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

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An interactive web version of the IUCN-Med Annual Report 2020 is available at: [www.iucn.org/mediterranean](http://www.iucn.org/mediterranean)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the IUCN-Med Director</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN at a Glance</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Programme and Main Achievements</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuing and Conserving Nature</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deploying Nature-based Solutions</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting the Mare Nostrum</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Figures 2020</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlights 2020</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications and Multimedia 2020</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members and Commissions</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Financial Summary</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Programme Forecast</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The IUCN MED-Team</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

It is a delight to share with you once again, the work and the outcomes achieved by the IUCN Centre of Mediterranean Cooperation this past year. First of all, I would like to start by addressing the challenges we had and still have to face as a society. Few things have altered our daily lives as dramatically and quickly as the COVID-19 virus. We have witnessed together with the rest of the world, many ways that the pandemic has affected our professional and personal lives. On behalf of the IUCN Centre of Mediterranean Cooperation, I want to express our solidarity with all those directly affected by the virus. However, we should remain optimistic. The pandemic revealed crucial insights for our future, notably our inseparable relationship with nature and need for a healthy planet. Moreover, we have learned that there is strength in unity. It is apparent that we need a common collaborative approach in order to envision a healthier, prosperous future, where fresh air, clean water and a safe environment are a given right for people everywhere.

IUCN-MED’S NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In the last years, IUCN-Med has made a strong effort to be present and operate within and across regional political frameworks, mobilising nature conservation and sustainable development efforts throughout the political and cultural diversity of the greater Mediterranean. However, the Mediterranean has been changing very rapidly in the last 20 years, and these changes are affecting not only the natural environment but also the institutional, economic and societal framework where IUCN-Med is operating. In response to these regional dynamics, IUCN-Med started in 2018 the process to develop its new Strategy, focusing more its scope of work, highlighting priority areas, and defining topics, drivers and types of interventions to address the Mediterranean challenges that may achieve higher impact in the future. The process for developing this Strategic Framework and operational plan has followed a horizontal and participatory process. The Strategic Framework and definition of priorities for IUCN-Med were based under three premises: (1) Deliver IUCN Programme Results in collaboration with IUCN Members and Commissions; (2) Maximise impact, focus on relevant and measurable actions, approaches and strategies that would upscale conservation outcomes; and (3) Ensure the financial sustainability of the office.

Based on previous experiences developing the IUCN quadrennial Mediterranean and North Africa Programme, IUCN-Med’s new Strategic Framework has been developed to support and serve the IUCN global Programme Areas (2021–2024) into the Mediterranean region. The strategy aims to address two key challenges of the region, biodiversity loss and climate change impacts, through innovative and targeted initiatives represented through six new pertinent working areas.
Capacity building and policy influencing have also been identified as crosscutting issues in the IUCN-Med Strategy and will be embedded in the core work of the Centre.

**NEW PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT**

This year, we have renewed our programmatic agreement with the MAVA Foundation. The first Programmatic Agreement 1.0 was implemented between 2015 and 2019. Overall, the resources provided contributed in strengthening IUCN-Med work in the Mediterranean with its Members and partners, allowed for significant outreach and impact of IUCN’s actions and have been instrumental for the professionalisation and strategic development of the office. This support has been key to ensure the leverage of additional conservation funding for the office, to work in a broader and transversal partnership rather than stand-alone initiatives, and increase the capacities of the conservation community through our capacity building programme.

The objective of the new Programmatic Agreement 2.0 is to support the implementation of the IUCN-Med Strategy 2021–2024, and to consolidate the financial sustainability of the Centre beyond 2022.

For yet another year, IUCN-Med is also deeply grateful for the vital support provided by the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD, in its Spanish acronym) and the MAVA Foundation.

As we head into the new year, IUCN-Med has begun to renovate collaborations with the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition to support the IUCN Mediterranean 2021–2024 Programme as well as the Centre in Málaga, Spain. We look forward to celebrating our 20-year anniversary next year with the signature of this agreement with the Spanish government.

This year IUCN-Med welcomed 14 new Members, making a total of 245 IUCN Mediterranean Members. As in previous years, the success of our activities is also due to the large role played by IUCN-Med’s Members, partners and Secretariat. As always, we would like to express our appreciation to them for their collaboration and commitment to the issues facing our region. Through our collaboration with Members and experts from the IUCN Commissions as well as partners, we have come to better understand the problems at hand, develop sustainable solutions and scale up actions that can reconcile people and nature in our region. With the dedication, knowledge and skills of our 2034 volunteer Commission experts and over 245 Members, IUCN is ready to take on those challenges.

I am pleased to share with you, the workings and milestones that the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has achieved for 2020 in this annual report.

**Sincerely,**

Antonio Troya

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

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 18,000 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 900 staff in more than 50 countries.
WORK PROGRAMME AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The three main areas of work set out by the IUCN Programme 2017–2020 together with the priorities identified by our Members and partners in the Mediterranean constitute the framework for the projects and activities developed and implemented by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med). To this end, IUCN-Med relies on the efforts and participation of 245 IUCN Member organisations and over 2034 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:

NEW IUCN PROGRAMME 2021–2024
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, held in Hawai‘i, United States of America. The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held in Marseille, France, from 3 to 11 of September 2021, and will guide our future work by passing a set of new Resolutions and Recommendations and by approving the new IUCN Programme 2021–2024.

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN


NEW PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT WITH MAVA

The first Programmatic Agreement 1.0 was implemented between 2015 and 2019 with a total amount of 7M€. In 2020, IUCN-Med has renewed this agreement with MAVA until 2022, the year of the closure of this important Foundation for many conservation projects in the region.

Overall, the resources provided contributed to strengthening IUCN-Med work in the Mediterranean with its Members and partners, allowed for significant outreach and impact of IUCN’s actions and have been instrumental for the professionalisation and strategic development of the office.

Photography by Manos Koutras on Unsplash.
**VALEING AND CONSERVING NATURE**

**IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS**

Gathering extensive and in-depth data is a key step to identifying pressing threats, gaining updated insight on the area of distribution for species and habitats, understanding ecosystem interactions, supporting the implementation of conservation frameworks and informing environmental policies. In this sense, IUCN has developed internationally recognised tools such as its IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the world’s most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species – and most recently the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. Moreover, this work is made possible and supported by IUCN’s extensive network of expert Commissions, Members, and other partners.

During 2020, IUCN-Med performed biodiversity assessments and issued several publications, factsheets and other knowledge products to update and improve our understanding of Mediterranean groups of species and ecosystems.

**THE CONSERVATION STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDITERRANEAN DUNG BEETLES**

The first IUCN Red List report of Mediterranean dung beetles compiles the results from an assessment of 200 dung beetle taxa, of which 150 are endemic to the region. This publication states that 20 percent of the species assessed are threatened with extinction, including 21 endemic species. The decline of traditional livestock farming practices was found to be one of the main reasons for the decline of the populations in the Mediterranean. The report includes a series of recommended actions for dung beetle conservation such as prioritising fieldwork and data collection for Data Deficient species to determine whether they need conservation actions in the future, and drawing up species/habitat action plans for the most threatened species.
Dung beetles provide several environmental benefits for Mediterranean ecosystems such as soil nitrification, soil aeration, dung removal, secondary seed dispersal, parasite control and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these benefits also are key factors towards human well-being.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL CENSUS OF DIURNAL CLIFF-NESTING RAPTORS IN MOROCCO**

The first census of diurnal cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco is the result of the work carried out by IUCN-Med since 2015, based on a collaboration between 17 national and international institutions that helped identify new black-spots for raptor mortality, such as electrocution in power lines. The Census focused on 11 raptor target species which were: Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), Bonelli’s eagle (Aquila fasciata), Long-legged Buzzard, (Buteo rufinus), Lanner Falcon (Falco biarmicus), Peregrine Falcon / F. Barbary (Falco peregrinus), Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus), Bearded Vulture (Gypaetus barbatus), Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus), Rüppell’s Vulture (Gyps rueppelli), Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus) and Osprey (Pandion haliaetus).

Over the course of the last century, Morocco has seen 5 species of diurnal (day-active) nesting raptors disappear from its landscape. In the Mediterranean, Morocco is a crucial area for migratory birds functioning as a corridor between northern Africa and southern Europe. It also hosts a large number of raptors, with over 40 species nesting and/or migratory ones observed, several of which are experiencing declining numbers in their populations.

To produce this study, 30,000 km² were registered in which 766 breeding sites were detected, and more than 400 km of power lines were inspected with 211 bird fatalities under power lines, adding new mortality hotspots to those being identified since 2016.

**ASSESSMENT OF TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY IN GHAR EL MELH (TUNISIA)**

Ghar el Melh is a coastal wetland based on the northeastern Tunisian coast. It has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) due to its endemic plant populations such as the threatened species *Linaria herophylla var. dichroa* and the *Acanthodactylus blanci*.

IUCN-Med completed an assessment with WWF North Africa office covering the key biodiversity area of Jbel Nadhour and Ghar El Melh lagoon, identifying 308 plant species (230 vascular plants), 5 amphibians species and 17 reptiles.
The report included a comprehensive, accurate and updated characterisation of terrestrial biodiversity that also shared GIS and relevant data compiled on the last biodiversity assessment for the GemWet project.

**MEDITERRANEAN TURTLES**

Over the past year, sporadic events of sea turtle nesting on Western Mediterranean beaches drew attention to the need for effective conservation actions as well as social involvement to avoid disturbance. In August, IUCN-Med worked with IUCN Marine Turtles Specialists Group and the Spanish Herpetological Society to publish a report, *Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Sea*, which is the first comprehensive overview of Mediterranean sea turtles. The report presents new relevant knowledge on marine turtles, including the latest information available on turtle nesting sites, such as main areas for foraging and overwintering, and the population status in protected areas. The general knowledge was followed by a set of 10 recommendations aimed at managers, policy-makers, as well as the general public.

**UPDATE OF RED LIST ASSESSMENT OF CETACEANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA**

After 8 years, the conservation status of the 12 species with resident populations in the Mediterranean and Black seas is being re-assessed. This update will establish their current risk of extinction and how conservation efforts and science are contributing to improve the status of these iconic species. The current initiative builds on the results of ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) as well as information from further regional initiatives. Over 35 experts from 17 organisations, including the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group (CSG), are contributing to the assessment, the results of which are expected to be published during 2021.
STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION ACTORS

Rescue centres play an important role for sea turtle conservation by developing fundamental research on these species and raising awareness on their threats among the general public. Almost 40 rescue centres and first-aid facilities located throughout the Mediterranean specialise in recovering and providing veterinary treatment to injured sea turtles. However, their distribution differs greatly, with a lack of centres in some North African and Eastern countries, as opposed to other countries that own several.

Out of the seven species of sea turtles that can be found in the Mediterranean Sea, only two nest in the region, loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*) and the Endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Additionally, the Critically Endangered softshell turtle, (*Trionyx triunguis*) can be encountered in coastal and estuarine waters of Southern Turkey and the Levantine Sea.

Loggerheads have stable nesting areas ranging from the Central Mediterranean to the Levantine coast in the East, with an estimation of 8,000 egg clutches laid annually. In the last few years, new scattered nesting sites have been discovered. In contrast, beaches for green turtles are concentrated in the easternmost part of the Mediterranean – mostly in Cyprus and Turkey – with fewer sites in Egypt, Israel and Lebanon, as well as some Greek Islands in the Cretan Sea, with more than 2,200 egg clutches laid each year.
Aiming to share and further disseminate useful information on marine species which are vulnerable to bycatch, IUCN-Med produced the Croatian versions of the “Identification Guide Of Vulnerable Species Incidentally Caught In Mediterranean Fisheries”.

The guide was translated into French, Turkish and Croatian, and simplified versions were created for 3 countries: Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. By providing practical descriptions, the guide intends to help fishing communities and on board observers identify, monitor and improve their knowledge on these species, including different taxonomic groups such as sharks and rays, seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals, corals and sponges.

The MedBycatch project – “A collaborative approach for understanding multi-taxa ‘bycatch’ of vulnerable species in Mediterranean fisheries and testing mitigation” was created to synchronise different countries’ systematic reporting of bycatch in the Mediterranean. It is the first bycatch project that follows a multi-taxa approach. The first phase of the MedBycatch project focused on gathering knowledge to connect systematic reporting of vulnerable species around the Mediterranean, between 2017–2020 in the countries of Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. During that period the project connected the data for reporting vulnerable species in bycatch as well as reviewing different fishing practices throughout the Mediterranean region.

In 2020, the MedBycatch phase 2 was launched to increase the geographical scope of the project by including Croatia and Italy. Additionally, France and Spain will also be included in policy and advocacy activities. This second phase will use data collected in phase one to test and identify the best mitigation measures to reduce bycatch. Additionally, it will work on raising awareness of bycatch and its effect on vulnerable species to fisheries and regional stakeholders.

IUCN-Med’s role is to continue to develop a network for experts in shark and ray conservation as well as supporting technical aspects with the aim to facilitate an exchange with Mediterranean experts and scaling-up commitments. It will continue to work on organising meetings with the fishing industry to continue mitigation programmes and to continue to facilitate discussions, participating and developing proposals for improving policies in national and regional decision-making fora. These efforts will support the preparing of national and regional policies and for reducing bycatch fishing operations.

The project is financed by the MAVA Foundation as a part of Action Plans M4 and M5: Reducing fishing impacts and pressures on marine habitats and species. IUCN-Med participates as a partner along with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), ACCOBAMS, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) and WWF Mediterranean.
VULNERABLE SPECIES INCIDENTALLY CAUGHT IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEALS

In the context of the “Mediterranean monk seal project”, information about the population status and threats of the targeted subpopulations was pursued and common indicators to share results were developed.

Additionally, a second phase of the Mediterranean monk seal project conservation at the eastern Mediterranean will launch in 2021. Funded by the Monk Seal Alliance (MSA), IUCN-Med was invited to lead the upcoming project to help the monitoring of the species.

INFORMING POLICY FOR ACTION

IUCN provides technical and scientific guidance to inform and advise regional conventions, funding mechanisms, national and regional governments as well as civil society organisations and private sectors in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, we offer a neutral platform for decision-makers and experts to build a common conservation and sustainable development approach in the Mediterranean.

NATIONAL RED LIST OF FLORA AND AVIFAUNA IN TUNISIA

IUCN-Med worked together with the Tunisian Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment to create the weekly event: MEDEVENTUN III in Tunis. The week consisted of workshops involving over 80 participants from North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). One of the many events throughout the week included IUCN-Med carrying out a National Red List training for the experts who will be assessing flora and avifauna in Tunisia.
INTEGRATING POLICY FOR RAPTOR CONSERVATION

During the MEDEVENTUN III week, IUCN also carried out a Red List assessment workshop for breeding raptors and vultures in North Africa, bringing together five North African countries as well as representatives from BirdLife International Science and experts working on target species.

In January of 2020, IUCN-Med provided guidance under the leadership of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests to create a National Raptor Conservation Strategy. The national strategy will build on the results obtained in first national census of diurnal cliff-nesting raptors in 2019. Thanks to the fieldwork performed by Moroccan and Spanish experts, the census presented a geographical distribution and the current state of the populations of birds.
COORDINATING A MEDITERRANEAN RESPONSE TO THE PINNA NOBILIS CRISIS

Following the work carried out by IUCN in the last years, 33 researchers and government representatives participated in a meeting facilitated by IUCN-Med to present the latest monitoring results for the Noble Pen Shell (*Pinna nobilis*) populations in the Mediterranean and coordinate a response to the crisis.

In 2016, it was first discovered that the *Pinna nobilis* was experiencing mass mortality rates by a parasite/pathogen (*Haplosporidium pinnae*) around the Spanish coast. The first outbreak caused mortality rates of approximately 99% of the population in Spain, then quickly spread to other parts of the Mediterranean ocean. The parasite has caused the death of 80–100% of the affected species. This emergency has led the IUCN-Med staff and conservation experts to work with an un-faltering dedication to implementing a series of priority actions to help evaluate the situation throughout the Mediterranean and establishing urgent measures. The species was classified as “Critically Endangered” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Furthermore, the *Pinna nobilis* has been classified as a species of Community Interest in need of strict protection by the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and as an Endangered Species by the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean from the Barcelona Convention (Annex II).
KEY BIODIVERSITY 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. One particular case is the area of Ghar El Melh, in Tunisia. Ghar El Melh is one of the pilot sites for conserving coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean region through the project GemWet. IUCN-Med is collaborating with the GemWet project by assessing the diversity of species in the area and via the MEET Network to develop an ecotourism package in the wetland. After IUCN-Med developed the biodiversity assessment this year, it concluded with three action plans to improve the conservation of the KBA being:

1. Developing a proper conservation management plan including a hydrological assessment, as the most effective method to achieve most actions needed in the area;
2. Restoring flowing water courses to reduce pollution;
3. Reviewing wastewater processes to inform upgrades and better facilities to reduce pollution in the lagoons and coastal waters.

The project GEMWET: Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value: the Ghar El Melh case, Tunisia, coordinated by WWF Tunisia and funded by the MAVA Foundation for Nature, has embarked on this important work. In December 2019, this project released a study about the terrestrial habitats of the Ghar El Melh area, which has highlighted a need to collect more data, particularly on the vegetation of the saltmarsh and dunes, and to provide a comprehensive assessment of the conservation of plants in the KBA. The study also emphasised three paths of action to better protect the highly degraded habitats of this coastal wetland:

1. Developing a proper conservation management plan including a hydrological assessment, as the most effective method to achieve most actions needed in the area;
2. Restoring flowing water courses to reduce pollution;
3. Reviewing wastewater processes to inform upgrades and better facilities to reduce pollution in the lagoons and coastal waters.
PROMOTING DE-FACTO CONSERVATION OUTSIDE OFFICIAL PROTECTED AREAS

Algeria recognised its five Cultural Parks as other effective area-based conservation measures (also known as OECM’s), which account for 1,000,000 km². Morocco will also be adding 130,000 km² by recognising its biosphere reserves and hunting reserves network as OECMs. IUCN-Med ended the year with a regional experience sharing webinar where the parties shared the progress in identifying potential OECMs both in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. These events are managed with the overall goal to advance Aichi Target 11.

OECMs are a specific category of areas, outside protected areas, that are achieving an effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity. The term was firstly indicated in the Aichi Target 11. Then the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on a definition and a common criteria for identifying OECMs at the 14th Conference of the Parties (Decision 14/8, November 2018). Since then, Government agencies, civil society organisations and parts of the private sector started identifying potential OECMs in their region.

GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

The Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (Green List) is a global standard that is used to highlight global successes in protected areas. It recognises effective management practices for different areas while highlighting knowledge gaps that Protected and Conserved Areas are facing. This year there was a lot of progress in various Expert Assessment Groups for the Green List (EAGLs), particularly in Spain, Italy and the Maghreb region. In 2020, IUCN-Med relaunched the consultation process for the adaptation of the IUCN Green List standard to the Spanish context to focus on indicators to facilitate greater participation. The Spanish EAGL later finalised the adaptation of the Global Standard to the country profile and will be able to accept candidacies starting from 2021. In Italy, the EAGL worked on the evaluation of four candidate parks to Green List Standard and added another 3 parks to the application phase. In the Maghreb, among the seven candidate sites that were proposed by the three countries: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, four sites have conducted the self-assessment of the application phase and two have finished the self-assessment of the candidate phase.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Results from surveys in the first phase of the POSBEMED project reported that across Mediterranean countries, about 83% of local authorities remove Posidonia oceanica from beaches every year, including in protected areas. Posidonia oceanica is a Mediterranean endemic seagrass species and a key element of coastal resilience and to mitigate erosion. The Interreg Med project POSBEMED 2 seeks to integrate this valuable natural capital into coastal management strategies, by working with local and regional administrations, using tools to test and identify the most effective practices for managing Posidonia beaches and policies needed in the Mediterranean. Together with the Conselleria de Medi Ambient i Territori of the Balearic Islands, IUCN-Med has started to collect high-resolution images in different pilot sites such as the Parc Natural Marítimo-Terrestre Es Trenc-Salobrar de Campos. This assessment will help to study Posidonia beach-dune ecosystems and identify how Posidonia banquettes form on different beaches.
SPATIAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

If biodiversity thrives, so does agriculture: biodiversity generates multiple ecosystem services — the direct and indirect benefits that people obtain from ecosystems — of which agriculture, as many other fields, is reliant upon. The benefits of farming to biodiversity are especially relevant in the Mediterranean, where landscapes have been shaped by agricultural and grazing practices for generations. IUCN-Med is paying particular attention to agriculture for its upcoming strategic lines for 2020–2024.

In the context of MAVA OAP M6 project “Promoting sustainable land-use practices” in the Mediterranean region, IUCN-Med collaborated in the Report: Links between agricultural practices and biodiversity in Mediterranean Landscapes and published an additional fact-sheet detailing specific cultural practices that are valuable to biodiversity. Today, due to current developments and socio-economic challenges, many traditional practices of agriculture are disappearing.

TACKLING THREATS

Plastics: BeMed and Plastic Waste-Free Islands

Macro, micro and nano plastics are increasingly threatening different species, ecosystems and human health. The Mediterranean Sea is particularly vulnerable to plastics because it is a semi-enclosed sea. Actually, it is the world’s sixth greatest accumulation zone for marine litter, with plastics accounting for more than 85% of the litter on the Mediterranean seabed. Even though this sea holds only 1% of the world’s waters, it still collects 7% of all global microplastics. Although there have been mass amounts of litter on surface waters and shorelines, the majority of the plastic accumulated is found at the bottom of the sea in the form of microplastics buried in deep-sea sediments invisible to the human eye.

IUCN joined the Beyond Plastic Med association (BeMed) as an honorary member in 2019, and together with the founding members (Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe and MAVA Foundation) is now working to develop a network of engaged Mediterranean stakeholders in order to raise awareness and implement innovative solutions to mitigate plastic pollution. BeMed launched its Business Club to bring together companies and scientists and foster collaboration among them to develop concrete business solutions to reduce plastic pollution at source.

At the end of 2020, the IUCN Marine and Polar Programme published its new report “The Mediterranean: Mare Plasticum”, which detailed how to measure the amount of plastic stock in the Mediterranean Sea, and how much plastic is currently leaking into the sea annually, also providing a list of key actions and recommendations for closing the plastic tap. The report was widely shared in the mass media.
HOW MUCH PLASTIC IS BEING ACCUMULATED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?

The IUCN report “The Mediterranean: Mare Plasticum” estimates 229,000 tonnes of plastic is leaking into the Mediterranean Sea every year. According to the report, the Mediterranean countries with the highest plastic leakage rates are: Egypt (around 74,000 tonnes/year), Italy (54,000 tonnes/year) and Turkey (24,000 tonnes/year). This is mainly due to high quantities of mismanaged waste and large coastal populations. Per capita, however, Montenegro (8 kg/year/person), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia (each contributing an estimated 3 kg/year/person) have the highest levels of leakage. The IUCN report also highlighted that unless significant measures are taken to address mismanaged waste, the main source of the leakage, this will at least double by 2040.

The Plastic Waste-Free Islands (PWFI) initiative was launched in 2019 by the IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The Plastic Waste-Free Islands (PWFI) initiative is a three-year program that is part of the IUCN global “Close the Plastic Tap” Programme. The project aims to reduce plastic leakage to the ocean from six small island developing states (SIDS) in the Caribbean and Oceania. In the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med launched in 2019 the Plastic Waste-Free Islands-Mediterranean (PWFI Med), funded by the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, with the aim of reducing plastic leakage in two pilot sites, Menorca and the Republic of Cyprus.

In 2020, IUCN-Med tested and applied in Cyprus and Menorca the Marine Plastic Hotspotting Methodology, which was developed in 2019 by IUCN, in collaboration with UN Environment and EA/Quantis. The methodology was able to identify plastic leakage hotspots and provide evidence-based guidance and recommendations on how to take informed actions and prioritise interventions. Within this framework, the final PWFI-Med plastic hotspot assessment reports for Menorca and Cyprus were released. This work was made possible with the local support and collaboration of two local partners: the Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM) and the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI).

In the same year, IUCN-Med also conducted a legal assessment of the national legal and regulatory frameworks governing plastic waste management in the pilot sites in order to identify existing gaps and weaknesses that contribute to plastic leakage into the Mediterranean Sea.
Invasive Alien Species

One of the main causes for species extinction in the Mediterranean are Invasive Alien Species (IAS). IAS have become an increasing threat to endemic species in the Mediterranean due to their strong potential impact. The lack of public awareness and knowledge is an important factor that can facilitate their entry and dispersal in new ecosystems. Additionally, IAS are sometimes hard to detect, and therefore difficult to monitor. 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.

Within the LIFE INVASQUA project, work is being done on the development of a platform of aquatic invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula, (IBERMIS platform) with the aim of providing an online information system with information to visualise the foci of populations of IAS affecting mainly freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. Likewise, the IBERMIS platform will offer a multitude of resources such as tools, guides, publications, references to regulations, training material and other types of documents that help to raise awareness and better understand the problems of aquatic invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula.

This platform will be connected to the European network EASIN of data on invasive species and its mobile application. In this way, the INVASAQUA project joins forces with citizen science instruments created by the European Commission and, to this end, has incorporated in 2020 the description of 40 aquatic invasive species specific to the Iberian Peninsula and has also coordinated the integration of another 72 species factsheets produced by the University of Castilla-La Mancha into the EASIN mobile application.

The project is coordinated by the University of Murcia with the participation of eight regional 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).
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

GOVERNANCE

The pandemic has provided an opportunity to reassess our traditional ways of working and the future of environmental governance. More than ever, crucial stakeholders, civil society organisations, international organisations, and governments have gathered to discuss a better future for all, and inevitably, protecting nature and biodiversity to do so.

Some regional institutions are promoting e-learning platforms with a collaborative approach to continue delivering high-level quality virtual meetings to ensure appropriate discussions among national governments and strategic key stakeholders. In this sense, IUCN-Med continued participating in regional and international political frameworks to tighten links in the field of legislation and international protocols affecting the Mediterranean, in particular with:

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

IUCN-Med held on to its status as an involved observer organisation to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). From the 30th of November until the 2nd of December, IUCN-Med participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force of the Convention, which intends to reconcile renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species. As an observer organisation, IUCN-Med participated in a follow-up webinar post-convention to present the key accomplishments of the multi-stakeholder partnerships developed in North Africa, which...
focused on generating knowledge and capacities on the risks and impacts of energy infrastructures, mainly focused on understanding the impacts of powerline developments for raptors.

THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan organised an online meeting in June with partners (IUCN-Med, FAO-CGPM, MSC-ACCO-BAMS) to discuss a strategy for enhancing synergies between Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Area.

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UfM)

The 4th meeting of the UfM Task Force on Environment gathered virtually country representatives and regional stakeholders in November in order to present and discuss the advanced version of the UfM post-2020 Environment Agenda called “Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med –Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean” (#2030GreenerMed). This living document will shape the Agenda up to 2030 and IUCN-Med made its contribution.

An important announcement made in 2020 was the UfM endorsement to the project “Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin” funded by Mava Foundation, in which IUCN-Med is a partner along with MedWet, BirdLife International Wetlands, Tour du Valat, Plan Bleu, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), MedPAN, WWF España, WWF Greece, EuroNatur Foundation, Conservatoire du littoral. It is an important recognition for contributing to strengthening regional cooperation.
FAO GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

IUCN-Med strengthened collaborations with the GFCM in 2020 by contributing to the report: “The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020” which reviewed the status of near-threatened species in the Mediterranean and the effects of bycatch on vulnerable species. The publication also reviewed results and achievements from the collaborative project “Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation – a collaborative approach” (Also known as MedByCatch 2 of which IUCN-Med is a partner).

IUCN-Med also participated in the 25th Anniversary of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) held in Paris on 5th March where different project leaders and partners discussed how to scale-up solutions and deliver greater impact on the environment and development. The contribution of the civil society organisations from North African countries in the last years were highlighted as an important approach to bridge the gap between the Northern and Southern Mediterranean.

By the end of the year, a joint meeting between the IUCN regional offices from Latino-America (Hub ORMACC-SUR), IUCN-Med and the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition (MITECO) was held to explore cooperation opportunities to conserve biodiversity in Ibero-America.

STRENGTHENING THE NORTH AFRICAN NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In the challenging context of the pandemic crisis, the grantee CSOs of PPI-OSCAN 2 have collaboratively developed new solutions making use of new technologies and digital tools. Among notable achievements, the CSOs participated in numerous trainings placing a special focus on improving collaborations between associations and upscaling communications approaches. Over the year the CSOs participated in four webinars to discuss issues of technology applied to nature conservation, conservation action, beekeeping and ecotourism.
The PPI-OSCAN 2 (Small-Scale initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa) focuses on building a network of emerging civil society organisations in four North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). The goal of the programme is to support the development of emerging CSOs who want to engage in actions to conserve nature and foster local development in collaboration with public and private sectors.

Over the past year, the grantee CSOs of PPI-OSCAN have made notable progress in the following areas:

- **642 species monitored or recorded***
- **60 new observations of species in project sites**
- **169 jobs created**
- **9,237 trees planted**
- **108 technical workshops**
- **323 km² of land**
- **1,155 participants**
- **30 new ecotourism itineraries**

*Results dated as of February 2021.*
SUCCESS STORIES IN NORTH AFRICA

HOW AN ALGERIAN ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTED TO STOPPING SUMMER FIRES BY RESTORING OLD ABANDONED PATHWAYS

As a result of the historical decline in water mills and agricultural activity, old pathways in the area of Thaghzout were abandoned and evolved into thick shrublands. As river flow decreased and drought episodes became more frequent, fire events started to escalate in the area, especially during the hot summer season. By recovering the old routes once used for grinding wheat and barley and removing shrubs, the Association Écologique Tachemlit has made old pathways and water sources accessible, thereby contributing to reducing summer fire events to as much as zero.

MAKING USE OF THE NEW FIREWALLS TO DEVELOP ECOTOURISM ITINERARIES

Encouraged by the success of this PPI-OSCAN 2 project in Thaghzout, the population has started to engage in new initiatives for further local development, including ecotourism itineraries and mountain sports. Since the restored pathways have made it possible to access the many natural lagoons in the area, where the remains of old mills and grindstones were found, a potential for new sustainable businesses is being discovered.

“Thanks to the inspiration of the PPI-OSCAN 2 project, some young people have installed small mountain lodges. For the moment, there are two of them and a new one is currently in construction”, explains Mr. Mohamed Ouneche, president of Association Écologique Tachemlit.
PRESERVING PLANTS OF CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL MEANING

In this region of Algeria, it is the tradition to honour the dead by placing plenty of laurel leaves inside burial coffins. The tradition holds a deep spiritual meaning for this community. Unfortunately, due to the high amount of laurel removed to maintain this ritual (often taken from cliffs), the plant has started to become scarce and harder to obtain. In order to conserve the plant while respecting the local customs, the association is coordinating actions to plant laurel in areas next to the cemeteries.

During the restoration activities of the project, many plants traditionally used for medicinal purposes have been found and will be analysed with the help of experts, to achieve better understanding of their natural value.

SUSTAINING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

After fires in 2013–2014 caused serious damage to forests in the district of Jabal al Akhdar (Cyrenaica region), the New Libya association has worked to restore forests with the help of the local communities, relevant stakeholders and the support of the PPI-OSCAN 2.

As the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic stopped all afforestation campaigns since February 2020, the association has produced several informative brochures and delivered seedlings and seeds to the local population, to maintain the interest to participate in the restoration activities. To ensure the long-term success of the restoration activities and encourage further participation, the association has started a plant nursery.
The PPI-OSCAN 2 is led by IUCN-Med and supported by national government institutions in charge of environment and biodiversity financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the MAVA Foundation. Phase two of the PPI-OSCAN focuses on 43 different projects across the North African Region (12 projects in Algeria, 9 in Libya, 11 in Morocco, and 11 in Tunisia).

The innovation and success provided by the PPI-OSCAN approach has motivated both donors, FFEM and MAVA, in launching on December 8th, the evaluation of the current PPI-OSCAN 2 and the preparation of a feasibility study for a new phase (PPI-OSCAN 3).

MEET AND DESTIMED PLUS-DEVELOPING ECOTOURISM THROUGH A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The Mediterranean is the world's leading tourism destination. However, unsustainable tourism practices can threaten Mediterranean ecosystems. If managed responsibly, tourism can become an opportunity for the socio-ecological systems it relies on. But it requires companies, destinations, and to be tourists to become more aware and held accountable for their impacts. IUCN-Med focuses on sustainable tourism under the two projects: the Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) Network and the EU Interreg Med project DestiMED PLUS.

The Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) Network association is a non-profit association created to support Mediterranean protected areas to develop ecotourism which benefits conservation and local communities.

The MEET/DestiMED Model brings together public and private sectors as well as protected area managers to engage in the development of ecotourism products as a part of a Local Ecotourism Cluster (LEC).

Building on the success of the previous DestiMED project, the new DestiMED PLUS project was launched to bring together nine pilot sites in six Mediterranean countries (Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain) to spread and promote ecotourism in protected areas. The final goal of the project is to establish a Mediterranean Ecotourism Consortium (MEC) to support large-scale planning and policy frameworks that support sustainable tourism activities in protected areas throughout the region.

This year IUCN-Med organised 3 online training modules, including 10 webinars with 30 participants on average. The training covered the following topics: Local Ecotourism Cluster Development and Governance, Ecotourism Product Development and finally the MEET Standard for Ecotourism and Monitoring activities, such as data collection, for the measurement of ecological footprint, socio-economic, governance and conservation indicators within the ecotourism products being developed for the project.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2021, the French ski destination Valberg Winter Resort had adapted the MEET approach to its ecotourism development. Moreover, the resort’s location lays next to two protected areas, being the Mercantour National Parc and the Natural Reserve of the Daluis Gorges giving the resort much potential to become a future MEET destination. Additionally, the network welcomed two new members and a new commercial partner to the network, and celebrated its General assembly in December 2020.
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In the context of the Life Adaptamed project (2015–2021), IUCN-Med is working to develop a model for climate change adaptation based on a participatory approach, which involves the local stakeholders from the 3 project sites: Sierra Nevada, Doñana and Cabo de Gata. In 2020 the first meeting in Doñana National Park was made to collect important contributions for a final strategic document on governance, which will be submitted for validation to the boards and participation committees of the parks.

This year, as part of the networking of IUCN-Med, the project Life Adaptamed was selected by the World Bank Centre for Mediterranean Integration as an inspiring practice in a regional publication: Climate Change and Migration: Inspiring Practices from the Mediterranean. Additionally, the environmental information magazine Quercus dedicated a special issue to the project, emphasising the protection of ecosystem services in a climate change scenario. IUCN-Med also assisted the Life Adaptamed project by supporting the project operations in communications and social media, with a special focus on developing the narrative about climate change impacts in the parks.
CAPACITY BUILDING

MEET NETWORK LAUNCHES CONSERVATION TRAINING PLATFORM

This year, the MEET Network worked on its capacity building strategy by launching an online course on the Conservation Training Platform that focuses on ecotourism development and strengthening the skills of protected areas staff and other stakeholders in the tourism and conservation sector.

TRAINING FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL OECMS IN THE SOUTH AND EAST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

This year, IUCN-Med hosted two different workshops for capacity building in which participants identify and analyse potential OECMs in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). Several potential OECMs sites and categories have been discussed by country representatives ranging from cultural parks in Algeria, to permanent hunting reserves in Morocco to Ramsar sites in Tunisia. This workshop presented a preliminary analysis of the Aichi Target 11 implementation progress and the potential that OECMs have in those countries. These meetings were made possible through the collaboration between IUCN-Med and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Japanese Biodiversity Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO).

MANAGEMENT OF BEACH-DUNE ECOSYSTEMS

The project POSBEMED 2 was launched with the objective to develop planning strategies that recognise the value of the Posidonia beach-dune environments and integrate them into the overall coastal strategy. This phase of the project especially focuses on educating coastal managers and stakeholders by addressing key knowledge gaps and information that will enhance understanding for management decisions on adaptation, policies, planning and promotion in protected areas.

In November, 120 experts from around the Mediterranean, including coastal managers, professionals working in protected areas, representatives from public administrations, researchers and other relevant organisations learned about detailed and cost-effective methods for surveying these beach-dune environments, together with examples of successful case studies from around the Mediterranean region. The learning was done through an online meeting with simultaneous interpretation into 5 languages.

The participants shared knowledge on best practices to conserve Posidonia from various Mediterranean municipalities and raised awareness on the value of natural Mediterranean beaches with Posidonia oceanica. The workshop was organised by IUCN-Med with Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, Natura Jadera and IAS-CNR.

IUCN AND CIFAL-UNITAR WILL WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD CAPACITIES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In November 2020, IUCN signed an agreement with CIFAL Málaga UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) to collaborate in joint training programmes, courses and future events. Together, both institutions will exchange information in an effort to disseminate conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with Agenda 2030.
IUCN MOTIONS

Despite the postponement of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille to 2021, IUCN remained active and placed an electronic vote on motions that will guide the future policy and IUCN Programme. During the fall of 2020, IUCN Members electronically voted on 109 different motions on urgent issues affecting the current loss of biodiversity. The IUCN Mediterranean Members specifically promoted 32 different motions. Of these motions, all were approved electronically and 5 motions are still pending the final vote during the celebration of the IUCN World Conservation Congress now scheduled for 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille.

Motions promoted by IUCN Members in the Mediterranean

All these documents are available in the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations portal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Res/Rec</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Proponent 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-004-EN</td>
<td>Urgent action against the grass Cortaderia selloana outside of its natural distribution range.</td>
<td>SEO/BirdLife, Sociedad Española de Ornitolgia [Spain].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-007-EN</td>
<td>Developing agroecological practices as nature-based solutions.</td>
<td>Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-010-EN</td>
<td>Preventing conflicts of interest related to chemicals and plant protection products.</td>
<td>Centre international de droit comparé de l’environnement [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Rec-011-EN</td>
<td>The fight against imported deforestation.</td>
<td>France Nature Environnement [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-022-EN</td>
<td>Establishment of a mid-frequency active (MFA – 1 to 10 KHz) sonar moratorium for maritime military exercises conducted in Macaronesia.</td>
<td>Loro Parque Fundación [Spain].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>032</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-028-EN</td>
<td>Updating of the legislation to stop the pollution of oceans caused by the discharging of wastewater by ships.</td>
<td>Centro de Extensión Universitaria e Divulgación Ambiental de Galicia [Spain].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>034</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-038-EN</td>
<td>[Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises].</td>
<td>Australian Rainforest Conservation Society [Australia].</td>
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<td>Motion</td>
<td>Res/Rec</td>
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<td>Proponent 1</td>
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<td>076</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-062-EN</td>
<td>Role of children and youth in nature conservation.</td>
<td>Un bosque para el Planeta Tierra [Spain].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>080</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-066-EN</td>
<td>Generalising alternative practices and techniques to the use of synthetic pesticides.</td>
<td>Noé Conservation [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>085</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-067-EN</td>
<td>Combating soil degradation and artificialisation.</td>
<td>Fédération des conservatoires d’espaces naturels [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>092</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-067-EN</td>
<td>Effects of the increase in the use of paper as a substitute for plastic on plantations of timber species.</td>
<td>Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre [Spain].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>098</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Res-067-EN</td>
<td>Ensuring the compatibility of human activities with conservation objectives in protected areas.</td>
<td>Fédération des conservatoires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Rec-099-EN</td>
<td>Strengthening great ape conservation across countries, in and outside of protected areas, involving local actors.</td>
<td>Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement International [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Rec-099-EN</td>
<td>Strengthening the protection of old growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible.</td>
<td>Association Française du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature - France [France].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>WCC-2020-Rec-109-EN</td>
<td>Increasing funding for biodiversity in developing countries.</td>
<td>Noé Conservation [France].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pending to be approved as of 1 February 2021.
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 represents a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The increasing popularity of Nature-based solutions (NbS) has quickly caught the attention of organisations around the world. With many initiatives using the term, it soon became evident that an international understanding and guide to deploying NbS was needed to ensure the proper management and long term success for future projects in all parts of the world.
One of the components of NbS is to address societal challenges such as food and water security, climate change, human health and disaster risk reduction. Of the IUCN motions placed forth, the Motion 036 "The implementation of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean Basin" draws attention to the Mediterranean basin’s rich biodiversity and renowned history of human activity into the landscape, and will help place NbS at the front of IUCN-Med’s strategy and working line to restore nature in the Mediterranean basin.
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CITIES

IUCN-Med has made strong efforts to promote the concept of NbS around the Mediterranean in a local context. Some ways NbS can be implemented in the Mediterranean is through restoration and improving conservation of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and seagrass meadows, can help communities to address the climate and biodiversity crisis and societal needs in a post COVID-19 era.

**NbS FIRST ASSESSMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN CITIES**

IUCN-Med has been developing the report, “The First Screening of the IUCN Global Standard For Nature-based Solutions in Mediterranean Cities” which presents results of a first assessment on NbS practices in Mediterranean cities based on the IUCN Global Standard. The goal of the assessment is to highlight good practices examples while identifying common gaps in practices. Moreover, the report will illustrate the ways the IUCN Global Standard will be adapted and implemented in a pragmatic case. The assessment is set to launch in 2021.

**NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS OBSERVATORY**

In Spain, the concept of NbS has also received lots of attention for its potential to be implemented in cities. This past year, the Conama foundation, in collaboration with IUCN-Med, launched the first Observatory for Nature-based Solutions in Spain this past summer 2020. The initiative was created to support the collection of successful urban examples of NbS in Spain. This will help to develop NbS in the local context as well as gather data to contribute to the management of cities in the years to come. The observatory will function as a project database platform to promote knowledge sharing.

THE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS CÁTEDRA

IUCN-Med, together with the International University of Andalusia established the Nature-based Solutions Cátedra. With a two-year plan of activities approved, the Cátedra aims to contribute to generating knowledge and sharing information regarding NbS, with a special focus on the IUCN application to urban, peri-urban and coastal ecosystems.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In the region of and province of Málaga, NbS gains support and interest from several different organisations. As a result, in November, IUCN-Med coordinated a training workshop to identify and disseminate examples of the NbS Standard at a local level of Málaga by presenting innovative exemplary projects in the local region. The workshop was attended by over 70 professionals from different institutions including the Council of Málaga.

NORTH AFRICA REGION

Nature-based Solutions has grabbed the attention of civil society organisations and governments alike. In May of 2020, The Tunisian Ministry of the Environment organised with multiple partners a NbS video conference with the theme “Our Solutions are in Nature”. This conference was an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue on the application of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean.

Additionally, civil society associations from North Africa in Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, are promoting “Nature-based Solutions” interventions to adapt their ecosystems, protect their local biodiversity while facing societal challenges.
BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICES ON NBS IN NORTH AFRICA: PPI-OSCAN 2

LA TERRE VERTE (AIN SEFRA, ALGERIA)

The association “La Terre Verte” (Ain Sefra, Algeria) is working on restoring the habitat of Atlantic pistachio (Pistacia atlantica) — a North African endemic species — as a part of the project “Contributing to the rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems”.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN (JENDOUBA, TUNISIA)

The Association of Women, Youth and Children in (Jendouba, Tunisia) is adapting the oak forest in the village of Bni Mtit to facilitate access to a waterfall for ecotourism.
NEW LIBYA ASSOCIATION (LIBYA)

The New Libya association is working to restore a 301-hectare forest ecosystem in the Cyrenaica region.

LES AMIS DE CAPTE (BIZERTE, TUNISIA)

Les Amis de Capte, based in Bizerte, Tunisia supports reforestation and agricultural transition initiatives of local farmers.

AL AMAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (MOROCCO)

The members of the Al Amal Association for the Development of Women (Morocco) are taking action through a project to value the natural resources of Al Hoceima National Park, including the restoration of the Barbary thuja (Tetraclinis articulata).
NBS IN COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Blue carbon systems are great examples of potential NbS projects that can help absorb carbon and mitigate climate change. In December of 2020, IUCN-Med organised a two-day seminar with over 40 participants from 13 different countries discussing the value of Blue Carbon systems for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the framework of the LIFE Blue Natura project (2015–2021). The seminar divided the content between coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows. Key experts who are working in the European and Mediterranean regions shared knowledge and experiences on trends and impacts of climate change on coastal wetlands and seagrasses as well as Blue Carbon restoration projects.

The final results obtained will build the basis of the recommendations and further restoration activities in the site. Furthermore, these learnings will support other similar Mediterranean coastal zones with Posidonia presence in improving their knowledge of these valuable ecosystems and supporting further efforts to develop more sustainable management methods.

ECOTOURISM

The Mediterranean faces numerous challenges for high quality of water and security of clean water in the Mediterranean basin. The Watershift project aims to sustainably reshape business models that affect biodiversity and water resources in the Mediterranean watershed. This year, an agreement was established between IUCN-Med with Wageningen University to explore technological solutions to reduce water uptake from the tourism sector in coastal areas. Specifically, the role of IUCN-Med is to analyse the tourism sector practices that have connection to the use of water resources and to identify practical solutions and sustainable business models.
CONNECTING THE MARE NOSTRUM
BUILDING A STRONG AND ACTIVE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS IN TIMES OF COVID-19

IUCN-Med has also joined this conversation to bring up crucial topics for the conservation of nature. In collaboration with MedWet, IUCN-Med hosted a dialogue with 4 journalists from Agence France Presse, Athens News Agency, Lebanese National News Agency and Maghreb Arabe Presse to engage in conversions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, environment and media in the Mediterranean region. In the discussion, all journalists shared experiences about how they continue to write stories about the climate and environment while practicing social distancing measures. A conclusion was reached by the journalists deciphering that during times of COVID, encouraging examples of nature must be decimated with the public to improve livelihoods. The communications meeting hosted by the IUCN-Med collaboration with MedWet in the framework of the Offyourmap campaign.

INCREASED INTEREST IN NATURAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Over the course of the year as many cities in the Mediterranean went into lockdown, citizens sought refuge in natural parks and areas. According to the MEET network, this added value to nature could correlate to an increased interest in natural area protection that could support tourism and local economies in Europe. The New York Times illustrated this in an article published in December, where the MEET Network was mentioned.

“This Covid has been supporting this model that we set up,” said Ms. Danelutti, who noted that tourism in the Mediterranean has traditionally focused on “sun, sea and sand” rather than guided nature walks and visits to traditional farms. Before the pandemic, she and her colleagues had to pursue tourism operators to try to recruit them to the network. Now the businesses are calling them.

The New York Times
(2020)

This line of work represents a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 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).
RAISING INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS ON MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES

As previously mentioned, IUCN-Med worked with IUCN headquarters on a press release for The Mediterranean: Mare Plasticum report which was published by 18 press agencies across 17 countries (49 releases), including The Independent (UK), Le Monde (FR), El País (ES), Al-Jazeera (AR) and Euronews (EU).

PPI-OSCAN CSOs FOCUS ON COMMUNICATIONS & STRATEGIC PLANNING

IUCN-Med offered two workshops, in Morocco and Tunisia, focusing on communications, social media management and storytelling strategies for the PPI-OSCAN 2.

On World Environment Day, civil society organisations from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya put to use the information learned in the communications building and joined forces in a video campaign, which gave voice to the different projects aiming to preserve nature and foster sustainable development, as a part of PPI-OSCAN 2. As a result, the campaign managed to reach over 1,000,000 viewers around the world.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH INNOVATIVE STORY MAPS

This past year IUCN-Med published a series of different story maps as means of communicating crucial topics with the public.

- Ghar el Melh – After the assessment on Ghar el Melh, IUCN-Med shared its findings to make information more accessible to the public by creating an interactive story map called “The Water Guardian” that is now available on the IUCN website. At the end of the year, the story was selected as a feature story on shorthand.
• **Cultural Landscapes** – IUCN-Med also released a report and factsheet about the links between agricultural practices and biodiversity. Later on in the year, IUCN-Med published a story map called “Legacy of the Land” that compiled a set of reported cases where agricultural practices have been shown to benefit biodiversity. Some highlighted practices were grazing, transhumance, herding by shepherds and other cultural practices that help to disperse seeds, preserve genetic diversity or protect certain types of plants, birds or insects.

• **Invasive Alien Species** – This year, IUCN-Med worked with the Ramsar MedWet Specialist Group on Biodiversity on raising awareness for IAS in Mediterranean wetlands by presenting a new story map called “Unwelcome guests” which revealed areas where IAS have been reported as a threat.

**OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR 2020**

**Kenton R. Miller Award**

Another achievement in protected areas for the Mediterranean was that the prestigious Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability was given to **Nizar Youssef Hani of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon and Pedro Estêvão Muagura of the Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique**. Nizar Youssef Hani efforts at transforming the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (which covers 550 km², over 5% of Lebanon) into a globally significant model for integrated ecological, social and economic development have brought him to the forefront of conservation in the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean.

**PROJECT FORECASTS FOR 2021**

**SOILGUARD**

In 2021, IUCN-Med will participate as a partner of the project **SOILGUARD**. The project focuses on improving sustainable soil management by aligning conservation measures from existing initiatives and assessments of soil as NbS by means of sustainable soil management practices, policy informing for European and global biodiversity. This project will unleash soil biodiversity potential and increase environmental, economic and social well-being.

**SAFEGUARD**

Furthermore, IUCN-Med will collaborate with the IUCN European Regional Office to participate as a partner for the project **SAFEGUARD** by performing research and innovation for red listing on pollinators to help complete a list of data regarding pollinizers in the Mediterranean. The project is currently set to launch the spring of 2021.
IUCN-Med will lead the upcoming second phase of the Mediterranean Monk Seal project to help the monitoring of the species in the Mediterranean.

**New project proposals confirmed for 2021**

During 2020, IUCN-Med has signed 4 new project agreements in collaboration with regional partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOILGUARD</td>
<td>Horizon 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFEGUARD</td>
<td>Horizon 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Monk Seal Conservation at the eastern Med</td>
<td>Monk Sea Alliance (MSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NbS from marine ecosystems in post-COVID</td>
<td>Principality of Monaco (Government Fund)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NBS FROM MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN POST-COVID**

Set to launch in 2021, the **NbS from marine ecosystems project** is funded by the Principality of Monaco. IUCN-Med will participate in a bilateral agreement for the project which is set to focus on Marine and Blue Carbon as Nature-based Solutions.

**THE MAVA FOUNDATION**

IUCN-Med renewed a programmatic agreement with the MAVA Foundation until 2022 to support wetlands conservation, sustainable fisheries and bycatch management, as well as cultural landscape practices to support biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

**New projects launched in 2020**

IUCN-Med launched three new projects in 2020 with regional partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>EU CALL/ Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POSEME 2</td>
<td>Interreg Med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESTIME PLUS</td>
<td>Interreg Med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MedArtSal</td>
<td>ENI CBCMED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KEY FIGURES 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200</strong> dung beetle taxa assessed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>+400</strong> km of power lines monitored</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>766</strong> diurnal cliff nesting raptor breeding sites detected</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1,130,000</strong> km² area recognised as OECMs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> new projects launched</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> story maps published</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> North African Green List candidate sites trained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish and Italian Green List Candidate sites trained</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong> capacity-building workshops benefiting more than 713 people</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14</strong> new Members, making a total of 245 IUCN Mediterranean Members by the end of 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> new cooperation agreements signed in 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong> press releases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> electronic bulletins published</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> publications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social media:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20,688</strong> followers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5,030</strong> followers</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIGHLIGHTS 2020

January

FEBRUARY

April

MAY

June

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

- VN- Valuing and conservation nature
- GO- Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources
- NBS- Deploying nature-based solutions
- COM- Connecting the Mare Nostrum

Protected Area in Crete, Greece | © Stefanakis

COM | Tue, 5 June | On World Environmental Day, the grantee organisations of PPI-OS-CAN 2 presented a video campaign that reached over 1 million likes.

GO | Thu, 18 Jun | IUCN-Med, along with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Spring and the Japanese Biodiversity Fund, commissioned a thorough analysis of the potential of OECMs in advancing on Aichi Target 11 in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries.
VN | Fri, 03 Jul | IUCN shares a call to participate in the public consultation for the revision and adaptation of the IUCN Green List Standard to the Spanish context.

COM | Tue, 04 Aug | A panel of 4 journalists gathered in an online conversation hosted by IUCN-Med to discuss COVID-19, the environment and the current media in the Mediterranean.

VN | Tue, 11 Aug | IUCN-Med published the first comprehensive overview of Mediterranean sea turtles, with information regarding nesting beach sites together and the main areas of foraging and overwintering.

COM | Wed, 26 Aug | IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) hosted an online ceremony presenting the prestigious Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability to Pedro Estêvão Muagura of the Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique and Nizar Youssef Hani of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon.

VN | Tue, 27 Oct | IUCN released the report “Mediterranean: Mare Plasticum” that reported over 200,000 tonnes of plastic leaking into the Mediterranean each year.
PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2020

COMMUNICATING WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

At the close of 2020, the number of IUCN-Med’s social media followers has grown significantly compared to the previous year. On Facebook, visibility was almost three times higher than in 2019 (+294.5%), whilst our fan base grew to 20,726 followers by the end of December 2020 (an increase of 15% over the year). On Twitter, there was also a rise in our audience, adding up to a total of 5,042 followers (a 28% increase compared to 2019). On LinkedIn, our page following has grown from 243 last year to 2063 followers in December 2020 (a growth rate of +848%).

In the challenging context of the pandemic, social media has played a key role in providing participants for our webinars. Over the past year, the majority of conferences were based as online webinars. Therefore, this created an opportunity for more participants based in different countries to join.

IUCN-Med’s social media accounts have different audiences, which helps the Centre reach different parts of the Mediterranean. For instance, over half of IUCN-Med’s Facebook audiences are located in North Africa and are either French or Arabic speaking. On Twitter, the majority of Twitter followers are based in Europe, with the highest amount of followers being located in Spain. On LinkedIn, most of the audience is English speaking.
Number of followers

2020: 20,726
2019: 17,963
2020: 5,042
2019: 3,978

Public by gender on Facebook

44.9% Female
55.1% Male

Facebook distribution

Turkey | 1.2%
Palestine | 1.3%
Albania | 1.8%
Greece | 1.8%
France | 5.0%
Egypt | 5.2%
Italy | 5.8%
Lybia | 6.0%
Spain | 8.6%
Other | 13.0%
Tunisia | 20.8%
Algeria | 19.7%
Morocco | 9.7%

On Facebook, the countries with the highest growth percentage on fans in 2020 were Greece, Italy, and Turkey. For the second consecutive year, Tunisia remains to be the country with the most followers.
THE BEST PERFORMING CONTENT

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation  
October 10, 2019

POSBEMED 2: Monitoring Workshop

SURVEYING METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF POSIDONIA BEACHES

© Yiannis Iassis/ICMR

Likes 227
Shares 31
Retweets 31
People reached 15,932
Link clicks 52

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation  
December 10, 2019

PPI-OSCAN 2 – World Environment Day - Species Monitoring

ASS. MAROCAINE FAUCONNERIE ET RAPACES MOROCCO

Likes 1,117
Shares 56
People reached (NEW RECORD) 1,100,000
Clicks 56,762
ON THE IUCN WEBSITE

On the IUCN website, the Mediterranean region ranks the fourth most visited region throughout the year of 2020. Within the Mediterranean region, the IUCN-Med web pages received a total of 68,858 visits, which is an increase of (+23.9%) compared to 2019.

- NbS & Climate Change: 2,581 visits
- Pinna Nobilis Crisis: 2,468 visits
- Crisis KBAs: 1,456 visits
- Saproxylic beetles publication: 1,389 visits
- Biodiversity Knowledge and Action: 1,220 visits

* Grew the most by percentage in the year.

Climate Change
IUCN engages on this issue from multiple perspectives, from assessing the risks that climate change poses to biodiversity to advancing practical nature-based solutions centered on the health, conservation, management and restoration of the world’s ecosystems.

Did you know?
- Impacts: > 80% of ecological processes that form the foundation for life on Earth are impacted by climate change
- Solutions: 37% of the mitigation needed between now and 2030 to meet the 2°C Paris goal can be provided by nature-based solutions
- Communities: ~ 25% of the world’s tropical forest carbon is managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities
PUBLICATIONS

Species

THE CONSERVATION STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDITERRANEAN DUNG BEETLES

This report summarises the results for Mediterranean dung beetles. All the dung beetles that are endemic or nearly endemic to the Mediterranean region – 200 species – are included. The geographical scope is the Mediterranean region according to the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot (Mittermeier et al., 2004), with the exception of the Macaronesian islands, which have not been included in this study. Of the 644 species of dung beetles inhabiting the Mediterranean region, 200 (32%) have at least 75% of their distribution range within the borders of the region. The other 444 species, which occur over a wider area, were excluded from this assessment. Of the 200 species analysed, 150 are considered endemic as they cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Available in English.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

CHARACTERISATION AND CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT OF TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY IN THE GHAR EL MELH AREA (REPORT)

This report was made by IUCN-Med and WWF North Africa as part of the GEMWET Project: Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value: the case of Ghar el Melh – Tunisia. The report presents a conservation assessment of the vegetation, habitats and herpetile fauna within the area covered by Jebel Nadhour and Ghar El Melh KBA and Sidi Ali el Mekki KBA in northeastern Tunisia.

Available in English.

FIRST NATIONAL CENSUS OF DIURNAL CLIFF-NESTING RAPTORS IN MOROCCO

The report released presents the results of Morocco’s first national diurnal raptor census campaign, conducted in 2019, which provide a first clear picture of the geographic distribution and status of birds of prey populations in Morocco.

Available in French.
CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The first comprehensive overview of Mediterranean sea turtles offers the latest information available on nesting beach sites together with the main areas of foraging and overwintering, including a map of key areas for the two present reproductive species (loggerhead and green turtles) showing positive and negative trends, areas of concentration, data on juveniles, rescue centres distribution, evolution of conservation measures and other marine turtle species.

Available in English and French.

FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 1. IUCN-Med overview and goals from 2021–2024.
Fact sheet 2. Closing the plastic tap in the Mediterranean.
Fact sheet 3. Integrated planning and sustainable management of tourism in the Mediterranean.
Fact sheet 5. Biodiversity and Agriculture in the Mediterranean.
Fact sheet 7. Informing policy to support people and nature in the Mediterranean.

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

Mediterranean Flash News

Spring, Summer 2020 and Winter 2021.

Around three times a year (Spring, Summer, Winter) our newsletter bulletins are published to provide key updates about the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.

Each newsletter is made available in English, French and Spanish.
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 Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MITECO) 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 2020 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 6 new cooperation agreements signed in 2020 with the following institutions:

- Conservatoire National des Formations à l’Environnement (CNFE)
- Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MEDWET)
- MEDPAN
- Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (RAC-SPA)
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)
- Universidad Internacional de Andalucía (UNIA)

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.
NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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 245 by the end of 2020. 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State members</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International NGOs</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National NGOs</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliates</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>245</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24)</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IUCN’s six Commissions rely on more than 18,000 international experts, more than 1,900 of whom are from Mediterranean countries.

IUCN MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State members</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International NGOs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National NGOs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliates</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5)</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Survival Commission (SSC)</td>
<td>1,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,999</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IUCN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA (2017–2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Survival Commission (SSC)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN
2020

FRANCE

- Fondation Française de Spéléologie.
- Direction Sites et Espaces Naturels de la Métropole Aix-Marseille-Provence.
- Direction Générale des Services – Ville de Marseille.
- Institut national de recherche pour l’agriculture, l’alimentation et l’environnement.
- Réseau des Grands Sites de France.
- Hutan.

ITALY

- Fondazione UNA.
- Greenhouse Gas Management Institute.

JORDAN

- Jordan BirdWatch Association.
- International Research Center for Water, Environment, and Energy.

MOROCCO

- Association Marocaine pour le Développement des Aires Protégées.
- Association Marocaine pour l’environnement et le développement.

SERBIA

- Hunting Association of Serbia.
INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED WITH MEMBERS

National Agency of Protected Areas (Albania)
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project and associated partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2.

Ministry of Environment
- Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.
- Small-Scale Initiatives Program for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN).
- Support for Green List programme in North Africa.
- Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.
Institute for Tourism

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

- Associated Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2.

Ministry of Environment

- Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network (MedPAN)

- Member of the MEET Network.
- The Med Fund.
- Associated Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2 and DestiMED PLUS.

IUCN French Committee

- Support to Green List programme in North Africa.
- Support for climate change strategy for protected areas.
- Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean.

Coriscan Tourist Agency

- Associated Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.
### Euronatur
- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.

### Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature
- Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2 project and in the monk seal conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### MedINA
- Collaboration in MAVA M6 Cultural practices initiative.

### Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal
- Partner in the monk seal conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### WWF Greece
- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.

### Region of Crete
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

### Development Agency of South Aegean Region – READ S.A.
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

### Federparchi–Europarc Italy
- Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Med-Europe.

### Lazio Region
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

### WWF Mediterranean Office
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.
### Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)
- Support the Identification of KBAs for plants of Jordan (CEPF funded project to RSCN).

### Al Shouf Cedar Society (ASCS)
- Partner in M6-cultural Landscapes initiative. Support monitoring of biodiversity in ASC.
- Involved in MEET Network as Board member and protected area member along with.

### 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.

### Ministry of Environment
- Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

### Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM)
- Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week; MEET member.

### Society for the protection of Nature in Lebanon
- Partner in M6- Cultural landscapes programme.
- Animation of KBA National Coordination Group.

### Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
- Partner in Cultural Landscapes proposal.
- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF.

### Foundation Albert II
- BeMed project | Beyond plastic MED.

### Department of Water and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests
- Small-Scale Initiatives Program for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN 2).
• Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.
• Support for Green List programme in North Africa.
• Co-publication of the report with the results of the first national census of cliff nesting raptors in Morocco (developed in 2019), in the framework of M7 Birds.
• Initial workshop to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7 Birds.
• Virtual meeting with DEF to plan the process and next steps for the development of the national strategy for the conservation of raptors, in the framework of M7 Birds.

**Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)**

• Partner of The Med Fund Consortium.
• Participation in the initial workshop to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7 Birds, organised by IUCN-Med and DEF.

**GREPOM**

• Participation in the initial workshop to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7 Birds, organised by IUCN-Med and DEF.
• IUCN contributed to the implementation of the MAVA Small Grants, granted to GREPOM (participation in an online training organised by GREPOM/Birdlife on “Research and techniques for identifying and monitoring bird mortality by electrocution / collision”).
• Indirect partner in MedBycatch project.

**WWF North Africa – Morocco office**

• WAMAN Sebu project.

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**Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l’Environnement**

• Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.
• Small-Scale Initiatives Program for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN 2).
• Support for Green List programme in North Africa.
• Support the development of Tunisia’s Red List of Threatened Species.

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

• Partner on The Med Fund.

**Association Les Amis des Oiseaux**

• Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean.
• Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF.
• Indirect partner in MedBycatch project.
• Development of the National Coordination Group of KBAs.
**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Environment (MAPAMA)**
- Involvement in the Advisory Group on Blue Carbon – LIFE Blue Natura.
- Support to the Green list initiative in Spain.

**Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia**
- 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.
- Two LIFE projects: LIFE Blue Natura and LIFE AdaptaMED.
- Associated partner for the new project on Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas (MedartSal).
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

**IUCN Spanish National Committee**
- XIV IUCN Spanish Member Congress in Basque Country.
- 26º Semana del mar (March).

**Malaga Council**
- Collaboration agreement about Nature-based Solutions.

**Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia**
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

**Fundació Universitària Balmes – University of Vic**
- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

**Europarc – Spain**
- Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Spain.

**CEIDA**
- Joint monitoring of the IUCN wcc resolution 042 – biodiversity refugee areas.
- 2019 – Reunión para avanzar en la preparación de un proyecto relacionado con la conservación de los refugios atlánticos en línea con el cumplimiento de la resolución WCC-2016-Res-042 del Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza de la IUCN.
(más adelante los asistentes de la reunión dijeron que al menos en 2019 no se presentaba proyecto a ninguna convocatoria).

**SEO Birdlife**
- Partner in M3 project MAVA.

**WWF Spain**
- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.
- Partner in M6 project cultural landscapes.

**CBD–Habitat (Fundación para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad y su Hábitat)**
- Partner in the monk seal conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Birdlife International**
- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative, M3 wetlands, focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.

**The Travel Foundation**
- Supported MEET MAVA Online Learning Grant project as consultants.

**Vulture Conservation Foundation**
- Partner in bird priority projects (energy infrastructure, illegal killing of birds, poisoning).

**Doğa Derneği**
- Indirect partner in Medbycatch 2 project.

**WWF Turkey**
- Indirect partner in Medbycatch 2 project.
### Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAMAN Sebou</td>
<td>KBA conservation status assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAVA–IUCN-Med Joint Programme 2015–2019</td>
<td>WAMAN Sebou and Douro Vivo (Living Douro) projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAMAN Sebou and Douro Vivo projects</td>
<td>KBA conservation status assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAVA–IUCN-Med Joint Programme (MedBycatch Phase 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co.edition of the publication Conserving wild plants in the South and east Mediterranean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course on EICAT (Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and development of the participative process with key Moroccan stakeholders to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEET Network, DestiMED project, Support for communications working group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green List</td>
<td>Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KBA regional focal point - linkage between global secretariat and national focal points.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red List of Ecosystems (RLE)</td>
<td>at global level and national processes in Tunisia (training) and Lebanon (support process).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation of restoration in drylands training course with IAMZ-CIHEAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working group meeting on Fisheries Restricted Areas and OECMs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Commissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Marine Turtle Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Vulture Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Mollusc Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Freshwater Plant Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Freshwater Conservation Committee)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Shark Specialist Group) members</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC experts (Invasive Species Specialist Group)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCPA–TAPAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCPA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force for KBAs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEM Red List of Ecosystems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEM and Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEM Nature-based Solutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEM Fisheries Expert Group</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In 2020 IUCN-Med managed around 18 projects with a budget of approximately €2,953,000. Of this, 56% came from the MAVA Foundation, 23% from the European Union, 8% from the FFEM, 5% from Foundation Didier and 4% from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition. The rest came from the Prince Albert Foundation, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), Ayuntamiento de Málaga and IUCN Global Programmes:

**2020 donors**

- **MAVA** | 56%
- **EU** | 23%
- **FFEM** | 8%
- **FOND DIDIER** | 5%
- **SPANISH GOVERNMENT** | 4%
- **FOND MONACO** | 2%
- **SCBD** | 1%
- **Others** | 1%
Contributions to the sustainable development goals

**TOTAL: € 3,544,935.7**

- **Strategic Goal A:** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
  - **€ 832,807.66**

- **Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
  - **€ 997,831.60**

- **Strategic Goal C:** To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
  - **€ 1,063,384.59**

- **Strategic Goal D:** Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
  - **€ 272,903.67**

- **Strategic Goal E:** Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.
  - **€ 378,008.06**

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Contribution to the Aichi Targets

**TOTAL: € 3,544,935.8**
## GENERAL OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MAIN DONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junta de Andalucía</td>
<td>To contribute to supporting IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding.</td>
<td>Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible, Junta de Andalucía.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico (MITECO)</td>
<td>To finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding, Chapter 4.</td>
<td>Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAVA Foundation</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN Global Programme</td>
<td>To finance part of IUCN-Med operational costs.</td>
<td>IUCN.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## THEMATIC PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MAIN DONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIFE Invasaqua</td>
<td>Invasive exotic aquatic species in freshwater and estuarine systems: Awareness and Prevention in the Iberian Peninsula.</td>
<td>EU LIFE Programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWFI-MED (Plastic Waste-Free Islands)</td>
<td>The Plastic Waste Free Islands Med project is part of a broader IUCN's “Close the Plastic Tap” programme. The purpose of this initiative is to demonstrate effective, quantifiable solutions to addressing plastic leakage from islands. The two selected islands for the Mediterranean basin are Menorca and Cyprus.</td>
<td>Didier and Martine Primat Foundation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# THEMATIC PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MAIN DONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BeMed Beyond Plastic Med</strong> STARTED</td>
<td>Beyond Plastic Med initiative aims to improve the existing methodology, model and data to assess plastic waste and leakages, pathways and sinks by combining modelling and field approaches in the Mediterranean Sea, with a special focus on North African countries.</td>
<td>Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monk Seal Project</strong> ONGOING</td>
<td>The final objective is to have a better perspective of the targeted monk seal population and its conflict with fisheries with all entities collaborating towards the same objective using the same methodology.</td>
<td>Mava Foundation and Thalassa Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Landscapes</strong> ONGOING</td>
<td>The long-term vision is that the value of beneficial practices is widely acknowledged and these practices used broadly, contributing in maintaining large areas of diverse Mediterranean landscapes.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support for conservation In North Africa</strong> ONGOING</td>
<td>To provide institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PPI-OSCAN 2</strong> Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (Phase II) ONGOING</td>
<td>To strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations through the implementation of site projects on biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation, French Global Environment Facility (FFEM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arab World Heritage (Morocco–Egypt)</strong> COMPLETED</td>
<td>To support Morocco and Egypt in the preparation of nominations of sites for consideration as World Heritage Sites.</td>
<td>Arab World Heritage Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support the Secretariat of the CBD on protected areas in MENA region</strong> ONGOING</td>
<td>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”.</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Japanese Biodiversity Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IUCN Green List for Natura 2000</strong> ONGOING</td>
<td>To coordinate the Mediterranean European contribution to the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas with effective management plans.</td>
<td>European Union.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# THEMATIC PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MAIN DONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIFE AdaptaMED</strong></td>
<td>Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of climate change in endangered Mediterranean socio-ecosystems</td>
<td>European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEPF- Support II MPCW</strong></td>
<td>To support the participation of CEPF grantees in the II Mediterranean plant Conservation week, to enhance the capacities of grantees to deliver plant conservation initiatives.</td>
<td>CEPF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DestiMED PLUS</strong></td>
<td>DestiMED PLUS is the next step on a journey to promote integrated planning in coastal tourism, where regional policymakers apply holistic policies that link tourism with conservation. They will do so, by jointly developing ecotourism itineraries in Mediterranean protected areas (PAs), as a concrete example of ICZM application. The project builds on the success of MEET and DestiMED, and will support 9 Mediterranean regions and respective protected areas through enhancing cross-sectoral local and regional policies, improving integrated planning strategies, and providing stakeholders with effective training and tools to manage, measure, and promote ecotourism.</td>
<td>EU - Interreg MED, MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIFE Blue Natura</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>European Union (LIFE), CEPSA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## THEMATIC PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MAIN DONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands</td>
<td>To restore damaged habitats, encourage sustainable water use and reduce the impacts of water abstraction, pollution and coastal development on wetlands and related marine habitats.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEPF- Support II MPCW</td>
<td>To support the participation of CEPF grantees in the II Mediterranean plant Conservation week, to enhance the capacities of grantees to deliver plant conservation initiatives.</td>
<td>CEPF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MedBycatch</td>
<td>To support Mediterranean countries (specifically Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) to develop a common standardised methodology for data collection and testing mitigation solutions for the incidental catch of marine vulnerable species that can be replicated at the regional level, focusing on three demersal fishing gears: trawls, gillnets and longlines.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MedBycatch2</td>
<td>To build on the results and experience gained in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey during Phase 1 (2017–2020) and expand the geographical scope of the project to Croatia and Italy by conducting trials on effective mitigation measures, supporting the development of relevant policies at national and regional level and capacity building to apply measures for the reduction of bycatch of marine vulnerable species.</td>
<td>MAVA Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSBEMED2</td>
<td>To implement a local framework for decision making for Posidonia banquets testing different approaches and tools, increase awareness to build stakeholder support for more nature-oriented management strategies and provide better integration planning tools to be incorporated into management planning and coastal policies.</td>
<td>EU – Interreg MED.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONGOING</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
2021 PROGRAMME FORECAST

PROGRAMME AND REGIONAL GOALS FOR 2021–2024

In 2020, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has updated its strategy to address biodiversity loss and climate change impacts through innovative and targeted initiatives represented through the following new key working areas and 3 focus sectors.

A PROGRAMME FOR THE UNION 2021–2024

HOW WE WILL WORK
in the Mediterranean to ensure that human progress, economic development and nature conservation take place together.

OUR APPROACH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Influencing POLICY & CONVENING MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS

Generating KNOWLEDGE & SOLUTIONS
(Red List of Species and Ecosystems, Green List of Protected Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas)

CAPACITY BUILDING for Conservation

Promoting NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS to address climate change and urban challenges

SPECIAL FOCUS

Mainstreaming biodiversity into AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Promoting SUSTAINABLE TOURISM in protected areas and measuring net impact of tourism in COASTAL AREAS

SPECIAL REGIONAL FOCUS: North Africa
The IUCN-Med portfolio in 2021 is composed of 11 projects, which are being actively implemented across various countries in the Mediterranean basin. These projects cover all the five programme areas and will contribute in reaching the 2021–2024 Results Framework.

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

During 2021, IUCN-Med will work to organise several events, including the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, postponed from last year to September 2021. Shortly afterwards, IUCN-Med will prepare a congress to commemorate its 20th-year anniversary with IUCN Members around the Mediterranean scheduled in 2022.

Since 2013, the Center for Mediterranean Cooperation has been implementing the Mediterranean Programme, which supports regional initiatives and strategies in the Mediterranean region. This year IUCN-Med will need to prepare the North Africa programme and the Mediterranean for the period 2021–2024 that will take into consideration the IUCN Global Programme 2021–2024 (Nature 2030), the IUCN Portfolio Results Framework 2021–2024, and the internal IUCN-Med Strategy 2021–2024. The North Africa programme will need also to be approved by the Members from that region.

HALTING BIODIVERSITY LOSS

The Centre will continue working with national authorities to facilitate the adoption of a conservation strategy for raptors in Morocco with the support of the SSC Conservation planning Specialist Group. Regarding the monk seal, IUCN-Med will contribute to improving the knowledge of this species and in particular, to identify potential future areas where the monk seals could spread in the near future. Based on the work jointly developed with the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and several experts from all over the Mediterranean last year on the current status of the deep sea in the Eastern Mediterranean, a publication with the results is due to be published in 2021.

Progress on NbS and the new international standard

Aligned with the IUCN Global Programme, IUCN-Med will advocate for the integration of biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into policy, management and sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and areas such as coastal and marine environment, climate change, and in urban environments. The team will also implement the first actions of the 2-year programme on NbS in the framework of the agreement with the International University of Andalucia to create the Catedra of IUCN.

Civil society, Members and protected areas in North Africa

IUCN-Med will continue to work with 43 emerging civil society organisations (CSOs) in North Africa, supporting young leaders in implementing projects on the ground and informing national conservation strategies and policies. In the framework of the Small-scale Programme for CSOs in North Africa (PPI OSCAN), 4 national workshops will be organised in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia with young leaders from the beneficiary CSOs. In parallel, technical support will be provided to them to finalise their projects and capitalise on their results and achievements.

During 2021, the PPI-OSCAN 2 will be evaluated by donors, FFEM and MAVA, as to prepare a feasibility study for a third phase.

Implementation of current projects

As previous years, IUCN-Med will continue supporting the adoption of the Green List initiative in Mediterranean countries, supporting the EAGLs of France, Spain and for the Maghreb (a regional EAGL covering three countries). Effort will be done around establishing a regional approach for MPAs. IUCN-Med will keep supporting the adoption of sustainable tourism practices in coastal MPAs of the Mediterranean area as well as foster the cross-sectoral collaboration between tourism stakeholders and MPA managers. This will be achieved through the implementation of 9 pilot actions for MPAs to develop sustainable tourism offer integrated with territory and local stakeholders in the framework of the DESTIMED Plus project.
As part of the MedArtSal project activities, IUCN-Med will be coordinating a call for proposals to distribute small grants for artisanal salinas in Spain. Three other countries, Lebanon, Italy and Tunisia will benefit from these sub-grants under the supervision of other project partners.

**New areas of work**

On the basis of an already established methodology aimed at identifying connectivity corridors rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services, IUCN-Med will work to build a partnership to design projects and actions with the aim to improve the connectivity of Natura 2000 and link it with new areas (KBAs) identification. It will also participate in the implementation of new projects, namely NbS from marine ecosystems in post-COVID (funded by the Principality of Monaco), and two Horizon 2020 projects SOILGUARD and SAFEGUARD. These last projects will help improve the knowledge on how to boost sustainable soil management to release soil biodiversity potential and increase environmental, economic and social well-being.

Furthermore, IUCN-Med will be working with BirdLife Europe and the University of Wageningen in identifying technological solutions to reduce water use and foster sustainable water business models in the agriculture, tourism and salt pans sectors.

**COMMUNICATION AND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS**

In the coming year, IUCN-Med will be disseminating five different communication campaigns based on different messages in the context of the new strategic working lines. These campaigns will take place in several communication channels to support the Centre’s fundraising strategy to expand the Med portfolio and strengthen institutional relations.
THE IUCN MED-TEAM

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Emmi Lindqvist: Emmi.Lindqvist@iucn.org

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Santiago Suárez: Santiago.suarez@iucn.org

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Natalie Beckett: Natalie.Beckett@iucn.org

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Houda El Alaoui: houda.elalaoui@iucn.org
Hélène Willem: Hélène.Willem@iucn.org

IUCN-MED DIRECTOR AND MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
Antonio Troya: antonio.troya@iucn.org

NUMBER OF STAFF BY GENDER AND TYPE OF CONTRACT 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent staff</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary staff (incl. interns)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following people also worked with us temporarily in 2020 under cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean:

Erin Skoczylas | Hochschule Furtwangen (Germany)
David Gonzalez Piñeiro | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)
Lucía de la Fuente Casilda | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)
ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.

AFD
French Development Agency (Agence française de dévelopement).

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

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.

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

CMS

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

COP
Conference of Parties.

CSIC
Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas).

CSO
Civil Society Organisations.

CSTI
The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative.

DGF
Directorate-General for Forestry.

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.

**FFEM**
French Global Environment Facility (*Fonds français pour l’environnement mondial*).

**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 Center for Marine Research.

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

**IAS**
Invasive Alien Species.

**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**

**MedPAN**
Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean.

**MedWet**
The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative.

**MEET**
The Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism.
MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles.

MITERN
Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic challenge (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico).

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

MPA
Marine Protected Area.

NbS
Nature-based Solutions.

NGO
Non-Governmental Organisation.

OBSAM
Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca, Spain.

ORMACC SUR
IUCN regional offices from Latino-America

PA
Protected Area.

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.

SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals.

SEO
sociedad Española de Ornitolología (BirdLife Partner, Spain).

SIDS
Small Island Developing States.

SSC
IUCN Species Survival Commission.

SSF
Small-Scale Fisheries.

TAPAS
WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group.

UfM
Union for the Mediterranean.

UN
United Nations.

UNEP/MAP

UNIA
International University of Andalusia.

WCEL
IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.

WCPA
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

WWF
• 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.