



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE

CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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This report summarises the main activities undertaken by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med), based in Málaga.



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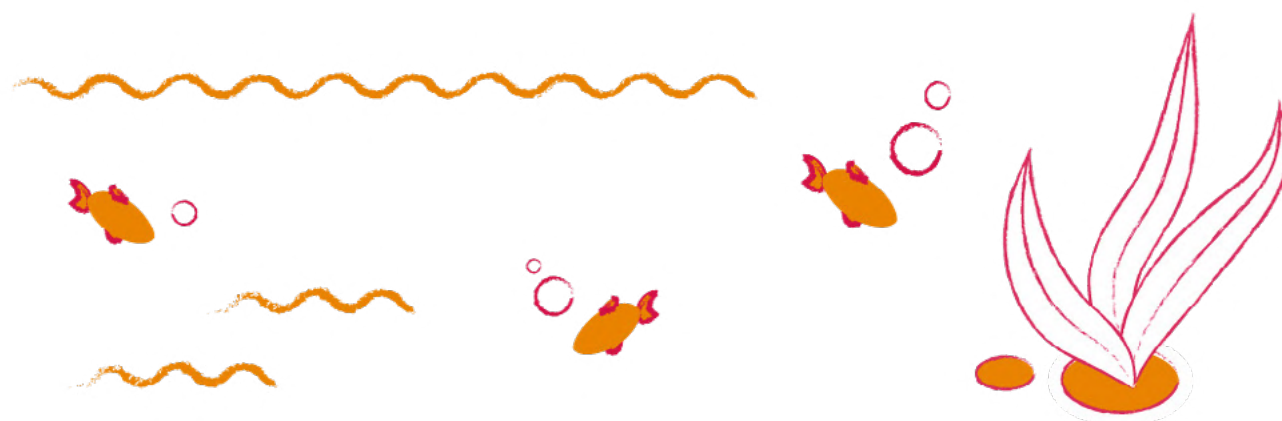
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An interactive web version of the IUCN-Med Annual Report 2018 is available at:
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MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

IUCN celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018, with growing momentum to meet ambitious global goals for nature conservation. Throughout the year, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation celebrated these 70 years of experience, vision and impact and pursued a myriad of fruitful projects, events and initiatives, which we are proud to outline in this annual report.

This year, the Centre took a further step towards halting the decline of species in our region. We successfully completed a set of conservation strategies and action plans for four emblematic North African species, namely Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*), the great bustard (*Otis tarda*), the Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) and the Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*). Our Centre also boosted conservation efforts for threatened birds of prey in the Mediterranean – with a particular emphasis on preventing electrocution on power lines – involving actors from all sectors on both shores. We also took action on cross-border invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula by launching the transboundary LIFE project INVASAQUA.

Transnational activities and collaborative efforts are often at the core of the success of the Centre's projects. Such is the case of PPI-OSCAN, the Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), which the Centre leads in North Africa. This year marked the launch of its second phase in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, with a call for projects that was answered with great success: a total of 223 project proposals were submitted by young CSOs. This not only demonstrates the strong potential and





Costa Brava | © Dreamstime.com

interest for local conservation initiatives that abounds in North Africa, but also accounts for the perception of the Centre as an effective catalyst of young initiatives in the region.

Conservation efforts can only be considered successful when the needs of ecosystems and people are balanced, and this is a key statement for ecotourism. IUCN is proud to play an active role in building the ecotourism experience of tomorrow in the Mediterranean. We believe that ecotourism can be transformed into a genuine solution to the current challenges of tourism, while directly supporting the conservation of the region's incredible biodiversity. With this principle in mind, our Centre continued to lead actions through the EU Interreg Med project DestiMED, which aims to foster sustainable tourism in protected areas across the basin, and a major achievement in 2018 was the formal constitution and launch of the Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) Network, which was celebrated in Split, Croatia, in March.

Our Centre is also pleased to play an active role in the development of its host city, Málaga, as an international environmental hub. This year the city has hosted multiple meetings, including three major international events that IUCN-Med co-organised: the launch of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), the first large-scale study on Mediterranean cetaceans, with an art exhibition and the main vessel of the campaign, *The Song of the Whale*, starting its voyage of exploration from the Port of Málaga; the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13), which brought more than 20 representatives from Mediterranean countries and institutions to Málaga; and the Voice for the Ocean campaign, which stopped in

Málaga for three days to collect people's opinions about the management and protection of the oceans in the face of tourism and plastic pollution, with a view to preparing and submitting a concrete proposal to the European Parliament.

2018 was also a year of new developments and programming approaches. The Centre started to push forward its efforts in three new lines of work: investigating the link between agriculture and biodiversity, tackling the threat of plastics, and exploring Nature-based Solutions in cities across the Mediterranean.

IUCN knows well that no one government or organisation can correct humanity's course alone. This year, we warmly welcomed fourteen new Members from France, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, and we look forward to their active involvement. Furthermore, one more year's fundamental support from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition, the Regional Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Sustainable Development of the *Junta de Andalucía* (CMAyOT), and the MAVA Foundation has proved vital for IUCN-Med's activities, for which we are deeply grateful. Together, we will continue to strengthen collaborative links across the region to implement local actions and, hopefully, celebrate many more years of productive work for the conservation of nature in the Mare Nostrum.

With very best wishes,

ANTONIO TROYA

**IUCN-Med Director and Mediterranean
Programme Coordinator**

IUCN AT A GLANCE

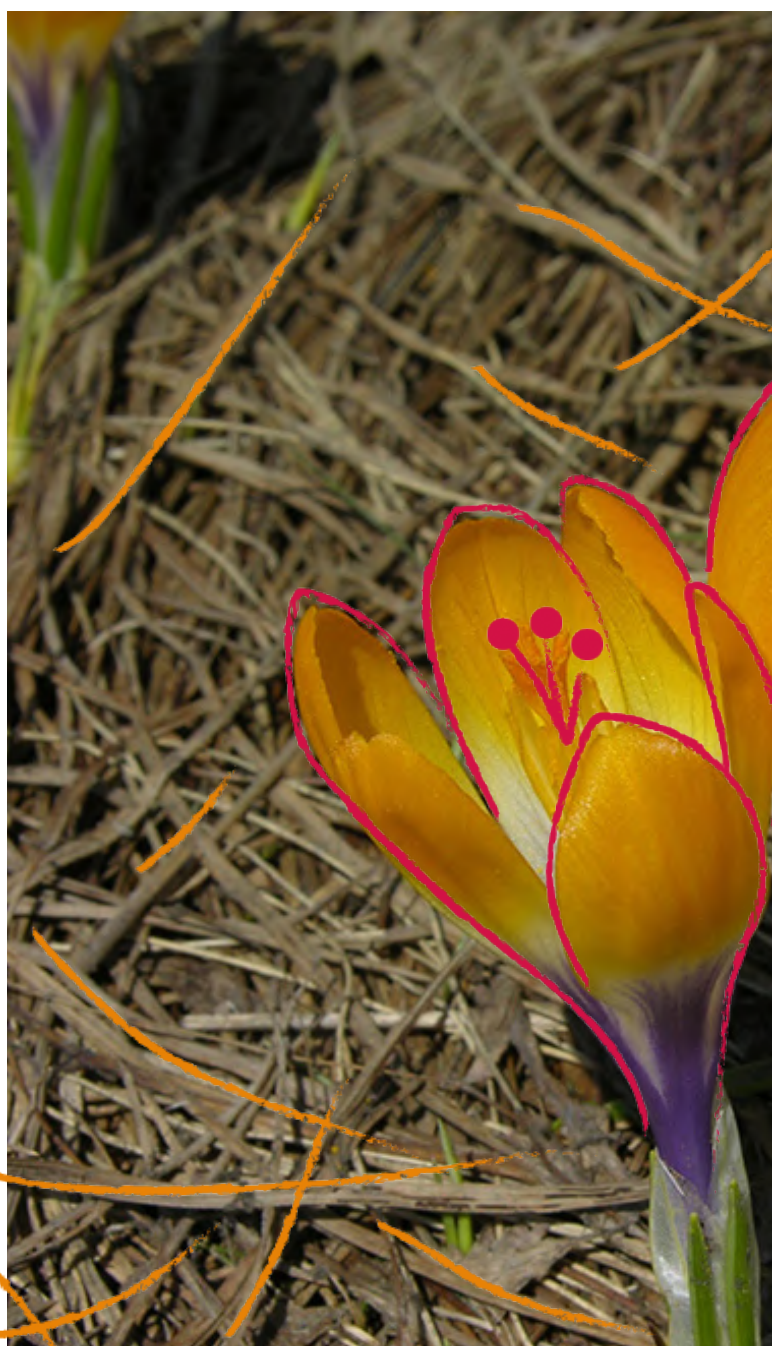


IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

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 more than **1,300 Member organisations** and the input of some **13,000 experts**. IUCN is the global authority on the state 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 bring together a wide range of stakeholders and present them with the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide **a neutral forum** in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

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





Crocus scardicus | ©L. Shuka

Our knowledge base and diverse membership combine to make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. **With its official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.**

IUCN's expertise and extensive network underpin a large and varied 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 that feeds into IUCN's analytical work.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, passing Resolutions that 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 Programme of Work. IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (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. With its headquarters in Switzerland, the IUCN Secretariat comprises **around 900 staff in more than 60 countries.**



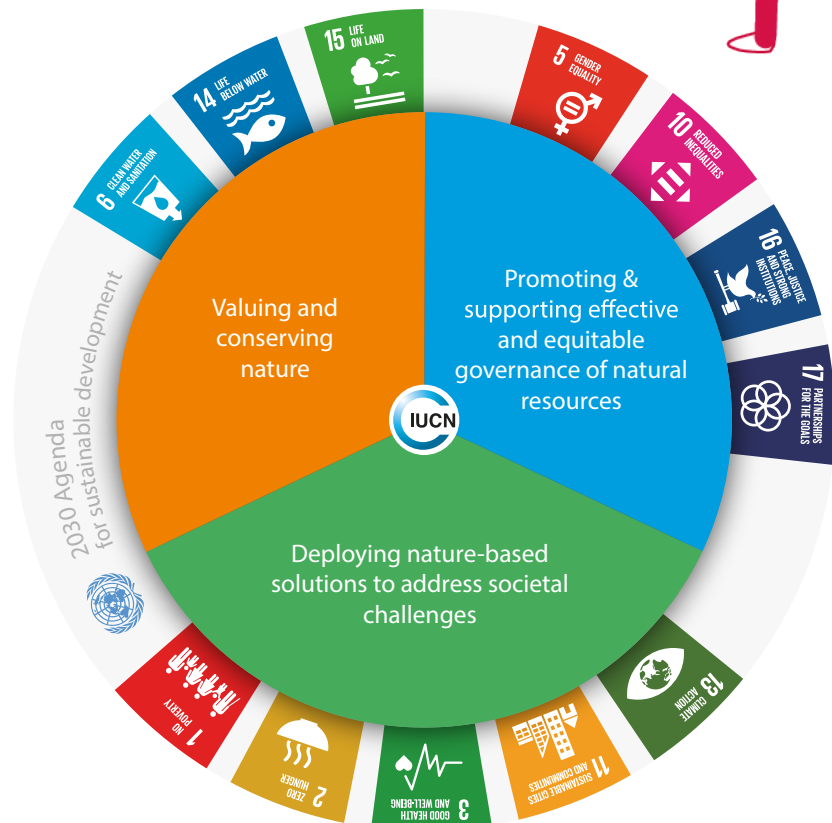
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

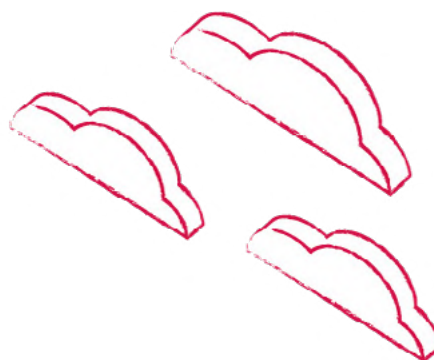
The three main areas of work set out by the IUCN Programme 2017–2020 together with the priorities identified by our Members and partners in the Mediterranean constitute the framework for the projects and activities developed and implemented by the [IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation](#). To this end the Málaga office secretariat relies on the efforts and participation of [218 IUCN Member organisations](#) and over [1,410 IUCN Commission experts](#) in the region.

The IUCN Programme 2017–2020 harnesses the strengths of the organisation – its knowledge, reach and constituent structure – to deliver the SDGs as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi targets. This Programme of Work was approved in 2016 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, held in Hawai'i, United States of America.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN THE WORLD...

Inspired by the IUCN vision of a *just world that values and conserves nature*, the work of IUCN-Med in 2018 is outlined below according to the main IUCN Global Programme 2017–2020 areas, which make direct and substantial contributions to achieving 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UN 2030 Agenda:





...AND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In addition to the global programme, the actions of the IUCN Secretariat, Members and partners in the Mediterranean region are guided by the IUCN Mediterranean Programme 2017–2020 which was also approved in Hawai'i. Furthermore, a series of resolutions and recommendations that were adopted democratically by IUCN Members during this Congress, which drive the regional conservation agenda, contribute significantly to the delivery of IUCN's mission.

Alongside the IUCN Programme 2017–2020, a Mediterranean strategic plan of work was developed in association with the MAVA Foundation, one of the key donors supporting the IUCN office in the Mediterranean. This was the fourth year of implementation of the IUCN–MAVA Joint Programme for 2015–2019.

In 2018, the IUCN–MAVA Joint Programme involved work in the following priority areas:

- **Strategic Line 1:** Improving the conservation status of **Mediterranean species and ecosystems**
- **Strategic Line 2:** Integrating nature and civil society in the Mediterranean region for conservation through **governance** at all levels
- **Strategic Line 3:** Helping Mediterranean societies understand and value the contribution of healthy and restored ecosystems to address the societal challenges of **climate change, food security, human well-being and economic and social development**
- **Strategic Line 4:** Building a strong and active **conservation community** in the Mediterranean region

At a subregional level, the IUCN Programme for North Africa 2017–2020, which was adopted in 2016 and brings together recommendations and priority areas for this part of the region, continued to strengthen the work of IUCN and its partners in the region.



VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS



This line of work represents a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life below water), and 15 (Life on land)

SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT THE MEDITERRANEAN WEB OF LIFE

The IUCN Mediterranean Red List of Species initiative is a review of the conservation status at regional level of approximately 6,000 species of animals and plants. This year, IUCN-Med added **188 monocotyledon plant species** to the Mediterranean Red List, helping to draw a more accurate picture of the status of biodiversity in the region.



The Mediterranean region is a world-recognised biodiversity hotspot and hosts some 25,000 vascular **plant** species. Noteworthy achievements by IUCN-Med in the region in 2018 included the development of an online platform for identification of native trees and shrubs in North Africa, which will be released next year.



The Centre also organised the editing and coordination of the publication *Conserving wild plants in the south and east Mediterranean region*, authored by more than 50 experts. Taking a regional and collective approach, this publication is a good example of the convening role of IUCN-Med and its ability to mobilise experts.

In November, IUCN-Med together with the CARE-MEDIFLORA project and the University of Malta organised the 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week (MPCW) around the theme 'Conservation of Mediterranean Plant Diversity: Complementary Approaches and New Perspectives' at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus.



Right page: Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) at Amanus Mountains | ©TP. Rapuzzi,
Crocus scardicus | ©L. Shuka

Left page: Participants at the Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week, Malta | © Pilar Valbuena,
Lucanus tetraodon | ©Elvira_Castiglione,
Buteo rufinus | ©Justo Martin Martin

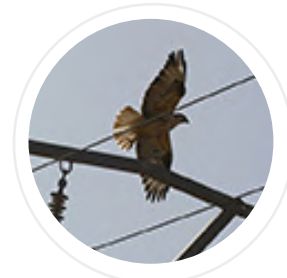
Building on the work of the previous year, IUCN-Med finished a report on a group that plays a key role in ecosystem health and food chains, but is largely misunderstood: The Conservation Status and Distribution of Mediterranean *Saproxylic Beetles* was released in January 2019 and includes an analysis of 320 species for the Red List.

Saproxylic beetles



Throughout the year, the Centre continued to develop activities for the conservation of threatened birds of prey in the Mediterranean involving actors from all sectors on both shores, with a particular emphasis on a major threat: electrocution on power lines. In May, a training workshop was organised which brought together more than 35 participants from institutions involved in bird conservation in Morocco and the energy sector, including government officials, members of species conservation NGOs, and technical experts from the energy sectors in Morocco and Spain (ONEE and Endesa respectively). This paved the way for a forthcoming guide on *dangerous electricity infrastructure for raptors in North Africa*. In October, another step was taken towards developing a strategic plan for the conservation of raptors in Morocco: the Centre organised a course on methods for identifying and monitoring birds of prey in Morocco as part of the project 'Safe Flyways: reducing energy infrastructure related to bird mortality in the Mediterranean', funded by the MAVA Foundation.

Raptors



IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE LANDSCAPES

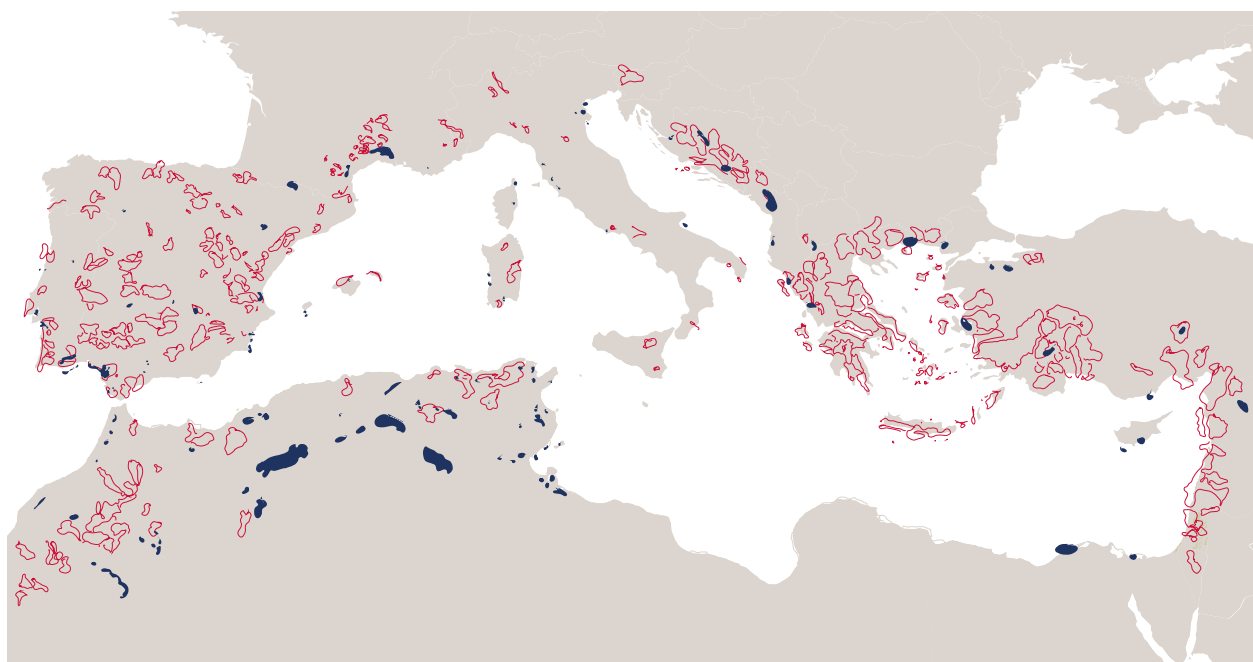
The abandonment or intensification of agriculture is leading a loss of biodiversity that depends on cultural practices for its maintenance. In relation to this topic, IUCN-Med worked on enhancing the understanding of the link between cultural practices and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes on three different landscape types: islands (with a mosaic of traditional farming and livestock breeding), mountains (with traditional farming and grazing mixture) and lowland agro-silvo pastoral systems. The activities were developed in five pilot sites in five Mediterranean countries (Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal and Spain), and focused on monitoring groups of species of fauna and flora to identify agriculture and grazing practices that have a positive impact in biodiversity. At the end of 2018, a webinar about monitoring biodiversity was held to encourage knowledge sharing between the main actors of each pilot site.

IDENTIFYING AND MONITORING PRIORITY AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Over the last three decades, various approaches to identifying sites of significance for biodiversity have been developed, and **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)** have proven to be a key tool for guiding decisions on conservation and sustainable management. In 2018, IUCN-Med worked on the ground with its partners and completed the **assessment of KBA conservation status** for two freshwater KBAs in the Sebou Basin in Morocco and seven in the Douro Basin in Portugal. The Centre also coordinated an initiative to update the subset of Global KBAs identified for plants in North Africa and the Middle East, and the results are included in the publication *Conserving wild plants in the south and east Mediterranean region*.

Map of Freshwater KBA (source: 2018 IUCN-Med and Mediterranean Wetland Observatory / Tour du Valat)

Mediterranean Freshwater KBA sites ●
Mediterranean RAMSAR sites ●



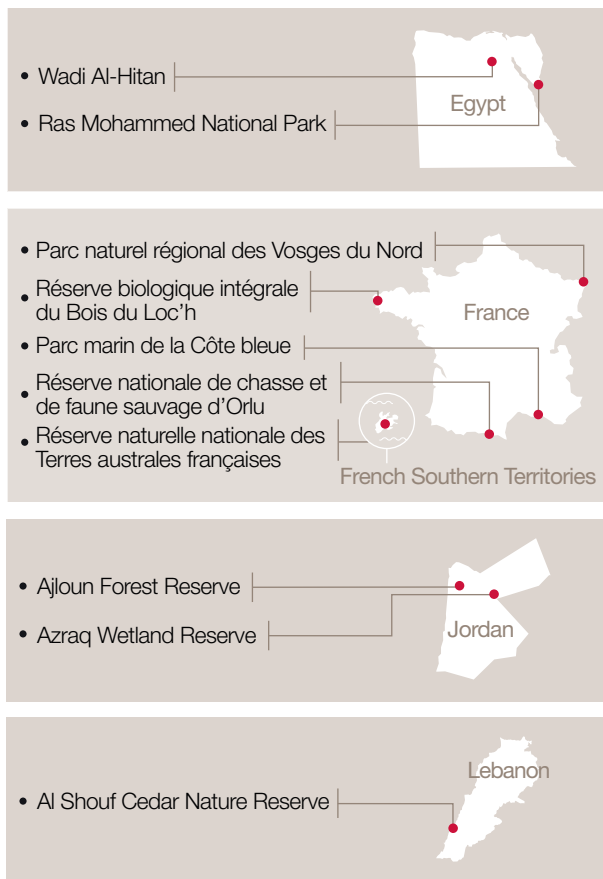
Freshwater KBA in the Mediterranean region

In the Mediterranean hotspot, a total of 376 Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas have been identified and proposed following the KBA standard. These sites host species such as freshwater fishes, molluscs, odonata and aquatic plants, which are key within the food webs that support wetland ecosystems.

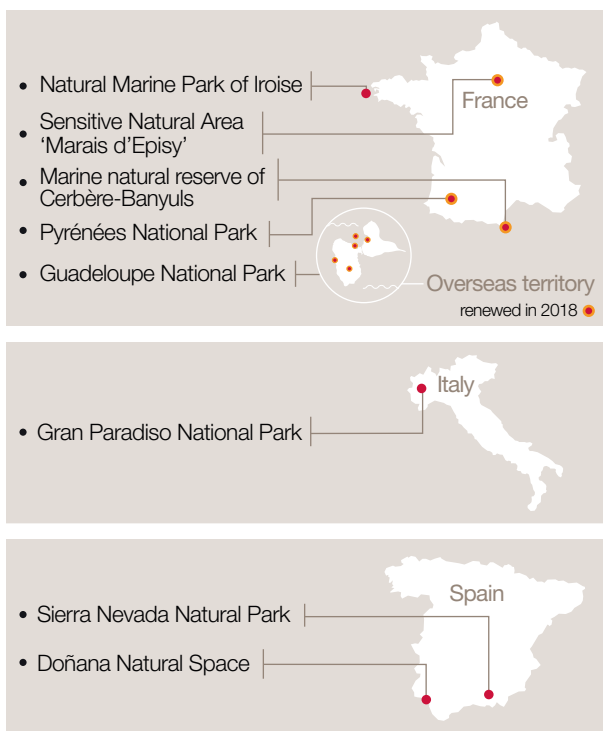
ASSESSING PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Mediterranean sites on the Green List

10 new Mediterranean sites added in 2018:



Added before 2018:



This year, another major achievement was the creation of the Expert Assessment Group for the Green List in the Maghreb (EAGL-Maghreb), whose members were trained in the Green List of Protected Areas evaluation process. The support these civil society organisations were given helped to significantly improve the skills of the people running them, so that they could deliver better conservation outcomes and results on the ground.

The **Green List of Protected Areas** (GLPA) is a key tool intended to highlight global successes in protected areas, acknowledging the efforts made primarily in management effectiveness. This year, the Expert Assessment Group for the Green List in the Maghreb (EAGL-Maghreb) was established and its members were trained in the evaluation process and adaptation of indicators. IUCN-Med also participated in the European Core Working Group of experts to adapt Green List indicators for the Natura 2000 network. The Centre also supported the call for Natura 2000 site managers to apply to take part in the **testing phase of the 'Green List for N2K'** project: many Natura 2000 sites in Italy and Spain answered the call, and three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) submitted a total of seven candidate sites to be assessed against Green List criteria and indicators. These sites are Theniet El Had National Park and the Habibas Islands in Algeria, Toubkal and Ifrane National Parks in Morocco and Jebel Serj National Park and the Kuriat Islands in Tunisia. By participating in this project, sites will start working towards achieving IUCN Green List status, and site managers will receive feedback from experts on the management effectiveness of their sites.

The **IUCN Red List of Ecosystems** (RLE) criteria and methodology is recognised as a global standard for assessing the conservation status of ecosystems. In 2018, IUCN-Med continued supporting the process of developing a Red List of Ecosystems at national level in several countries in the Mediterranean basin. A training course on RLE was provided in Tunisia, and a significant achievement in Lebanon was a preliminary assessment of the risk of collapse of Lebanese forests, which has been incorporated in the publication *State of Lebanon's Forests 2018*. Also, IUCN-Med contributed for the first time with a specific chapter on biodiversity in *State of Mediterranean Forests 2018* published by FAO and UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan.

BUILDING THE ECOTOURISM EXPERIENCE OF TOMORROW



Ecotourism can be transformed into a genuine solution to the current tourism challenges facing the Mediterranean, while directly supporting the conservation of the region's incredible biodiversity. With this principle in mind, IUCN-Med continued to lead actions under the EU Interreg Med project **DestiMED**, which was launched in 2017 with the aim of fostering sustainable tourism in protected areas across the Mediterranean.

2018 was a particularly fruitful year for this project. In March, 13 protected area and local tour operators were given training in ecotourism product development, impact monitoring and interpretation, in Split, Croatia. More than 60 representatives from Mediterranean protected areas participated in this event, at which the **Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET)** Network association was formally constituted and launched with the aim of providing a platform for park representatives to exchange ideas and share marketing strategies over the long term.

DestiMED activities were held throughout the year on both sides of the Mediterranean and beyond:



IUCN-Med developed and tested a methodology for assessing the **ecological footprint of ecotourism products in 13 Mediterranean protected areas**, in collaboration with the globally recognised research organisation Global Footprint Network.



Beyond the Mediterranean, the Centre also collaborated with the International Institute of Tourism Studies at The George Washington University School of Business (Washington, D.C., USA) to produce an assessment of existing monitoring systems and standards for ecotourism in protected areas.



In the Delta del Ebro and Menorca Biosphere reserves, **new ecotourism packages** were created in conjunction with the local private sector and tested by international tourism professionals, and their ecological footprint was assessed and improved.



An **online monitoring dashboard** was produced this year to support protected area managers in monitoring the quality and sustainability of ecotourism products in their territories.



In Tunisia, IUCN-Med joined several organisations in a workshop to plan and coordinate ecosystem activities as part of the preparations for the project '**GEMWET** – Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value: the case of Ghar el Melh, Tunisia'.



Finally, in December, IUCN-Med organised a one-day Sustainable Tourism Think Tank in Málaga, Spain, which was attended by representatives of more than 25 organisations from six Mediterranean countries. This event was an excellent opportunity to close the year by discussing how to work together to address the impacts of Mediterranean tourism on biodiversity, while better leveraging ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development and conservation.



In Morocco, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the MEET Network and Intrepid Travel Foundation focusing on collaborative efforts to develop ecotourism in the country.

PROTECTING THE SEA AND ITS INHABITANTS

The Mediterranean Sea, its resources, its depths and its coastlines are a driving force for economic development, but they are also particularly vulnerable to threats such as climate change. To explore these issues further, this year IUCN-Med released a summary report on *Vanishing treasures of the Mediterranean Deep Sea*.

The Centre also addressed the management of **marine invasive species** in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

In April 2018, IUCN-Med in collaboration with Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre and with the support of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) organised a capacity-building workshop on this issue. Participants received expert advice on invasive species monitoring and emerging problems associated with their introduction and establishment, and were able to exchange experiences and good practice for the prevention and control of issues associated with invasive alien species, including their interaction with fisheries activities.

Map of Emergency situation for pen shells in the Mediterranean (source: IUCN-Med, Nov 2018)

Mass mortality event of *Pinna nobilis* ($\geq 85\%$ of population)*
Early signs of mass mortality event
occurring (30-85% of population)
*99,9 on most cases



2018 was a particularly harsh year for one of the most emblematic species found in the Mediterranean Sea, the **pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*)**. This species has been suffering mass mortality due to a parasite over the last year and a half. IUCN-Med issued a call to action and, in collaboration

with experts from France, Italy and Spain, proposed a set of recommendations and implemented a series of priority actions to help evaluate the situation throughout the Mediterranean and establish urgent measures to mitigate the spread of the disease.



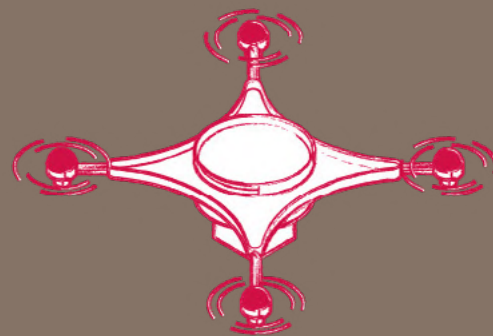
Pinna nobilis, Costa Brava | ©Seadam Dreamstime

WHEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MEETS THE MONK SEAL

The Mediterranean **monk seal** (*Monachus monachus*) is one of the most threatened marine mammals in the world. Its status is currently Endangered in the Mediterranean region, where it has rarely been observed. A pilot project to collect scientific data about the Mediterranean monk seal was launched in early 2018. Two prototype autonomous surveillance cameras have been installed at potential monk seal caves near Fiskardo, in the Ionian Sea. Using image recognition technology, a fleet of aerial drones has also been attempting to locate and film these elusive seals. The pictures and footage will be analysed by an artificial intelligence recognition system, and the resulting body of research will be made available by the end of January 2019. These media will help to throw light on

the seals' behaviour and biology, the threats they are facing and what solutions can be developed to help the species thrive.

This is the first open-source autonomous system to monitor monk seals remotely. This pioneer project, supported by IUCN-Med, is being developed by the Octopus Foundation in partnership with the Greek NGOs Archipelagos and MOm (the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal), with the technical assistance of Fiskardo Divers, Kozamare (Greece), and Octanis (Switzerland), with the aim of replicating it in other countries in the coming years. In 2019, a new camera set will be tested in Greece by the Tethys Research Institute.



A SEA OF MICROPLASTIC



With more than 3,000 billion microplastic particles, the Mediterranean Sea is the most polluted sea in the world. Together with its Members and partners, IUCN-Med is actively engaged in the fight against plastic pollution, working on many fronts in the region:



Beyond Plastic Med initiative (BeMed)

IUCN joined forces with Tara Expeditions, Surfrider and the MAVA Foundation to further develop this initiative lead by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. This international platform dedicated to researching and implementing solutions to plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea aims to support and expand a network of Mediterranean stakeholders committed to curbing plastic pollution, implement effective and sustainable solutions, support research into novel alternatives, and engage stakeholders and the public by raising awareness and disseminating best practices.

In 2018, IUCN-Med supported the second phase of the BeMed micro-initiatives selection process and played an active part in designing and establishing the new BeMed Club, which will involve the private sector.



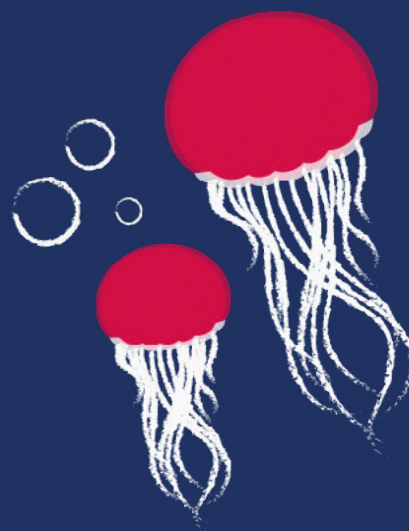
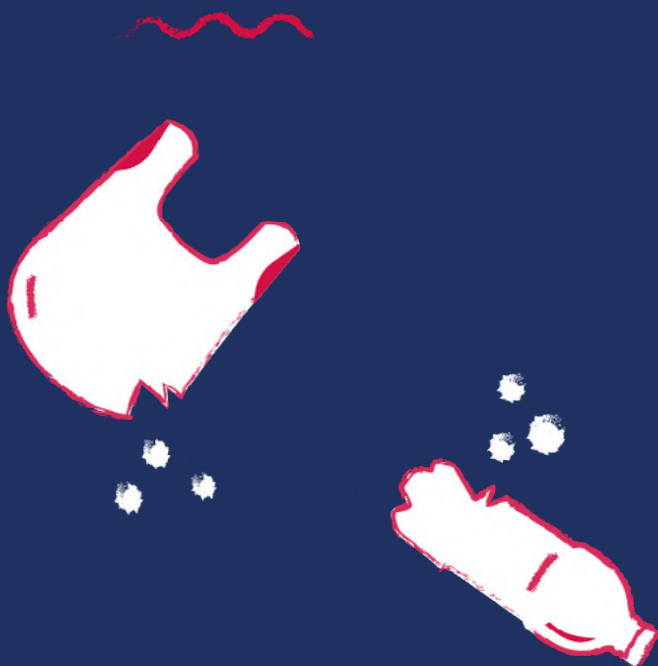
Closing the plastic tap (PlastiMed – BeMed)

In 2018, IUCN engaged in new efforts to close the plastic tap in the Mediterranean Sea through this initiative. This two-year project aims to advance our understanding of the flow of plastic from source to sea and help with the design of achievable local solutions in the Mediterranean. This project is funded by the MAVA Foundation and the Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and developed by IUCN-Med, Tara Expeditions and Surfrider.



And also...

IUCN-Med helped to put the spotlight on the topic of plastic and microplastics by giving a talk during the 3rd Meeting of Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, this year IUCN-Med signed and started developing two new projects to tackle plastic sources and leakage in the Mediterranean.



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PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEGRATING NATURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION FOR CONSERVATION THROUGH
GOVERNANCE AT ALL LEVELS



This line of work represents a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

In 2018, IUCN-Med strengthened its presence in the field of legislation and international protocols affecting the Mediterranean and tightened many links, in particular with:

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

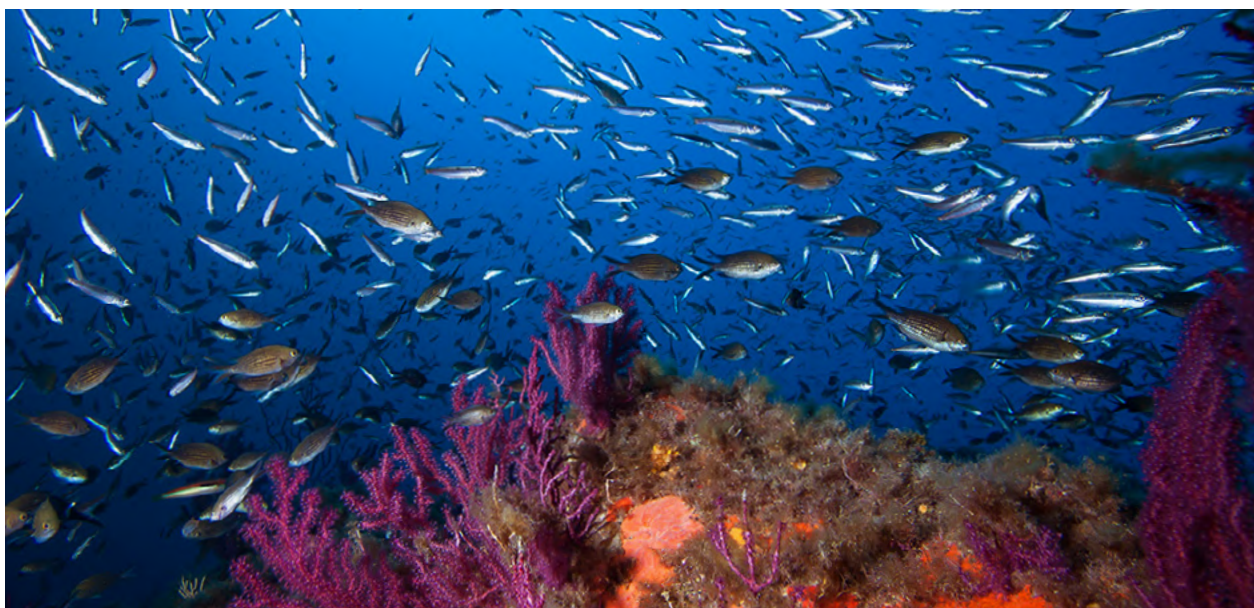
A key event of 2018 was the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP). With 196 Parties so far, the Convention has near-universal participation by countries and meets every two years. This CBD COP was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and the Mediterranean region was strongly represented. IUCN-Med participated actively in this important event, which shapes the global biodiversity conservation agenda in conjunction with the IUCN Programme.

THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

IUCN-Med's close collaboration with the CMS continued at various levels. It facilitated the process for Morocco to join the Energy Task Force of the Convention, which works towards reconciling energy developments with the conservation of migratory species. It also supported North African countries' focal points in reporting to the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKT) of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, which brings together governmental representatives from CMS Parties around the region, including the European Union, and other interested parties.

THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

The Centre continued to collaborate closely with the [Mediterranean Trust Fund](#), an international initiative ensuring



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the effective coordination and funding of the Mediterranean Action Plan, which aims to strengthen the long-term financial mechanisms for effective MPA management. This year, IUCN-Med supported the inclusion of Lebanon as a potential future new member of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). Furthermore, in October, IUCN-Med together with the Mediterranean Trust Fund met high-level governmental advisors in Lebanon to discuss and support the creation and management of a new Lebanese MPA north of Beirut, paving the way for the establishment of new deep-sea MPAs in the region.

FAO GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

IUCN-Med continued to build on its cooperation with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in 2018, particularly regarding the incidental capture of vulnerable species in fishing gear (also known generically as 'bycatch'), which is a key threat to a number of taxonomic groups in the Mediterranean, including sea turtles, cetaceans, seals, seabirds, and sharks and rays. The Centre participated in several workshops for the project 'Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa "bycatch" of vulnerable species and testing mitigation – A collaborative approach', held in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, providing scientific guidance and supporting the development of training, communication and policy materials.

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)

IUCN-Med strengthened its collaboration with the ACCOBAMS secretariat by supporting the appointment of three experts to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and the participation of three experts from Algeria in a training workshop on standardisation of methods and tools for cetacean conservation data sharing. IUCN-Med celebrated World Oceans Day on 8 June by launching the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), which is the first large-scale study of Mediterranean cetaceans, in an event held in the Port of Málaga, Spain. The ASI will deploy five research vessels and ten aircraft, with teams of scientists who will use acoustic and visual monitoring methods to evaluate the abundance and distribution of local cetaceans. The first research vessel started its exploration of the Western Mediterranean from Málaga across the Alboran Sea.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In November, IUCN-Med and IUCN European Regional Office (in Brussels), together with the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, organised an event at which EU Member States and stakeholders discussed

pathways for the implementation of Blue Carbon initiatives and examined priorities, potential gaps and opportunities to support the integration of **Blue Carbon** into European policies. Blue Carbon – the carbon absorbed and stored by marine and coastal ecosystems – represents a huge natural carbon sink. The results and experiences from the BlueNatura LIFE project were presented and provided the basis for discussion in this forum.

In December, IUCN-Med attended and supported the public hearing of the draft declaration on 'Ecosystem-based approaches for biodiversity protection and management – A Consensus Statement towards understanding and managing transboundary and cumulative impacts in Mediterranean Ecosystems' at the European Parliament. This draft is a key outcome of the 'Streamlining Networking and Management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas for Enhanced Natural Conservation and Protection' (PANACeA) project. IUCN-Med and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) sit on the advisory board for this project, which plays a key role in helping networks and institutions to influence regional policies more effectively.

THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS & THE MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS INITIATIVE

In an event co-organised by IUCN-Med, more than 20 representatives from Mediterranean countries and institutions met in Málaga on 28–29 June to discuss the forthcoming Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) and to establish the position of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and its role in the conference. MedWet, a regional initiative established 27 years ago, brings together all the Mediterranean countries that are Parties to the Ramsar Convention to stop and reverse wetland degradation in the basin.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

At a local level, IUCN-Med continued to carry out activities under the Interreg Med project FishMPABlue2, and launched an initiative on small-scale fisheries in the Alboran region, fostering synergies, setting indicators and fine-tuning outcomes and outputs with the project partners. The Centre also provided guidance on conflict management in MPAs by contributing the article 'Domesticating and valuing conflicts in MPAs: the best way to develop innovations?' to a forthcoming special issue of Aquatic Conservation on the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4).

INVASIVE SPECIES

The **Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)** Standard aims to facilitate a better understanding of the magnitude of the environmental impacts caused by exotic taxa and to advise on the prioritisation, implementation and evaluation of management policies and actions. IUCN-Med coordinates a project, funded by the Biodiversity Foundation of the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition, to start testing the EICAT protocol in the Guadiana river basin, with the collaboration of the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation, the Extremadura Regional Ministry of the Environment and Rural Affairs, Agrarian Policies and Territory, the IUCN Global Invasive Species Programme and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. To start this process, in September the Centre provided a two-day workshop about the EICAT protocol in Mérida, Spain, to train staff, researchers and experts from the organisations involved in the management of river ecosystems. As a result, a selected set of invasive species present in freshwater ecosystems were assessed against this new standard.

In 2018, IUCN-Med started to coordinate the EICAT feasibility analysis for the LIFE INVASAQUA project in the Iberian Peninsula, with the support of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. The Centre also started to plan and develop communication and awareness-raising activities, including volunteer campaigns, citizen science and BioBlitz, in the framework of this LIFE project. INVASAQUA aims to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (IAS) in the Iberian Peninsula by increasing public and stakeholder awareness and developing key tools to improve an early warning and rapid response system for new IAS in freshwater and estuarine habitats. This project is coordinated by the University of Murcia with the participation of eight partners: the EFE News Agency, IUCN-Med, the Museum of Natural Sciences (MNCN) / Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the Iberian Society of Ichthyology (SIBIC), the University of Navarra, the University of Santiago de Compostela, the University of Évora and the Portuguese Association for Environmental Education (ASPEA).

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION TO CONSERVE AN ENDEMIC SPECIES

In a multi-country and multi-disciplinary effort, IUCN-Med released a new strategy for the conservation of Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa in March 2018. In true IUCN fashion, this new strategy combined the efforts of three countries (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), several IUCN NGO Members and IUCN Commission members. The strategy was also presented at the 18th Annual Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group Meeting, which was held in Paris in May.

INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY IN NORTH AFRICA

The North Africa subregion of the Mediterranean constitutes an area of work with its own programme of activities drawn up and agreed by IUCN Members and the Málaga secretariat in line with the IUCN Programme. With one new Member having joined this year, IUCN now has 34 Members in North Africa.

IUCN-Med provides North African countries with support and assistance 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** (Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa), are part of the collaborative effort to ensure that the North Africa region shares responsibility for biodiversity conservation. The second phase, PPI-OSCAN 2, started this year in the four targeted countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) with great success: a total of **223 projects had been submitted** by young CSOs by the close of the call to participate in this programme, and **42 of these projects were shortlisted**. They will tackle conservation of species and ecosystems, co-management of protected areas, ecotourism and enhancing the value of natural resources.

Another successful capacity-building initiative involved 62 participants from **Spain and Morocco** who attended two training courses on the best strategies for mitigating the impact of **electricity infrastructure on bird mortality**. Eleven associations, groups and NGOs (27 participants), 3 electricity companies (8 participants) and 8 government bodies (25 participants) from both shores of the Strait of Gibraltar took part in these training sessions. In addition, the North African raptors interest group continued to be very active and is preparing to carry out the first national census of cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco in 2019. Also thanks to this group, funds were secured from the Fondation Européenne pour la Fauconnerie et la Conservation to improve the first correction of black spots for raptors in the power lines.

IUCN-Med and the IUCN WCPA undertook a capacity needs assessment for PA managers in the five North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) with the aim of identifying key needs and levers for improving management effectiveness. The assessment resulted in a new technical report, *Capacity Development Strategy Outline for Protected Area Management in the North African Region*. IUCN-Med and WCPA will be following up on these initial results to build an effective capacity development programme that responds to the needs of the region, and have already started contacting partners and donors to implement the strategy.



Capacity building on economic valuation of local products "pollen production" | PPI-OSCAN project implemented in Algeria (2014-2017)

DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

HELPING MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETIES UNDERSTAND AND VALUE THE CONTRIBUTION OF HEALTHY AND RESTORED ECOSYSTEMS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIETAL CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY, HUMAN WELL-BEING AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



This line of work contributes significantly to the delivery of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality education), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Key 2018 initiatives focused on adaptation to climate change. Two workshops led by IUCN-Med and the think tank IDDRI (the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations) for government officials from Morocco and Tunisia drew up a roadmap for implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within their **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs). Three mitigation actions and three adaptation actions were selected from their respective NDCs for work to start on drafting a concept note project incorporating the NbS standards developed by IUCN.

To promote the role of **Mediterranean MPAs** in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the work of five MPAs was supported as part of the Interreg Med project MPA-Adapt. Several vulnerability assessments were carried out in 2018 and five standard protocols were designed to monitor climate-related responses in Mediterranean MPAs and beyond. In addition, an IUCN Report Card was produced for Corsican decision makers summarising recommendations for dealing with climate change impact and highlighting the likely and predictable effects of climate change on coastal development strategies.

USING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Cities are another fertile ground for Nature-based Solutions, and IUCN-Med continued to promote NbS for the future of Mediterranean urban landscapes. In February, seven experts from different cross-disciplinary fields, covering urban ecology, research, local government, international organisations, business and public agencies, met for a one-day workshop and drew up a set of recommendations on how best to benefit society and biodiversity by implementing NbS in urban environments. IUCN-Med promoted the concept of NbS at several events throughout the year: in November, the Centre organised and coordinated a session on how to integrate NbS in Mediterranean cities during CONAMA 2018, the benchmark environmental congress held in Spain. Furthermore, a rapid assessment of Nature-based Solutions in Mediterranean Cities was delivered in order to illustrate how the NbS concept is being adopted in Mediterranean urban environments. The report includes 50 concrete examples of NbS interventions in cities in 15 Mediterranean countries, covering societal challenges such as climate change, water management, coastal resilience, green space management, air quality and urban regeneration.

ROLE OF POSIDONIA BEACH-DUNE SYSTEMS

Two key activities were carried out within IUCN-Med's Interreg project POSBEMED to address the challenges and opportunities related to the management of **Posidonia** beach-dune systems in the Mediterranean: a comprehensive strategy and action plan entitled *Governance and management of Posidonia beach-dune systems in the Mediterranean region* was published to guide efforts in the region, and a webinar on the management of posidonia banquettes in Mediterranean MPAs was offered free of charge in May in four different languages.



Posidonia banquettes @ Mar Otero

SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

Cultural diversity and biological diversity are increasingly viewed as intertwined elements in achieving sustainable development. However, a great deal remains to be done to rigorously identify and define avenues for research and action in the intersection of these two fields. IUCN-Med participates in a regional partnership to support Mediterranean Cultural Landscapes funded by the MAVA Foundation, providing assistance at the five pilot sites in Spain, Portugal, Lebanon, Greece and Morocco (Menorca, Dehesas-Montados, Shouf, Lemnos and High Atlas) with the aim of gathering evidence for the link between **biodiversity and cultural practices**. The Centre also organised five meetings involving project partners and experts (two with the Dehesas-Montados team, two with the Lemnos team and one with the Menorca team) to draw up methodologies and sampling criteria for finding the link between cultural practices and biodiversity in **sustainable farming systems**. The main objectives of this initiative are:

- To generate evidence about the link between biodiversity and cultural practices in the pilot sites in order to clearly understand how traditional-cultural practices and sustainable land-use benefit biodiversity,
- to capitalize the knowledge and analysis of the trends on those linkages, and
- to develop a shared methodology in order to assess and monitor those linkages in the long term.

NEW PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

In collaboration with regional partners, IUCN-Med participated in the submission of new projects to different funding calls in 2018 and at the beginning of 2019

Project 's proposal

EU CALL/ Donors

NbS project

Interreg POCTEP 2018 (Spain, Portugal)

POSEIDON

Interreg Med

POSBEMED 2

Interreg Med

DESTIMED PLUS

Interreg Med

MPA ADVICE

Interreg Med

HAPPY PLACES

Horizonte 2020

FARM BEAN

Horizonte 2020

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CONNECTING THE MARE NOSTRUM

BUILDING A STRONG AND ACTIVE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



This line of work contributes significantly to the delivery of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

WORKING WITH ACADEMIA

IUCN-Med continues to build bridges with universities and research centres on a wide variety of key conservation issues. In February, together with IAMZ–CIHEAM (the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza) and ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas), and with the collaboration of SER Europe (the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration), IUCN-Med held a course on restoration of degraded drylands and monitoring of desertification processes.

Another major event marking our partnership with academia was held in September, with the launch of the first Alboran Sea University Forum, an IUCN-Med initiative. More than 50 academics from 11 universities in the 3 countries surrounding the Alboran Sea (Algeria, Spain and Morocco) were able to network and analyse the relevance of their work in relation to the conservation priorities of each country. One of the promising outcomes was the creation of a network of coastal and maritime experts from universities on the northern and southern shores of the Alboran Sea.

In November, IUCN-Med together with the CARE-MEDIFLORA project and the University of Malta organised the **2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week (MPCW)** on the theme 'Conservation of Mediterranean Plant Diversity: Complementary Approaches and New Perspectives', at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus. With a full programme of activities and sessions, the event consolidated its role as

a focal point for botanists, civil society institutions working in the plant conservation field, community members and anyone interested in plant conservation or sustainable development projects in the Mediterranean.

COMMUNICATING, RAISING AWARENESS AND WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Our relations with Mediterranean media focused not only on covering key IUCN-Med news stories, but also on sharing environmental information more effectively across the region through networking. To that end, IUCN-Med provided up-to-date information, facilitated content exchange and led discussions through the online platform of the **Mediterranean Environmental Information Communicator Network** (www.medgreenjournalism.net), which currently includes 23 journalists from news agencies and 6 communications officers.

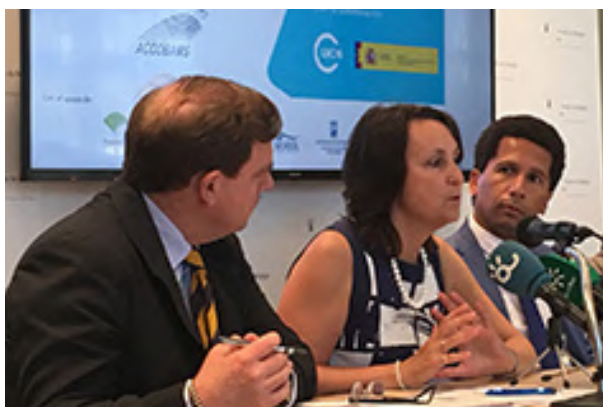
In November, around 50 environmental journalists and experts from 20 Mediterranean countries met in Barcelona on the occasion of the **3rd Meeting of Environmental Journalists of Mediterranean News Agencies**, which was organised by IUCN-Med in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean. This year, in addition to the usual exchange of experiences and innovative tools for the sector, the three-day event focused on themes such as the energy transition in the Mediterranean region, the circular economy and combating plastic



3rd Meeting of Environmental Journalists of Mediterranean News Agencies

pollution. The ever-growing number of participants, their fruitful discussions and the opportunities for networking were proof of the ongoing success of this IUCN-Med initiative as an important date for journalists in the region.

In partnership with ACCOBAMS, IUCN-Med celebrated **World Oceans Day** on 8 June by organising the launch of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), the first large-scale study of Mediterranean cetaceans, in an event held in the Port of Málaga, Spain, with the art exhibition *Moby Dick y el Sueño del Capitán Ahab* (Moby Dick and Captain Ahab's Dream) by the artist Esteban Ruiz.



ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative presented in a press conference in Málaga

In October, IUCN-Med participated in the three-day event of the Surfrider **Voice for the Ocean** European Tour, when it stopped in Málaga, Spain. The campaign aims to gather the public's opinions about ocean management and protection and submit a concrete proposal to the European Parliament.

In Málaga, the event focused on two main threats to the Mediterranean: tourism and **plastic pollution**.

This year, three layers with information about fishing ports around the Alboran Sea were added to the **Alboran geoportal** (www.iucn-geoportalalboran.org), a georeferencing tool developed by IUCN-Med, and 12 layers of marine protected areas were updated.

With the aim of facilitating access to Mediterranean conservation data, IUCN-Med developed a new online platform to share **GIS data** on the status and distribution of Mediterranean species. Since its launch last year, five story maps using IUCN GIS data were added to the platform, which is named 'The Mediterranean Journey to Conserve Biodiversity' (www.medconservationstorymaps.org).

On the occasion of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP), IUCN-Med produced and launched the **infographic** *The Mediterranean, a global priority for conservation*. With its compelling design, the infographic provides meaningful information about the status of almost 6,000 species that had been assessed in the region by November 2018, detailing which species are threatened, where and why.

Finally, IUCN-Med produced an **animation and a video** within the DestiMED project, through the MEET network, to promote transformative experiences of nature that support conservation efforts while minimising the environmental impact of travel.

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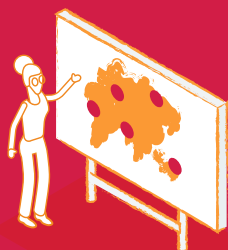
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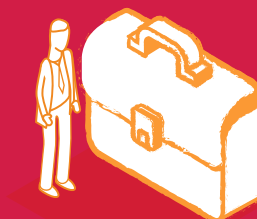
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KEY FIGURES 2018



150
Key Biodiversity
Areas for plants
reviewed



15
capacity-building
workshops
benefiting more
than **350** people



188
species
assessed
regionally for the
IUCN Red List



10
Mediterranean
sites added to
the Green List of
Protected Areas



8
international
events, 4 held
in Málaga



42
new projects
from young North
African CSOs
shortlisted for
support

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Acronyms



14
new Members,
making a total of
218 IUCN
Mediterranean
Members



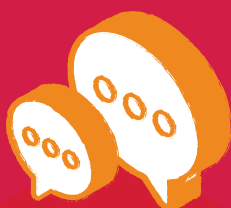
3
electronic
bulletins



14
new cooperation
agreements
signed



5
Thematic
publications



10
press
releases



**Social
media**

Twitter:
3,187
followers, up by
16%

Facebook:
16,280
followers, up by
8%

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JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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Stakeholders Buna Delta Protection Project

11 | IUCN-Med welcomed four new Members from the Mediterranean region: Réseau Association Khnifiss (Morocco), Association Jeunes Science Kerkennah (Tunisia), Un bosque para el Planeta Tierra (Spain) and Doga Koruma Merkezi Vakfi (Nature Conservation Centre Foundation, Turkey).

25-27 | More than 70 participants from local government, civil society and educational organisations from Albania and Montenegro met in Shodra, Albania, to launch the Buna Delta Protection Project. The event was attended by the Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers for Foreign Affairs and for Tourism and Environment. This project is part of an initiative to enhance conservation of coastal wetland and is supported by MAVA Foundation.

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

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



5 | Two French protected areas, Calanques National Park and Camargue Nature Park, joined the DestiMED project (funded by the Interreg Med Programme) and developed and tested new ecotourism packages with the support of IUCN-Med.

5-10 | Workshop with IAMZ and ICARDA on dryland monitoring and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)

21 | IUCN-Med hosted experts from various fields including urban ecology, research, local government, international organisations, business and public agencies related to Mediterranean cities, to discuss how to promote the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Mediterranean cities.



Gazella Cuvieri | ©Tim Wachter

7-8 | DestiMED/MEET, coordinated by IUCN-Med, held a training course to support protected areas across the Mediterranean region, attended an Ecotourism Conference and launched the MEET Area Network, which focuses on ecotourism in protected areas that supports conservation while reducing travellers' footprints.

23 | In a multi-country and multi-disciplinary effort, IUCN-Med released a new strategy for the conservation of Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa.

27-28 | IUCN-Med and the WCPA held a workshop and launched an initiative in the five North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) to undertake a proper assessment of capacity development needs and to develop a capacity-building strategy for North African protected areas.

APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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11–14 | IUCN-Med participated in the Monaco Ocean Week and coordinated a workshop on monk seal conservation.

13 | DestiMED presented its monitoring approach during the MITOMED+ sustainable tourism event in Málaga.

17 | IUCN-Med participated in the kick-off meeting of the Interreg Med project Plastic Buster MPAs in Siena, Italy, of which it is an associated partner.

23–27 | IUCN-Med, in collaboration with Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre and with the support of RAC/SPA, organised a workshop in Cyprus addressing marine invasive species management in Mediterranean MPAs.



©Biljana Aljinovic

29 | In the framework of the POSBEMED project, several webinars were organised on the management of posidonia banquettes in the Mediterranean. IUCN-Med coordinated one in Spanish.

31 | BleuTourMed and DestiMED projects played a key role in the EU Maritime Days conference (31 May–1 June) in Burgas, Bulgaria. The Sustainable Tourism community delegation networked among the 900 attendees from across the EU, and identified several potential capitalisation and collaboration opportunities across the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.



8 | IUCN-Med celebrated World Ocean Day by launching the first large-scale study of Mediterranean cetaceans. The project, run by ACCOBAMS, kicked off in Málaga with various events and the arrival of the research vessel *Song of the Whale*.

14–15 | IUCN-Med and the Moroccan High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (HCEFLCD) organised a training workshop for the Moroccan public on identifying and mitigating the impact that electricity infrastructure can have on birdlife.

28 | PPI-OSCAN2 launched a call for proposals for small-scale initiatives for civil society organisations in North Africa. The programme is funded by the French Global Environment Facility (EFEM) and the MAVA Foundation. A total of 223 proposals were received in response to the call.

28–29 | Málaga hosted a preparatory meeting ahead of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) with more than 20 representatives from Mediterranean countries to discuss COP13 and establish MedWet's position and active role in the conference.

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

S M T W T F S

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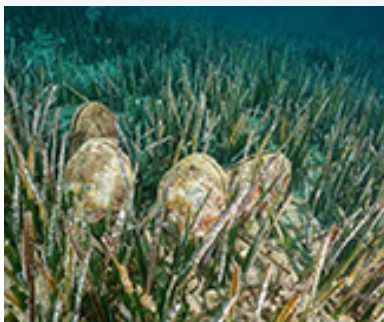
NBS Tunisie

1 | Within the Interreg Med project POSBEMED, IUCN-Med coordinated the preparation of guidelines on how to manage beaches with seagrass banquettes in the Mediterranean.

3 | IUCN-Med and IDDRI (the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations) held two workshops in Tunis and Rabat to discuss the implementation of Nature-based Solutions in climate policy in Morocco and Tunisia.

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

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



Pinna nobilis, Costa Brava | ©Seadam Dreamstime

1 | IUCN-Med along with other Mediterranean institutions called for urgent action to save pen shells in the Mediterranean.

2 | MPA-Adapt released a new video which explains the need to include key coastal actors such as local authorities, fishermen and divers in assisting MPA management plans and actions, and how they can contribute to integrated coastal management.



Taller Guadiana EICAT

12-13 | IUCN-Med held a workshop in Mérida (Spain) to train staff from the Spanish hydrographic confederations and regional and local governments involved in water management, together with researchers and other experts, in the methodology and standards used in the EICAT protocol.

13-16 | IUCN-Med hosted a meeting with 11 universities from the Mediterranean region to encourage the participation of the academic sector in the conservation of the environment and marine biodiversity in the Alboran area.

14 | The MEET Network and DestiMED were presented as case studies at the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) joint webinar.

24-26 | IUCN-Med and the WCPA organised a training course for the Green List Expert Assessment Group for the Maghreb countries (EAGL-Maghreb) in Zaghouan, Tunisia. Seven new protected areas were proposed for the candidate phase of the Green List.

30 | The Voice for the Ocean touring campaign arrived in Málaga, and IUCN-Med together with the Ayuntamiento de Málaga hosted and participated in the event.

OCTOBER

S M T W T F S

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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Deep Sea Lebanon

2-4 | IUCN-Med in collaboration with the HCEFLCD of Morocco and the Regional Government of Andalusia organised a course on census and monitoring methods for birds of prey.

7-11 | IUCN-Med together with the Mediterranean Trust Fund visited Lebanon to discuss and support the creation and management of a new Lebanese marine protected area.

14 | MEET/DestMED was presented to more than 700 delegates from over 60 countries at the Adventure Travel World Summit in Tuscany, Italy. The new MEET Guide was launched after five years of collaboration and partnership.

3 | IUCN-Med participated in the final workshop for the project 'Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa "bycatch" of vulnerable species and testing mitigation' held in Morocco.

12-16 | The 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week took place in Malta and was organised by IUCN-Med, the University of Malta and CARE-MEDIFLORA. The week included sessions on species conservation, methodologies, technical aspects, mapping tools, site-based approaches and monitoring.

14 | IUCN-Med launched the publication *Conserving wild plants in the south and east Mediterranean region*. A new Technical Report on Capacity Development Strategy Outline for Protected Area Management in the North African Region was also published. This report was led by IUCN-Med in collaboration with WCPA.

14 | IUCN-Med and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) organised the 3rd Meeting of Environmental Journalists of Mediterranean News Agencies in Barcelona, attended by more than 50 journalists together with scientists and experts, to discuss environmental challenges in the region.

27 | IUCN-Med and IUCN Europe Brussels, together with the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, organised a forum at which EU Member States and stakeholders discussed the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in climate mitigation.

30 to 3 Dec. | IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ training workshop on the application of IUCN Categories and Criteria for Global and Regional Assessments – Focus on Insects, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín campus (Colombia).



©Roberto Grassi

3-5 | IUCN-Med provided a keynote session at the 5th National Congress of Zoology in Bogotá (Colombia) on 'How to improve the representation of less-known groups on National Red Lists'.

4 | IUCN-Med organized a webinar on monitoring biodiversity in which participants shared their work, findings and problems in relation to this topic.

5 | IUCN-Med hosted a one-day think-tank event on tourism attended by around 25 organisations from 6 Mediterranean countries. The participants discussed how they could work together to collectively address the impacts of tourism on Mediterranean biodiversity, while making more effective use of ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development and conservation.

10-14 | IUCN-Med participated in several side-events at FishForum 2018: Forum on Fisheries Science in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, organised by the GFCM.

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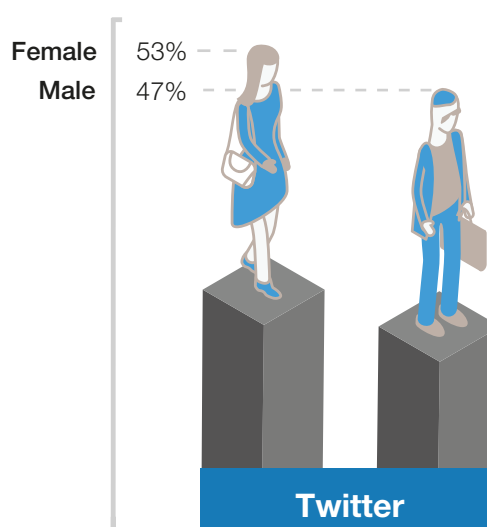
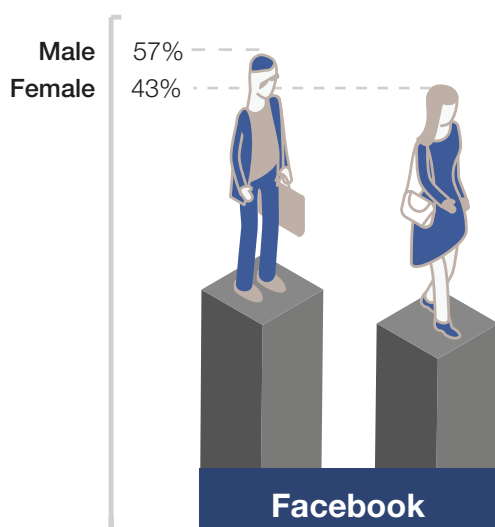
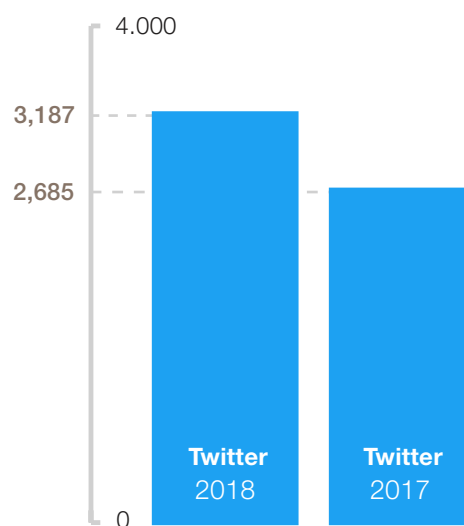
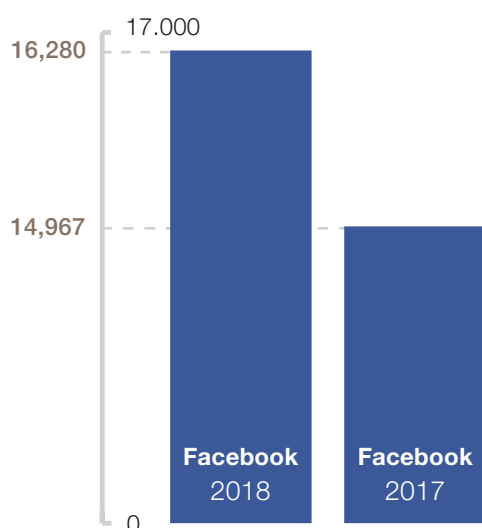
PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2018

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

At the close of 2018, the number of its followers had grown significantly compared to the previous year, reaching

16,280 followers on Facebook (an increase of 8% over the year) and 3,187 followers on Twitter (a 16% increase). This was the result of the Centre's ongoing social media strategy, with more regular information feeds and the creation of content specifically adapted to these platforms.

NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS

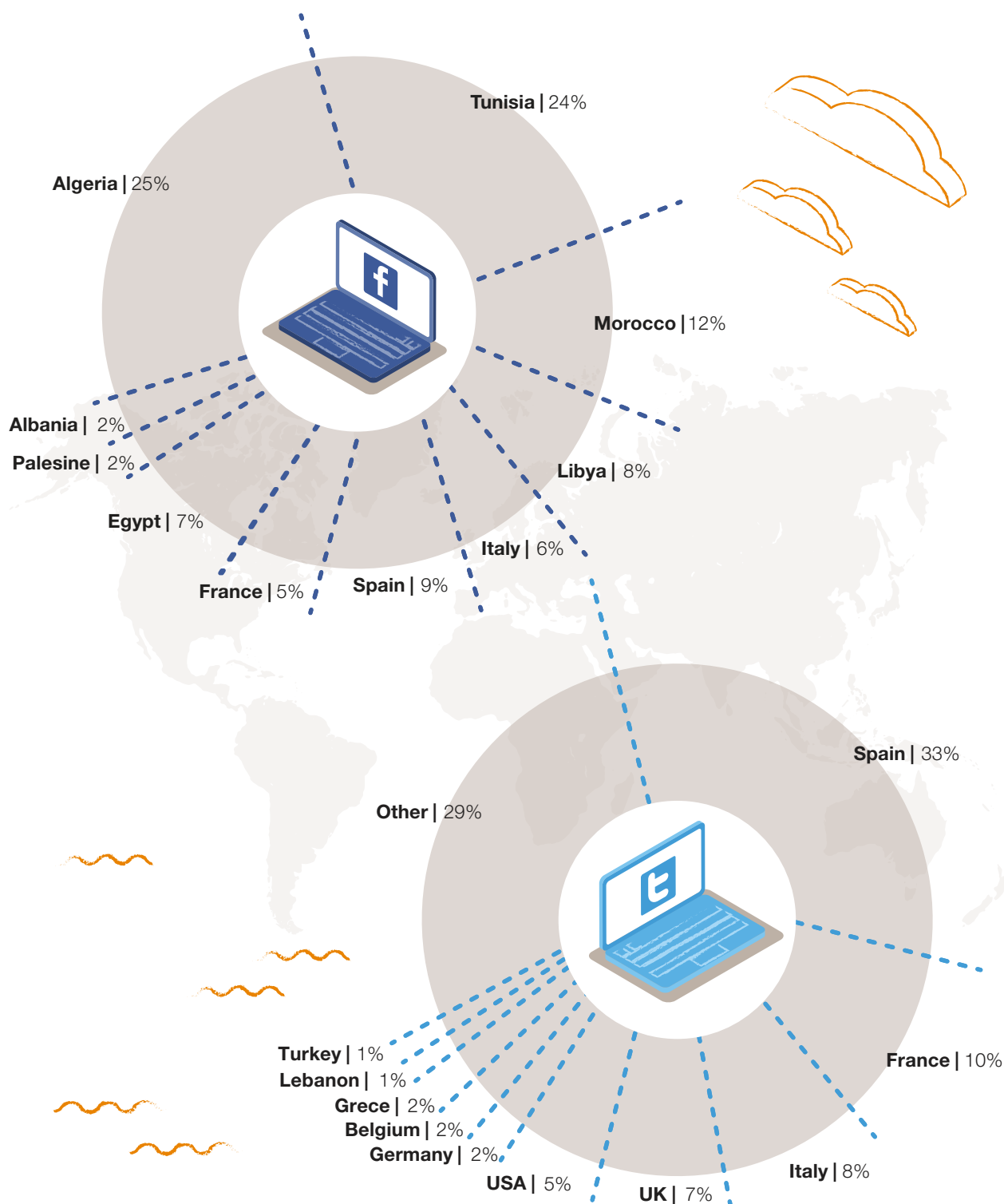




FOLLOWERS GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

IUCN-Med's Facebook and Twitter accounts have different audiences, which helps the Centre reach different parts of the Mediterranean. Half of its Facebook followers are

located in North Africa and are French and Arabic speaking, while IUCN-Med's Twitter followers are mostly in Europe, particularly in Spain.



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PUBLICATIONS

SPECIES PROGRAMME



STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CUVIER'S GAZELLE (GAZELLA CUVIERI) IN NORTH AFRICA 2017-2026

This strategy and action plan for the conservation of the Cuvier's Gazelle is the result of a long-term cooperation programme between IUCN-Med and the three Maghreb countries that constitute the natural distribution area of this species (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia). The strategy was developed in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC Antelope Specialist Group, the three government agencies dedicated to conservation in these countries and the contribution of a large number of regional and international experts.

Version in [English](#) and [French](#).

ECOSYSTEMS

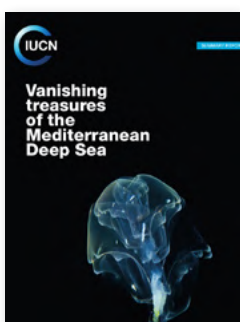


CONSERVING WILD PLANTS IN THE SOUTH AND EAST MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Despite the undisputed importance of plant life, conservation policies often neglect plant diversity in priority setting, and concrete plant conservation strategies are still insufficient to face the growing pressures. The aim of this publication is to provide a snapshot of existing knowledge of plant diversity in the south and east Mediterranean, and to propose strategies and actions that can be taken to enhance plant conservation in the region.

Available in [English](#).

TECHNICAL REPORTS



VANISHING TREASURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN DEEP SEA

In recent years, scientists, with the aid of emerging technologies, have been exploring new regions and discovering new species which, in turn, has led to the realization that the ocean deep waters are home to ecosystems found nowhere else on the planet. Yet, conservation planning is still limited and there are few measures to protect and improve this fragile environment. Brochure in English explaining the different deep seas ecosystems.

Leaflet only available in English and printed.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OUTLINE FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH AFRICAN REGION (TECHNICAL REPORT 2018-2030)

This strategy proposal was developed with the support of IUCN-Med and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). It is a component of the 'Capacity needs assessment and capacity-building strategy for North African protected areas' project.

Available in [English](#) and [French](#).

FACT SHEETS

THREATENED SPECIES INVENTORY AND MONITORING
PROGRAMME – RAPTORS

Leaflet with general information about monitoring programme for raptors.

Available in [Spanish](#) and French.

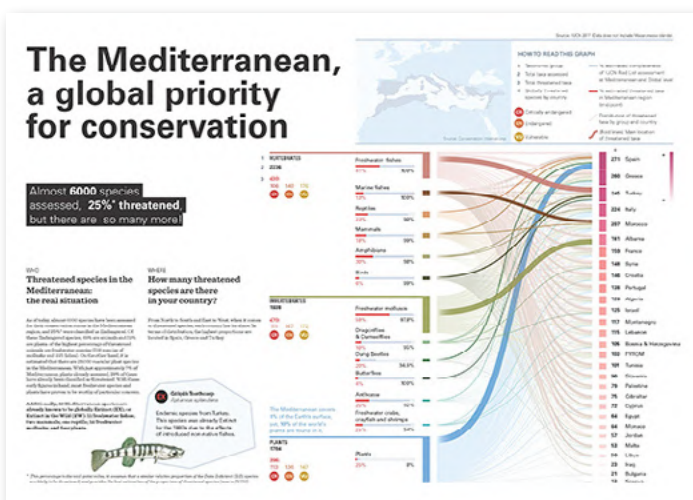
ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

MEDITERRANEAN FLASHNEWS SPRING 2018,
SUMMER 2018 AND WINTER 2018

Bulletins published two or three times a year that provide key updates about the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.

Available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

INFOGRAPHIC POSTERS

THE MEDITERRANEAN, A GLOBAL
PRIORITY FOR CONSERVATION

With its compelling design, this infographic provides an insight into the status of almost 6,000 species that had been assessed in the region by November 2018, detailing which species are threatened, where and why. The downloadable poster also presents a promising method for stopping their decline.

Available in [English](#).

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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 that the Regional Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of the *Junta de Andalucía* (CMAyOT), the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MITECO) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) provide through their agreements with IUCN is crucial for maintaining the Centre's operations. The five-year agreement with the MAVA Foundation to help cover our operational costs in the Mediterranean has proved vital for IUCN-Med's activities, 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 2018 received funding from the following organisations:



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The work of IUCN-Med in partnership with organisations linked to IUCN, including Members, Commissions and other institutions, is reflected in the 14 new cooperation agreements signed in 2018 with the following institutions:

OCEANA Foundation	Extension of previous agreement related to project Deep Sea Lebanon
University of Malta	2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week, from 12-16 Nov 2018, Valletta Malta
Universidad de Madrid	Convenio de Prácticas
Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza	Course Restoration of degraded drylands and monitoring of Desertification processes, Zaragoza
Fundación Unicaja	Día Mundial de los Océanos 8/6/2018
Agreement IUCN ELC	Capitalize and support the new development of law and legislation on Deep Sea MPA's in Lebanon
RAC-SPAS	Green List in North Africa
Fundación Amigos del Aguila Imperial	Aplicación móvil Alerta Tendidos, página Web asociada
Partnership agreement IUCNMed - The secretariat of the Union for the Med (UfM)	3rd Meeting of Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Med, Bcn 13-14/11/2018
Al Shouf Cedar Society, Lebanon	Monitoring plan in Al Shouf to provide linkages between biodiversity and cultural practices
Global Diversity Foundation UK	Supporting contracting GIS, capacity building, exchange to share strategies
Agreement IUCN ROFE	EU Parliament event "Blue Carbon in EU climate policy"
Convention INSTM Institut National des Sciences et Technologies	Utilización de barco de investigación Oceanográfica
Ayuntamiento de Málaga	Día Mundial de los Océanos 8/6/2018

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.

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MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

IUCN is only as strong as the collective power of its membership. We are proud that over the past eight years we have seen a significant growth in the number of Members in the region, from 170 in 2010 to **226** by the end of 2018. 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 REGION (INCLUDING NORTH AFRICA)

State Members	11
Government Agencies	22
International NGOs	11
National NGOs	169
Affiliates	13
TOTAL	226
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24)	24

IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA

State Members	4
Government Agencies	-
International NGOs	2
National NGOs	28
Affiliates	-
TOTAL	34
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5)	5

IUCN's six Commissions rely on more than 10,000 international experts, more than 1,000 of whom are from Mediterranean countries.

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (2017-2020)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	272
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	848
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	126
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	144
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	65
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	88
TOTAL	1543

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA (2017-2020)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	51
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	61
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	22
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	35
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	6
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	5
TOTAL	180



NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2018

FRANCE

- Primate Conservation Trust
- French Ecological Engineering Firm Federation
- French Association of Companies for the Environment
- Beauval Nature Association for Conservation and Research
- Biotope Corporate Foundation for Biodiversity

LEBANON

- GHADI

MOROCCO

- Khnifiss Network Association

SPAIN

- A Forest for Planet Earth
- Vice Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Housing, Basque Government

STATE OF LIBYA

- Alhaya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms

TUNISIA

- Tunisian Taxonomy Association
- Exploralis
- Kerkennah Youth Science Association

TURKEY

- Nature Conservation Centre Foundation



OUR WORK WITH MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)

- *Partner in DestiMED project*



ALBANIA
Projects | 1

Association écologique de Boumerdès

- *Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week*

Direction Générale des Forêts and various partners

- *Conservation strategy for Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa*
- *National conservation strategy for the Barbary macaque*

Ministère de l'Environnement et des Énergies Renouvelables

- *Regional Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN)*
- *Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building Strategy for Protected Areas in North Africa*
- *Support for Green List promotion in North Africa*



ALGERIA
Projects | 6

WWF Adria

- *Partner in DestiMED project and Partner in FishMPABlue2 project*



CROATIA
Projects | 1

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

- *Interreg POSBEMED project*



CYPRUS
Projects | 1

Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)

- *Potential partner in the artisanal salinas proposal for the ENI call*

Ministry of Environment

- *Capacity building for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (tentative list and nomination files)*



EGYPT
Projects | 2

IUCN French Committee

- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Med-Europe*
- *Support for Green List promotion in North Africa*
- *Support for climate change strategy for Protected Areas*
- *Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean*

L'Agence française pour la biodiversité

- *Interreg POSBEMED project*

Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network (MedPAN)

- *Establishment of MEET Network*
- *Partner in DestiMED project*
- *Partner in FishMPABlue2 project*
- *Associated Partner in MPA-Adapt*
- *Mediterranean Trust Fund*



FRANCE
Projects | 10

Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

- *Interreg POSBEMED project*

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)

- *Partner in the initiative for conservation of biodiversity and cultural practices as part of MAVA regional initiative. Lemnos Island conservation Initiative*



GREECE
Projects | 2

Federparchi-Europarc Italy

- *Establishment of MEET Network*
- *Partner in DestiMED project*
- *Partner in FishMPABlue2 project*
- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Med-Europe*
- *Partner in MEET2 proposal for ENI call*

Lazio region

- *Partner in DestiMED project*

WWF Mediterranean office

- *Partner in DestiMED project*



ITALY
Projects | 7

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

- *Partner in MEET2 proposal for ENI call*



JORDAN
Projects | 1

Al Shouf Cedar Society (ASCS)

- Partner in MEET2 proposal for ENI call
- Partner in the initiative for conservation of biodiversity and cultural practices as part of MAVA regional initiative. Support monitoring of biodiversity in ASC

Association for Forest Development and Conservation

- Support for the development of the Red List of Forest Ecosystems of Lebanon as part of the initiative for development of the publication State of Lebanon Forest 2018

Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM)

- Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

- Partner in Cultural Landscapes proposal
- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF



LEBANON
Projects | 6

Macedonian Ecological Society

- Partner in IPA-Med Project



MACEDONIA
Projects | 1

Albert II Foundation

- Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée (Mediterranean MPA Trust Fund)



MONACO
Projects | 1

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

- Partner of Mediterranean Trust Fund

GREPOM

- Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on birds in Morocco

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

- Nature-based solutions in NDCs
- Regional Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2)
- Capacity needs assessment and capacity-building strategy for protected areas in North Africa
- Support for Green List programme in North Africa
- Conservation strategy for Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa



MOROCCO
Projects | 8

WWF Morocco

- Partner in Sebou river project

CEIDA, Centro de Extensión Universitaria e Divulgación Ambiental de Galicia

- *Joint monitoring of the IUCN WCC Resolution 042 on biodiversity refuge areas in the Atlantic*
- *Training course on captive breeding of North African gazelles*
- *Preparation of working plan to implement Resolution 042 on Atlantic Refugia*

Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio (CMAyOT) - Junta de Andalucía

- *Collaboration in the development of a training course on monitoring of birds of prey in Morocco*
- *Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on birds in Morocco*
- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe*
- *Two LIFE projects: LIFE Blue Natura and LIFE AdaptaMED*
- *Partner in the project proposal URBANAT – POCTEP call*

Delta del Ebro Biosphere reserve – COPATE

- *Pilot action in DestiMED project*

Europarc – Spain

- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Mediterranean Europe*
- *Participation in the 25th Anniversary of Europarc*

Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa - Balearic Group for Ornithology and Defence of Nature (GOB)

- *Partner in the initiative for conservation of biodiversity and cultural practices in Menorca of Spain as part of MAVA regional initiative. Land stewardship initiative*

IUCN Spanish National Committee

- *XIV IUCN Spanish Member Congress in Canary Islands*
- *25th Week of the Sea (April)*

Málaga Council

- *2018 Launch of ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative – ASI (World Ocean Day)*
- *Preparatory meeting ahead of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) with representatives from Mediterranean countries*
- *Presentation of the Voice for the Ocean European campaign*

Menorca Biosphere Reserve - Consell Insular

- *Pilot action in DestiMED project*

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Environment (MAPAMA)

- *Involvement in the Advisory Group on Blue Carbon, LIFE Blue Natura*
- *Associated Partner in Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: building resilience and adaptation – MPA-Adapt*

SEO Birdlife

- *Training courses on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on birds in Morocco*

WWF, Spain

- *Partner in the initiative for conservation of biodiversity and cultural practices in Dehesas of Spain as part of MAVA regional initiative*



SPAIN
Projects | 22

Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (within the Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement)

- Partner on the Mediterranean Trust Fund board

Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

- Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean
- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF

Association Notre Grand Bleu

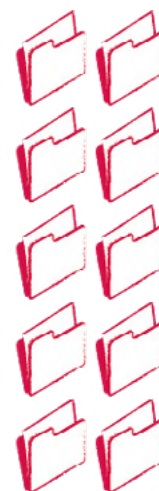
- Partner of the Mediterranean Trust Fund

Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement

- Nature-based Solutions in NDCs
- Regional Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2)
- Capacity needs assessment and capacity-building strategy for protected areas in North Africa
- Support for Green List programme in North Africa

WWF Tunisia

- Partner in MEET2 proposal for ENI call
- Partner in Ghar el Melh project



TUNISIA
Projects | 10

BirdLife International

- Partner in bird priority projects (energy infrastructure, illegal killing of birds, poisoning)



UK
Projects | 1

Vulture Conservation Foundation

- Partner in bird priority projects (energy infrastructure, illegal killing of birds, poisoning)



SWITZERLAND
Projects | 1



PROJECTS

COMMISSIONS

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

- *Conservation strategy for Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa*

Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment II – Overview of the conservation status of Mediterranean Anthozoa

- *Conservation strategy for Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa*
- *Article on Barbary sheep strategy for Tunisia published in IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group newsletter Caprinae News, September 2018*

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

- *Coordination of the 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week*
- *Co-editors of the publication Conserving wild plants in the south and east Mediterranean region*
- *Training course on EICAT (Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa)*
- *MEET Network*
- *DestiMED project*
- *Support for communications working group*
- *Green List*
- *Capacity needs assessment and capacity-building strategy for protected areas in North Africa*
- *KBA regional focal point – linkage between global secretariat and national focal points*
- *Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) at global level and at national level in Tunisia (training) and Lebanon (support).*
- *Organisation of Dryland restoration training course, with IAMZ–CIHEAM*
- *Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean*

1 SSC experts (Marine Turtle Specialist Group)**1** SSC experts (Antelope Specialist Group)**1** SSC experts (Coral Specialist Group)**1** SSC experts (Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee)**1** SSC experts (Caprinae Specialist Group)**2** SSC experts (Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group)**1** SSC experts (Invasive Species Specialist Group)**3** WCPA–TAPAS**2** WCPA**1** WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force for KBAs**1** CEM Red List of Ecosystems**1** CEM and Society for Ecological Restoration International**1** CEM Nature-based Solutions

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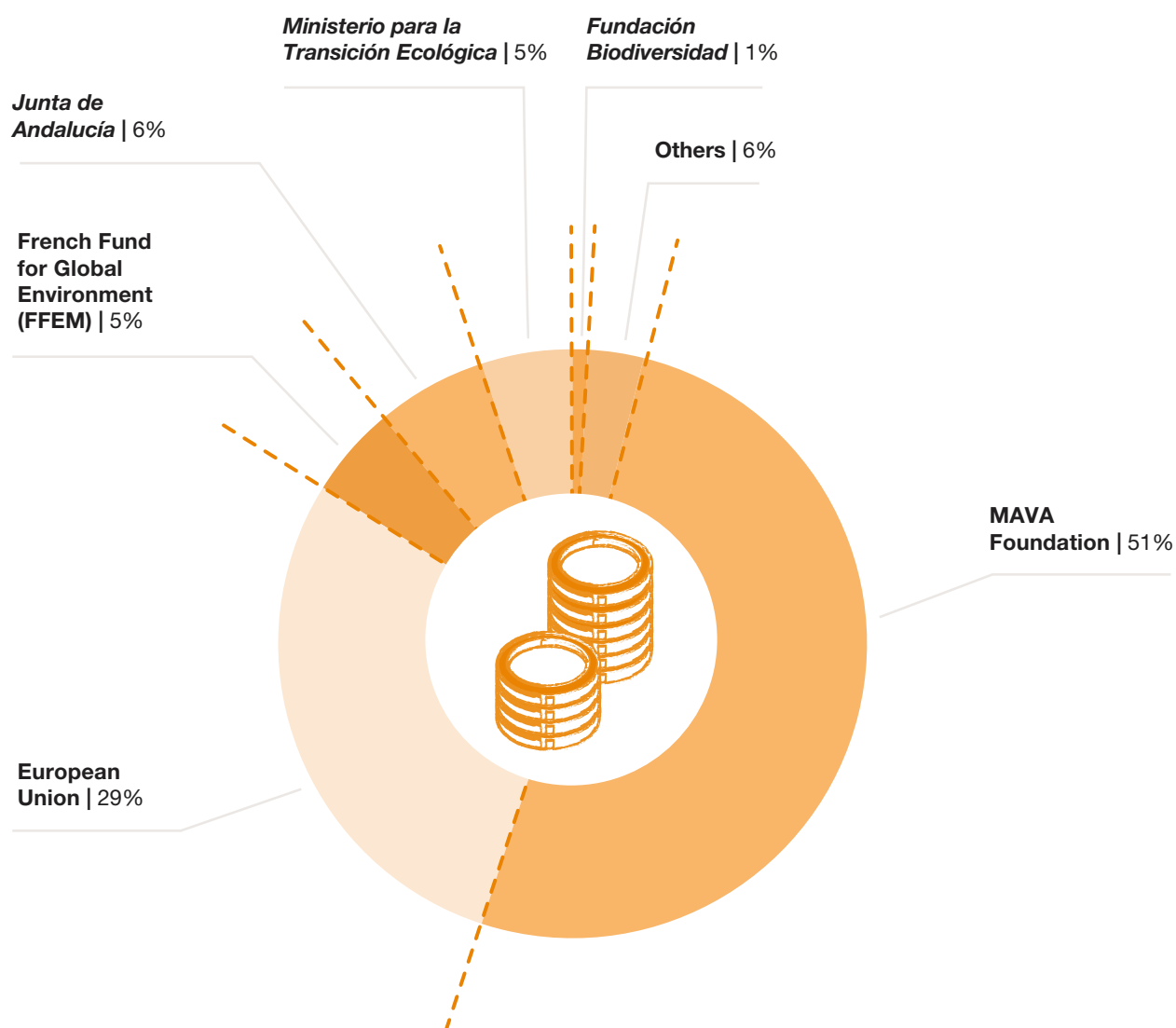
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REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

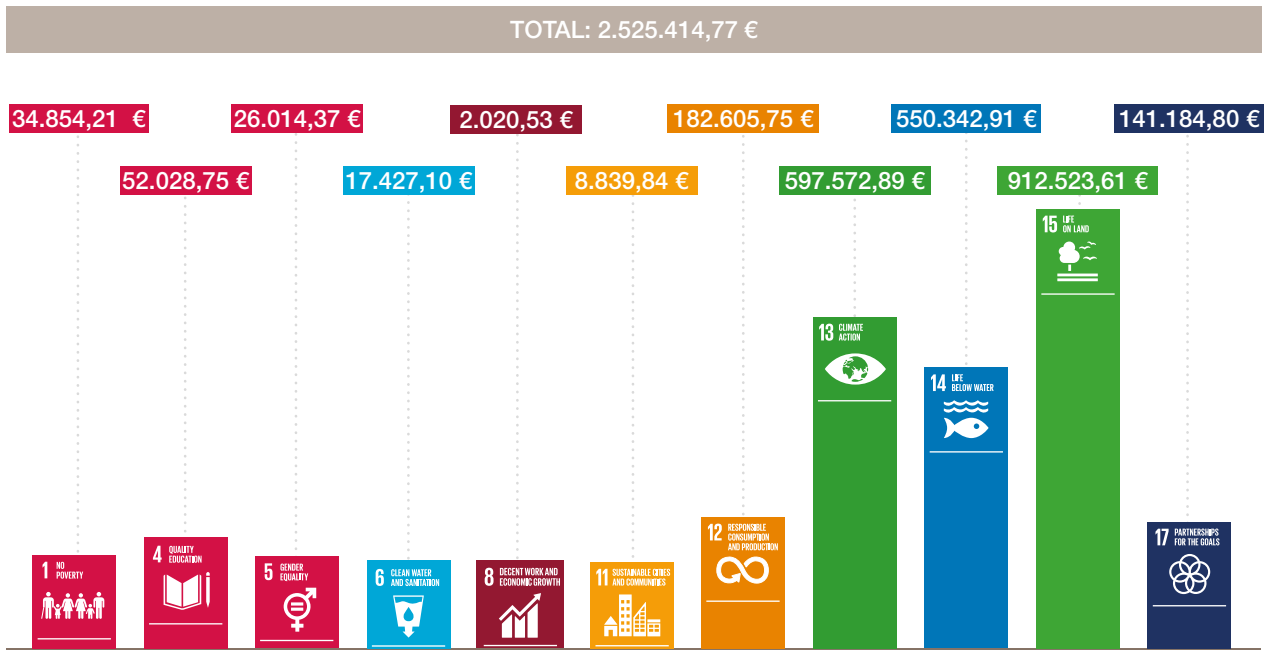
In 2018 IUCN-Med managed around 20 projects with a budget of approximately EUR 2.525 million. Of this, 51% came from the MAVA Foundation, 29% from the European Union, 6% Andalusia's Regional Government (CMAyOT),

5% from the FFEM and 5% from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition (MITECO). The rest was from the IUCN Programme, Arab World Heritage, CEPF and Oceana Foundation.

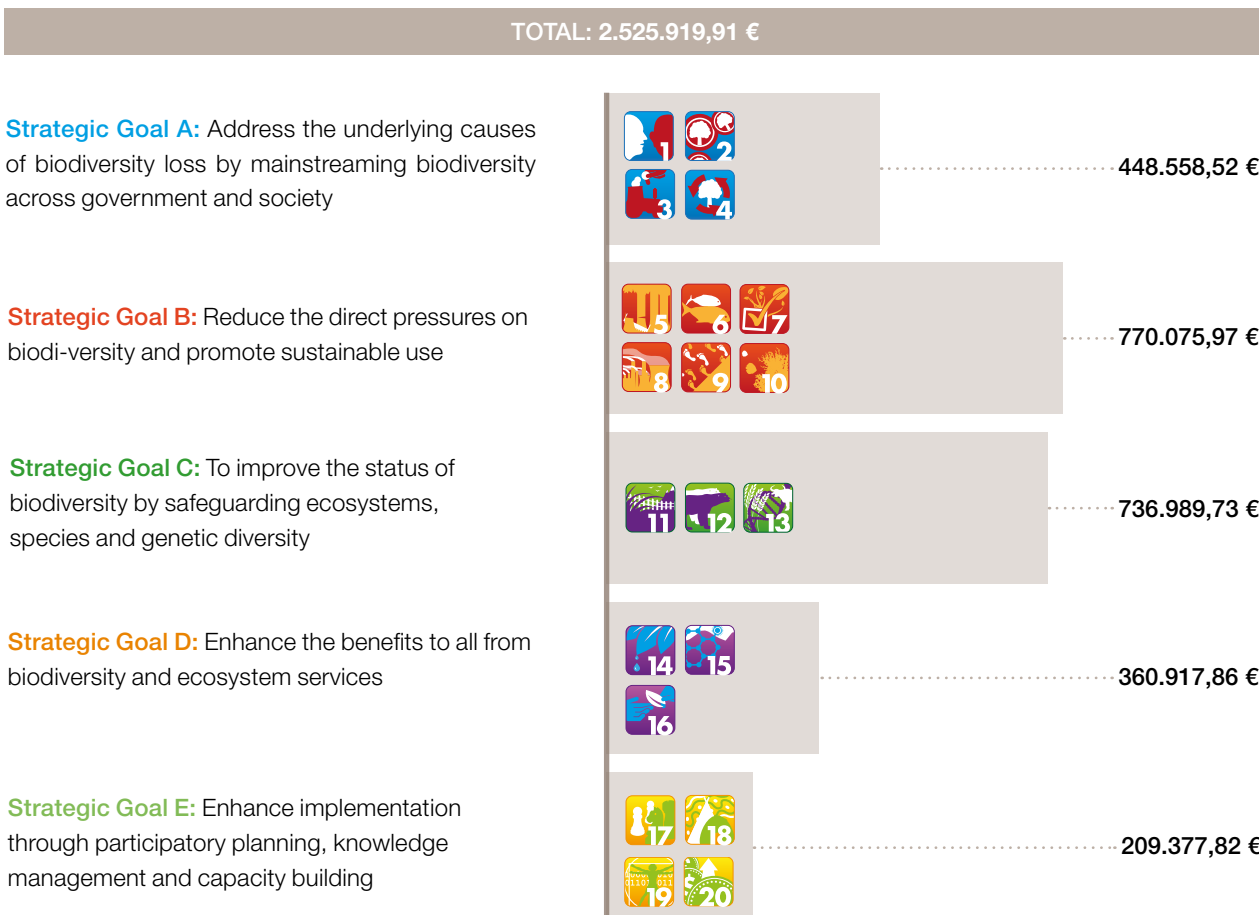
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CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO THE AICHI TARGETS



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OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Junta de Andalucía
Office Support

Ongoing

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)

MAPAMA
Office Support

Ongoing

To finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding

Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAPAMA)

MAVA
Office and Activity Support

Ongoing

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

IUCN Programme
Office Support

To finance part of IUCN-Med operational costs

IUCN

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Mediterranean **Biodiversity Assessment** (Phase II)

Ongoing

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, *Junta de Andalucía*, MAPAMA, AECID, OAPN

Structure and development of Mediterranean **Species Action Plans**

Ongoing

To build capacity to produce Species Conservation Strategies in three Maghreb countries

MAVA Foundation, *Fundación Biodiversidad*

Environmental impact assessment of introduced species in Spain, testing of IUCN's EICAT system

Ongoing (2018)
Completed in 2019

To test the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), developed by IUCN, on introduced alien species in Spain, with a view to designing national monitoring and control measures for these species.

Fundación Biodiversidad and MAVA Foundation

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



INVASAQUA

To reduce the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (IAS) in the Iberian Peninsula by increasing public and stakeholder awareness, and developing key tools to improve an early warning and rapid response (EWRR) framework for new IAS in freshwater and estuarine habitats

LIFE project

Ongoing

Ensuring integrated management of river basins

To minimise the impacts of water abstraction, dams and other infrastructure on river basins and protect, and restore freshwater ecosystems

MAVA Foundation

Ongoing

Protecting sea turtle nesting sites // Reducing mortality of migratory birds and vultures

To ensure the most important turtle nesting sites are well-managed // To minimise or eliminate the intentional and accidental killing of priority bird species

MAVA Foundation

Ongoing

NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Support for conservation in North Africa

To provide institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme

MAVA Foundation

Ongoing

PPI-OSCAN
Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa

To strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations through the implementation of site projects on biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources

MAVA Foundation, French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)

Ongoing

Arab World Heritage (Morocco–Egypt)

To support Morocco and Egypt in the preparation of nominations of sites for consideration as World Heritage Sites

Arab World Heritage Centre

Ongoing

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MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



IUCN Green List
for Natura 2000

Ongoing

To coordinate the Mediterranean European contribution to the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas with effective management plans

European Union

IPA-Med

Conserving wild plants and habitats for people in the South and East Mediterranean region

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

Completed

LIFE AdaptMED

Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of climate change in endangered Mediterranean socio-ecosystems

To mitigate the negative effect of climate change on key ecosystem services that representative Mediterranean Natural Protected Areas provide for 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

Ongoing

Monitoring biodiversity and its links with practices in Cultural Landscapes

To strengthen the knowledge on linkages between cultural practices and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes

MAVA Foundation

Ongoing

Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands

To restore damaged habitats, encourage sustainable water use and reduce the impacts of water abstraction, pollution and coastal development on wetlands and related marine habitats

MAVA Foundation

Ongoing

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Reconciling fisheries and biodiversity // Preserving living marine resources

Ongoing

To to protect critical habitats and healthy ecosystems for the benefit of fishers and biodiversity // o reduce fishing pressure on predatory fish species and ensure management that protects key spawning grounds and other critical habitats for healthy fisheries

MAVA Foundation

CEPF – Support for 2nd MPCW

Completed

To support the participation of CEPF grantees in the 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week, to enhance the capacities of grantees to deliver plant conservation initiatives

CEPF

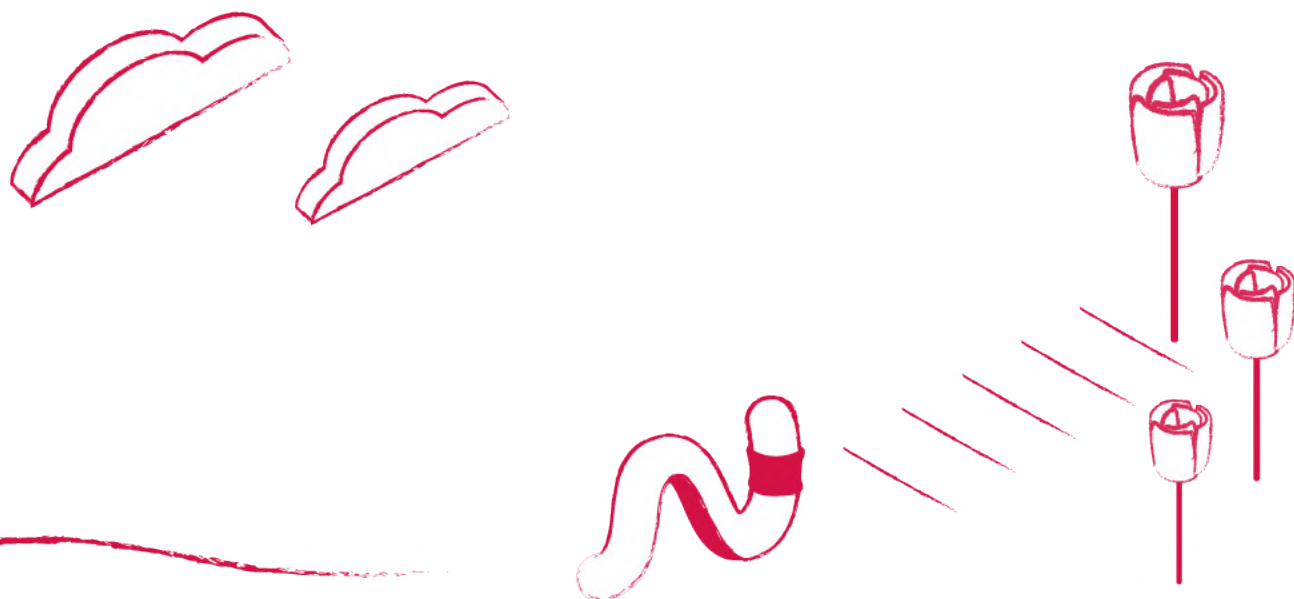
DestiMED

Mediterranean Ecotourism
Destination

Ongoing

To prepare the foundations for a Mediterranean desti-nation management organisation (DMO) to harmonise quality standards and tools so as to monitor compli-ance and promote attractive ecotourism provision in protected areas

EU – Interreg MED
MAVA



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MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



LIFE Blue Natura

Ongoing

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

Deep-Sea Lebanon

Ongoing

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

FishMPABlue2

Fishing governance in MPAs:
Potentialities for a Blue Economy

Ongoing

To test and demonstrate the effectiveness of the region-based governance toolkit developed by the original FishMPABlue project, which analysed 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



PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



POSBEMED

Sustainable management of the posidonia seagrass meadow and beach systems in the Mediterranean region

Ongoing

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

MPA-ADAPT

Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: building resilience and adaptation

Ongoing

To develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for MPAs that will enhance their resilience to climate change impacts

EU – Interreg MED
MAVA Foundation



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2019 PROGRAMME FORECAST

IUCN NORTH AFRICA MEMBERS CONGRESS

In preparation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, the Centre will organise the North Africa Members Congress in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 2019. This will be an opportunity to share lessons and best practices, as well as to discuss how to get Members more involved in the preparations for the 2020 Congress and in implementing the next IUCN Programme. Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together several thousand leaders and decision makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business and academia with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. In 2020, the Congress will be held in Marseille, France, from 11 to 19 June.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The interplay between urban environments and Nature-based Solutions is a key area of work that IUCN-Med will keep exploring in 2019, by identifying and promoting experiences and success stories from Spain and elsewhere in Europe and the Mediterranean basin. More specifically, we will examine the possibility of developing a laboratory of NbS for cities.

WATCHING OUT FOR BIRDS OF PREY

The Centre will continue to develop activities for the conservation of threatened birds of prey in the Mediterranean, involving actors from all sectors and from both shores, with a particular emphasis on a major threat: electrocution on power lines. The activities and workshops held in 2018 also paved the way for a forthcoming guide on dangerous electricity infrastructure for raptors in North

Africa and two mobile applications (for raptor monitoring and characterisation of power lines).

HALTING THE SPREAD

In the framework of the INVASAQUA project, financed by the LIFE programme, IUCN-Med also plans to foster activities to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the Iberian Peninsula, by increasing public and stakeholder awareness, and developing key tools to improve an early warning and rapid response to this threat to freshwater. Several training and workshops on the EICAT methodology are planned.

OPTIMIZING AGRICULTURES

In 2019 IUCN-Med will also focus on optimizing the link between sustainable farming, the environment and agrobiodiversity. The Centre will work on enhancing food systems committed with environmental sustainability, reinforcing farm practices that promote, protect and benefit from native biodiversity.

CARING FOR THE SEA

IUCN-Med's marine efforts in 2019 will remain focused on key environmental issues such as plastics, Blue Carbon and deep-sea marine protected areas. Within the European Programme Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), and in collaboration with IUCN headquarters, the Centre will also support the development of much-needed solutions for more sustainable management of water and agro-food systems in the Mediterranean. In addition, the Centre will launch a European Neighbourhood Instrument project, MedArtSalt, which will focus on the sustainable management of Mediterranean artisanal salinas (salt pans).



Lloret del Mar | ©Siarhei Dzmitryienka Dreamstime

CIVIL SOCIETY, MEMBERS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN NORTH AFRICA

A second edition of the Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa, PPI-OSCAN II, was launched in 2018. In 2019, the project will continue strengthening the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia through thematic training schemes and on-the-ground monitoring. Furthermore, IUCN-Med will continue to encourage North African Members and partners to participate in current and future work for the region, by supporting initiatives led by protected area stakeholders, in close coordination with the Green List of Protected Areas.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND EXPANDING OUR PORTFOLIO

The support provided by the MAVA Foundation under the framework agreement remains crucial in complementing and consolidating the basic operating funds for staff and project activities. Additionally, increased collaboration will be pursued with IUCN Members, Commissions, new partners and other regional offices. Just as the cooperation agreements signed with 14 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. In 2019, the Centre will also seek to expand its project portfolio to tackle issues such as agriculture, Nature-based Solutions, sustainable tourism and ecological footprints.

THE MÁLAGA TEAM



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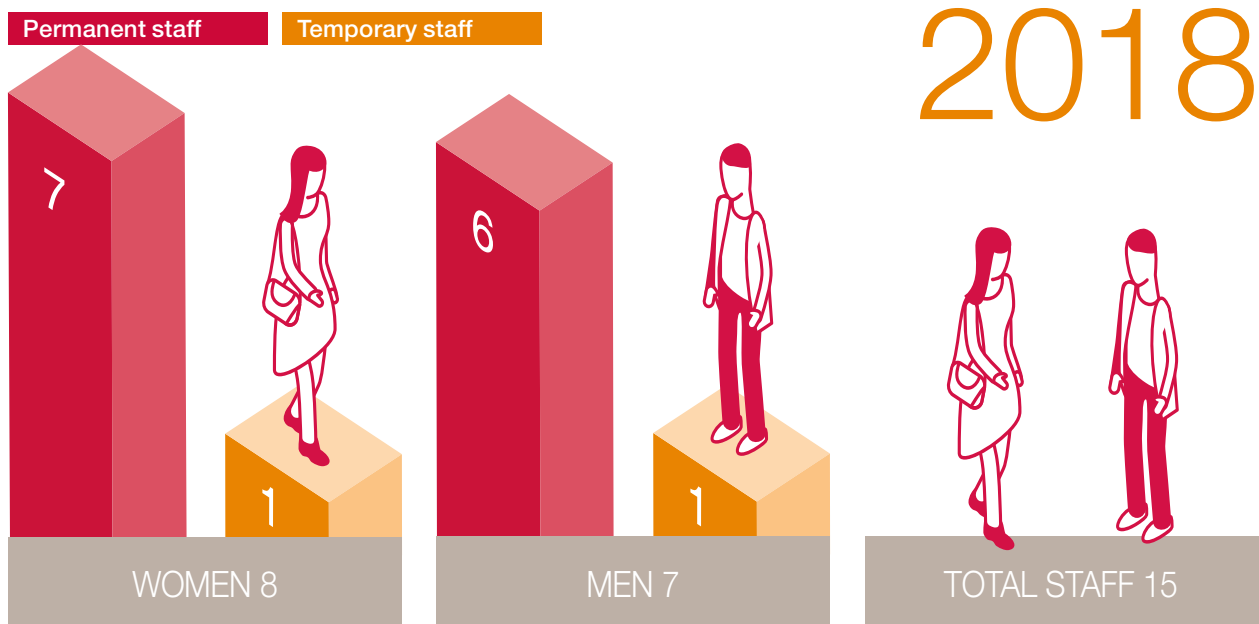


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The following people also worked with us temporarily in 2018 under cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean:

2018

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Ilias Ben Satti (Morocco) | University of Málaga (Spain)

SPECIES PROGRAMME

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Sonia Fernandez | (IMFE) (Spain)

MARINE PROGRAMME

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Laura Rodríguez | University of Málaga (Spain)



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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 (*Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo*)

AFAMP

French Agency for Marine Protected Areas (*Agence française des aires marines protégées*)

AFD

French Development Agency (*Agence française de développement*)

AGIR

Association for Integrated Resource Management (Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources), Morocco

AOYE

Arab Office for Youth and Environment (Egypt)

ARC-WH

Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (Bahrain)

ASI

ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

ASPEA

Portuguese Association for Environmental Education (*Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental*)

AT

Aichi Target (CBD)

BeMed

Beyond Plastic Med initiative

CAPDS

Andalusia's regional Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Sustainable Development (*Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible*)

CARE-MEDIFLORA

Conservation Actions for Threatened Mediterranean Island Flora: ex situ and in situ joint actions

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

CEC

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication

CEESP

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

CEM

IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

CEPF

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

CEPSA

Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A.U.

CIHEAM

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean
Agronomic Studies (*Centre international de hautes études
agronomiques méditerranéennes*)

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora

CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
of Wild Animals

CONAMA

National Environmental Congress (*Congreso Nacional del
Medio Ambiente*), Spain

COP

Conference of Parties

CSIC

Spanish National Research Council (*Consejo Superior de
Investigaciones Científicas*)

CSO

Civil Society Organisations

DMO

Destination Management Organisation

EAGL-Maghreb

Expert Assessment Group for the Green List in the Maghreb

EICAT

Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa

ENI

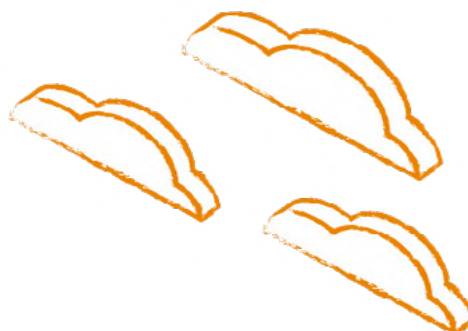
European Neighbourhood Instrument (the financing instrument
of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy – ENP)

EU

European Union

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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FFEM

French Global Environment Facility (*Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial*)

FYR

Former Yugoslav Republic

GEMWET

Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value: the case of Ghar el Melh, Tunisia

GFCM

FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

GIS

Geographical Information System

GLPA

IUCN Green List of Protected Areas

GMPP

IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme

GREPOM

Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (BirdLife Partner, Morocco)

GSTC

Global Sustainable Tourism Council

HCEFLCD

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

HCMR

Hellenic Center for Marine Research

IAMZ

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (*Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza*)

IAS

Invasive Alien Species

ICARDA

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

IDDRI

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

IKT

Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade

IMPAC4

4th International Marine Protected Area Congress

INVASAQUA

Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of Freshwater and Estuarine Systems

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 Area

LIFE

EU Financial Instrument for the Environment (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement)

M2PA

The Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs

MAB

Unesco Man and Biosphere Programme

MAPAMA

Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Environment (*Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente*) - split during 2018 into MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and MITECO (*see below*)

MedPAN

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean

MEET

Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism

MITECO

Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition (*Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica*)

MITOMED+

Models of Integrated Tourism in the Mediterranean Plus

MNCN

National Museum of Natural Sciences (*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales*), Spain

MPA

Marine Protected Area

MPCW

Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

N2K

Natura 2000

NAPA

National Agency of Protected Areas, Albania



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NbS

Nature-based Solution(s)

NDCs

Nationally Determined Contributions (to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement)

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation

OAPN

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

ONEE

Office National de l'Electricité et de l'Eau Potable (Morocco)

PA

Protected Area

PANACeA

Streamlining Networking and Management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas for Enhanced Natural Conservation and Protection

POCTEP

EU Operational Programme for Cross-border Cooperation: Spain – Portugal (*Programa de Cooperación Transfronteriza España-Portugal*)

POSBEMED

Sustainable management of Posidonia beach-dune systems in the Mediterranean region

PPI-OSCAN

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

PRIMA

Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (EU programme)

RAC/SPA

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

RLE

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems

ROAM

Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology

ROWA

IUCN Regional Office for West Asia

SDGs

UN Sustainable Development Goals

SEO

Sociedad Española de Ornitología (BirdLife Partner, Spain)

SER

Society for Ecological Restoration

SSC

IUCN Species Survival Commission

SSF

Small-Scale Fisheries

TAPAS

WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group

UfM

Union for the Mediterranean

UN

United Nations

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

WCC

IUCN World Conservation Congress

WCEL

IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

WCPA

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature / World Wildlife Fund







- A reliable scientific voice in a complex socio-economic scenario to which many different actors bring a wide range of abilities and skills.
- A strong advisory body seeking solutions to the major environmental challenges in the region.
- An organisation that focuses on innovation by designing new alternatives for sustainable development, combining traditional knowledge with new technologies.



working for
a just world
that values and
conserves nature



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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