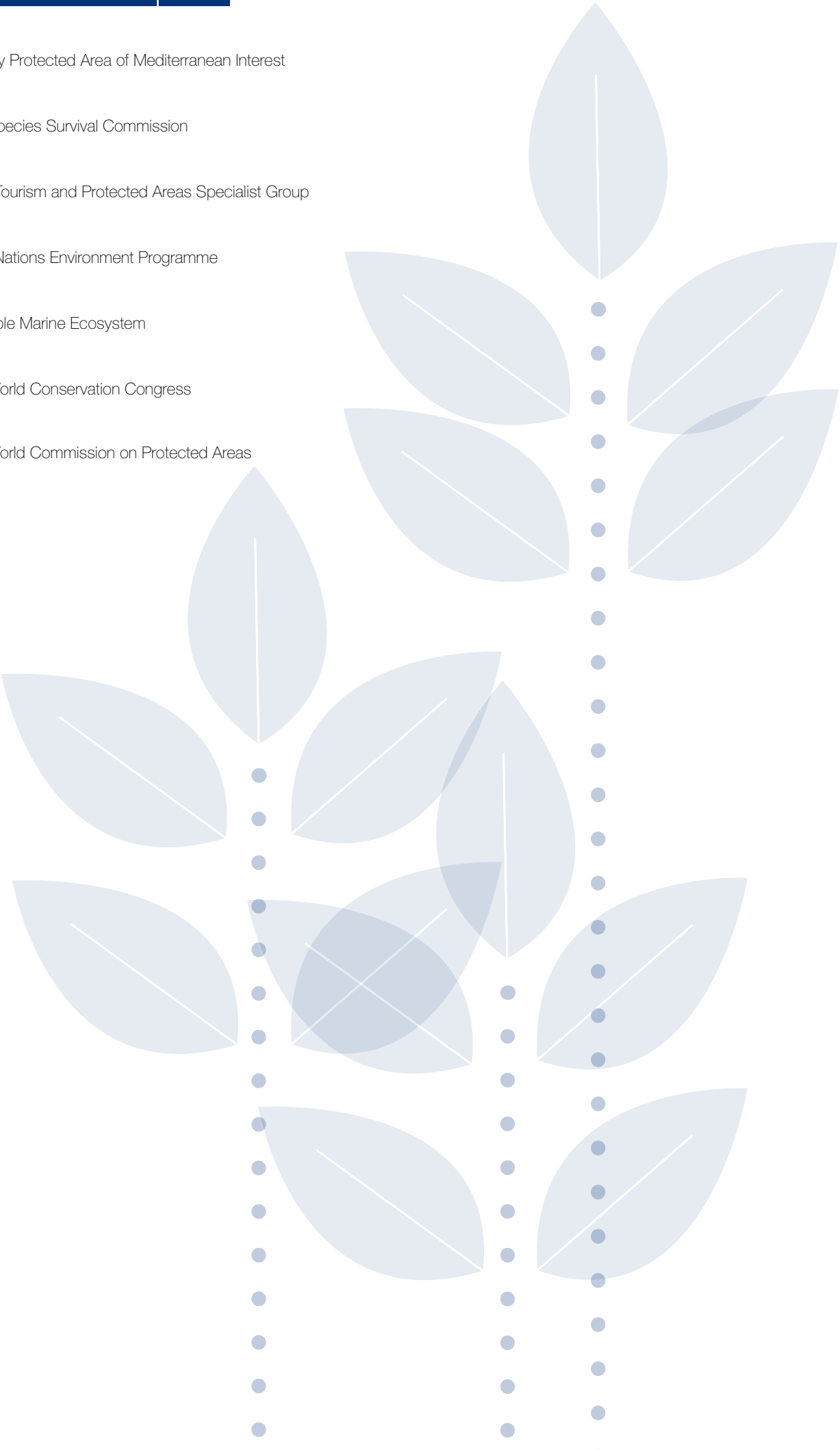
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

**SPA/BD**

Specially Protected Area/Biological Diversity



- SPAMI**  
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Interest
- SSC**  
IUCN Species Survival Commission
- TAPAS**  
WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group
- UNEP**  
United Nations Environment Programme
- VME**  
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
- WCC**  
IUCN World Conservation Congress
- WCPA**  
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas







- 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.

The Association Marocaine de jeunesse et de Développement works on environmental education in Morocco under the PPI-OSCAN programme ©IUCN/PPI-OSCAN





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