



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE**

**CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN
COOPERATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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This report summarises the main activities undertaken during 2019 by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med), based in Málaga, Spain.

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An interactive web version of the IUCN-Med Annual Report 2019 is available at:

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MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

The Mediterranean region is facing many demographic, climatic and structural challenges, mainly due to population growth and climate change. However, the Mediterranean is also an extremely resourceful region. Culture, knowledge and collaboration opportunities often converge in our region, allowing many innovative initiatives to flourish. Hence this year the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation developed a myriad of successful activities, events and projects in the region, and we are proud to present them in this, our 2019 Annual Report.

Throughout the entire year, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) gained momentum in the Mediterranean region and beyond. Our Centre played an active role promoting the NbS Global Standard to tackle climate change and Mediterranean societal challenges. In January, IUCN-Med and several partners organised a workshop in Marseille, France, to discuss the benefits and challenges of implementing NbS to tackle climate change in the Mediterranean. More than 100 researchers, practitioners, policy makers, local authorities, civil society members and NGOs from the Mediterranean region and the European Union attended this event.

NORTH AFRICA MEMBERS

One of this year's milestones was the IUCN North Africa Regional Conservation Forum, organised by IUCN-Med and held in June in Monastir, Tunisia. In true IUCN fashion, this event brought together North Africa IUCN Members, partners and IUCN Commissions experts to discuss and identify the conservation priorities of the region in preparation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, which will be held in Marseille, France. One of the greatest highlights of the event was the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Tunisian Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment and IUCN-Med. Likewise, in November, another highlight of our calendar was the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Environ-

ment and Renewable Energies of Algeria and IUCN-Med to promote projects for conservation and the sustainable management of biodiversity.

One of the most successful initiatives that the Centre leads in North Africa, the Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), also known as PPI-OSCAN, officially launched its second edition in 2019. PPI-OSCAN 2 started implementing 43 innovative new projects in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The project successfully closed the year by strengthening partnerships, exchanging ideas and discussing good practice at a regional training workshop that brought together all the beneficiary CSOs.

From an ecotourism standpoint, 2019 marked the closing of the DestiMED project, and also a new beginning: DestiMED PLUS. DestiMED and the Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) Network were invited to multiple international events throughout the year, to share their exemplary results from developing sustainable tourism initiatives in Mediterranean protected areas, with impressive outcomes launched this year, such as an ecological footprint calculator and a practical guide to planning and promoting ecotourism activities, while also addressing concerns and educating stakeholders.

SPECIES CONSERVATION

This year our Centre also boosted conservation efforts for threatened species in the Mediterranean. We continued to work relentlessly to address the *Pinna nobilis* emergency, providing guidance on action to be taken and compiling data that have helped in having this species officially recognised as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the most comprehensive and objective global assessment of species, which is used to guide conservation measures worldwide. Within the Safe Flyways initiative, we also continued our activities for the conservation of threatened birds



Participants at the IUCN North Africa Regional Conservation Forum held in Monastir (Tunisia) in June 2019 | © IUCN

of prey, with a particular emphasis on preventing electrocution on power lines. Excellent transboundary and multi-sector cooperation thrived during the development of this project, which this year has also produced a free, easy-to-use pocket tool for tracking threats to avifauna, the e-faunalert mobile application, and a comprehensive guidance to identify and prevent hazardous power lines for birds in North Africa.

In an effort to curb plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med continued to support the Beyond Plastic Med initiative (BeMed), led by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and participated in the launch of the global Plastic Waste-Free Islands project, which will tackle plastic waste leakage on two Mediterranean islands, among others.

In the Med Bycatch project we compiled and edited the first [*Identification guide of vulnerable species incidentally caught in Mediterranean fisheries*](#). We also made a significant contribution to the *Governance Toolkit for managing Small-Scale Fisheries in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas*, one of the last outcomes of the fruitful Interreg MED project FishMPABlue2, which came to a close at the end of October 2019. Finally, as a partner of the MPA-Adapt project, which ended this year, the Centre also published two extremely useful fact sheets for MPA managers on climate change impacts.

As in previous years, IUCN-Med's Members, partners and Secretariat played a critical role in our activities and the strategy that guides our work into the future. We would like to express our appreciation to them for their cooperation and their tireless dedication to the many important issues facing our region. For yet another year, our Centre is also deeply grateful for the vital support provided by the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), the Regional Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of the Junta de Andalucía, and the MAVA Foundation. With the MAVA Foundation's patronage winding down in 2022, IUCN-Med has started to pursue new partnerships to fund and implement the Centre's projects and activities. With four new strategic lines of work that will be aligned with the new IUCN Global Programme, IUCN-Med has started to expand its project portfolio and is eager to extend the reach of its effective impact in the region. Through hard work, collaboration and commitment, we are meeting challenges together and laying the groundwork for a more sustainable Mediterranean future.

The road ahead is full of opportunity.

ANTONIO TROYA

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

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Message from the IUCN-Med Director	IUCN at a Glance	Programme of Work and Main Achievements	Valuing and Conserving Nature	Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources	Deploying Nature-based Solutions	Connecting The Mare Nostrum	Key Figures 2019

IUCN AT A GLANCE



IUCN Members at the North Africa Regional Conservation Forum held in Monastir (Tunisia) in June 2019 | © IUCN

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

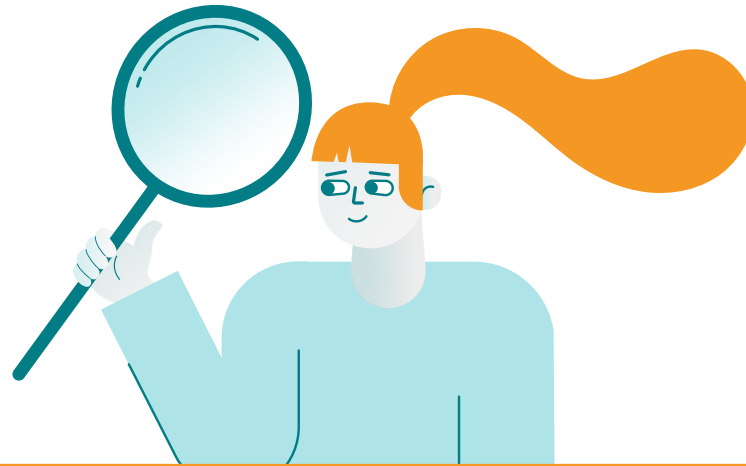
Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its **1,400 Member organisations** and the input of some **15,000 experts**. IUCN is the global authority on the state of the natural world and the measures 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.

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.

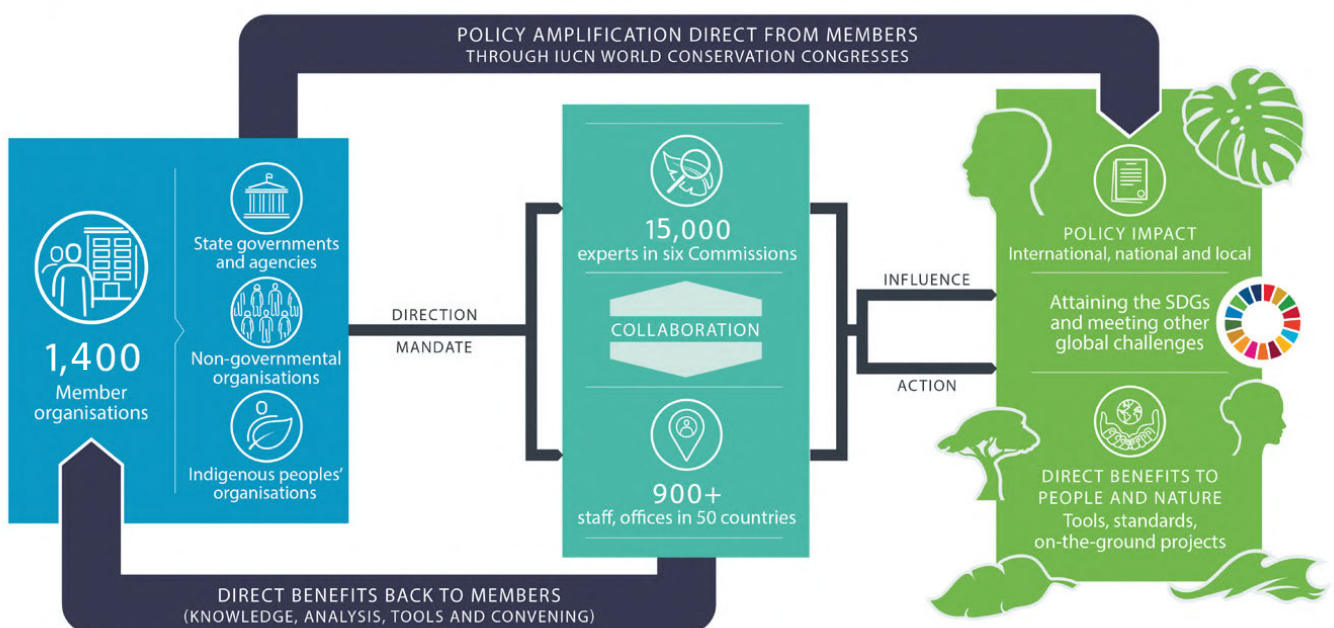
Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, passing Resolutions that drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's Programme of Work.

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 950 staff in more than 50 countries**.



UNITED FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

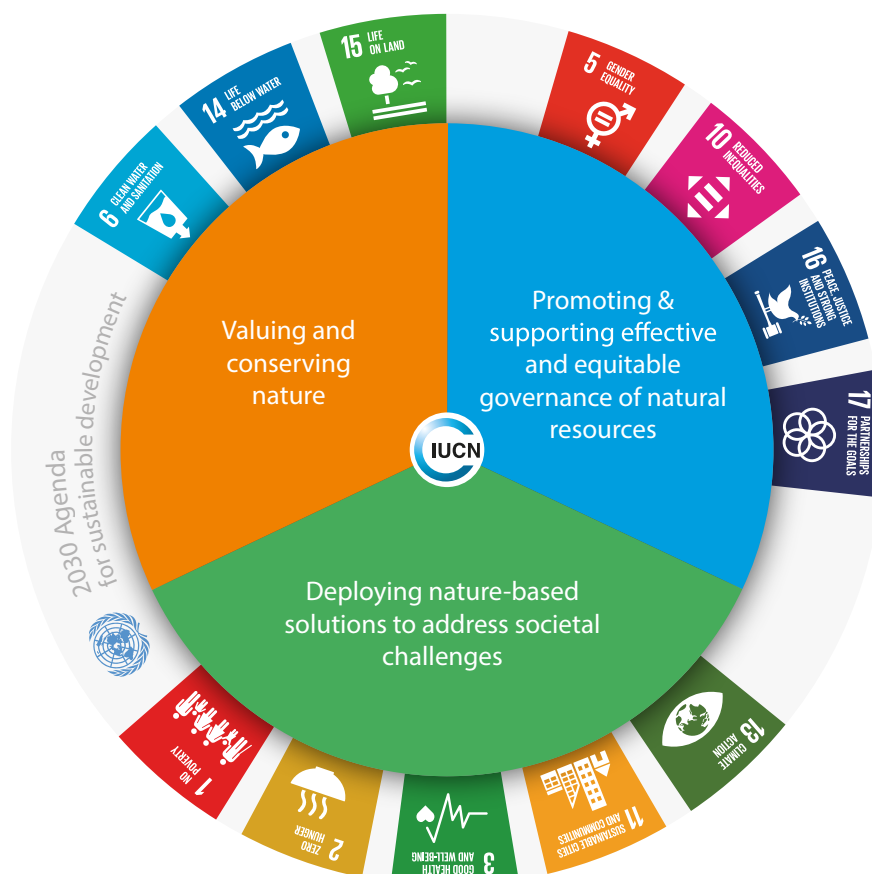
The three main areas of work set out by the IUCN Global Programme 2017–2020 together with the priorities identified by our Members and partners in the Mediterranean constitute the framework for the projects and activities developed and implemented by the **IUCN Centre for**

Mediterranean Cooperation. To this end the Málaga office Secretariat relies on the efforts and participation of 237 IUCN Member organisations and over 1,800 IUCN Commission experts in the region.

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 2019 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:





The IUCN Global 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. The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held in Marseille, France, from 11 to 20 June 2020, and will guide our future work by passing Resolutions and approving **the IUCN Programme 2021–2024**.

...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 are adopted democratically by IUCN Members during each World Conservation Congress, drive the regional conservation agenda and contribute significantly to the delivery of IUCN's mission each year.

Alongside the current IUCN Global 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 fifth and final year of implementation of the IUCN–MAVA Joint Programme for 2015–2019.

In 2019, 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



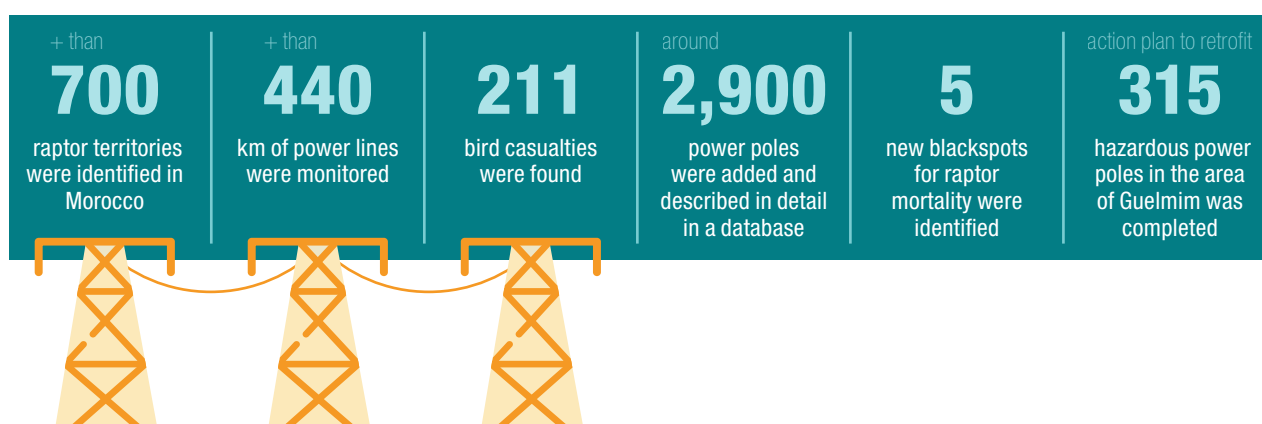
This line of work represents a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life below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

GATHERING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN WEB OF LIFE

In February, IUCN-Med published in French [a strategy and action plan](#) for the conservation of the **Barbary macaque** (*Macaca sylvanus*) in Algeria in 2018–2027 in collaboration with the Algerian Directorate-General for Forestry (Direction Générale des Forêts – DGF) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The Barbary macaque, a species that was once widespread in the Mediterranean, is now confined in the wild to small populations in the forests of Morocco, Algeria and the Rock of Gibraltar.



The Centre continued its efforts for the conservation of threatened birds of prey in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on a major threat: electrocution on power lines. Numerous activities were held under the umbrella of the “**Safe Flyways** – reducing infrastructure-related bird mortality in the Mediterranean” initiative, sponsored by the MAVA Foundation. In February, IUCN-Med launched the first field expedition to census raptors in Morocco under the Atlas programme. This wildlife monitoring programme was coordinated by IUCN-Med and the Department of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco. Throughout the year, a further 15 field expeditions were organised in Morocco, involving ornithologists from France, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Tunisia, with prolific **results**:



In October, the Centre participated in the European Vulture Conference in Albufeira, Portugal, where it presented the preliminary results of its work, the latest recommendations on the issue, and a new [practical guide](#) in French to identify, monitor and mitigate the impact of hazardous power poles on **avifauna** in North Africa. This publication is an outcome of the steps taken in recent years to promote cooperation between the Mediterranean actors involved in raptor conservation with a view to minimising threats to raptors in the Mediterranean and particularly in North Africa. Finally, in November, a new mobile app was launched to identify and monitor hazardous power lines for wildlife conservation: [e-faunalert](#).



CONSERVATION ACTION IN YOUR POCKET

<http://e-faunalert.org/>

For everyone, everywhere – from scientists to hikers, from government officials to energy sector workers and beyond: **E-FAUNALERT** is a free, easy-to-use smartphone application launched this year to help identify dangerous locations, especially for birds but also for other animals like mammals or reptiles.

After registering and creating a profile in the app, users can upload photos and describe where electrocutions or collisions have occurred, so that potentially dangerous structures and areas can be mapped and mitigation measures implemented.



With this **citizen science app**, IUCN-Med and its partners aim to gather key data on the fauna, while giving everyone with an Android smartphone (it will be soon available for IOS too) the opportunity to support the conservation community in its efforts to protect these majestic species.

The e-faunalert app is a joint effort by IUCN-Med and the Fundación Amigos del Águila Imperial, Lince Ibérico y Espacios Naturales Privados, with funding from the MAVA Foundation.

Over the last two and a half years, the Mediterranean Fan Mussel (*Pinna nobilis*), one of the most emblematic species found in the Mediterranean Sea, has been suffering mass mortality due to a parasite, which has caused the death of 80–100% of this species. Since the outbreak of the disease, IUCN-Med has been working relentlessly to address this emergency, implementing a series of priority actions to help evaluate the situation throughout the Mediterranean and putting urgent mitigating measures in place. Thanks to the data provided by conservation organisations and institutions from all over the region, this year IUCN-Med was able to produce the **Red List assessment of the Mediterranean Fan Mussel (*Pinna nobilis*)**. This effort helped secure official recognition of *Pinna nobilis* as Critically Endangered in the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ – the most comprehensive and objective global assessment of species, which is used to guide conservation measures worldwide. Furthermore, the species was classified as one of Community Interest in need of strict protection under the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and as an Endangered Species under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the SPA/BD Protocol to the Barcelona Convention). In November, IUCN-Med also published a [fact sheet](#) including a set of recommended actions to mitigate the spread of the disease.



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Also in November, IUCN-Med organised a workshop at the Hellenic Centre of Marine Research in Crete, Greece, to prepare the first **Red List assessment of Mediterranean Porifera**. Porifera, also known as sponges, are one of the major components of littoral ecosystems and play an important role in structuring habitats in deep waters. This was the first time that animals in the phylum Porifera had been assessed for the IUCN Red List. During the event, 60 Mediterranean sponges were assessed for their conservation status. The assessment also covered commercial sponges and has the potential to be replicated in other parts of the world.



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; it is estimated that around 350–450 individuals remain in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. In June, IUCN-Med started coordinating efforts with these three countries and nine key partners in the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to build a common baseline of knowledge about this species' population structure, population trend and main threats in the region. Furthermore, IUCN-Med continued to support a pioneer project to monitor monk seals remotely. A first of its kind, this project uses artificial intelligence to control an open-source autonomous monitoring system. The project 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).



It is estimated that at least 53% of the sharks, rays and chimaeras native to the Mediterranean Sea are at risk of extinction and require urgent action to conserve their populations and habitats. **Twenty species of sharks and rays are listed as Critically Endangered** and another 18 species are Threatened. In November, IUCN-Med organised a workshop in Palma de Mallorca, Balears, Spain, that brought together a broad range of experts from the region to discuss ways to turn this situation around and take these species off the Mediterranean endangered list. The event was organised with the support of the Marilles Foundation and experts from the Mediterranean IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.



Finally, in 2019, IUCN-Med continued to support the development of national Red Lists in several countries, with a particular focus on Lebanon, Kuwait and Tunisia, where three training courses were held.



IDENTIFYING AND MONITORING PRIORITY AREAS

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. This year, IUCN-Med provided three training sessions on KBA methodologies, as well as guidance for national initiatives reviewing suggestions for KBA candidate sites. Likewise, it facilitated the creation of national KBA coordination groups, particularly in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

This year, IUCN-Med also worked on the ground with its partners and completed the assessment of KBA conservation

status for 12 **freshwater KBAs** in the Douro Basin in Portugal and four in the Sebou Basin in Morocco.

In March, the Chairs of four IUCN SSC Specialist Groups (Molluscs, Freshwater Plants, Freshwater Crustaceans and Dragonflies) and other experts participated a think tank organised by IUCN-Med in Málaga, Spain, to develop a KBA assessment protocol for freshwater KBAs. This protocol will be used to monitor their conservation status and provide data for the informed and effective management of these areas.



Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), invasive species in many Mediterranean countries | © NickLubushko under CC BY-SA 4.0

ASSESSING PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOSYSTEMS

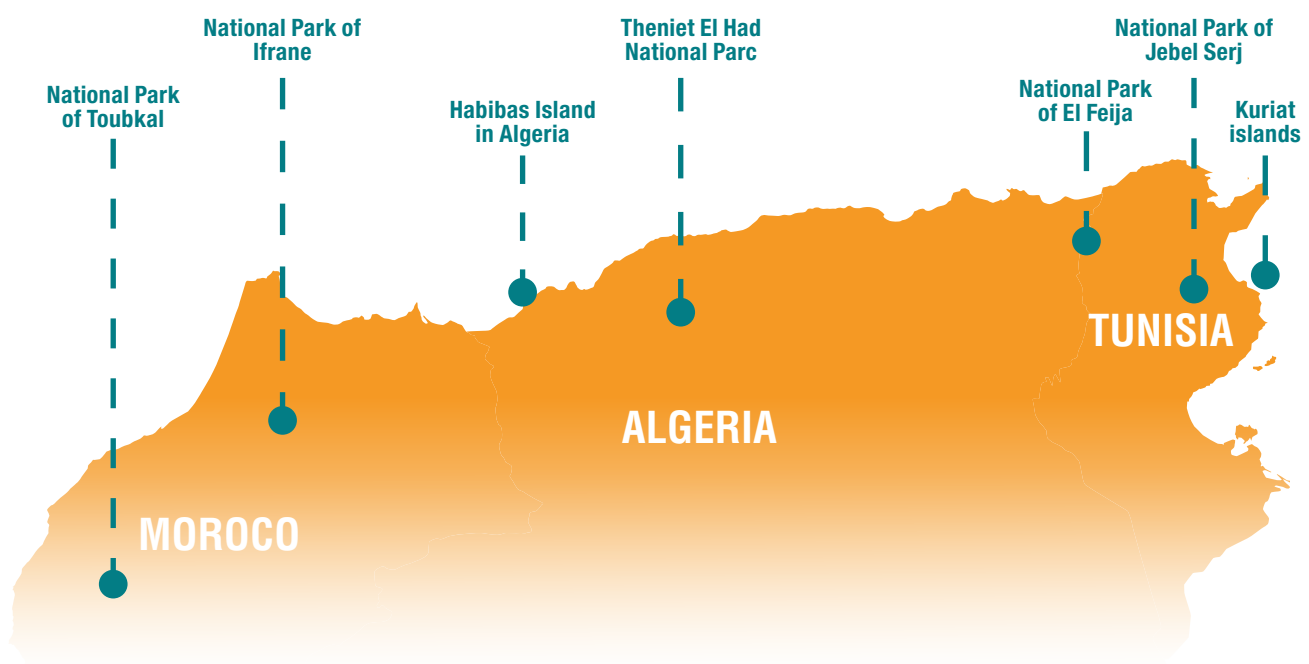
The **IUCN Red List of Ecosystems** (RLE) criteria and methodology is recognised as a global standard for assessing the conservation status of ecosystems. In 2019, IUCN-Med continued supporting the process of developing a Red List of Ecosystems at national level in several countries in the Mediterranean basin. A training course on RLE was provided in Tunisia, hosted by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture at the Directorate-General for Forestry (DGF), with support from the IUCN-Med team, to evaluate the methodology as a suitable strategy for preserving forests in the country. The outcome of this session will be an initial assessment. In Lebanon, the Centre gave a presentation on RLE during the sixth Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW), which took place in April 2019. IUCN-Med co-organised this event, which brought together a diverse range of participants to consider how Mediterranean forests can help countries in the region to achieve their goals under the Paris Agreement. Also in Lebanon, a significant achievement was the preliminary assessment of the risk of collapse of Lebanese forests, which was incorporated in the publication State of Lebanon's Forests 2018, released in 2019.

The **Green List of Protected Areas** (GLPA) is a global standard intended to highlight global successes in protected areas, recognising effective management practices and highlighting the knowledge gaps and needs that protected

areas are facing. This year, the process of setting up Expert Assessment Groups for the Green List (EAGL) moved forward particularly in Italy and Spain: a call for experts was issued, the selection process was completed and members were trained to apply Green List indicators in their respective jurisdictions. In Italy, the adapted version of the Green List standard was approved in October. In the Maghreb region, IUCN-Med also organised a capacity-building workshop for 7 protected areas from North Africa proposed for the candidate phase of the Green List located in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. This workshop, organised in conjunction with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the IUCN French Committee and Al Shouf Cedar Society, aimed to enhance collaboration between candidate sites through the Francophone Green List network, and enabled the Green List candidate site managers and the heads of protected area administrations in the three countries to better understand the Green List process and to start the self-evaluation exercise at their respective sites.

Another significant event was IUCN-Med's work on the International Committee of the **Potential Biodiversity Index** (PBI), to assess the application of this index to Mediterranean forest ecosystems. The PBI is considered a quick and simple method for assessing potential biodiversity in forest stands.

7 Protected Areas from North Africa Proposed for the Candidate Phase of the Green List of Protected Areas



BUILDING THE ECOTOURISM EXPERIENCE OF TOMORROW

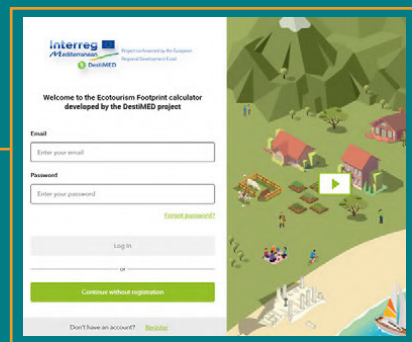
IUCN-Med continued to support actions under the EU Interreg MED project DestiMED which aims to foster sustainable tourism in protected areas across the Mediterranean. The Centre upheld its key role in the **Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) Network** association, a platform that allows park representatives to exchange ideas and share marketing strategies over the long term. The MEET Network held two board meetings this year. In October, the MEET Network General Assembly took place in Rome, with more than 30 participants, and welcomed four protected areas as new members of this ever-growing association.

This year also marked the closing of the DestiMED project: **13 protected areas** and local tour operators created ecotourism itineraries meeting the standard developed by DestiMED, proving its great success. In December, the second phase of the project, DestiMED PLUS, was presented at a side event during the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Naples, Italy.

With the purpose of providing protected area managing bodies and the local ecotourism sector with a clear pathway for planning and enhancing committed conservation-focused ecotourism in their areas, this year DestiMED published [A guide](#) to plan and promote ecotourism activities and measure their impacts in Mediterranean Protected Areas following the MEET approach. In addition, a free online tool for assessing the impact of ecotourism itineraries was launched: the **Ecotourism Footprint Calculator**. This was one of the final deliverables of the DestiMED project, funded by the EU Interreg MED Programme (2016–2019), which helped 13 Protected Areas in 6 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain) to create ecotourism experiences based on tangible sustainability criteria and standards. IUCN-Med participated in the development of a methodology for assessing the ecological footprint of ecotourism products in these 13 Mediterranean protected areas, in collaboration with the globally recognised research organisation Global Footprint Network.

ECOTOURISM DOES THE MATHS

<https://www.meetnetwork.org/calculator>



To assist protected area managers and tourism operators in creating a sustainable ecotourism experience, this year the DestiMED project released a free online calculator to measure the Ecological Footprint of ecotourism products and activities offered to tourists, focusing on four main aspects of an ecotourism package:

- Accommodation
- Food and Drink
- Mobility and Transfers
- Activities and Services

The **Ecotourism Footprint Calculator** aims to provide all Protected Areas in the Mediterranean region interested in promoting and developing ecotourism with a tool for monitoring the sustainability of their tourism offer. It can be used anonymously but it also allows users to create a password-protected personal account to display and download results, explore solutions to reduce the footprint of their package(s), share results with the MEET Network and receive support from this protected area community to develop high-quality and low-impact ecotourism experiences.

LINKING BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

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, which aims to promote 'cultural practices that shape the cultural landscapes which in turn, harbour biodiversity and preserve natural capital' in the Mediterranean basin. In April, IUCN-Med took part in the project's Steering Committee meeting in Menorca (Spain), to review the progress made.

The Centre monitors 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**. This year, the Centre organised four workshops involving project partners and experts (two with experts from Dehesas-Montados, one with the High Atlas team and one with the Shouf team) to review data and define future steps. IUCN-Med also conducted a scientific review of cultural practices linked to biodiversity across the Mediterranean, and developed a story map and a guide for monitoring biodiversity.

TACKLING THREATS

In the Invasaqua project, financed by the European Commission LIFE programme, IUCN-Med fosters activities to raise awareness on the impacts of **invasive alien species** in the Iberian Peninsula, by increasing public and stakeholder understanding and developing key tools for providing an early warning and rapid response to this threat to freshwater ecosystems. In June, experts from the organisations involved in this project met in Málaga, Spain, to update the list of invasive alien species in the Iberian Peninsula. They also participated in a workshop where the **Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT)** standard was applied to start listing invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula according to the magnitude of their impact. This workshop benefited from the contribution of an EICAT expert from the Centre for Invasion Biology of Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

In October, IUCN-Med published the [first Identification guide of vulnerable species incidentally caught in Mediterranean fisheries](#) within the Med **Bycatch** project. Through illustrations and descriptions that highlight important anatomical features, this practical guide is intended to help fishing communities and on-board observers identify, monitor and improve their knowledge of vulnerable species potentially caught as by-catch in the Mediterranean. Building on a partnership with FAO, ACCOBAMS, RAC/SPA, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, and MEDASSET, with the financial support of the MAVA Foundation, IUCN-Med coordinated the final compilation and editing of this guide with the contribution of experts from the region. Several project workshops on implementing the by-catch monitoring programme were organised in close collaboration with international partners and local stakeholders. Over 3,200 port-based questionnaires were carried out during the project, and 61 on-board observers in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey were trained to start gathering data on board fishing vessels.



CURBING PLASTIC POLLUTION

Last year, IUCN joined forces with Tara Expeditions, Surfrider and the MAVA Foundation to further develop the **Beyond Plastic Med initiative (BeMed)**, led 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. This year, IUCN-Med participated in the third phase of the selection process of laureates for the BeMed micro-initiatives to tackle plastic pollution. It also played an active part in the kick-off meeting of the BeMed Club, which involves the private sector, providing key data on plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.

This year IUCN-Med also kept up its efforts to close the plastic tap in the Mediterranean Sea through the **PlastiMed BeMed – Closing the Plastic Tap** initiative: an agreement was signed with one of the main partners, the Tara Foundation, to start analysing the plastic data of previous Tara expeditions, and the Centre also supported the organisation

of an event held in Tunisia in November to promote the initiative. In March, the Centre participated in the Monaco Ocean week and contributed to its plastic-related events. In April, IUCN-Med took part in the MARLICE Forum, where it gave a presentation on IUCN's methodology and approach to plastic pollution, highlighting the Centre's collaboration with its main Mediterranean partners on the subject: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the University of Sienna, the Surfrider Foundation and the Tara Foundation.

In order to address plastic waste leakage from islands in the Mediterranean region, IUCN-Med participated in the launch of the project **Plastic Waste-Free Islands** at IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. The overarching goal of the project is to reduce plastic leakage to the ocean from eight small island developing states (SIDS): three in the Pacific, three in the Caribbean and two in the Mediterranean region. As a start, two islands in the Mediterranean region – Menorca and Cyprus – were selected to implement the project this year. An initial assessment was carried out for both islands to identify the available data and to foresee the main challenges in collaboration with two local partners: the Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM) and the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI).



Trapped Green Turtle | © Jonathan R. Green - Dreamstime.com

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Message from the IUCN-Med Director	IUCN at a Glance	Programme of Work and Main Achievements	Valuing and Conserving Nature	Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources	Deploying Nature-based Solutions	Connecting The Mare Nostrum	Key Figures 2019

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 2019, IUCN-Med tightened many links in the field of legislation and international protocols affecting the Mediterranean, in particular with:

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

A key event of 2019 was the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the Convention on Climate Change, which was held in Madrid, Spain, in December, under the Presidency of the Government of Chile. IUCN-Med had a key role in two high-level events during this COP. In the first, the Director of IUCN-Med participated in a session with the IUCN Director General, the IUCN President and the IUCN Spanish National Committee. Then the IUCN-Med Director was also invited to join a high-level panel in the Spanish Pavilion at COP 25, along with the Spanish Minister

for the Ecological Transition and the UNEP/MAP Secretary General. During the event, the Spanish media gave further visibility to IUCN's work by interviewing the IUCN Director General on several occasions, and the concept of Nature-based Solutions gained particular prominence during this COP.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

The Centre strengthened its links with the CMS. In September, it actively participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Energy Task Force of the Convention, which works towards reconciling energy developments with the conservation of migratory species. The Centre used to participate in these sessions as an observer, but this meeting marked its debut as an official member of the task force.

The Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)

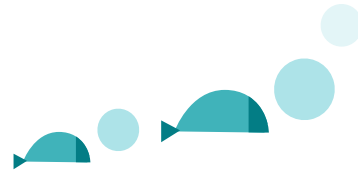
This year, IUCN-Med presented an important update of the situation regarding the pen shell *Pinna nobilis*, now listed as critical endangered, at the National Focal Points meeting of the SP/BD Protocol on **Marine biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation**.

IUCN-Med actively participated in two side-events during the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was held in Naples, Italy, in December 2019. IUCN-Med moderated and co-organised the side event 'Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism to Tackle Environmental and Development Challenges in the Mediterranean Region', together with eco-union, Plan Bleu, Global Footprint Network and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition. During this session, the second phase of the DestiMED project and the MEET Association were presented, and recent outcomes, tools and lessons learned around the topic of Mediterranean maritime and coastal sustainable tourism were shared. The need for integrated governance of tourism in the Mediterranean was stressed and UNEP/MAP Contracting Parties were encouraged to use Nature-based Solutions to tackle climate change mitigation measures. The second side event was entitled 'MPAs and Biodiversity for a sustainable Mediterranean: Mechanisms for effective marine biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean'. It advocated for more MPAs and involvement with the private sector, and was extremely well attended.

The Centre also continued to collaborate with **The MedFund**, a regional initiative for the implementation of international agreements (SDG 14, UNEP-MAP, CBD Aichi target 11 and the Paris climate agreement). IUCN-Med contributed to The MedFund's coordination and funding activities, strengthening the long-term financial mechanisms for effective MPA management. It also continued to support the inclusion of Lebanon as a potential future new MedFund member. In December, IUCN-Med officially became a board member of the fund.

FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

IUCN-Med continued to build on its cooperation with the GFCM in 2019, and was invited to participate in several meetings throughout the year. The Centre met with the IUCN Fisheries Expert Group (IUCN/CEM/FEG) and other experts



to assess the effectiveness of the existing Fishing Restricted Areas, discuss the creation of new GFCM restricted areas, identify Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, and push forward the implementation of a network of essential fish habitats.

The Interreg MED project FishMPABlue2 came to a close at the end of October 2019. A final workshop with GFCM was organised and attended by 20 policy makers from national and international institutions, project partners and the members of the Advisory Panel. In its leading role in the capitalisation process of this project, IUCN-Med made a series of recommendations for international policy-making bodies which will soon be published and will be invaluable for the replication of the project. In addition, IUCN-Med completed its activities with several webinars and training workshops to encourage local stakeholders, MPA managers and fishermen to implement new management plans for small-scale fisheries.

The project also published [A Governance Toolkit for managing Small-Scale Fisheries in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas](#), a practical collection of 13 sustainable fishery management-related solutions ready to be used in any Mediterranean MPA, with crucial information on putting policy recommendations for the management of small-scale fisheries into effect in the whole region. The toolkit presents the lessons learned from testing best management practices in 11 pilot MPAs using a participatory process.

Within the Med Bycatch project – '[A collaborative approach for understanding multi-taxa "bycatch" of vulnerable species in Mediterranean fisheries and testing mitigation](#)' – IUCN **supported the observations and the identification** of vulnerable species, among them, sharks, rays, sponges and corals and produced various communication materials. In the framework of this project, one of the outcomes of the Centre's collaboration with GFCM together with the partnership with ACCOBAMS, UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia and MEDASSET, was the publication of [Monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable species in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries](#) which provides guidelines for monitoring and efficiently collecting data about vulnerable marine species in both seas. The Center also played an important role as collaborating partner in the implementation of activities among them on-board observation programme and training workshops.

The European Commission

In May, IUCN-Med participated in the hackathon ‘[Blue economy contribution to the Summit of the Two Shores](#)’ organised by the European Commission and the [WestMED initiative](#) in Palermo, Italy. This setting enabled participants to exchange project ideas and promoted concrete project development among regional operators in the maritime sector, specifically in tourism. In October, the Centre presented the DestiMED project results and the MEET Network in Brussels, Belgium, during the European Week of Regions and Cities, an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their ability to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy and demonstrate the importance of the local and regional levels for good European governance.

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

In October, IUCN-Med actively contributed to the organisation of a five-day training course on Photo-ID and databases for experts in the ACCOBAMS area, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS, RAC/SPA, MedPAN and the Lebanese CNRS in Byblos, Lebanon. It also participated in the 7th meeting of ACCOBAMS Parties in Istanbul, Turkey, in November, where it was also acknowledged for its key collaboration in identifying threats to Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs). At the end of the year, IUCN-Med launched the process to update the Red List Assessment of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean at a meeting held in Barcelona, Spain. This assessment will analyse the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), which is the first large-scale study of Mediterranean cetaceans of its kind; 12 experts evaluated the information available, set up working groups and laid down the next steps and a timetable for submitting their findings for inclusion in forthcoming updates of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

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. In the Invasaqua project, financed by the European Commission

LIFE programme, IUCN-Med fosters 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 for providing an early warning and rapid response to this threat to freshwater ecosystems. 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). In June, experts from the organisations involved in the LIFE Invasaqua project met in Málaga, Spain, to update the list of invasive alien species in the Iberian Peninsula. They also participated in a workshop about the EICAT standard facilitated by an international expert.

Ecotourism

Throughout the year, the Centre played an active role as one of the key stakeholders of the sustainable tourism community of the Interreg MED Programme, contributing to several policy papers related to the Mediterranean region. IUCN-Med also supported the use of the DestiMED ecotourism methodology across the region: 13 local ecotourism clusters applied its ecotourism standard twice to develop packages in their protected areas. In the region of Ghar el-Melh, Tunisia, a local ecotourism cluster was also activated and trained to develop ecotourism itineraries, products and governance within the MAVA Foundation project ‘GEMWET – Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value: the case of Ghar el-Melh, Tunisia’. This was the final year of DestiMED before its second phase starts, and IUCN-Med participated in several international events during the year to present its successful results and the MEET Network outcomes.



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 IUCN Málaga Secretariat in line with the IUCN Global Programme. With one new Member, Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganaire, having joined this year, IUCN now has 35 Members in North Africa.

In preparation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, which will be held in Marseille, France, the North African conservation community gathered in Monastir, Tunisia, from 24 to 26 June 2019 on the occasion of the IUCN North Africa Regional Conservation Forum. This quadrennial meeting fostered an exchange of ideas and solutions and helped identify key biodiversity issues and priorities in the region, providing a concrete contribution to the IUCN draft Global Programme (2021–2024) and to post-2020 processes. The forum brought together more than 60 participants from IUCN Member organisations in North Africa, including ministries, government agencies and non-governmental organisations. One of the greatest highlights of the event was the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Tunisian Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment

and IUCN. In addition, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication Award for North Africa was announced during the forum.

In November, a cooperation agreement was also signed between the Algerian Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies and IUCN-Med to promote conservation and sustainable biodiversity management projects. The main objective of the Memorandum is to work jointly to strengthen and develop the national network of protected areas. Emphasis will be placed on marine protected areas, the preservation of endangered animal and plant species, ecotourism in protected areas, and the promotion of NbS through the role of ecosystems in the fight against climate change.

This year the Centre was also very active in its relations with civil society in the region, where several projects, workshops, training sessions and other activities were developed. The second Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN 2) started the year with great success, and now 43 new projects led by local civil society organisations are driving conservation action in four North African countries.



Award winners from the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication in North Africa | © IUCN

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EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION ACTIONS IN NORTH AFRICA PPI-OSCAN, PHASE TWO

The second phase of the Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa, also known by its French acronym PPI-OSCAN, entered its first year of implementation in 2019. Led by IUCN-Med, this programme supports young civil society organisations (CSOs) in developing innovative projects that address biodiversity conservation and sustainable development issues in four North African countries: Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. With the support of national governmental institutions in charge of biodiversity conservation,

PPI-OSCAN 2 also aims to strengthen their technical, administrative and financial capacities.

Last year, a total of 223 projects were submitted in answer to the call for proposals to participate in PPI-OSCAN 2 (2018–2021). Of these, 43 projects were selected: 12 in Algeria, 9 in Libya, 11 in Morocco and 11 in Tunisia. During this second phase, these initiatives and their related associations will be carrying out innovative field projects dedicated to the three working themes of PPI-OSCAN:



The North African women, indispensable and active in the preservation of nature

PPI-OSCAN 2 aims to increase and enhance the participation of North African women in the preservation of nature and precious natural resources.

The programme works with 43 Civil Society Organisations in the 4 North African countries, 12 of which are led by women actively involved in nature conservation.

Working themes

Interested Civil Society Organisations from the 4 target countries submitted project proposals in line with the following three themes of the programme:



Conservation of species and ecosystems



Co-management of land and marine protected areas



Ecotourism and sharing of the benefits of conservation

PPI-OSCAN 2 also helps CSOs to network, develop new synergies, communicate with each other and reach out to governments to build strong partnerships, exchange ideas and discuss good practice. During this first year of implementation, IUCN-Med organised four national training sessions on administrative and financial management for the 43 selected CSOs, one

in each participant country. In November, the Centre also organised a regional workshop to bring together all the beneficiary CSOs: more than 70 participants from the 43 CSOs met in Casablanca, Morocco. During this event, a cross-fertilisation exercise between PPI-OSCAN and PPI for West and Central Africa was launched.



Young NGOs at the Regional Restitution Workshop of the Small Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa held in Casablanca (Morocco in November, 2019) | © IUCN/PPI-OSCAN

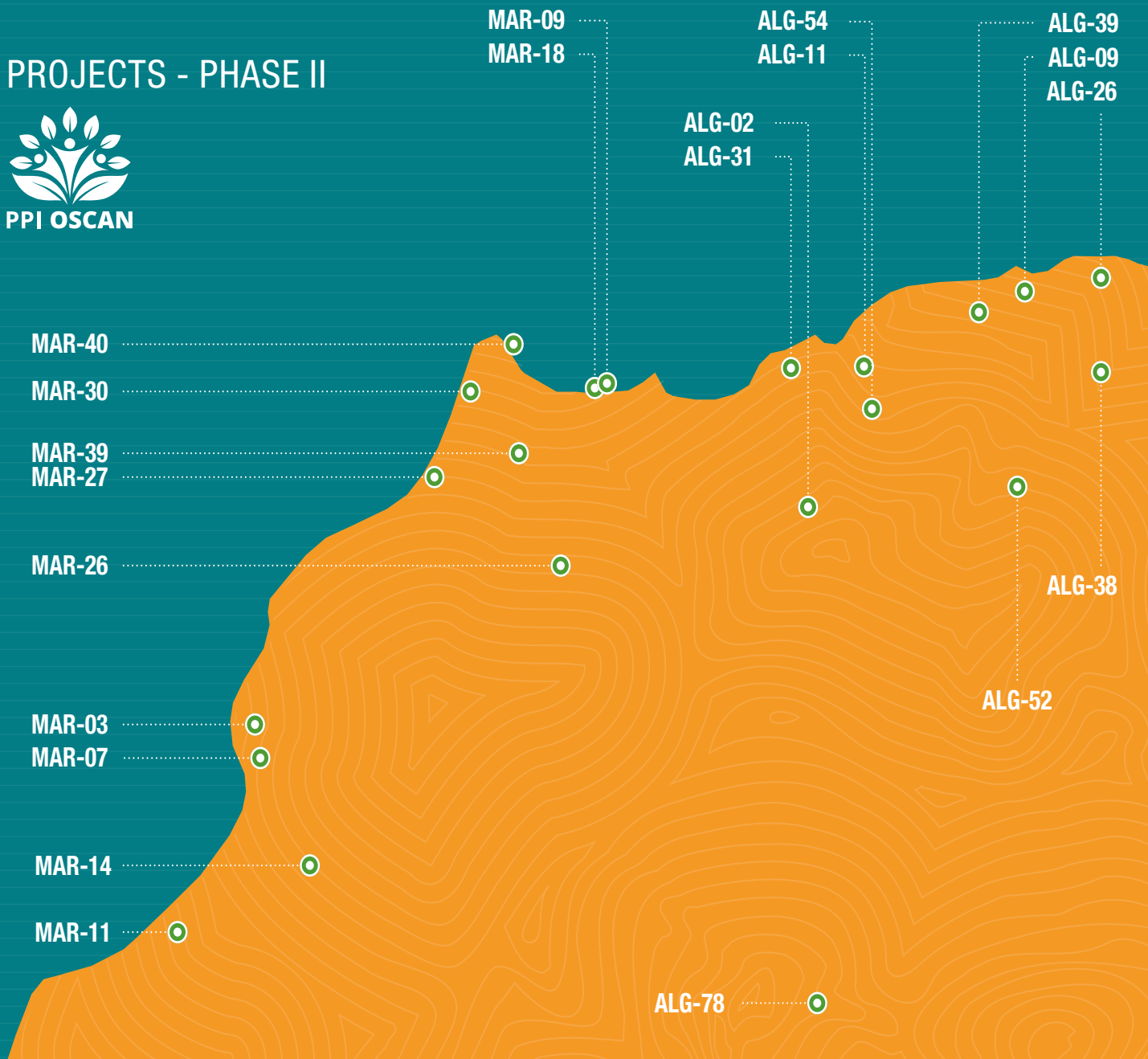
IUCN-Med is in charge of the implementation of this programme, financed by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the MAVA Foundation.

More information can be found on the official project website, which has also been refreshed with current data and project stories this year:

www.ppioscan.org



PROJECTS - PHASE II



* MOROCCO

- MAR-03** Setting up a bee yard
- MAR-07** Valuation of the ecotourism appeal of the Anezi territory natural and cultural heritage
- MAR-09** Development of ecotourism in Al Hoceima National Park
- MAR-11** Valorisation of the ecotourist values of the biodiversity of Khenifiss National Park.
- MAR-14** Valorisation of the futur National Park «Deraa Ouargziz Labtana» biodiversity
- MAR-18** Valuing the natural resources of Al Hoceima National Park
- MAR-26** Preservation and sustainable development of the Oriental

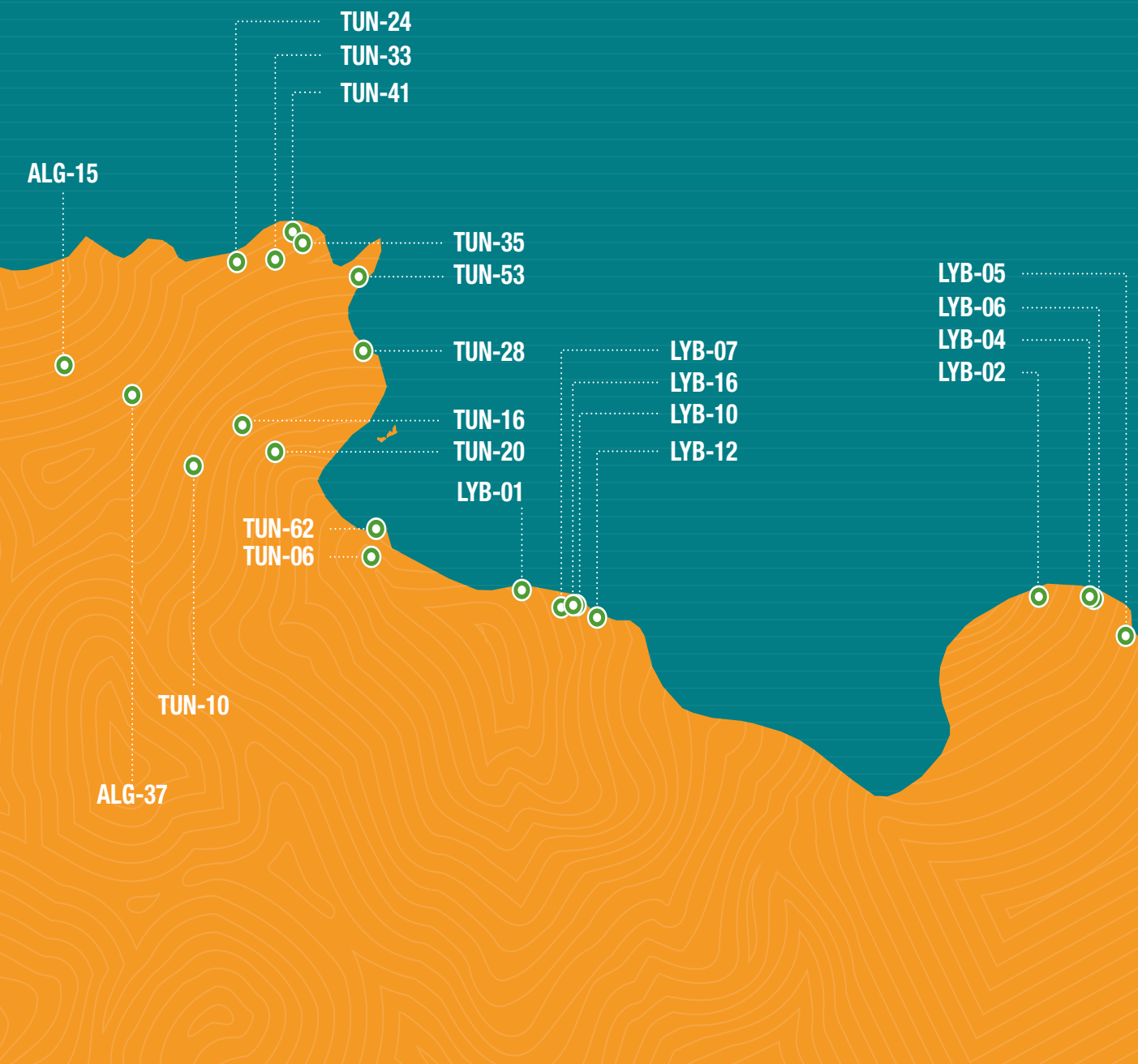
High Atlas National Park

- MAR-27** Creation of a geospatial database and GPS tracking of raptors in Morocco
- MAR-30** Saving the great bustard (Otis tarda) from extinction in Morocco
- MAR-39** Implementation of the Zerhoun SIBE project
- MAR-40** Assessment of threats on emblematic birds in northwest Morocco

ALGERIA

- ALG-02** Restoration of fragile ecological systems in Ain Sefra
- ALG-09** Contribution to the preservation of the endemic bee Apis Mellifera Intermissa

- ALG-11** Macta wetland enhanced by sustainable local ecotourism
- ALG-15** Contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in Belezma National Park
- ALG-26** Conservation of the thaghzouth-Thawint area's natural heritage
- ALG-31** Preservation of the DOUEIMA wetland
- ALG-37** Preservation of the Atlas Cedar in Mount Chélia
- ALG-38** Development of ecotourism in the Boussaâda region
- ALG-39** Restoration and preservation of Miliana Garden
- ALG-52** Construction of a small



conservation farm for endangered species

ALG-54 Biological corridor for the preservation of the Cuvier's Gazelle.

ALG-78 Oughename Garden

TUNISIA

TUN-06 Promotion of alternative maritime tourism in the Zarzis region

TUN-10 Chott El Djérid ecotourism itinerary

TUN-16 C.H.E.R.E Gafsa

TUN-20 On the Footsteps of Tunisia's Stealth Predators

TUN-24 Contribution to the preservation of the Bni Mtir forest through the development of ecotourism

TUN-28 ECOOLIVA

TUN-33 Contribution to the establishment of an ecological observatory in the Medjerda River

TUN-35 Environmental Corridors within the Oued Tine

TUN-41 Preservation of medicinal plants in the Region of Bizerte- Teskreyia and Oued Zitoun

TUN-53 FloraWets

TUN-62 Djerba Up

LIBYA

LYB-01 Together for the sustainable development of the coastline

LYB-02 Restoration of a burned forest

LYB-04 Environmental awareness in schools

LYB-05 Libyan Natural Biodiversity Relief Centre

LYB-06 Together to strengthen the natural heritage of Wadi Al Naqa

LYB-07 Contribution to Mislata National Park Management Plan

LYB-10 Naqaza residents participate in the reintroduction of endangered species

LYB-12 Restoration of Sifanes water sources

LYB-16 Illustrated Guide on Mislata and Al Khoms plants

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 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 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).

Mediterranean societies are currently facing a wide range of challenges stemming from unsustainable urbanisation and impacts on health, including degradation and loss of

biodiversity, lack of clean air, water and soil, and climate change, which are resulting in an alarming increase in natural disasters.



Participants from different governmental and non-governmental institutions at the NbS workshop held in Tunis, supported by the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment of Tunisia | © IUCN

Nature-based Solutions :

Nature-based Solutions are understood to be ‘actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.’ (Cohen-Shacham et al, 2016).



Source: IUCN

However, nature itself can provide adaptive solutions that address these societal challenges. These Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer sustainable, economical, versatile and flexible alternatives to the more traditional civil engineering

developments or technologies. In order to create a common understanding and consensus on NbS, IUCN is currently drawing up a Global Standard for the Design and Verification of Nature-based Solutions.



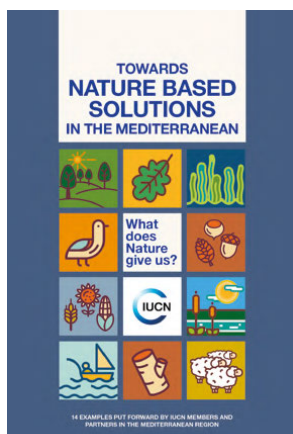
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

In January, more than 100 researchers, practitioners, local authorities, NGOs and policy makers from the Mediterranean region and the European Union met to discuss the benefits and challenges of implementing NbS to respond to climate change at a workshop in Marseille organised by IUCN-Med, Plan Bleu, the IUCN French Committee, Conservatoire du Littoral, Tour du Valat, MedWet and Wetlands International. The event provided attendees with an opportunity to identify new collaborations while sharing best practices and challenges related to NbS in their regions.

In an effort to implement NbS within their **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs), government officials from Morocco and Tunisia participated in two workshops led by IUCN-Med and the think tank IDDRI (the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), and five projects were identified as having the greatest potential for the application of NbS. Both events helped to consolidate several proposals of concept note projects that apply 100% NbS, and to discuss how to integrate them into each country's national climate programme and how to fund them.

IDENTIFYING AND PROMOTING BEST NBS PRACTICE

In 2019, IUCN-Med worked on several fronts developing and promoting NbS across the region, building on multiple partners' projects in coastal, forest and urban ecosystems. Several workshops were held, a summer conference was organised with the International University of Andalusia and a [report](#) showcasing 14 case studies by IUCN Members and partners in the region was published, proving that environmental organisations are already rolling out a wide array of NbS to tackle key societal challenges in a variety of Mediterranean ecosystems.



List of icons

To standardise the cases, we have used the same iconography that appears in the journal *Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges* by Cohen-Shacham et al. (2016) presented during the World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii in 2016.

Societal challenge/s:

-  Climate Change
-  Food Security
-  Water Security
-  Disaster Risk
-  Human Health
-  Economic and Social Development

CASE STUDIES: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Ebro Delta, Catalonia (Spain)



Abarán, Cieza, Calasparra y Moratalla (Murcia, Spain)



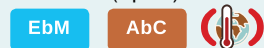
Praia da Maria Luisa, Albufeira (Portugal)



Andalusia (Spain)



Andalusia (Spain)



NbS concepts:

ER	Ecological Restoration	EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EE	Ecological Engineering	EbM	Ecosystem-based Mitigation
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration	Eco-DRR	Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction
GI	Green Infrastructure	CAS	Climate Adaptation Services
NI	Natural Infrastructure	AbC	Area-based Conservation
EbMgt	Ecosystem-based Management		



Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône (France)



Petit Saint-Jean farm, Saint-Laurent d'Aigouze, La Camargue (France)



Seyhan Basin (Turkey)



Konya (Turkey)



Zarqa River Basin (Jordan)



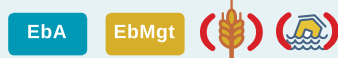
Matrouh (Egypt)



Commune of Corso, W. Boumerdes (Algeria)



Marine Protected Area for the purposes of fishing of Alborán, Mar Chica Lagoon, Al Hoceima National Park (Morocco)



Ait Hamad Rbiaâ, El Hajjaj and Sahb; Laghnam / Ifrane Province (Morocco)



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Tackling climate change naturally.

This year IUCN-Med continued to develop several projects that tackle climate change and its challenges by promoting and implementing NbS in the region.

POSBEMED



Posidonia oceanica is a Mediterranean endemic marine flowering plant forming extensive underwater meadows that are key to the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. Its residues on beaches, which actually play a key role in increasing the overall resilience of the coast to natural and climate change effects, are often perceived as an aesthetic problem. To ensure that the coasts and beaches remain attractive for tourism, several sometimes inadequate management practices are used around the Mediterranean to remove tonnes of this material, which is then dumped in many coastal areas, including protected areas. 2019 was

the last year of the POSBEMED Interreg project, which addressed the challenges and opportunities involved in managing *Posidonia* beach-dune systems in the Mediterranean. Based on the findings of this project, IUCN-Med has now launched POSBEMED 2, which aims to make use of the results of POSBEMED to manage the Mediterranean coastline by developing strategies that recognise the value of the *Posidonia* beach-dune environment and integrate them into the overall coastal strategy, while also addressing concerns and educating stakeholders.



Posidonia on a beach in the Natural Park Cabo de Gata - Níjar (Almería, Spain) | © Mar Otero

LIFE BLUE NATURA



Blue Carbon is the carbon assimilated and stored by marine and coastal ecosystems such as wetlands, marshes, mangroves and seagrass beds. It represents a large natural carbon sink, and as such, can provide new incentives that prioritise the restoration and conservation of these important ecosystems. Through this EU LIFE Programme-funded project, where it works with key partners as the Regional Government of Junta of Andalucía, CSIC and the NGO HyT, IUCN-Med promoted the creation of

Blue Carbon initiatives as a key solution to mitigate climate change. In September, the Centre organised a workshop in the Odiel wetlands (Huelva, Spain), co-sponsored by the CEPESA Foundation and Red Eléctrica de España, which provided 36 managers and specialists in coastal ecosystems and climate change with key information on methodologies and tools for the effective development of Blue Carbon projects.



Coastal wetlands in Torredembarra | © Juan Moyano

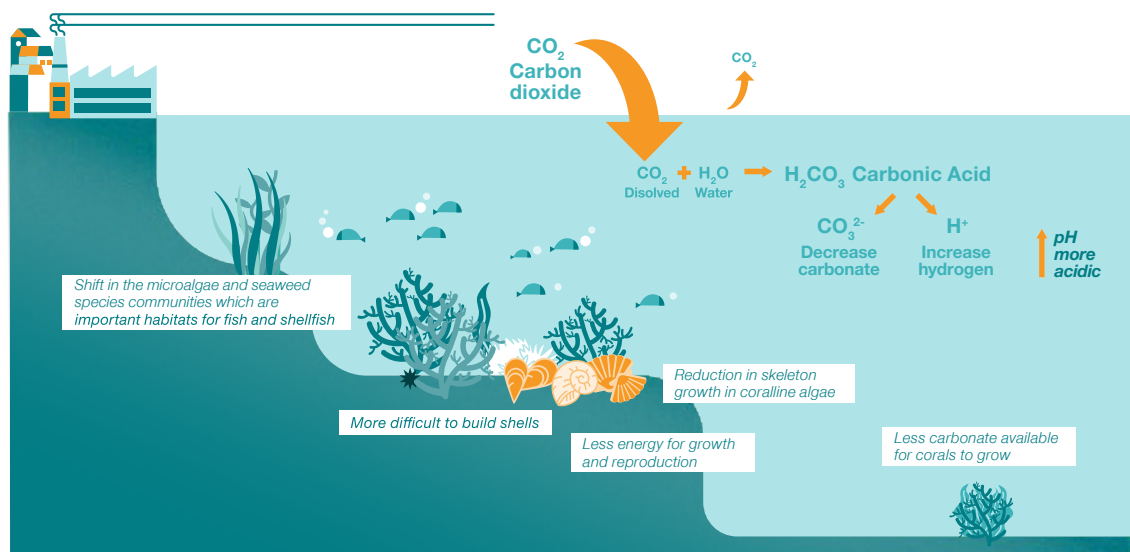
MPA-ADAPT



In June, the MPA-Adapt project concluded with a final conference held in Barcelona, Spain. This Interreg MED project had promoted the role of Mediterranean MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation for nearly three years, involving five MPAs from three different Mediterranean countries. The project developed a set of fine-tuned protocols to monitor the effects of climate change, carried out climate change vulnerability assessments from a socio-economic and biodiversity perspective, and built capacity for climate change adaptation and improved

public knowledge of the role of MPAs and its affections because of climate change. This year, key outcomes of the project elaborated by IUCN included several factsheets and videos which were aimed mainly to enhance understanding on current climate stressors and scenarios and the value of MPAs to contribute to adapt and mitigate risks. Final outcome with the guidance of IUCN was to assist the first Mediterranean MPAs to prepare action plans for adaptation to climate change.

Increase atmospheric CO₂ limits growth in the oceans



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. With key partners and actors in the region, IUCN-Med organised several international and national workshops, conferences and summer seminars to promote the use of NbS in urban environments. In April, a conference tackling ‘The challenge of nature-based solutions (NbS) and adaptation to climate change’ was held in Málaga, Spain. Organised by IUCN-Med with the University of Málaga, the Multisectoral Association of Andalusian Gardening (AMJA), and the Málaga Provincial Council, this event was attended by technical staff from city councils, representatives and companies managing urban parks and gardens, students from the University of Málaga, local organisations and environmental NGOs. Then, in July, a summer course on NbS and green infrastructure in Mediterranean urban environments was organised with the International University of Andalusia in

Málaga, Spain. In October, the Alborania Museum of the city of Málaga hosted ‘Málaga’s Green Spirit’, an event also co-organised by IUCN-Med, which brought together experts, students and authorities from the city and beyond. These events raised awareness among policy makers about NbS and their essential role in keeping ecosystems healthy so that they can adapt effectively to climate change. They were also very useful in establishing new collaborations and fostering cooperation among key actors in the planning and implementation of NbS in urban ecosystems. One of the main outcomes of this work was the creation of a cluster of organisations focused on NbS in cities, involving universities, the private sector and government bodies. Another fruit of this line of work was a publication that describes NbS best practice and challenges in urban environments. This document involved researchers, managers and students, and was published by IUCN-Med in collaboration with the International University of Andalusia.



Guadalhorce river, Málaga (Spain) | © Rafael Rey Martínez

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. A major event marking our partnership with academia was the launch of a **summer course** entitled 'NbS and green infrastructure in Mediterranean urban environments' with the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), which was held at its headquarters in Málaga, Spain. The Centre also taught a course on the Green List of Protected Areas for the Master's Programme in Protected Areas 2019 of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. In addition, a training workshop was organised with the Abdelmalek Essaâdi University of Morocco, in the framework of the collaboration between universities of the Alboran Sea (in Spain and Morocco).

COMMUNICATING, RAISING AWARENESS AND WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Our relations with Mediterranean media continued to focus not only on covering key IUCN-Med news stories, but also on sharing environmental information more effectively across the region through networking.

In November, 21 journalists from 14 main national news agencies, freelance environmental and science editors and experts from the Mediterranean region participated in a **media field trip** organised by IUCN-Med in collaboration with the Medsea Foundation and MedWet, and with support from EFEverde, in the area of Oristano, Sardinia, Italy – an area expected to be un-

derwater by the year 2100. Their visit aimed to raise awareness about the situation of Mediterranean wetlands and how climate change will impact coastal areas. This pioneer event was one of the activities of the MAVA project 'Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands' and was showcased online on the **Mediterranean Environmental Information Communicator Network** website (www.medgreenjournalism.net).

In June, 'The Mediterranean Journey to Conserve Biodiversity' platform (medconservationmaps.org) was updated, and a story map with GIS data on freshwater biodiversity in the Mediterranean, entitled 'The Shape of Freshwater', was added to the website. IUCN-Med developed this **online platform to share GIS** data freely on the status and distribution of Mediterranean species, with the aim of facilitating access to Mediterranean conservation data worldwide.

In October, the Centre delivered a **webinar** on 'Adopting a Governance Toolkit for Small-Scale Fisheries in Mediterranean MPAs' to disseminate best practices for small-scale fisheries and key lessons for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, under the FishMPABlue2 project.

In the audio-visual field, IUCN-Med produced five **videos** to promote Green List candidate sites in the Maghreb, as well as one promotion video on the second phase of PPI-OSCAN, which were shared widely on IUCN channels. The PPI-OSCAN website was also updated and enriched with fresh new stories by civil society organisations on their local impact, and a new brochure to present the second phase of the project was published in French, Arabic and English.

KEY FIGURES 2019



1
new Ecological
Footprint calculator
for ecotourism
products



5
publications and 5
fact sheets



1
conservation story
map on freshwater
ecosystems



16
freshwater Key
Biodiversity Areas
assessed for their
conservation status



7
green List candidate
sites trained



13
ecotourism clusters
applying DestiMED
standard for
ecotourism product
development



1
new mobile
application to
identify power
lines dangerous
for raptors



43
new projects from
young North African
CSOs selected



31
international events,
12 national events in
Spain, 5 local events
in Málaga



10
capacity-building
workshops
benefiting more than
300 people



14
new Members,
making a total of 237
IUCN Mediterranean
Members in 25
countries



14
new cooperation
agreements signed



10
press
releases



3
electronic
bulletins

Social media:



facebook

18,040

followers, up by 10%



twitter

4,000

followers,
up by 19%



Field visit of the network of environmental journalists from news agencies in the Mediterranean to Oristano Gulf (Sardinia, Italy) | ©IUCN

New project proposals submitted in 2019

In collaboration with regional partners, IUCN-Med participated in the submission of new projects to various funding calls in 2019 and beginning of 2020.

Project	Donor	Cofunding	Contract
POSBEMED 2	Interreg MED	€ 115,785	€ 771,900
DestiMED PLUS	Interreg Med	€ 105,000	€ 635,750
HAPPY PLACES	H2020		€ 438,750
FARM BEAN	H2020		€ 750,000
ALBAYTAR	EU-Urban Innovative Actions		€ 88,000
€ 328,785			€ 3,380,650.00

New projects launched in 2019

IUCN-Med launched several new projects in 2019 with regional partners.

Project	EU CALL/ Donors
POSBEMED 2	Interreg MED
DestiMED PLUS	Interreg Med
MedArtSal	ENI CBCMED

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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

- Marine Programme
- Species Programme
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
- North Africa Programme
- Corporate Programme



© Flor Vigneron

21-22 | IUCN-Med and Assurance Services International conducted a Green List evaluation and process training in Rome, Italy, for the Italian Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL).

22-24 | More than 100 researchers, practitioners and policy makers from the Mediterranean region and the European Union met to discuss the benefits and challenges of implementing Nature-based Solutions at a workshop in Marseille, organised by IUCN-Med, the IUCN French Committee, Plan Bleu, Conservatoire du Littoral, Tour du Valat, MedWet and Wetlands International.



© IUCN/Helena Clavero

5 | The 2018-2027 Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of the Magot (*Macaca sylvanus*) in Algeria was published in collaboration with the Direction Générale des Forêts of Algeria and the IUCN SSC.

11-15 | 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.

16 | The first programme to census raptors in Morocco was launched in Rabat with a kick-off expedition within the Atlas Programme, coordinated by the Department of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco, with IUCN-Med and the Regional Government of Andalusia in Spain.

27 | The Call for Experts to build up a Green List Assessment Group (EAGL) in Spain was issued by IUCN-Med and WCPA.



© M_Dagnino

1-5 | March Red List training workshop in collaboration with IUCN ROWA office in Kuwait to support its national Red List initiative.

5 | The Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (M2PA) announced a Call for Proposals to design a Mediterranean Conservation Trust Fund for projects in Morocco, Tunisia and Albania.

21-22 | IUCN-Med organised a think tank meeting in Málaga, Spain, with the Chairs of four IUCN SSC Specialist Groups (Molluscs, Freshwater Plants, Freshwater Crustaceans and Dragonflies) and other experts, to develop a KBA assessment protocol for freshwater KBAs.

24-30 | IUCN-Med participated in the Monaco Ocean week with a focus on plastic pollution.

26 | The second phase of IUCN-Med's Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN-2) was officially launched, with 43 innovative new projects run by emerging conservation associations in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

APRIL

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1-5 | The Centre presented the Red List of Ecosystems during the sixth Mediterranean Forest Week in Lebanon.

11-12 | IUCN-Med participated in the MARLICE Forum in Seville, Spain, and gave a presentation on the plastic pollution challenge in the Mediterranean.

6-9 | IUCN-Med participated in the Steering Committee meeting of a MAVA Foundation project to promote 'cultural practices that shape the cultural landscapes which, in turn, harbour biodiversity and preserve natural capital' in the Mediterranean basin. The meeting was held in Menorca, Spain.

9 | The Centre released Med Conservation Maps, a digital collaborative platform for sharing peer conservation science via interactive stories with GIS maps and infographics.

16-17 | IUCN-Med organised a workshop in Morocco to draft the concept note of a project using NbS, with the support of the Department of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco.

23 | A panel of experts met in Tunisia to evaluate the IUCN Red List methodology for Ecosystems as a suitable strategy to preserve forests, birds and vascular plants in the country, with the support of IUCN-Med's team. Hosted by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture at the Directorate-General for Forestry (DGF), the outcome of this session will be an initial assessment.

24 | Conference "The challenge of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and adaptation to climate change", held in Málaga, Spain. Organised by IUCN-Med with the University of Málaga, the Multisectoral Association of Andalusian Gardening (AMJA), and the Málaga Provincial Council.

29 | Thirty-five representatives of NGOs, universities and the public sector met in Tunis to launch a national Red List of Threatened Species. This meeting was hosted by the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and supported by IUCN's Tunisian Committee and IUCN-Med.

MAY

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© Jaymantri_Pexels

2 | IUCN-Med, as a partner in the MPA-Adapt project, released the [first two fact sheets](#) about Mediterranean marine protected areas and climate change.

14-15 | IUCN-Med participated in the hackathon entitled Blue economy contribution to the Summit of the Two Shores, organised by the EU WestMED initiative in Palermo, Italy.

29 | A capacity-building workshop was held in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon for seven Green List candidate site managers and representatives of protected area administrations in the Maghreb countries of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The workshop was organised by IUCN-Med and WCPA in collaboration with the IUCN French Committee and AI Shouf Cedar Society.

JUNE

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© IUCN

4-5 | The MPA-Adapt project concluded with a final conference held in Barcelona, Spain.

5-6 | Experts from the LIFE Invasaqua project organisations met in Málaga, Spain, to update the list of invasive alien species in the Iberian Peninsula. They also participated in a workshop about the EICAT standard in the Iberian Peninsula.

11 | IUCN-Med and Assurance Services International conducted a Green List evaluation and process training session in Madrid, Spain, for the Spanish Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL).

12-13 | The DestiMED project presented its approach and results at the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism seminar in Valsain, Segovia, Spain.

18 | IUCN-Med organised the side event on Marine biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation at the 14th Thematic Focal Points Meeting for the SPA/BD Protocol in Portorož, Slovenia.

24-26 | More than 60 participants took part in the IUCN North Africa Regional Conservation Forum, which was held in Monastir, Tunisia, as part of the preparations for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

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© Vincent Pommeyrol Dreamstime

3 | New mortality locations of the Mediterranean pineshell *Pinna nobilis* were detected in Greece, Croatia, Turkey, Tunisia, France and Morocco. IUCN-Med continued to analyse the overall extent of this crisis while preparing the Red List Assessment for this species.

4-5 | IUCN-Med organised a workshop in Tunisia to draft the concept note for a project using NbS, with the support of the Tunisian Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment.

5 | The Centre participated in and jointly organised the MAVA Foundation Med Bycatch Steering Committee Meeting in Porto Cesareo, Italy.

15-18 | A summer course was organised by IUCN-Med in partnership with the International University of Andalusia (UNIA) on 'NbS and green infrastructure in Mediterranean urban environments' in Málaga, Spain.

16-17 | IUCN-Med participated as a tourism expert in the Blue economy and finance meeting organised by WWF Mediterranean and Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona, Spain.

19 | IUCN-Med presented its assessment of the status of insects included in the IUCN Red List for the Mediterranean and Europe in the last decade, at the Iberian Congress of the Spanish Association of Entomology in Madrid, Spain.

AUGUST

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

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



Shark in bycatch | ©Andreas Altenburger

19 | This month, several workshops were organised within the Med Bycatch project to prepare and implement a monitoring programme in collaboration with partners and stakeholders at various levels.

SEPTEMBER

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Sample the field | ©Life Blue Nature project

2-6 | IUCN-Med shared its experience in energy issues during the workshop "Mitigating Biodiversity Impacts Associated with Solar and Wind Energy Infrastructures", organized by IUCN Business and Biodiversity Programme, in Gland, Switzerland.

16-18 | Thirty-six managers and specialists in coastal ecosystems and climate change took part in a workshop in the Odiel wetlands, Huelva, Spain, on the Development of Blue Carbon projects, organised by IUCN-Med under the LIFE Blue Natura project.

16-19 | The Adventour Travel and Trade Association's international fair held in Gothenburg, Sweden, was attended by IUCN-Med, which presented the DestiMED and MEET Network outcomes and ecotourism products.

19-20 | IUCN-Med participated in the Fourth Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholders Energy Task Force, held in Paris, France.

OCTOBER

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1 | The Centre introduced the benefits of NbS in urban environments during the Málaga's Green Spirit event, in Málaga, Spain.

1-4 | IUCN-Med participated as a panellist in the European Vulture Conference organised by the Vulture Conservation Foundation and held in Albufeira, Portugal. During this event, the publication Birds and energy infrastructures in North Africa – Practical Guide for the identification and prevention of hazardous power lines (available in French) was presented.

7-9 | The DestiMED and MEET Network outcomes were presented by IUCN-Med during the EU Regions week in Brussels, Belgium.

7-10 | IUCN-Med organised a Community Exchange in High Atlas, Morocco, which brought together a panel of experts from eight countries working on the preservation of cultural landscapes in the Mediterranean.

9 | The Centre conducted the webinar 'Adopting a Governance Toolkit for Small-scale Fisheries in Mediterranean MPAs' to disseminate best practices for small-scale fisheries and key lessons for MPAs in the Mediterranean, under the FishMPA-Blue2 project.

9 | The Governance Toolkit for managing Small-Scale Fisheries in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas was published; it contains a collection of 13 sustainable fishery management-related solutions.

10 | The new Identification guide of vulnerable species incidentally caught in Mediterranean fisheries was published by IUCN-Med within the Med By-catch project.

11-14 | The first test of an ecotourism itinerary coordinated by IUCN-Med for the Garh el-Melh wetland, Tunisia, took place with the participation of five international experts.

22-23 | The results of the DestiMED Project were presented officially at a final event in Rome. The DestiMED Calculator was officially launched.



Final DestiMED Conference | © DestiMED

23 | The MEET Network General Assembly was held in Rome, Italy, with more than 30 participants. Four new protected area members were welcomed to the Network.

25-27 | More than 21 journalists from 14 national news agencies met during the Fourth Meeting of Environmental Journalists in the Mediterranean, which was organised by IUCN-Med and held in the wetlands of Oristano, Sardinia, Italy.

30-31 | IUCN-Med attended the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Potential Biodiversity Index in forest systems in Toulouse, France.



Final DestiMED Conference | © DestiMED

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NOVEMBER						
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Argelian delegation visit to Malaga | © IUCN

4-7 | Experts met in a workshop in Palma de Mallorca, Balears (Spain), to review the status of sharks, rays and chimaeras in the Mediterranean region. The event was organised by IUCN-Med. It also received support from Marilles Foundation and experts from the Mediterranean IUCN SSC Shark Specialist group.

5-8 | IUCN-Med participated in the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS in Istanbul, Turkey.

7 | The Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies of Algeria and IUCN-Med signed

a cooperation agreement in Málaga, Spain, to promote projects for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

13-14 | IUCN-Med presented the approach and results of DestiMED during the Blue Eco Forum 2019 in Barcelona, Spain.

19-21 | More than 70 participants from 43 CSOs in North Africa met in Casablanca, Morocco, to exchange experiences and build capacity during a regional workshop of PPI-OSCAN 2.

21 | IUCN-Med launched the mobile app e-fauna- to protect raptors worldwide.

21 | DestiMED published *A guide to plan and promote ecotourism activities and measure their impacts in Mediterranean Protected Areas following the MEET approach*.

25-28 | Marine conservation experts met at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Crete, Greece, as the first step towards the first Red List Assessment of Sponges in the Mediterranean.

DECEMBER						
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Cetaceans experts meeting | © IUCN

3 | IUCN-Med moderated the side event 'Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism to Tackle Environmental and Development Challenges in the Mediterranean Region' during the COP21 of the Barcelona Convention in Naples, Italy.

3 | The Centre organised the side event 'MPAs and Biodiversity for a sustainable Mediterranean:

mechanisms for effective marine biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean' during the COP21 of the Barcelona Convention in Naples, Italy.

10 | A first meeting to discuss the update of the Red List of Mediterranean cetaceans was organised by IUCN-Med and held in Barcelona, Spain.

11 | IUCN-Med participated in several high-level meetings during the UNFCCC COP25 in Madrid, Spain.

14-16 | IUCN-Med assisted the KBA National Coordination Group in Jordan and supported the Jordanian Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in identifying KBAs for plants.

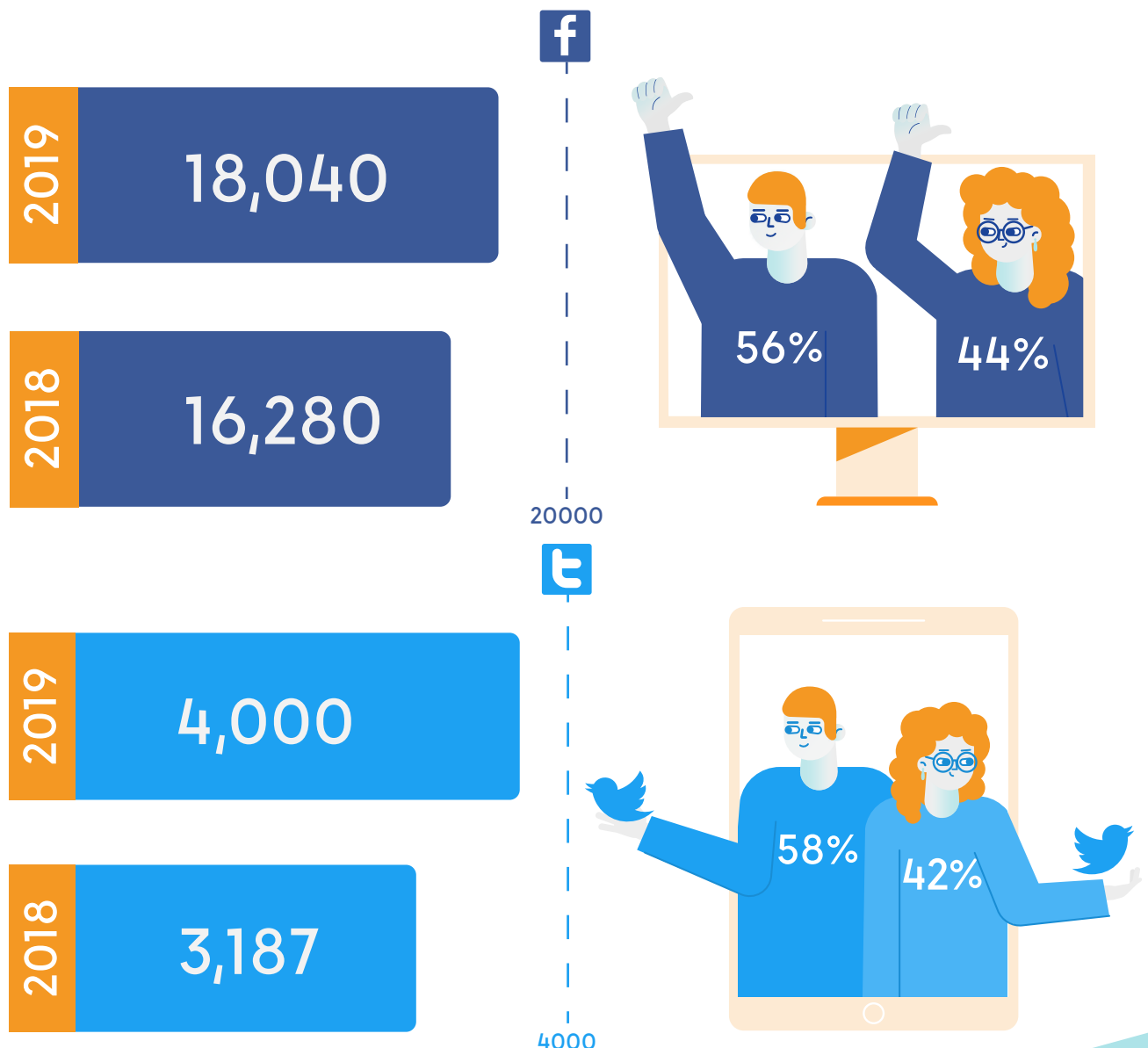
PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2019

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 2019, the number of its followers had grown significantly compared to the previous year,

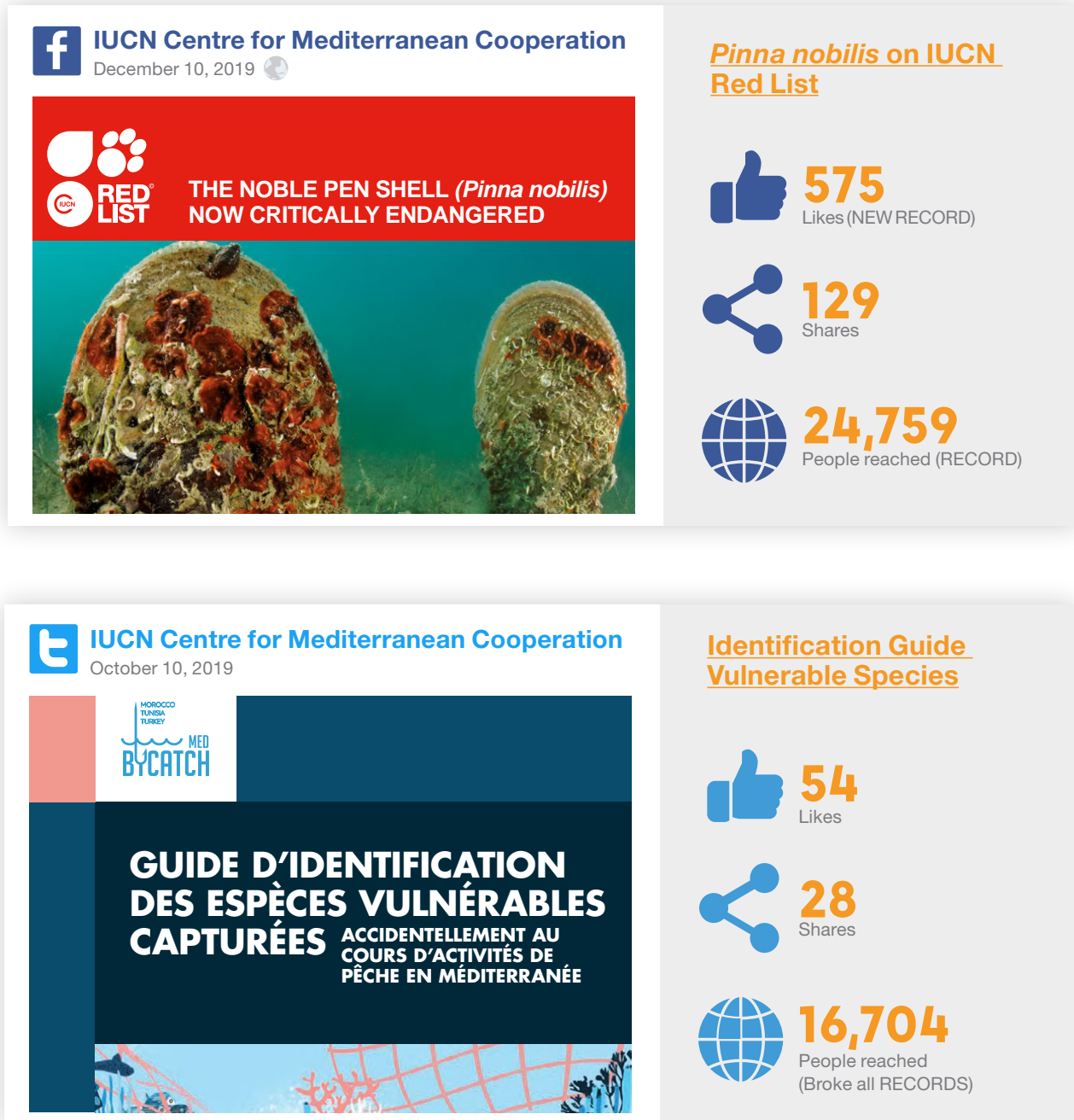
reaching 18,040 followers on Facebook (**an increase of 10% over the year**) and 4,000 followers on Twitter (**a 19% increase**). This was the result of the Centre's ongoing social media strategy, with more regular information feeds and the creation of content specifically adapted to these platforms.

NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS



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THE BEST PERFORMING CONTENT



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

On Facebook, Tunisia is the new biggest community (21%), followed closely by Algeria (20%), and then Morocco (9.5%), Spain (8%), Libya (6.3%), Egypt (5.4%), Italy (5.2%), France (4.7%), Albania (1.8%), Palestine (1.4%), Greece (1.2%) and Turkey (0.9%). The audience

distribution has also changed to become more balanced and less concentrated in the first two countries.

There have been slight changes of audience distribution on Twitter: French followers grew from 9 to 10%, Greeks from 2 to 3%, Lebanese and Turkish followers from 1 to 2%. As opposed to Facebook (on which most followers are in North Africa), the Twitter audience is mainly European.

PUBLICATIONS



LES OISEAUX ET LES RÉSEAUX ÉLECTRIQUES EN AFRIQUE DU NORD

Practical guide to the identification and prevention of hazardous power lines in North Africa

Version in [French](#).



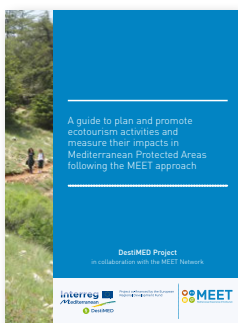
STRATÉGIE ET PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA CONSERVATION DU MAGOT (MACACA SYLVANUS) EN ALGÉRIE 2018- 2027

This strategy and action plan provides key information to counterpart the decline of the Barbary macaque populations in Algeria, describing conditions necessary for its development and maintenance in the wild.

Available in [French](#).

Other publications in progress

TECHNICAL REPORTS



A GUIDE TO PLAN AND PROMOTE ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES AND MEASURE THEIR IMPACTS IN MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS FOLLOWING THE MEET APPROACH

The purpose of this manual is to provide protected area managing bodies and the local ecotourism sector with a clear pathway for planning and enhancing committed conservation-focused ecotourism in their areas.



CONSERVATION OVERVIEW OF MEDITERRANEAN DEEP-SEA BIODIVERSITY

This publication aims at enhancing our understanding of the deep-sea environment and highlighting the importance of effective monitoring to promptly detect and mitigate our footprint.

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IDENTIFICATION GUIDE OF VULNERABLE SPECIES INCIDENTALLY CAUGHT IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

In this comprehensive guide, the description of each species is supported by photographs, illustrations and narrative descriptions that highlight important anatomical structures of each species, as well as their common names in several languages (English, Spanish, French and Arabic).

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

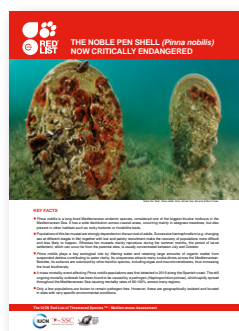


TOWARDS NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The purpose of this booklet is to clarify how the Nature-based Solutions concept (NbS) can be applied in different types of Mediterranean ecosystems, through 14 examples of interventions proposed by IUCN Members and partners in the region as a part of a collective effort.

Available in [English](#).

FACT SHEETS



THE NOBLE PEN SHELL (*PINNA NOBILIS*) NOW CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Pinna nobilis is a long-lived Mediterranean endemic species, considered one of the biggest bivalve molluscs in the Mediterranean Sea. A mass mortality event affecting *Pinna nobilis* populations was first detected in 2016 along the Spanish coast.

Fact sheet: **The noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*) now Critically Endangered.**



IUCN-Med, as a partner in the MPA-Adapt project, has developed a brochure and three new fact sheets about Mediterranean marine protected areas and climate change:



MEDITERRANEAN MPAS PROVIDING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Brochure explaining how implementing Nature-based Solutions in MPAs and making specific ecosystem improvements will reinforce the value of Mediterranean MPAs in tackling the impacts of climate change.

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

1. Fact sheet: Acidification and Marine Protected Areas. This fact sheet presents the most recent data about acidification, to show what is happening and what is likely to happen, and how it can affect Mediterranean MPAs and ecosystems. Available in [Spanish](#), [French](#), [English](#) and [Croatian](#).

2. Fact sheet: Impact of Storm Surges in MPAs. This fact sheet presents what we know about storm surge events, to show what is happening and is likely to happen, and how it can affect Mediterranean MPAs and ecosystems. Available in [Spanish](#), [French](#), [English](#), [Italian](#) and [Croatian](#).

3. Fact sheet: Blue Carbon and Marine Protected Areas. This fact sheet presents the state of knowledge about Blue Carbon ecosystems, to show what is happening, what is likely to happen, and how these ecosystems can be affected in Mediterranean MPAs. Available in [Spanish](#), [French](#), [English](#) and [Italian](#).

These belong to a series of climate change fact sheets developed specifically to keep Mediterranean MPA managers informed.

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS



MEDITERRANEAN FLASHNEWS SPRING 2019, SUMMER 2019 AND WINTER 2019

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

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 and the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO)** 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 2019 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 2019 with the following institutions:

FGUMA – Fundación General de la Universidad de Málaga (University of Málaga General Foundation)	Agreement on training and internship
MEDPAN	Conceptualising and designing a Roadmap for a Mediterranean Consortium
Ayuntamiento de Málaga (Málaga Council)	Agreement on grant for Nature-based Solutions projects
Socio-Environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM)	Improving knowledge about waste generation in Menorca and measurably increasing policy effectiveness to reduce plastic waste generation and enhance disposal
Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative	Improving knowledge about waste generation in Cyprus and measurably increasing policy effectiveness to reduce plastic waste generation and enhance disposal
Cyprus Wildlife Society	Perform a survey among fishermen in ports and marinas, in areas where the presence of monk seals is stated in the Republic of Cyprus
Global Conservation Network	Design and facilitation of the ‘ <i>Threats and Conservation Needs Assessment Workshop</i> ’
The Travel Foundation	Planning for and populating the online platform through capacity-building instruments for the widespread adoption of the MEET model by protected areas
Medsea Foundation	Support IUCN-Med on the logistic aspects needed for the organization of the media trip to Oristano with the participation of 20 journalists and IUCN-Med partners
Turkish Marine Research Foundation	Supporting expert for Observers on Board in Turkey for the implementation of the fisheries bycatch programme
Comité Français de l’UICN	Réalisation de la capitalisation croisée des deux programmes d’appui aux ONG à savoir le PPI-OSCAN (Programme de Petites Initiatives pour les Organisations de la Société Civile d’Afrique du Nord) et du PPI de l’Afrique de l’Ouest et Centrale
Management Agency of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos	Designing and implementing monitoring activities to assess the ecological and fisheries effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas: improving MPA managers’ skills
Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk seal (MOM)	Improving knowledge of the Mediterranean monk seal population in Greece
Fundación Migres	Preparing, coordinating and dealing with logistics for a field trip team to carry out a census of birds of prey in a specific region of Morocco

In addition to these formal agreements, IUCN-Med’s involvement 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 **235** in 25 countries by the end of 2019. 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	13
National NGOs	170
Affiliates	19
TOTAL	235
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24)	25

IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA

State Members	4
Government Agencies	-
International NGOs	2
National NGOs	29
Affiliates	-
TOTAL	35
Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5)	5

IUCN's six Commissions rely on more than 15,000 international experts, almost 1,800 of whom are from Mediterranean countries.

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

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	148
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	173
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	85
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	1,021
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	102
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	330
TOTAL (an expert may be a member of more than one commission)	1,760

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA (2017-2020)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	26
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	43
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	10
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	65
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	5
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	57
TOTAL	206

NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN 2019

ALBANIA

- National Agency of Protected Areas

FRANCE

- Fédération Française de Spéléologie
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
- International Federation of Landscape Architects
- Partenariat Français pour l'Eau
- Pollinis
- Alliance pour la Préservation des Forêts

ITALY

- AIGAE – The Italian Association for Professional Nature and Interpretive Guides

JORDAN

- Dibeen Association for Environmental Development
- Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority

LEBANON

- Lebanon Reforestation Initiative

MOROCCO

- Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganeraie

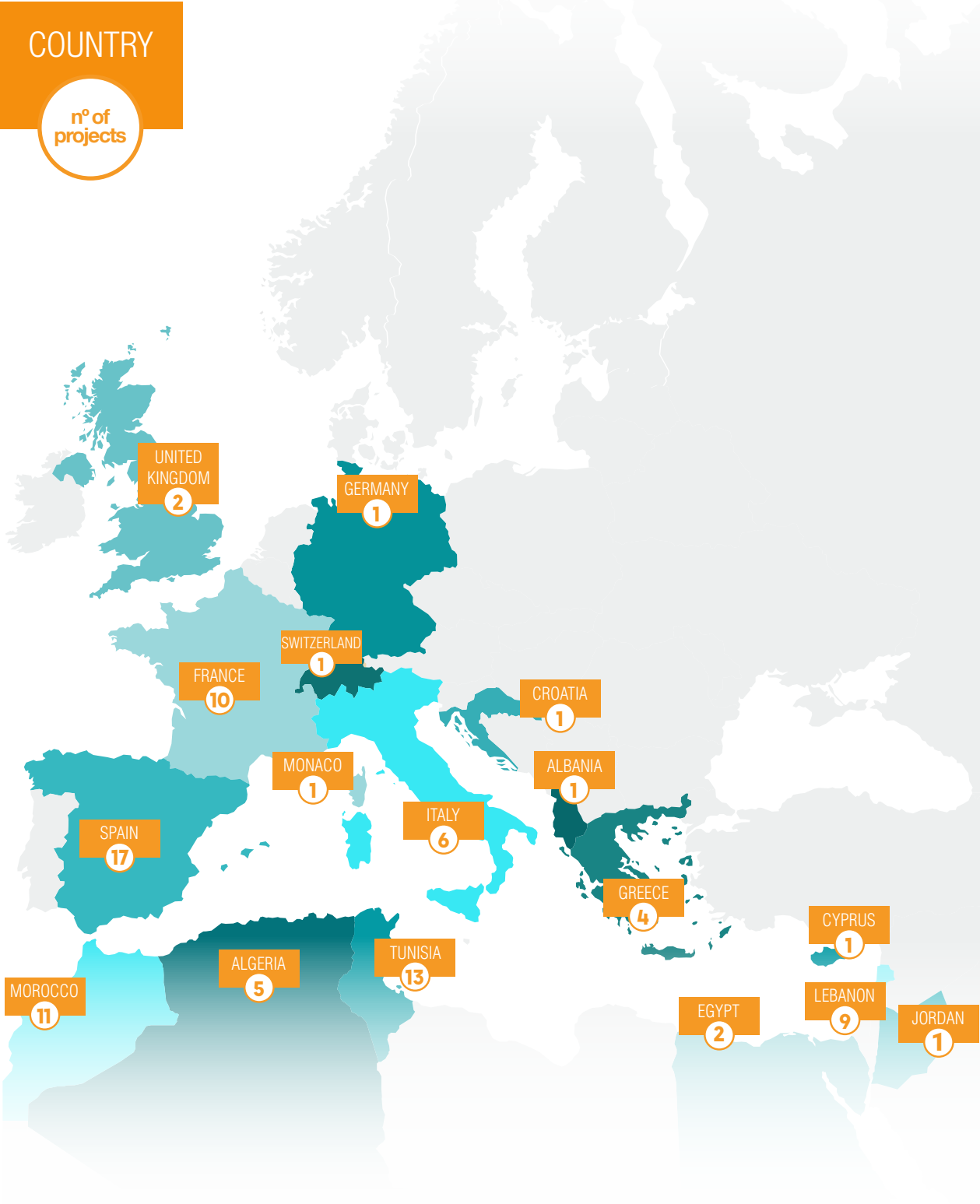
SPAIN

- Asociación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y los Recursos de Extremadura
- Fundación Savia por el Compromiso y los Valores



MOU Signature with Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies of Algeria © IUCN

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBERS AND OTHER KEY ORGANISATIONS



National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)

- Partner in DestiMED project

ALBANIA

1

Association écologique de Boumerdès

- Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week

Ministère de l'Environnement et des Énergies Renouvelables

- Study on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures in North Africa (OECMs)
- 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 of Protected Areas programme in North Africa

ALGERIA

5

WWF Adria

- Partner in DestiMED project and Partner in FishMPABlue2 project

CROATIA

1

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

- Associated partner

CYPRUS

1

Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)

- Study on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures in North Africa (OECMs)

Ministry of Environment

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

EGYPT

2

IUCN French Committee

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

Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network (MedPAN)

- Establishment of MEET Network
- Partner in DestiMED project
- Partner in FishMPABlue2 project
- Associated Partner in MPA-Adapt
- The MedFund

Office français pour la Biodiversité

- Associated

FRANCE

10

EuroNatur

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focusing on reducing threats to priority birds (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation

GERMANY

1

Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

- Interreg POSBEMED 2 project

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)

- Collaboration in MAVA M6 – Cultural Practices initiative
- Collaboration in new initiative submitted for H2020 Farming and Biodiversity funding

WWF Greece

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focusing on reducing threats to priority birds (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation.

GREECE

4

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

Lazio region

- Partner in DestiMED project

WWF Mediterranean office

- Partner in DestiMED project

ITALY

6

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

- Support for the Identification of KBAs for plants in Jordan (CEPF funded project to RSCN)

JORDAN

1

Al Shouf Cedar Society (ASCS)

- Partner in M6 – Cultural Landscapes initiative
- Support monitoring of biodiversity in ASCC
- Partner in MEET network

Association for Forest Development and Conservation

- Support for the development of Red List of Forest Ecosystems of Lebanon and integration into the State of Lebanon Forest

Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM)

- Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week
- Partner in MEET network

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

- Partner in M6 – Cultural Landscapes programme
- Coordination of KBA National Coordination Group
- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF

LEBANON

9

Prince Albert II Foundation

- Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée (The MedFund)

MONACO

1

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

- Partner in The MedFund

Association Marocaine pour la Fauconnerie et la Conservation des Rapaces

- First national census of cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco in the framework of the Safe Flyways initiative

Department of Water and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco

- Nature-based Solutions in NDCs
- Regional Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2)
- Study on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures in North Africa (OECMs)
- Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building Strategy for Protected Areas in North Africa
- Support for Green List Protected Areas programme in North Africa
- First national census of cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco in the framework of the Safe Flyways initiative

GREPOM

- First national census of cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco in the framework of the Safe Flyways initiative

Groupe d'Ornithologie du Maroc (GOMAC)

- *First national census of cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco in the framework of the Safe Flyways initiative*

WWF North Africa – Morocco office

- *WAMAN Sebou project*

MOROCCO

11

CEIDA, Centro de Extensión Universitaria e Divulgación Ambiental de Galicia

- *Joint monitoring of the IUCN WCC resolution 042 – Biodiversity refuge areas*

Delta del Ebro Biosphere reserve – COPATE

- *Pilot action in DestiMED project*

Europarc – Spain

- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Med-Europe*

IUCN Spanish National Committee

- *14th IUCN Spanish Member Congress in the Basque Country*
- *26th Semana del Mar (Sea Week) in March*

Málaga Council

- *Collaboration agreement on Nature-based Solutions*

Menorca Biosphere Reserve - Consell Insular

- *Pilot action in DestiMED project*

Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico (MITECO)

- *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*
- *Involvement in the Green list of protected areas in Spain*

Regional Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of the Junta de Andalucía (CMAyOT)

- *Collaboration in the development of a conservation strategy for birds of prey in Morocco*
- *Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on birds in Tunisia.*
- *Technical collaboration in issues related to raptors and energy infrastructure.*
- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Med-Europe*
- *Two LIFE projects: LIFE Blue Natura and LIFE AdaptaMED*
- *Associated partner for the new project on Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas (MedArtSal)*

WWF, Spain

- *Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focusing on reducing threats to priority birds (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation*

SPAIN

17

Vulture Conservation Foundation

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focusing on reducing threats to priority birds (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation

SWITZERLAND

1

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

- Partner in The MedFund

Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

- Partner in GEM-WET project ecotourism component
- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF
- Development of National Coordination Group of KBAs

Association Notre Grand Bleu

- Partner in The Med Fund

Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement

- Nature-based Solutions in NDCs
- Study on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures in North Africa (OECMs)
- 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
- Support for the development of Tunisia's Red List of Threatened Species

WWF Mediterranean office

- Partner in DestiMED project

WWF Tunisia

- Partner in Ghar el Melh project

TUNISIA

13

BirdLife International

- Partner in the ByCatch project and the Ghar El Melh project
- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focusing on threats to priority birds (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation

UNITED
KINGDOM

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PROJECTS

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

Conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean region

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

Safe Flyways – reducing energy infrastructure-related
bird mortality in the Mediterranean

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

Support for the Red List assessment of *Pinna nobilis*

WAMAN Sebou

KBA conservation status assessment

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

WAMAN Sebou and Douro Vivo (Living Douro) projects

KBA conservation status assessment

MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019

WAMAN Sebou and Douro Vivo projects

KBA conservation status assessment

Mediterranean **Shark and Ray Conservation** Meeting

Training course on EICAT (Environmental Impact
Classification of Alien Taxa)

MEET Network, DestiMED project, Support for
communications working group

MPA-Adapt project

Green List

Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building
Strategy for Protected Areas in North Africa

KBA regional focal point

liaison between global secretariat and national focal points

Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) at global level and national
processes in Tunisia (training) and Lebanon (support)

Organisation of restoration in drylands training course with
IAMZ-CIHEAM

Best examples of **Nature-based Solutions** in the Mediterranean

Working group meeting on **Fisheries Restricted Areas and
OECMs**

COMMISSIONS

1

**SSC experts (Marine Turtle
Specialist Group)**

1

**SSC experts (Vulture
Specialist Group)**

3

**SSC experts (Mollusc
Specialist Group)**

3

**SSC experts (Freshwater Plant
Specialist Group)**

1

**SSC experts (Freshwater
Conservation Committee)**

1

**SSC experts (Shark Specialist
Group)**

1

**SSC experts (Invasive Species
Specialist Group)**

1

WCPA-TAPAS

1

WCPA-Climate change

1

WCPA

1

**WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force
for KBAs**

1

CEM Red List of Ecosystems

1

**CEM and Society for
Ecological Restoration (SER)
International**

1

CEM Nature-based Solutions

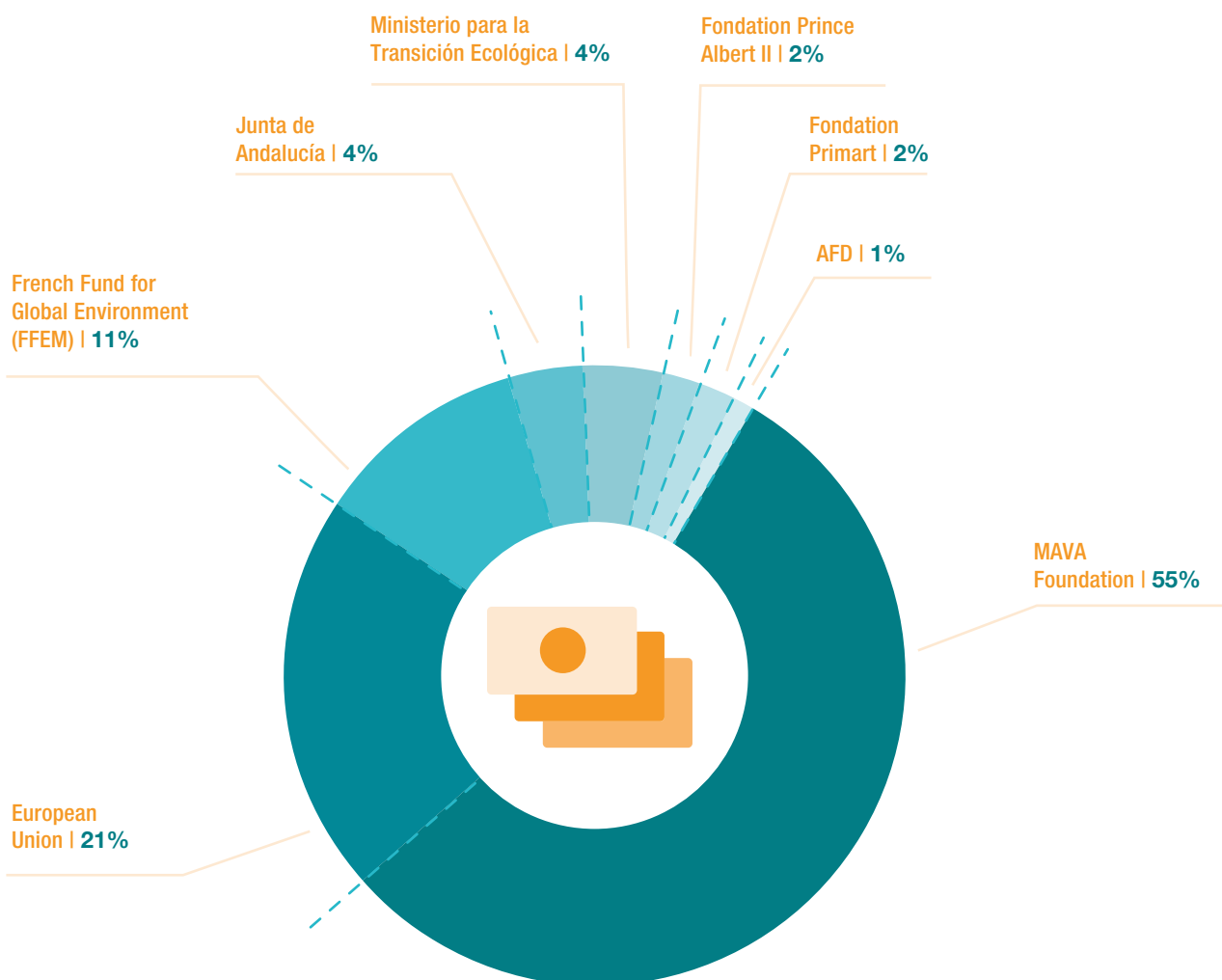
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CEM Fisheries Expert Group

REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

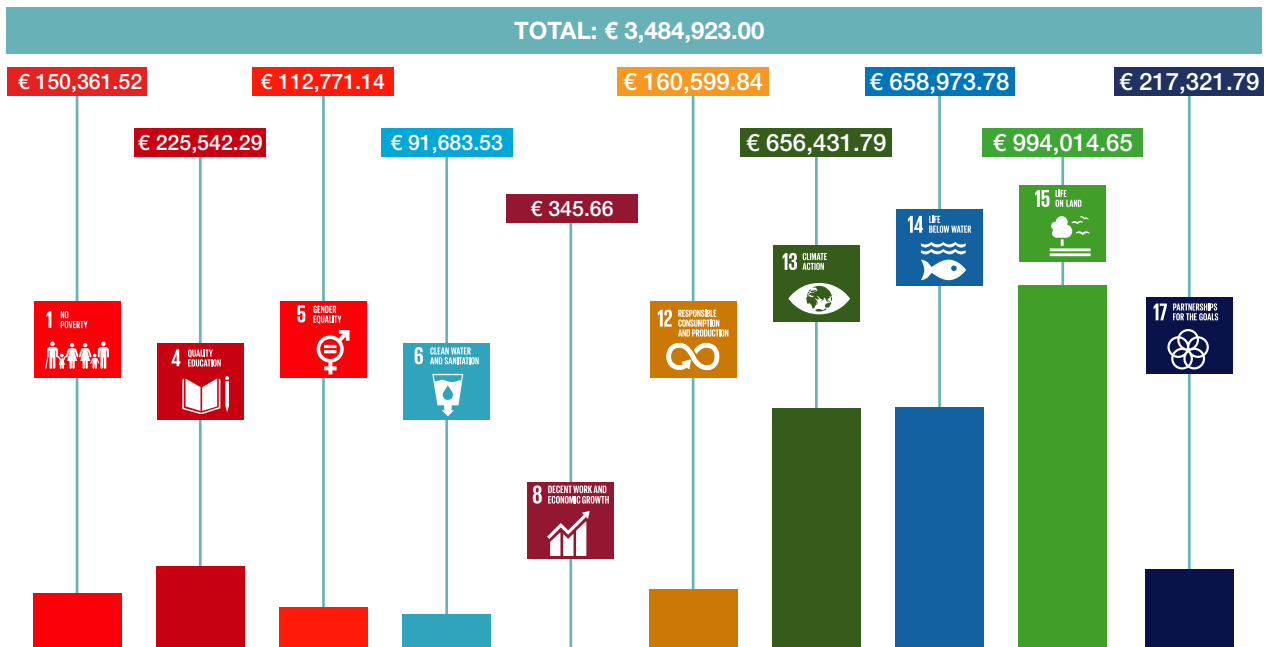
In 2019 IUCN-Med managed around 25 projects with a budget of approximately € 3,484,923. Of this, 55% came from the MAVA Foundation, 21% from the European Union, 4% from Andalusia's Regional Government, 11% from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and 4% from

the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition. The remainder (totalling 5%) was from the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Primart Foundation, the AFD, the Fundación Biodiversidad, the SCBD, the CEPF and others.

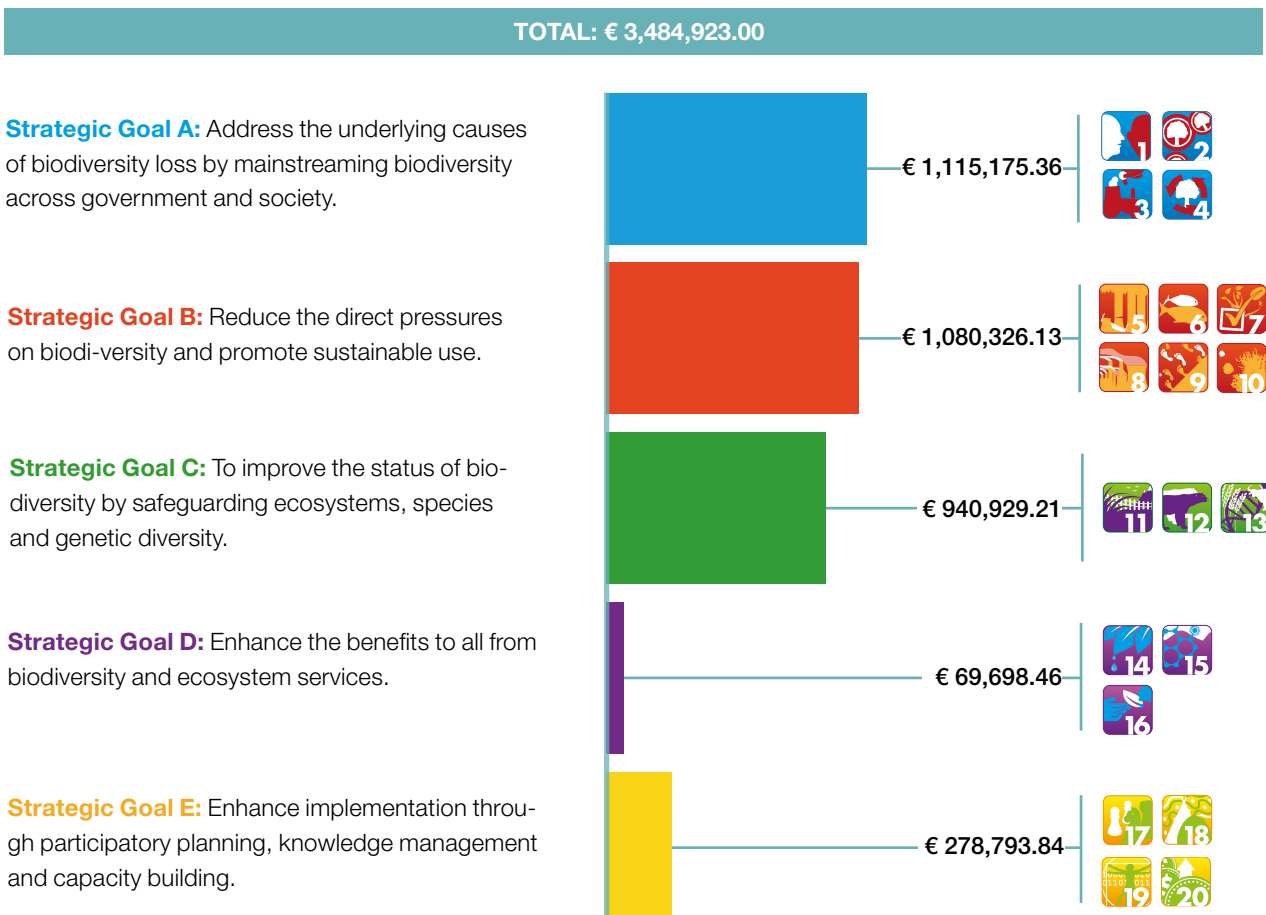


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CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO THE AICHI TARGETS



GENERAL OPERATIONS

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Junta de Andalucía

Office Support
ONGOING

To contribute to supporting IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding

Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible, Junta de Andalucía

Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico (MITECO)

Office Support
ONGOING

To finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding, Chapter 4

Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural

MAVA Foundation

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 Global Programme

Office Support
ONGOING

To finance part of IUCN-Med operational costs

IUCN

Malaga Council

ONGOING

Dissemination event on Nature-based Solutions

Council of Malaga

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



LIFE

Invasaqua

ONGOING

Aquatic invasive alien species of freshwater and estuarine systems: Awareness and Prevention in the Iberian Peninsula

EU LIFE Programme

EICAT

COMPLETED

Environmental impact assessment of introduced species in Spain: feasibility analysis of the IUCN EICAT classification system

Fundación Biodiversidad

MEDARTSAL

STARTED

Sustainable Management model for Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas

European Programme ENI CBC MED 2014–2020

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), CEPSPA and MAVA

FishMPABlue2

Fishing governance in MPAs: Potentialities for a Blue Economy
COMPLETED

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

MPA-Adapt

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

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

EU – Interreg MED
MAVA Foundation

NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



Support for conservation in North Africa
ONGOING

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

MAVA Foundation

PPI-OSCAN 2

Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (Phase II)
ONGOING

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

MAVA Foundation, French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)

Arab World Heritage
(Morocco–Egypt)
COMPLETED

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

Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage

Support from the Secretariat of the CBD on **Protected Areas** in the MENA region
ONGOING

To assess the achievements of the five North African countries plus Lebanon on reaching Aichi Target 11 and to develop a survey on “Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures”

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Japanese Biodiversity Fund

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

LIFE AdaptaMED

Protection of key ecosystem
services by adaptive mana-
gement of climate change in
endangered Mediterranean
socio-ecosystems
ONGOING

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

DestiMED
Mediterranean Ecotourism
Destination
COMPLETED

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

EU – Interreg MED,
MAVA Foundation

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2020 PROGRAMME FORECAST

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2020

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. The next Congress should be held in Marseille, France, from 11 to 19 June 2020. The North Africa Members Congress organised by IUCN-Med in 2019 helped to define the priorities of conservation in the region and prepare the region's input to the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

During the Marseille Congress, IUCN Members will vote on the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, which will redefine the priorities for the Union's work worldwide over the next four years. The IUCN Membership will also adopt a series of Resolutions and Recommendations that, together with the new IUCN Programme, will help shape the Mediterranean and international conservation agenda, feeding into key processes such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Paris Agreement on climate change, which will formally come into effect in 2020 with countries submitting new or updated pledges.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD should be held from 15 to 28 October 2020 in Kunming, China. 2020 is the year when the CBD will adopt a Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a stepping stone towards its 2050 vision of 'Living in harmony with nature'. Like other stakeholders, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation will keep giving its views on the process, scope and content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework regarding the Mediterranean region, particularly after the IUCN Congress.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The Centre will keep working on how to enhance ecosystem multifunctionality by promoting biodiversity conservation and NbS within spatial planning. NbS are a key area of work in IUCN-Med's new project portfolio. IUCN-Med will further this line of work by encouraging new partnerships, strengthening collaborations, identifying NbS-related best practices and promoting them as well as the new NbS Global Standard at national, regional and international level.

WATCHING OUT FOR BIRDS OF PREY

The Centre will continue to involve actors from all sectors and from both shores in developing activities for the conservation of threatened birds of prey in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on one of the major threats: electrocution on power lines. The activities and workshops held in previous years paved the way for the launch of several knowledge products, such as the [practical guide](#) in French to identify, monitor and mitigate the impact of hazardous power poles on avifauna in North Africa. The use of both this publication and the recently launched mobile app [e-faunalert](#) – created to identify and monitor hazardous power lines for wildlife conservation – will be promoted widely across the region through training sessions and workshops.

SALTING AWAY THE MEDITERRANEAN / NOT WITH A PINCH OF SALT

In 2020, IUCN-Med will launch the recently approved MedArtSal, a European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) project that will focus on the sustainable management of Mediterranean artisanal salinas (salt pans). Addressing common challenges in four Mediterranean countries (Italy, Spain, Lebanon and Tunisia), MedArtSal will promote the development of a sustainable and adaptable management model to enhance the regional importance of artisanal



salinas. This innovative model will involve a combination of good practices (e.g. technologies, products), commerce (e.g. sales and marketing), biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service preservation, as well as other services (e.g. tourism).

ECOTOURISM BEYOND BORDERS

Next year, IUCN-Med and its partners will launch the second phase of the DestiMED project: DestiMED PLUS. Co-funded by the EU Interreg MED Programme and led by Lazio Region, this second phase will foster the integration of tourism and nature conservation policies in nine Mediterranean coastal protected areas located in Andalusia, Catalonia, Sardinia, Crete, Corsica, Lazio, South Aegean, Croatia and Albania. Pilot actions will be implemented for the development of nine unique, protected area-based ecotourism itineraries aligned with the DestiMED PLUS standard. The final goal of this project will be the establishment of a Mediterranean-wide Ecotourism Consortium, which will enable large-scale planning and create policy frameworks to support sustainable tourism activities in protected areas throughout the Mediterranean region.

CARING FOR THE SEA AND ITS INHABITANTS

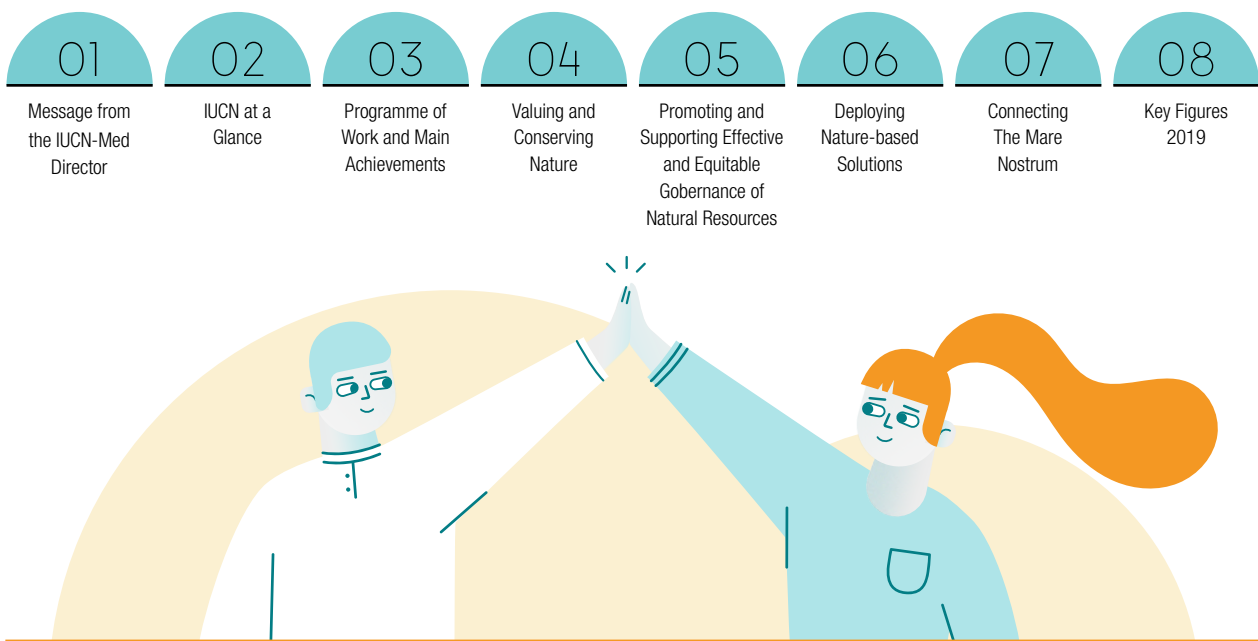
IUCN-Med's marine efforts in 2020 will remain focused on key environmental issues such as plastics, Blue Carbon, *Posidonia* beach-dune environments and reducing the impact of by-catch practices on vulnerable marine species. Based on the findings of the first phase, the Centre will actively implement the Interreg project POSBEMED 2, raising awareness about the benefits of *Posidonia* beach-dune systems and promoting better coastal management in the Mediterranean. Selecting Blue Carbon-related restoration and conservation projects through the LIFE Blue Natura project will be one of the final outcomes that this important project will deliver with the support of the Centre.

The Centre will also contribute to improving our knowledge about vulnerable marine species affected by multi-taxa by-catch, and will help to raise awareness among fishers and other target groups of potential mitigation solutions that can be replicated at the regional level to reduce the impact of this practice.

The Mediterranean is at risk of becoming 'a sea of plastic'. Therefore, IUCN along with many other institutions across the region is on the front line against plastic pollution. Two islands, Menorca and Cyprus, have been selected to apply a tested methodology for improving knowledge about waste generation and enhancing and reducing its disposal. IUCN-Med will coordinate key local stakeholders from government bodies, the private sector and civil society in a vibrant learning and leadership network, to co-generate and demonstrate demand-responsive solutions to plastic waste, incorporating changes to policy, business operations and people's behaviour.

CIVIL SOCIETY, MEMBERS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN NORTH AFRICA

This year, several workshops and events marked the beginning of the implementation phase of PPI-OSCAN II, the second edition of the Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa. In 2020, the project will continue strengthening the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia through thematic training and on-the-ground monitoring. In addition, IUCN-Med will continue supporting North African Members and partners in their conservation efforts in the region by developing the capacities of protected area stakeholders and jointly implementing IUCN tools and methodologies with a proven track record of success – such as the Green List of Protected Areas or the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems.



STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND EXPANDING OUR PORTFOLIO

As in previous years, increased collaboration will be pursued with IUCN Members, Commissions, new partners and other regional offices. As with the cooperation agreements signed with two new partners this year, IUCN-Med will keep working towards a stronger Mediterranean network for the protection of nature. The support provided by the MAVA Foundation under the framework agreement has been crucial in complementing and consolidating the basic operating funds for staff and project activities, but with the MAVA Foundation winding down in 2022, this patronage will soon come to an end. Hence, in 2020 new

partnerships to fund and implement the Centre's projects and activities will be pursued, with four new strategic lines of work that will be aligned with the new IUCN Global Programme: engaging with the agriculture and fishery sectors to promote the restoration of ecosystems and the conservation and recovery of species upon which productive activities depend; promoting Nature-based Solutions to address climate change and urban challenges, and integrating biodiversity values into spatial planning; promoting sustainable tourism in protected areas and measuring the net impact of tourism in coastal areas; and strengthening legal and policy frameworks and their implementation for the governance of marine resources. The Centre will also focus on tackling environmental threats within its expertise, such as fishing, tourism, agriculture and spatial planning.

THIS MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP

Expanding our positive impact in the Mediterranean, together

For everyone, everywhere – from scientists to hikers, from government officials to energy sector workers and beyond: e-faunalert is a free, easy-to-use smartphone application launched this year to help identify dangerous locations, especially for birds but also for other animals like mammals or reptiles.

- Coastal area climate change resilience through NbS
- Invasive alien species (IAS) mitigation
- Mediterranean deep-sea conservation
- Towards the Mediterranean Green Connectivity belt
- Tourism net impact index
- Mediterranean small island plastics
- Reducing the impact of fisheries on vulnerable species and ecosystems
- Sustainability capacity-building initiative

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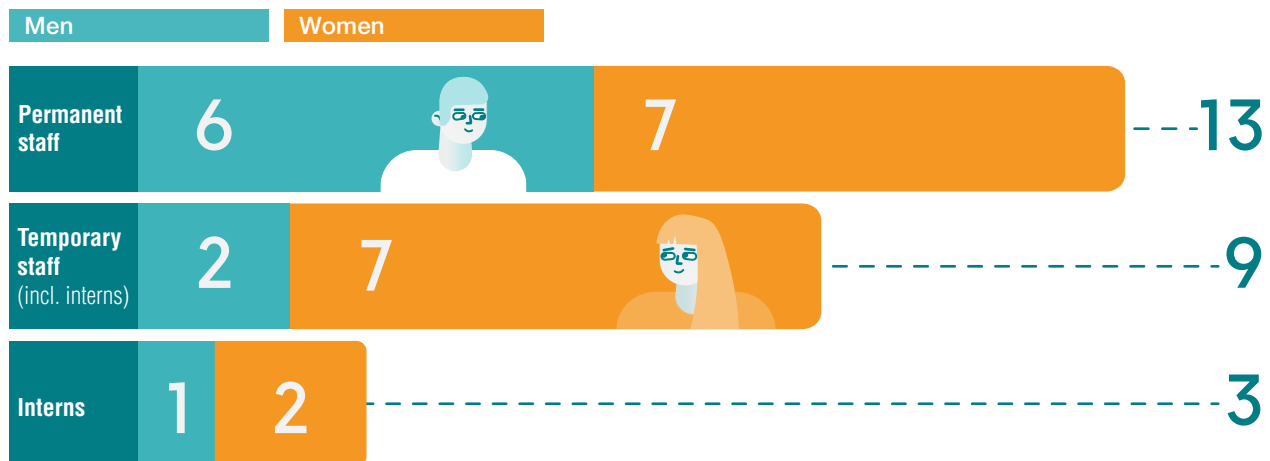


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NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

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ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

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Key Figures
2019

ACRONYMS

AAO

Association Amis des Oiseaux (Tunisia)

ACCOBAMS

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

AFAMP

French Marine Protected Areas Agency (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

AIGAE

Italian Association for Professional Nature and Interpretive Guides (Associazione Italiana Guide Ambientali Escursionistiche)

AMJA

Multisectoral Association of Andalusian Gardening (Spain)

AOYE

Arab Office for Youth and Environment (Egypt)

APJM

Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa, Lebanon

ASCS

Al Shouf Cedar Society, Lebanon

ASI

ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

ASPEA

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

BeMed

Beyond Plastic Med initiative

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

CEC

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication

CEESP

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

CEIDA

Environmental Education, Information and Dissemination Centre (Centro de Educación, Información y Divulgación Ambiental), A Coruña

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

CMAyOT

Andalusia's regional Department of Environment and Land Planning (Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía)



CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CNRS

Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique)

COP

Conference of Parties

COPATE

Ebro Region Environmental Policy Consortium (Consortori de Polítiques Ambientals de les Terres de l'Ebre)

CSIC

Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

CSO

Civil Society Organisations

CSTI

Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative

DGF

Directorate-General for Forestry (Direction Générale des Forêts)

DMO

Destination Management Organisation

EAGL

Expert Assessment Group for the Green List

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

FEG

IUCN Fisheries Expert Group

FFEM

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

FRA

Fisheries Restricted Area

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

GREPOM

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

HCMR

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

IAMZ

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

IAS

Invasive Alien Species

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Key Figures
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IDDRI

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

IMMA

Important Marine Mammal Area

invasaqua

Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of Freshwater and Estuarine Systems

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

MARLICE

International Forum on Marine Litter and the Circular Economy

MEDASSET

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

MedINA

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos, Athens

MedPAN

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean

MedWet

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative

MEET

Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism

MENA

Middle East and North Africa

MITECO

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

MNCN

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

MPA

Marine Protected Area

MPCW

Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

NAPA

National Agency of Protected Areas, Albania

NbS

Nature-based Solution(s)

NDCs

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

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation

OECD

Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure

OBSAM

Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca, Spain

PBI

Potential Biodiversity Index

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)

RAC/SPA

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

RLE

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems

SCBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

SDG

UN Sustainable Development Goal

SER

Society for Ecological Restoration

SIBIC

Iberian Society of Ichthyology (Sociedad Ibérica de Ictiología / Sociedade Ibérica de Ictiologia)

SIDS

Small Island Developing States

SSC

IUCN Species Survival Commission

SSF

Small-Scale Fisheries

TAPAS

WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group

UN

United Nations

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNIA

International University of Andalusia

WAMAN Sebou

Managing the Water Environment in the Sebou Basin, Morocco

WCEL

IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

WCPA

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature / World Wildlife Fund







Pinna nobilis | © Borut Furlan



- 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



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