



MEDITERRANEAN REFLECTIONS 2012–2013





IUCN Mediterranean Reflections 2012-2013 is a report summarizing the main activities of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med) developed by the various programmes that are operating from Malaga in 2012, 2013 and part of the work already underway in 2014.



CREDITS

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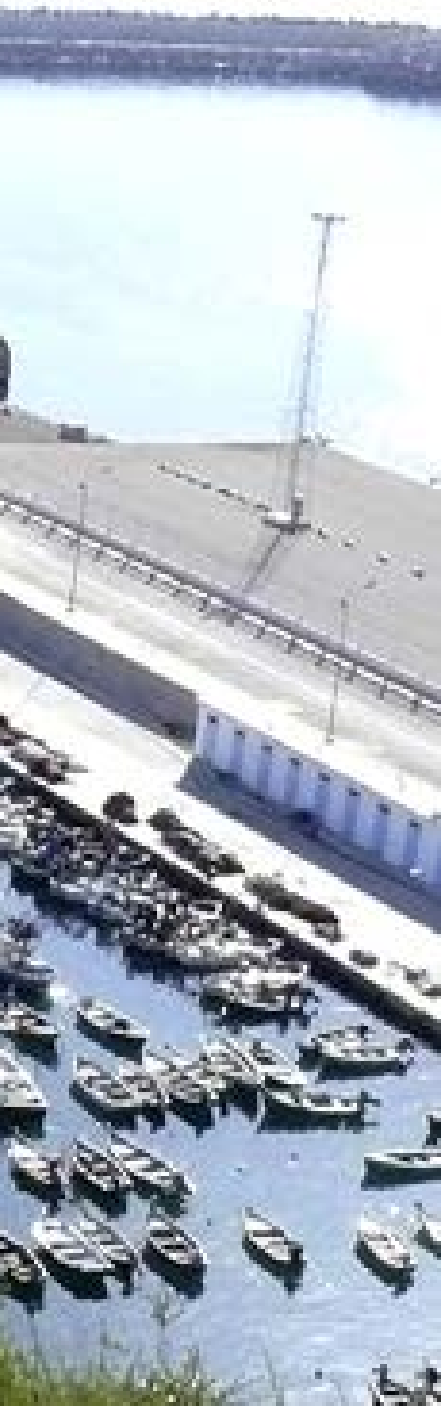
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The Director's message

This activity report represents both the crossing over a double frontier and the start of a new period marked by the evolution of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation programme of work and the way to function.

2012 has meant the wrap up of the IUCN 2009-2012 global programme, with the achievement of more than 70% of our expected results and the implementation of some 30 projects in the Mediterranean. It has also implied the development and transition into the one single [IUCN Programme 2013-2016](#), adopted by the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju in September 2012, coinciding with the deployment of a renewed subregional programme for North Africa.

The three IUCN Programme Areas: [VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE](#); [EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE](#); and [DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE, FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT](#), offer the framework for the support that IUCN-Med is providing to the development of essential knowledge products for the Mediterranean related to the Red List of Ecosystems; the Red List of Threatened Species; Key Biodiversity Areas; the World Protected Areas Database; Human Dependency on Nature, and, overlapping them all, a Framework for the Governance of Natural Resources.

The Year 2013 witnessed the consolidation of a change in the internal model in accordance with those taking place at global level. A period of reflection, readjustment and changes influenced by the consequences of a new operational scenario marked by a strong economic crisis and the political changes happening in Mediterranean countries, have conditioned the functionality of the Centre and the implementation of the IUCN Programme in the Mediterranean.

This situation has forced new strategic and financial dynamics to ensure the efficient development of the initiatives and projects, together with the fulfilment of IUCN's existing engagements in the Mediterranean Programme and in North Africa. The reorientation in the functioning of the Centre responds not only to an effort to maximize efficiency in the necessary austerity, but also to the strengthening of the implementation and impact of the IUCN Programme, by reinforcing more efficiently the roles, capacities and particular features of the various Union constituencies: our Members, Commissions, National Committees and the Secretariat.

During these two years the institutional relations have been tightened concerning governance issues in the region, increasing the cooperation level with international organizations such as the Barcelona Convention or the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean: with new partners such as the Union for the Maghreb Arab and collaborators such as the Union for the Mediterranean. A high emphasis has been placed on reinforcing interaction with IUCN Members in North African countries, intensifying the links with IUCN National Committees in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and re-establishing contacts with Libya and Egypt, following the surge of the "Arab Spring".

Keen to keep moving forward towards the preservation of the Mediterranean, we are grateful to the Spanish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Environment, the Regional government for the Environment and Land Use of the Junta de Andalucía and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development, for maintaining their support to the Centre, despite the difficult budgetary situation resulting from the present recession. In this delicate situation, the financial and institutional support from the MAVA Foundation, the French Global Environment Facility and the European Commission, have been crucial for the Centre to keep pursuing the objectives of the 2013-2016 IUCN Programme in the Mediterranean.

Thank you also to all those countries and governments that collaborate with IUCN for a more sustainable Mediterranean and particularly those in North Africa, without whom our endeavours would prove impossible.

Our Mediterranean is still facing important challenges and requires strong and flexible organizations capable of mobilizing knowledge and human capital, mobilizing networks and supporting regional governance processes. IUCN-Med aims to and must continue to be a key actor in the region by fostering the integration of social, economic and cultural dimensions into conservation strategies. This can be done through increased cooperation, renewing institutional relations and networks, promoting more innovative concepts and deploying solutions to contribute to the sustainability of our development model and, basically, attain the wellbeing of Mediterranean societies.

All our energies will move in that direction in the coming years.



ANTONIO TROYA
Director and Programme Coordinator
Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
IUCN-Med





HIGHLIGHTS
2012-2013



JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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- *Attending the meeting organized by MedWet in Agadir in the framework of the Ramsar Convention for the protection of wetlands in the Mediterranean.*
- *Participation, as partner to the Barcelona Convention, in the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols.*
- *Contribution to the second international meeting of the Specialist Groups Chairs of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) held in Abu Dhabi.*



MARCH

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- *Organization of a meeting on better governance in the Maghreb region through capacity building for biosphere reserve stakeholders and managers in Tangier, Morocco.*
- *Meeting of the group of experts on marine invasive species under the framework of the MedPAN North project and the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean.*
- *Ecotourism and Protected Areas workshop held at Jebel Zaghuan National Park in Tunisia together with local governments and NGOs.*

The work of IUCN-Med is reflected on its presence in the Mediterranean:

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



APRIL

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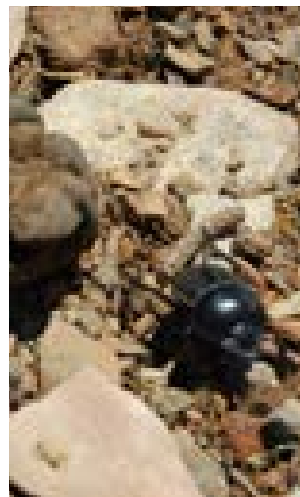
- *The Italian Ministry of Environment, Federparchi and members of the IUCN Italian Committee meet in Rome to strengthen their common areas of work connected to protected areas and their threats, which materializes on a new IUCN collaboration agreement and action plan for 2014.*
- *AfriSeb Meeting "Africa, ecosystem services and biodiversity" held in Tunisia to explore the use of this platform and its links with other projects and users*
- *Participation in a conference on Mediterranean coastal biodiversity in Albania.*



MAY

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- *Workshop for the preparation of the Mediterranean Red List of Saproxylous insects in Granada.*
- *Ecotourism workshop for the diagnosis of Talassemtane National Park and establishment of a working group of local actors in Morocco.*
- *First open event on seagrass meadows in Spain: knowledge, use and management held under the framework of the Life+ Posidonia European project*
- *The Medina project for the Dynamics and indicators for marine ecosystems in North Africa funded by the EU 7th Framework Programme holds its annual assembly.*



JUNE

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- *Celebration of the World Environmental Day in Malaga in collaboration with schools, public administrations and local NGOs.*
- *Organization of the Festival "Seas of Posidonia" in Almuñecar, Granada to promote the value of seagrass meadows in the Mediterranean*
- *Launching event in Algeria for the Preparation of Strategies and Action Plans for endangered species in North Africa.*
- *Journalists from North Africa gather in Rabat, Morocco as part of the AECID project to reinforce the capacities of civil society in the region.*



JULY

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- Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and presentation of the new publication on marine mammals and turtles to 24 Mediterranean countries.
- Together with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism in Montenegro and the IUCN office for South-East Europe, a workshop on planning and management of protected areas is held in Montenegro.
- Visit by Guillermina Yanguas, General Director of Environmental Quality and Assessment and Natural Areas – MAGRAMA to the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga.

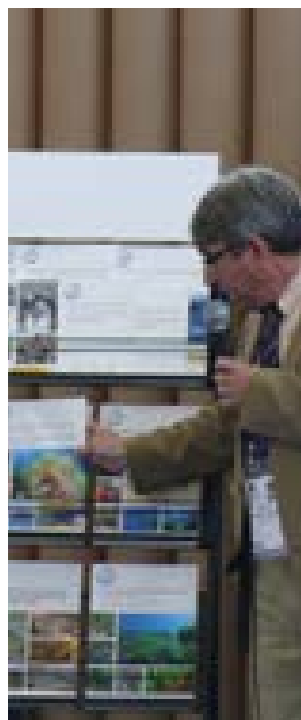


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- The IUCN World Conservation Congress begins in Jeju, Korea, the world's largest and most important conservation event



OCTOBER

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- Participation in the celebration of Port-Cros National Park 50th anniversary and 30 years of GIS Posidonia in Hyeres, France
- Contribution to the international workshop on the design of reintroduction and translocation plans for birds organized by the International University of Andalucia in Baeza
- Managers of semiarid steppes and IUCN Members from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia meet for a working session in Granada and Alicante on the sustainable management and restoration of alpha steppes in collaboration with the University of Alicante and the Centre of Environmental Studies in the Mediterranean (CEAM in Spanish).

- Training workshop on a Shared Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) under the framework of the European project PEGASO on integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas.

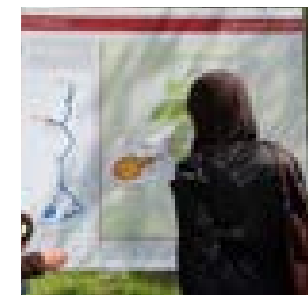
- Training workshop for the preparation of a Red List of Plants held in Istanbul, Turkey.

NOVEMBER

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- IUCN-Med organizes a workshop on semiarid steppes in Djelfa, Algeria in coordination with IFAD and the World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism.
- Under the SEARCH project on resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean region, a workshop is organized in Morocco.
- MedEvenTun kicks off in Tunis with the organization of a workshop on ecotourism, the General Assembly of the Medina project and a meeting on freshwater sustainable livelihoods in North Africa.
- Sessions on climate change, management effectiveness and invasive species are organized during the Forum on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.



DECEMBER

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- Organization of a Biosphere Reserves in North Africa Workshop co-organised with UNESCO in Malaga.
- First gathering to validate Key Freshwater Biodiversity Areas in the Balkans, organized in collaboration with the IUCN Freshwater Unit.



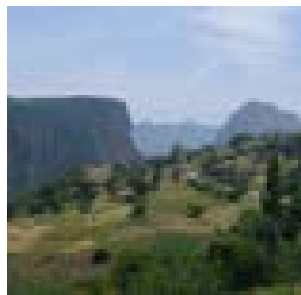
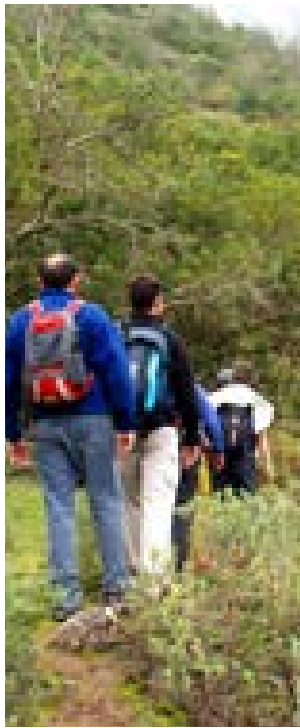
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FEBRUARY						
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- Malaga hosts a meeting to prepare the Red List of Threatened Butterflies in the Mediterranean.

- The MAVA Foundation organizes a meeting on cooperation in the Adriatic region together with IUCN-Med, IUCN south and east Europe and national NGO representatives.

- Meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona.



MARCH						
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- The Steering Committee of the MEET Project "Mediterranean Experiences on Ecotourism" meets in Rome for the first time, coinciding with the official launching of the Project.

- Third General Assembly of the Pegaso project on Integrated Coastal Zone Management is held in Rabat.



APRIL						
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- Meeting with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in Rome, Italy.

- Initial training course on strategic planning for the conservation of endangered species in Morocco.

- Meeting in Tangier under the framework of the TRANSHABITAT project for the Sustainable Development of transboundary areas belonging to Natura 2000 and Habitats of Common Interest between Andalucía and Morocco.

- First training course on strategic planning for the conservation of endangered species in Tunisia.

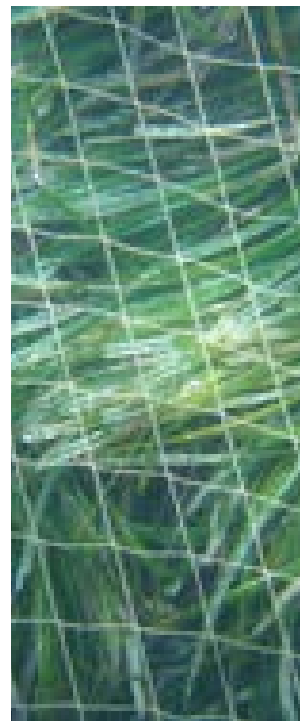
- Workshop in Jordan for the preparation of Red Lists of endangered aquatic species at Mediterranean level.

- Organization of a workshop to prepare Red Lists of Plants and addressed to Turkish botanists in Istanbul.



MAY						
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- The Management committee of the Life+ Project for the conservation of **Posidonia oceanica** gets together to review objectives attained.



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- Workshop in Malaga for the preparation of the Anthozoan Red List at Mediterranean level.

- Participation in the meeting in Rabat led by the High Commission on Water and Forests in Morocco for the identification of fauna and flora species to be included in the new national law on protected species.

- The yearly edition of the Seas of Posidonia Festival funded by the EU takes place in El Ejido, Almeria, in collaboration with students, craftsmen and the general public.

- The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is invited for the first time to the Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Union for the Mediterranean held in Malaga.

- The training course on strategic planning for threatened species conservation begins in Algeria.

- Experts on ecotourism meet in Amman with IUCN to discuss the technical components of the MEET Project.



AUGUST

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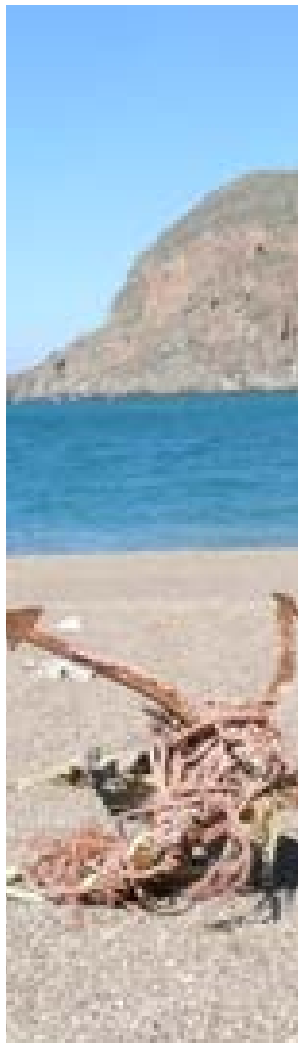
JULY

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- Participation in Otremed interregional Forum in Rome to explore the setting up of a Territorial observatory on Mediterranean coastal issues.



- The Project on Marine Protected Areas and artisanal fisheries in Morocco holds its final meeting.



SEPTEMBER

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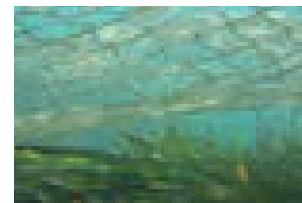
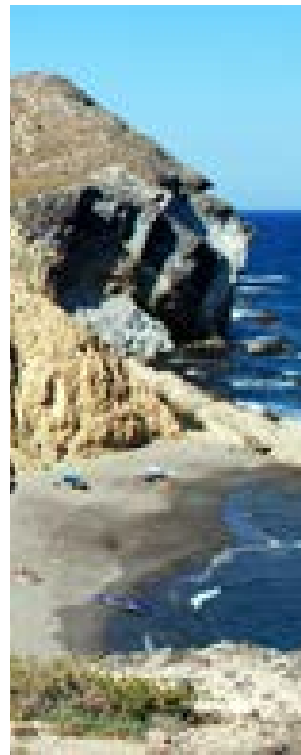
- Workshop in Morocco on Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa.
- IUCN joins the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan focal points during the third meeting of the Ecosystem Approach coordinating group (EcAp) in Athens.
- IUCN-Med participates in the "Business week" to agree on IUCN collaboration strategies with the private sector.
- Contribution to the X Biodiversity Forum of the IUCN Spanish Committee held in Cordoba with a workshop on the IUCN Red List methodology tailored for members of the IUCN National Committee.
- The MEET Project is presented to the Tunisian partners, in collaboration with Federparchi and MedPAN.



OCTOBER

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- In South Korea, IUCN-Med participates in the launching meeting of the "Green List of Protected Areas" global initiative.
- The second open event on seagrass meadows conservation and management in Spain is held in Malaga.
- Participation of IUCN in the third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) held in Marseille, France.



NOVEMBER

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- IUCN-Med takes part in the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) in Tangier, Morocco.
- Meeting in Tunisia for the implementation of the MEET project on ecotourism in protected areas and preparation of projects on important plant areas.
- The Pilot Committee for the Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN-Med, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, the regional Environmental and land planning ministry of the Junta de Andalucía and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development meet in Madrid.
- Working meeting in Almeria for the preparation of a regional conservation strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle in Maghreb countries.

DECEMBER

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- The third workshop to validate Key Freshwater Biodiversity Areas in the South and East Mediterranean starts in Jordan, in collaboration with the IUCN Freshwater Unit and the Jordan Royal Society for Conservation of Nature.
- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the Barcelona Convention during the COP18 for a more efficient use of marine natural resources in the Mediterranean and adoption of the Istanbul Declaration.
- In the framework of the Green List Initiative, IUCN-Med meets with the French working group, under the leadership of the IUCN French Committee.
- In partnership with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), IUCN-Med brings together in Malaga representatives from Spain, Morocco and Algeria to define common areas in the Alboran Sea and their declaration as SPAMIs.
- IUCN Director General participates in the inauguration of the conference La Naturadell'Italia', chaired by the Italian Ministry of Environment and with more than 1000 participants.



A photograph of a textile workshop. In the foreground, there are stacks of colorful fabrics and finished goods. In the background, a large piece of blue and white striped fabric is hanging from a wooden frame. A white t-shirt with a blue graphic and the word "CHROUEN" is hanging in the lower left. The scene is lit with natural light, and the overall atmosphere is one of traditional craftsmanship.

KEY FIGURES 2012-2013





4 148 083 €
managed



30 projects
implemented

39 publications
edited



8 workshops on
ECOTOURISM



More than
600



6 training courses on
SPECIES CONSERVATION
with 150 beneficiaries



12 interns



5 Mediterranean
NEWSLETTERS IN
3 languages

44 marine environment
sites for conservation
assessed in
North Africa

3 NEW
web
TOOLS

11 project bulletins
in 2 languages

8 international
events in Malaga
and
more than **20** in the Méditerranéan

2 new
programmes
finalised

more than
proposals
prepared **15**



MENTIONS
IN
DIGITAL
MEDIA

8 reviews of national legal
and institutional
ASSESSMENTS
of MPAs

20 donors

10 NEW
collaboration agreements





OUR WORK
Building a sustainable future in
the Mediterranean



OUR WORK:

Building a sustainable future in the Mediterranean

This report offers a summary of the main activities carried out by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation for the period 2012-2013 and developed by the different operational programmes based in Malaga. These two years have involved a transition between the end of the IUCN 2009-2012 Programme and the new four-year Programme 2013-2016 adopted by the IUCN Members Assembly held in Jeju (South Korea) from 6 to 11 September 2012.

The 2012 activities were implemented in the framework of the five 2009-2012 programme areas and had as a reference the gathering of the Union during the IUCN World Conservation Congress under the slogan Nature+. Over the course of several days, thousands of participants looked at the experiences of the past four years, assessing what worked and what did not work, and defining the way forward for the next four years.

The Mediterranean and the World Conservation Congress

The Mediterranean participation in Jeju was very active, with the organization of different events and workshops to present the latest IUCN-Med publications on marine issues, the Red List of threatened species at Mediterranean level and the socio-economic values of freshwater biodiversity in North Africa.

IUCN Members in North Africa had the opportunity to discuss and adopt their new IUCN Programme 2013-2016 for the region and to analyse the main challenges for conservation, together with the best governance models to follow..

Representatives from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the MAVA Foundation, the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification in Morocco expressed their points of view on the occasion of these events and workshops.

Additionally, several meetings were held with delegates from the Egyptian Ministry of Environment and the Secretary General of the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment from Morocco to establish future collaborative initiatives. The director of IUCN-Med also presented at the plenary session the results of the implementation of the IUCN Global Programme 2009-2012 concerning climate change and energy.

Resolutions and recommendations with a direct impact on the Mediterranean

Below you will find the resolutions and recommendations voted on and adopted by IUCN Members during the IUCN World Congress 2012 held in Jeju and directly affecting the Mediterranean

Combating the illegal or unsustainable capture, trade or killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean
WCC-2012-RES-029

Transboundary ecological corridors in the Western Iberian Peninsula.
WCC-2012-REC-149

Promotion of sustainable tourism, rural development and the value of natural heritage.
WCC-2012-RES-114

Preservation of oasis ecosystems.
WCC-2012-REC-160

Offshore oil drilling in the Mediterranean.
WCC-2012-REC-174

Protecting the Critically Endangered Balearic Shearwater in the Ebro Delta, Spain.
WCC-2012-REC-161



The IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016

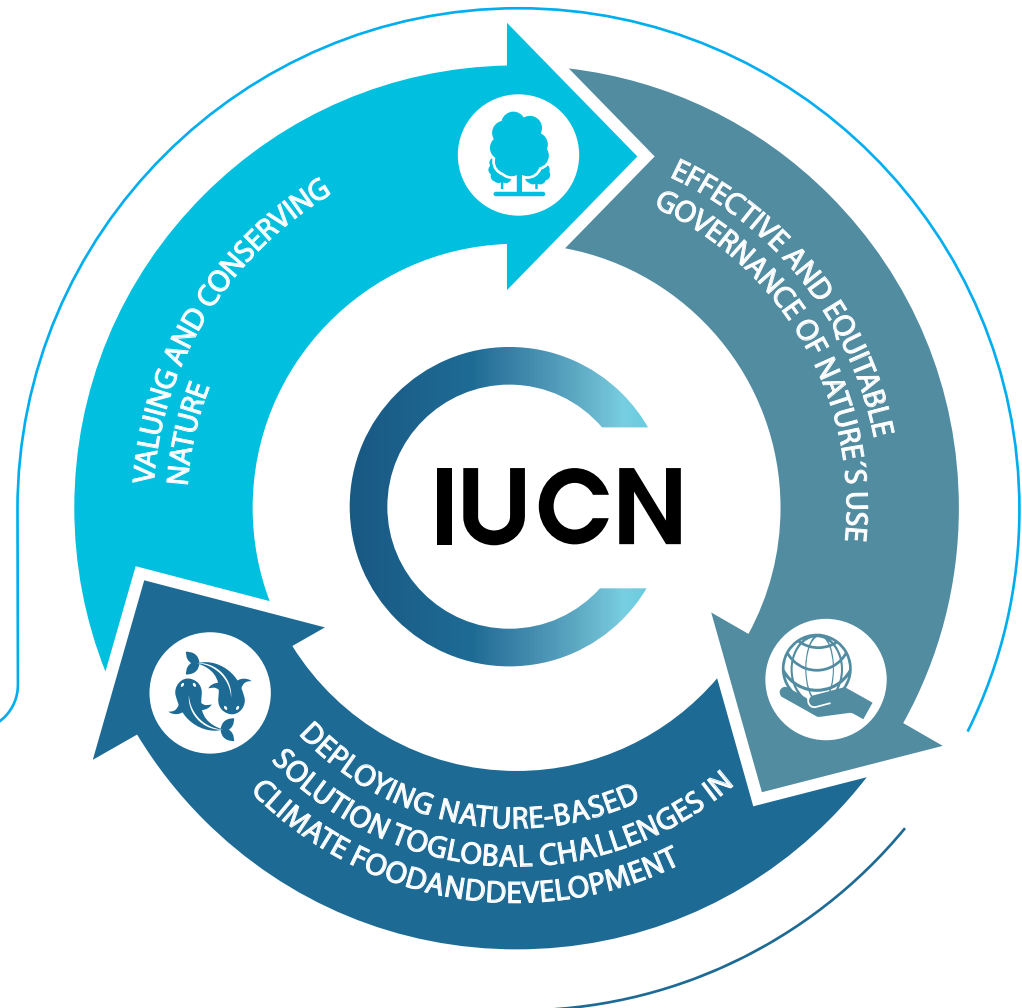
The development of the IUCN Programme 2013-2016 is based on the work implemented during the previous 2009-2012 period, on the main international processes affecting the Mediterranean such as the agreement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the present efforts to achieve, by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Built on the IUCN vision, a just world that values and conserves nature, the 2013-2016 Programme establishes what IUCN wants to achieve in the coming four years. The Programme is organised around three programme areas:

Two programme areas; **VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE** and **EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE**; represent the heartland of IUCN's work. These are essential for biodiversity conservation and for influencing the economic, social and political processes that determine biodiversity loss, ecosystem management, nature-based livelihoods, and rights and responsibilities for nature.

The third programme area, **DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN CLIMATE, FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT**, concerns the application of IUCN's knowledge to sustainable development, empowerment and poverty reduction.

The Programme focuses on nature-based solutions as IUCN's particular strength, not because nature provides the only solutions, but because this specialization allows IUCN, in partnerships with others, to address a wide range of global development challenges.



Both the IUCN Mediterranean Programme and the North Africa Programme build on these three components for the next four years.

Activities carried out by IUCN-Med in 2013 have already adopted the new programme framework.

VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE



Improving the knowledge of biological diversity and its trends

RED LISTS OF SPECIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL

As part of the second phase of the project for the assessment of [Mediterranean Biodiversity](#), IUCN-Med organised a workshop in Malaga for making the Mediterranean Red List of [Butterflies](#) with the participation of more than 30 experts from 18 countries. Similarly, a workshop took place targeting experts for the development of the Red Lists of [corals and anthozoans](#) in the Mediterranean at the headquarters of Aula del Mar (Malaga). For three days, experts on Mediterranean anthozoan species from different countries in the region were trained on how to apply the categories and criteria of the IUCN Red List for conducting species assessments at regional level and identify species threatened with extinction. During 2012 the IUCN-Med Department of Species in collaboration with the IUCN Red List Units in Cambridge and Brussels organized two additional red listing workshops, one in Granada (May) and one in Istanbul (October) to prepare the regional assessment of the conservation status of saproxylic beetles, dung [beetles](#) and [monocotyledon plants](#).

In collaboration with the IUCN Freshwater Unit (Cambridge), and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan), and with financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the MAVA Foundation, IUCN-Med participated in the organization of a workshop held from April 22 to 25 in Azraq (Jordan). The purpose of this meeting was to complete the Red List assessments of all types of freshwater species, including fish, molluscs, dragonflies and damselflies, and selected groups of [freshwater plants](#) in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel.

In 2012 the presentation of the publication on marine [mammals and turtles](#) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea also took place. This experts' report presents the status of seals, sea turtles, dolphins and whales in these two seas. It shows, for the first time, that the regional situation of cetaceans inhabiting the Mediterranean Sea has a higher degree of danger of extinction compared to its global position. The publication was released during a RAC / SPA Meeting in July 2012 in Malaga.

Also in collaboration with the IUCN Species Programme Freshwater Biodiversity Unit and with the financial support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development, IUCN-Med accomplished the first [socio-economic assessment](#) of the benefits provided by 877 [freshwater species](#) in North Africa. The result of this work, presented in published form at the World Conservation Congress, establishes a clear relationship between the survival of local populations and the conservation of these species. Among the results, it is noteworthy that almost a third (31.26%) of the species included in this study provide direct economic benefits to the people in [North Africa](#), and one in four (24.75%) of the species used are threatened with extinction in the region.

The main threats are habitat loss and degradation due to human activities, which affect more than 60% of species of freshwater fish.

Priority areas for conservation identified through this project are those with a high proportion of **threatened species with a socioeconomic value**, as are the Lower Nile and the Nile Delta, the Rif, the Middle Atlas and High Atlas ranges in Morocco and the coastal mountain ranges in Algeria and Tunisia.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

IUCN-Med also participated in organizing and conducting various workshops in Marrakech, in Jordan and in Jahorina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in order to bring together experts from various Mediterranean institutions and validate **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) for freshwater in the southern part of Europe** (Balkans), one of the hotspots of Mediterranean biodiversity. Experts completed and validated the areas and river basins proposed as Key Freshwater Biodiversity areas in this part of the Mediterranean.

This work aims to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a representative network of protected areas for freshwater species, and the resources that are essential to guide policy making in conservation and sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity in Mediterranean region. This line of work has the financial support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), MAVA Foundation, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID), the BioFresh consortium (FP7 EU project) and the Fredie (Freshwater Diversity Identification for Europe) initiative.

The objective of the **TRANSHABITAT** project is the sustainable development of border areas belonging to Natura 2000 and habitats of Common Interest between Andalucía (Spain) and Morocco. During 2013 IUCN-Med organized three meetings of the Expert Group to establish the technical basis for applying the IUCN **Ecosystem Red List** methodology to **terrestrial ecosystems in Morocco**. The work of experts will identify if an ecosystem is vulnerable, if it is endangered or critically endangered according to an internationally accepted set of criteria relating to the risk assessment of collapse. This list can lead to the adoption of specific conservation actions, including land use planning and investment priorities. IUCN-Med also contributes to the dissemination of the Transhabitat project activities through four digital newsletters.

DEVELOPMENT OF A BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION PLATFORM

IUCN-Med has started an initiative which aims to implement a system to evaluate, with the help of several territorial indicators, the **status of biodiversity** in the region and anticipate future trends in order to measure the success of biodiversity conservation policies. The initiative has several partners, including the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, of the Government of Andalucía, the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (OZHM) and the Autonomous University of Madrid, among others.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The project called “Common management of a natural cross-border space” is to strengthen cooperation for the promotion of a joint management and conservation of the [Alboran Sea](#) between Spain, Morocco and Algeria. This project is funded by the EU programme POCTEFEX (ERDF), and also has the support of the Fundación Biodiversidad in Spain for several IUCN-Med activities.

During 2013, IUCN-Med has organized several meetings that have led to the creation of Working Groups of experts on biodiversity (cetaceans and sea turtles), marine protected areas, integrated coastal zone management and global change. Two meetings with institutions from the two shores have also been organised to move forward the design and structure of an information geoportal on natural resources in the Alboran Sea.

Through the project [PEGASO](#) (People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Oceans and Coasts), IUCN-Med has worked with over 25 partner organizations and research centres to develop tools to help implement the new protocol on [Integrated Coastal Zone Management](#) in the Mediterranean Sea and the its reinforcement in the Black Sea.

On the other hand, the [MEDINA](#) Project (Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa) has been designed to enhance the capacity of North African countries to implement environmental policies, conventions and protocols and to improve the quality of their marine and coastal ecosystems. The project is led by the University Ca 'Foscari (Venice, Italy) and includes partners from Italy, France, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt. MEDINA is funded by the European Commission (FP7 collaborative project Instrument).

Among the responsibilities of IUCN-Med as partner of the Life + Posidonia Andalucía project, the 2nd edition of the Life + Festival “Seas of Posidonia” in summer 2012 in Almuñécar, Granada and the 3rd edition in June 8, 2013 in El Ejido (Almeria) have been organised.





The Festival consisted of a set of activities designed to be entertaining and playful to raise awareness among the population on the key role played by seagrass meadows for the good health of the coast, serving as habitat and breeding grounds for many commercial species, to filter water or as carbon sinks. In addition to these activities, two Open Conference events on seagrass meadows were organised in Malaga in 2012 and 2013 with the participation of more than 100 scientists, managers and government officials discussing the status of conservation, [assessment and management of marine meadows](#) in Spain and the Mediterranean coast. The 2012 Open conference also hosted the release of the publication “Mediterranean Seagrass Meadows: Resilience and Contribution to [Climate Change](#) Mitigation”.

On the other hand, the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and IUCN-Med with the support of institutions such as the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have developed a Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in Lebanon to help maintain a healthy, productive and biologically diverse marine environment in Lebanese waters. The Strategy was presented to the Lebanese Government in late November 2012.

The 2012 [Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean](#) held in Turkey from 25 to 28 November was also the occasion for IUCN-Med to organize three events related to [climate change](#) and marine protected areas (MPAs), [invasive species](#), and the [effective management of MPAs](#) through the proposal of a common tool for the evaluation of MPA management in the Mediterranean. For these events IUCN-Med has developed, along with WWF Mediterranean Programme Office and MedPAN, a brochure related to climate change entitled “A changing Mediterranean coastal marine environment under predicted climate-change scenarios. A manager’s guide to understanding and addressing climate change impacts in marine protected areas “.

IUCN-Med has also led the development of a marine alien invasive species strategy for the MedPAN network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.

To support the process of declaration of new marine protected areas, IUCN-Med has attended several meetings in Morocco to provide advice on the preparation of legal documents and management plans for [three new marine protected areas for fisheries](#) in cooperation with the Department of Marine Fisheries of Morocco. One of the proposed areas is located on the Mediterranean coast of [Morocco](#), known as Alboran, and is expected to be declared a marine protected area in 2014. This project on Marine Protected Areas for fisheries in Morocco is funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (USA independent cooperation agency) and implemented by the Agency for Partnership and Progress (Agence du Partenariat pour le Progrès-APP) in Morocco.

Within the framework of the [Nereus](#) project to contribute to the identification and then the designation and [networking of representative sites](#) at the national, sub-regional and regional levels as a support to the protection of the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med has worked for the last two years in cooperation and coordination with key national, regional and international institutions for this and other related projects. One of the results achieved is the identification of areas of importance for marine conservation in [Lebanon, Libya and the Alboran Sea](#); the preparation of technical documents on ecosystems and species such as on seagrass and their resilience to climate change to better understand their conservation needs and benefits; the preparation and adoption of strategic documents such as Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy; and participation in various related international and national meetings. Reports on legal and institutional aspects of marine conservation in several countries in the [Balkans and North Africa](#) will be finalised in 2014. Nereus was the continuation of the MedRAS project and received the support of the MAVA Foundation.

IUCN-Med also participated in the organization of national workshops on marine protected areas, such as the one held in Zagreb (Croatia) in June 2013 together with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Action Plan (RAC / SPA) and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre. Similar activities took also place in Albania (Tirana, July 2013) and Montenegro (Podgorica, July 2013).





Building synergies with other organizations, IUCN-Med was present at the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the [Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean](#) (MedPAN), on May 17, 2013 in Malaga. The role of this Committee is to advise and make recommendations on strategic plans of action and programmes for the MedPAN network.

Montenegro was also the venue from 8 to 9 October 2012 for a workshop on “How to create and manage a marine protected area: proposals, lessons learned and ideas in the Mediterranean”. The purpose of this meeting was to provide public administrators the possibility of holding a group discussion, share opinions and start thinking about how to manage the environmental, cultural and economic resources along the coastal area of Montenegro, particularly in the context of the creation of the first MPA in the country. The legal framework being of utmost importance, issues discussed also included how to structure legislation to equip managers with the operational tools necessary for a management plan.

During the third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) held in Marseille from 21 to 27 October 2013 with more than 1500 participants from 89 countries, the marine programme of IUCN-Med participated in the organization of several side events and round tables which gave the opportunity to display the latest publications of the Centre and joint activities carried out with other Mediterranean partners (MedPAN, North African governments ...)

IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENTS AND MANAGERS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The launching of the project “Development and implementation of action plans for species in Mediterranean countries: improving management capacity for the conservation of endangered species in North Africa” took place on 12 June 2012 in Algiers (Algeria). The meeting was an opportunity to introduce the activities to be carried out during the three years of implementation (2012-2015) to the different partners in the three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

Given its regional character, this project foresees the development of a transnational action plan for a common species among participating countries. To date, three [Workshops](#) to improve the [planning and management skills for species conservation in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia](#) have been organized, as well as for the development of species conservation strategies in these three countries.

These four-day intensive training workshops provide a quick approach to strategic plans for species conservation: how to select and prioritize species and the different processes to integrate strategic plans in the administrative structure of the country. The meeting held in Almeria from 14 to 15 November 2013 to develop a conservation strategy for the [Cuvier's gazelle](#) in the Maghreb, gathered more than 15 experts from the world of science, representatives of concerned authorities and civil society from Morocco and Tunisia together with the scientific and technical officer for the CMS (Conservation of Migratory Species or Bonn Convention) in the definition of a roadmap for the development of a regional conservation strategy for the Cuvier's gazelle. In the coming months, a draft strategy will be proposed by the experts for approval by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and be subject to consultation and validation by key stakeholders from the countries involved.





The final version of the Gazelle regional strategy will be released in late 2014. Data collection for the [Barbary sheep](#), a species endemic to the Maghreb in danger of extinction according to the IUCN Red List, and the [Barbary Ape](#) has also started.

During 2013, intense efforts have also been invested in development and fundraising for a [Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa](#) (PPI-OSCAN, acronym in French), which have secured to date the funding approval from the MAVA Foundation and the French Fund for the Global Environment. The development and final approval by CEPF of a project to promote the value of [Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa](#) by strengthening the role of NGOs in their management and conservation have also been achieved. Both initiatives will be developed in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE



Contributing to the improvement of governance tools in the Mediterranean region

In the framework of legislation and international protocols in the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med has strengthened its presence and tightened links at regional level particularly with:

At Mediterranean level

THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

IUCN-Med attended the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 17) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols. The conference took place in Paris from 8 to 10 February 2012 and the Action Plan for [Integrated Coastal Zone Management \(ICZM\) in the Mediterranean \(2012-2019\)](#) was approved. The Action Plan identifies key priorities, expected results and achievements, deadlines for accomplishment, partnerships and potential financial resources necessary for a successful implementation.

Another important conclusion during the COP17 was the Decision IG.20/13 on "Governance" which requests the Convention's Secretariat to work for a formal collaboration with four organizations relevant to the Barcelona Convention: the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN, and the Union for the Mediterranean. This decision involves the recognition of IUCN as a priority institution with the capacity to work closely with the Barcelona Convention to achieve agreed conservation objectives in the Mediterranean.

Collaboration with the Barcelona Convention was formalised on December 5, 2013 with the public signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, on the occasion of the participation of IUCN at the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) held in Istanbul, Turkey. The [cooperation programme signed between the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention / Mediterranean Action Plan and IUCN](#) pursues a more efficient management of aspects related to the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources in the Mediterranean region, in particular with regard to:

1. [Ecosystem based approach: species and ecosystems conservation processes, assessments and monitoring.](#)
2. [Marine protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean importance \(MPAs and SPAMIs\).](#)
3. [Ecosystems goods and services: assessments, studies, pilot programmes and promotion activities to better understand and enhance the valuation of Mediterranean ecosystems.](#)
4. [Governance: enhancing legal and institutional cooperation in the Mediterranean.](#)

Amongst joint activities implemented was the collaborative organization of the Third Meeting of the Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity Conservation in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) of the Barcelona Convention, held in Malaga from 4 to 6 July 2012, with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA), and the support of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment.

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The participation of IUCN-Med for the first time in the [Meeting of Senior Officials](#) of the Union for the Mediterranean held from 10 to 11 June 2013 in Malaga, provided an opportunity to introduce the IUCN Mediterranean Programme and the main activities of the Centre during the past 12 years since its creation, and opened new avenues of cooperation with this institution.

In this regard, IUCN-Med is contributing to develop a joint initiative with the UfM and four other Mediterranean organizations (MIO-ECSDE, WWF Mediterranean Water Institute and RAED) which aims to strengthen the capacities of civil society in Northern Africa in the field of [water resources](#) and the environment.

IUCN-Med also had the opportunity to present the 2013-2017 Strategic Action Plan of MedPan (Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean) at the Parliament of the Union for the Mediterranean. IUCN-Med is also a partner in this initiative led by MedPAN.

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)

The participation of IUCN-Med in the 15th Meeting of the MCSD held in Malta in June 2013 is a sign of being accepted for the first time as a Member of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

At Subregional level

For the implementation of the [Aichi Biodiversity targets in North Africa](#), IUCN-Med participated in a subregional workshop organised for North Africa and Western Asia in Dubai (UAE) from 16 to 20 April 2012, to create the capacities for the implementation of the CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work. During the event, IUCN (both the Mediterranean office and the Western Asia office) in coordination with the CBD Secretariat led a session to assess the training needs and experience to support the work on protected areas, where 18 representatives from different countries took part. The event provided also the opportunity to introduce the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas together with initiatives related to capacity building and achievements in Mediterranean protected areas.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

Related to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between AfDB and IUCN-Med, two working meetings have been held in 2012 to define an action programme for the conservation and the sustainable use of coastal areas in North Africa.

UNION FOR THE MAGHREB ARAB (UMA)

The Union for the Maghreb Arab (UMA) and IUCN-Med agreed during their meeting in May 2012 to sign a cooperation agreement destined to support joint efforts for biodiversity conservation in North Africa. The agreement was executed in March 2013, with three priority areas identified to start cooperating: valuing oasis ecosystems, the conservation of marine biodiversity and the adaptation to climate change in UMA countries. In this context, officials from UMA and IUCN-Med have organised additional meetings to develop joint initiatives.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in collaboration with the Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme of [UNESCO](#), and supported by the Spanish National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN), organized the first regional workshop on "[Governance of Biosphere Reserves in North Africa. Situation and Prospects](#)". This workshop, held from 5 to 8 March 2012 in the Moroccan city of Tangier, was a good opportunity to discuss the conservation status of biosphere reserves in different countries of the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and to review challenges and opportunities related to the UNESCO MAB programme.

The second workshop, in line with previous activities with OAPN, was held in Malaga with the participation of more than 20 experts who agreed the foundations for a programme to reinforce capacities for the [management and governance](#) of Biosphere Reserves in North Africa. Furthermore, the experts identified pilot projects to develop in the region.



At National level

ALGERIA

Participation in the III Mediterranean Forest Week held in Algeria in March, for the presentation of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean forests and IUCN-Med's contribution to the process. Several missions to Algeria for the planning of an upcoming [Nature Conservation Congress in North Africa](#) have also taken place.

EGYPT

A mission in Egypt was prepared with high-level meetings to boost cooperation with IUCN Members in Egypt, discuss topics of interest and identify new partners from government, NGOs and international organizations based in Egypt. The visit of IUCN-Med staff was organized in collaboration with the Arab Office for Youth and Environment in Egypt. A meeting with representatives of the [League of Arab States](#) took place for the first time, allowing both organizations to submit an overview of their activities and discuss issues of common interest in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

IUCN-Med also met with representatives of the United Nations Programme for Development in Egypt, together with the Executive Director of the [Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Countries and Europe](#) (CEDARE). The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2014 with CEDARE aims to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions.

ITALY

Partnerships with Italy have been reinforced through various coordination meetings with the IUCN Italian National Committee to advise on IUCN-Med projects and prepare a cooperation agreement with Italy on areas of common interest for the Mediterranean, and to develop an initiative for a Green List of Protected Areas in coordination with the IUCN Global Programme on [Protected Areas](#) and the World Commission on Protected Areas. The Agreement was formalized with the signature of a [Memorandum](#) in March 2014.



MOROCCO

In May 2013 IUCN-Med signed an agreement with the High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD) of Morocco to support the national Government in the implementation of [international conventions](#), in particular those related to the Aichi Biodiversity targets and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and the Convention on the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. The [Memorandum](#) has a duration of 4 years and both organizations will work together to develop the agreement with concrete proposals in the coming months.

Moreover, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation participated in a workshop organized by the Government of Morocco on June 6, 2013 in Rabat to select the species affected by the new law on the [protection of species of wild flora and fauna](#) and regulating illegal trade.

TUNISIA

During participation in the International Conference for the Protection of the oasis held in Zarzis-Djerba, IUCN-Med contributed to the drafting of the [Manifesto for the protection of the oasis and lifestyles of the oasis](#) that was presented at the World Social Forum 2013 held in late March in Tunisia.

DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



CLIMATE CHANGE

The three year SEARCH project ([Social, Ecological and Agricultural Resilience in the face of climate change](#)) in the Mediterranean Region brings together 13 institutions working on adaptation strategies to climate change to increase the resilience of local communities. IUCN-Med is responsible for implementing a management plan in the basin of Oued el Kebir (Morocco) in collaboration with the University Abdelmalek Essaadi / Tetouan and the Association for the Talassemiane Environment and Development (ATED in French). IUCN-Med presented the first results of the SEARCH project in Morocco at a meeting organized by the Observatory for the Environment in Tangier in November 2013.

In February 2012 IUCN organized a meeting in Mauritania in collaboration with experts from the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management to develop a strategy for oasis ecosystems in the Maghreb countries and including Mauritania. This meeting also allowed the creation of a group of oasis experts within the Commission on Ecosystem Management, which led to the preparation of a recommendation finally adopted at the last World Conservation Congress in Jeju, namely: WCC-2012-Rec-160: [Preservation of oasis ecosystems](#). These activities are part of the project "Improving governance to support better livelihood security and ecosystem management in the drylands of Africa" supported by AECID.

As a result of the work by experts through various workshops promoted and organized by IUCN-Med in 2011 under the project "Sustainable Livelihoods in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean" with AECID's support, IUCN-Med published a Manual for the [Conservation of coastal dunes](#) which contains relevant information on how dunes operate and a set of guidelines for their ecological restoration. Dunes help reduce coastal erosion and maintain some coastal ecosystems that are declining.

The [ecological restoration of steppes and grassland in semi-arid regions](#) is a powerful tool to combat desertification and the effects of climate change. IUCN-Med organized a workshop in 2012 with the Joint UA-CEAM Unit, composed of members of the Department of Ecology at the University of Alicante and the Centre for Environmental Studies in the Mediterranean (CEAM). The meeting was part of a project managed by IUCN-Med and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID). Workshop attendees covered areas related to forest management and public administration in countries of North Africa. Restoration techniques, projects to combat desertification and ecosystem services were some of the ecological restoration aspects discussed during the workshop.

As part of the collaboration with MedPAN, IUCN-Med has published a guide for managers of marine protected areas of the Mediterranean network with practical guidance on how to address the issue of [climate change in marine protected areas in the Mediterranean](#) and a strategic vision at network level. The publication “Marine protected areas and climate change in the Mediterranean. Guide to regional monitoring and adaptation opportunities” developed in collaboration with the RAC / SPA identifies and provides a series of indicators to assess the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity in protected areas and guidelines for a future strategy to adapt to climate change in the Mediterranean MPAs network.

A strategy for invasive alien marine species for the MedPAN network has also been prepared as well as a guide in three languages for the identification of marine invasive species in the Mediterranean. The public launch of a new smartphone Application called MedMIS to help managers of marine protected areas identify and record the presence of [invasive marine species in the Mediterranean marine protected areas](#) will complete this work in 2014 for the control and monitoring of these species capable of invading new habitats due to climate change.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The project to integrate biodiversity and energy efficiency aspects in the tourism sector in North Africa coordinated by IUCN-Med and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) has mobilized local social partners in support of [ecotourism in Tunisia and Morocco](#), through the creation of an ecotourism plan for two pilot [protected areas](#) in [North Africa](#): the Talassemrane National Park in Morocco and Jebel Zaghouan National Park in Tunisia.

To this end, several missions to Tunisia and Morocco served to gather the necessary information to complete the diagnosis of these national parks as protected areas selected for the project, and the creation of a working group with local social actors interested in working together to design an eco-tourism strategy for the parks. The missions provided also the opportunity to celebrate the 2nd meeting of the Project’s National Steering Committees, composed of representatives of the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Tourism and national NGOs. Main results achieved can be grouped into two different categories:

On one hand, the knowledge of the potential and opportunities for ecotourism management in these sites was enriched through the assessment of the two project areas and the definition of a strategic plan, i.e., a 5 year action plan including the necessary actions and the definition of the main actors responsible for their implementation.

On the other hand, the participation of civil society in local decision making and interdepartmental cooperation at the national level were strengthened with the creation of a working group to define the [ecotourism strategy](#) with the participation of all stakeholders, setting in place a steering committee in each country for monitoring and coordinating activities, and establishing a permanent local forum for dialogue and implementation of ecotourism actions in the area.

The ENPI MEET project on [Mediterranean Ecotourism Experience](#) seeks to improve the sustainability of tourism and rationalise its distribution in the Mediterranean region. As part of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme of the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI CBCMED) under the strategic line for Promoting sustainable tourism for socio-economic development and territorial improvement, the project was officially launched on March 11, 2013 during a press conference in Rome. The role of IUCN-Med focuses on the coordination of a [network to enhance cooperation and support for protected areas in the use and promotion of ecotourism](#) as a tool for conservation and sustainable development. IUCN-Med is also responsible for the pilot projects to be developed in Tunisia together with MedPAN. Therefore, the first meetings with the Ministry for the Environment Protection Agency and Coastal Management and the General Directorate of Forests in Tunisia took place in September 2013.

The MEET project, which started in 2013 and will be completed in 2015, covers 10 countries in the Mediterranean; Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta and Tunisia, under the leadership of Italy.



Here you will find a table showing the linkages between IUCN-Med activities and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

AICHI

VALUING AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY



Improving knowledge on biodiversity through the development of regional Red List processes.

Marine Protected Areas

Ecosystem management for human wellbeing: Red List of Ecosystems

AICHI TARGETS



TARGET 5

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

TARGET 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.



TARGET 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

TARGET 19

By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.



EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE



Contribution to the improvement of governance processes in the Mediterranean region

Other governance tools

Cooperation with Mediterranean countries

DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



Climate change

Social and economic development: Ecotourism

AICHI TARGETS



TARGET 7

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. genetic diversity.

TARGET 17

By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.



OBJETIVOS AICHI



TARGET 4

By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

TARGET 13

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.



Aichi Icons: Copyright BIP/SCBD





INFORMING THE MARE NOSTRUM

SPREADING THE MESSAGE



Spreading the message

Training and communication

In collaboration with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection (FM6E) of Morocco, IUCN-Med launched in 2012 a distance learning platform for reinforcing the capacity of young [media professionals in North Africa](#) (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) concerning biodiversity conservation. The first remote learning course through this e-learning platform for young journalists in North Africa rolled out during the early months of 2012, addressing three [training](#) modules based on existing and adapted materials by UNESCO and IUCN, and focusing each on [climate change, renewable energy and forests](#). From 29 to 30 June that year a workshop attended by fifteen young journalists from North Africa brought them together with the IUCN-Med Secretariat to share lessons learnt. The activities were carried out under the project for Capacity Building of Young Communication Professionals in North Africa in the field of sustainable development, funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).

With co-funding from COM + (World Bank), three journalists had the opportunity to complete their training as press delegates in the World Conservation Congress held in Jeju in September 2012 (one journalist per participating country).

Raising awareness

IUCN-Med backed the celebration of World Environment Day June 5, 2012 and 2013 with a programme of activities to raise awareness among young people about the need to [protect our environment](#), an initiative developed jointly with the city of Malaga and the UNESCO Chair in Communication from the University of Málaga. Among the activities planned for that day, students from various schools could take part in more than 15 different workshops (bikes, games, solar cooking, theatre, recycling, graffiti ...).

Moreover, school students walked down town streets delivering an Environment Supplement newspaper they had written themselves, to help raise public awareness on the need to care for and respect the environment around us, the services and benefits offered by nature and the urgency to act to prevent the depletion of natural resources, thus improving our quality of life. The Prize award ceremony for the winners of the recycled material Sculpture Contest, organized in collaboration with LIMASA, counted with more than 900 participating students from eight primary schools in Malaga.

Dissemination and events

In addition to the distribution of major works published by the Centre amongst Members and partners and at conferences and forums related to the conservation of the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med organized in 2013 a public presentation of nine of their [publications](#) together with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) in Madrid.

IUCN publications report on the main activities developed by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in the field of environmental cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The reports are the result of work programmes that are contributing to a better understanding of the biological diversity of ecosystems and species through regional Red Lists, as support for the process of creating marine protected areas and improving the use of natural resources and the Mediterranean seabed in coordination with various international agencies and regional conventions.



The involvement of the staff of the [IUCN Secretariat](#) in relevant events has also helped let the Centre and its work be better known, always in collaboration with leading institutions in the Mediterranean area and the partners and collaborators who actively contribute to the achievement of common objectives in the field of conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region.

MEDEVENTUN

IUCN-Med brought together for a week in Tunisia several meetings related to three projects of different nature. MedEventun has helped consolidate the existing collaboration with IUCN Members in Tunisia and identify new initiatives and partnerships to work with in the future, particularly in the context of the implementation of the new [IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016](#). Working sessions gathered about 120 people from five countries of North Africa and the Mediterranean.

- A first meeting devoted to the General Assembly of Partners at the MEDINA (Marine ecosystem dynamics and indicators for North Africa) project from 19 to 22 November 2012.
- A second meeting focusing on the return of the results of the project "Ecotourism and Protected Areas in North Africa", funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).
- A third meeting of experts on Mediterranean biodiversity and livelihoods where the results of evaluating the socio-economic values of freshwater species in North Africa were presented.



Press and web contents

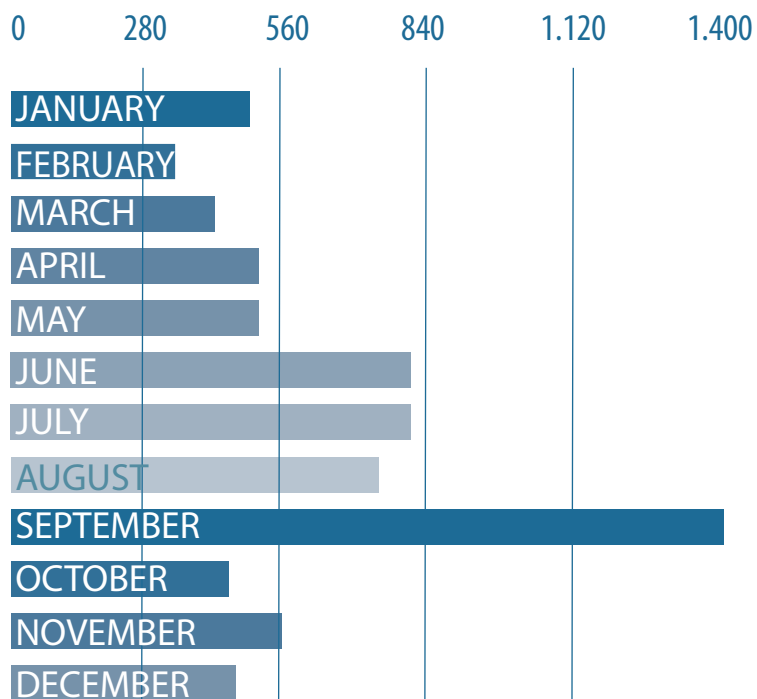


The press monitoring report provided by Augure on IUCN's presence in digital media records 6873 articles published on IUCN in 2012, mainly in the Spanish press, while in 2013 IUCN mentions increased to 10304.

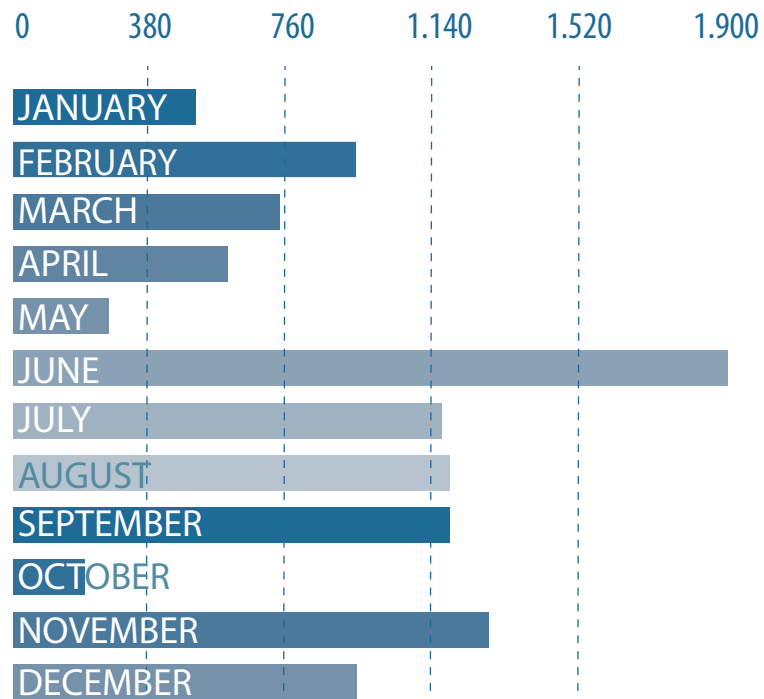
IUCN-Med has also started a new communication channel via Twitter and Facebook, and although time dedicated to social media is small, new followers continue to be attracted.



YEAR STATISTICS 2012 -Nº NEWS/MONTH



YEAR STATISTICS 2013 -Nº NEWS/MONTH



Source: Augure Report 2012-2013





PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS 2012-2013

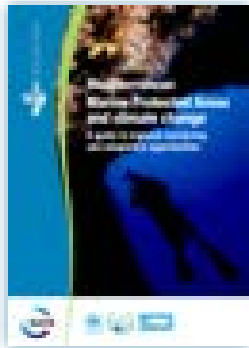




MONITORING INVASIVE SPECIES IN MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAS) (2013)

The IUCN publication in three languages offers an overview of the current situation in the Mediterranean concerning the status of the so-called “black list of marine invasive species”, making available a strategy and the tools to design monitoring programmes in marine protected areas. Under the framework of the European Regional Development Fund Med Programme, the MedPAN North project developed this publication with the financial assistance of the MAVA Foundation and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).

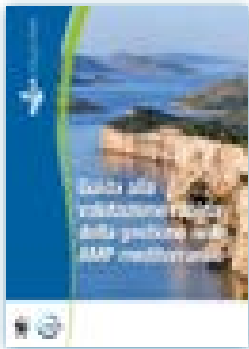
Available in English, French and Spanish.



MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (2013)

This IUCN guide analyses the threats and effects of climate change on Mediterranean marine biodiversity and provides MPA managers with tools to monitor and mitigate changes in their own MPA. This guide to regional monitoring and adaptation opportunities was prepared by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), within the MedPAN North project funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the RAC/SPA biannual programme funded by the Mediterranean Trust Fund of the Barcelona Convention.

Available in English and French.



GUIDE FOR QUICK EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (2013)

According to a recent survey conducted by the MedPAN Association over 80 Mediterranean marine protected areas (MPA) more than half of them did not yet have a management plan for the sites and 75% of the Natura 2000 sites (in EU countries) still did not have a management body. In order to reinforce the effectiveness of Mediterranean marine protected areas and to achieve a more unified approach, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and WWF-Italy have worked in close collaboration with MPA managers to create an inclusive yet synthetic tool to assess the management of Marine Protected Areas.

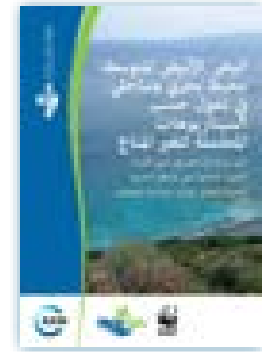
Available in English, French and Italian.





A CHANGING MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER PREDICTED CLIMATE-CHANGE SCENARIOS (2012)

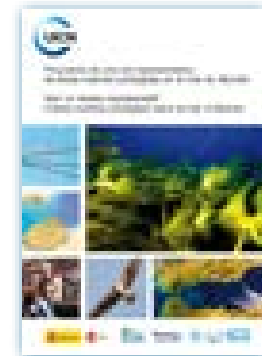
A manager's guide to understanding and addressing climate change impacts in marine protected areas.
Available in English, French and Arabic.



PROPOSAL FOR A REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE ALBORAN SEA (2012)

A study coordinated by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has identified a network of 30 priority areas to preserve the richness of the Alboran Sea region, characterized by a high biodiversity rate with the presence of species of Atlantic, Mediterranean and North African origin and by large migratory species and unique communities associated with particular ecosystems in the Alboran region. This network would cover around 8% of the area. Some lesser-known ecosystems and communities could also be part of this network in the future. Part of the selected priority sites have already been identified previously by affected countries and organizations working in the area (eg SIBE zones in Morocco or proposals by WWF-Spain, Oceana and RAC / SPA).

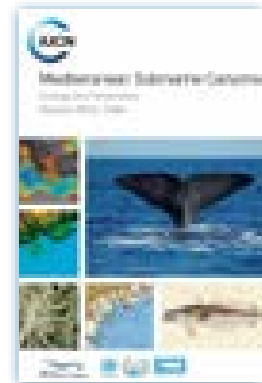
Available in Spanish and French.

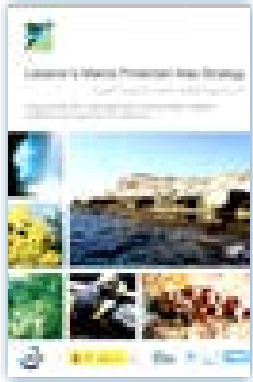


MEDITERRANEAN SUBMARINE CANYONS (2012)

Submarine canyons are less known than their terrestrial counterparts due to the difficulty to reach them. Recent technological advances have allowed us to improve our knowledge of them, eventually demonstrating their ecological importance. Scientists, lawyers and officers from different countries have participated in the preparation of various case studies related to habitats, wildlife, threats and governance of submarine canyons. About 518 large submarine canyons have been identified in the Mediterranean that are considered as "superhighways" connecting the coast directly to the deep sea. This study was coordinated by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and funded by the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France, the MAVA Foundation and the Total Foundation.

Available in English.

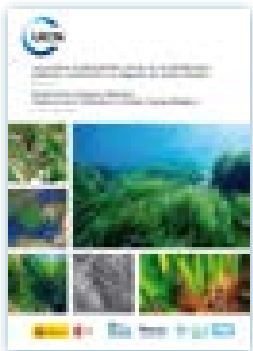




LEBANO'S MARINE PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY: SUPPORTING THE MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT MARINE HABITATS AND SPECIES IN LEBANON (2012)

Lebanon's Ministry of Environment and IUCN with the support of partners such as the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and UN Development Programme have brought forward a Marine Protected Areas Strategy aimed at achieving a healthy, productive, and biologically diverse marine environment in Lebanese waters.

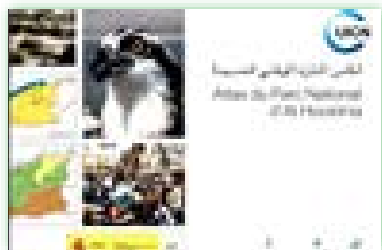
Available in English.



MEDITERRANEAN SEAGRASS MEADOWS: RESILIENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION (2012)

Although at global level seagrass meadows do not have a significant role in the annual sequestration of CO₂, the report stresses however that they are large carbon deposits accumulated over thousands of years, significantly important from the point of view of global warming. In the case of *Posidonia Oceanica*, they are estimated to hold up to 89% of the total CO₂ emitted by all Mediterranean countries since the Industrial Revolution. The report has received financial support from AECID, MAVA Foundation, Total Foundation, and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA) of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Available in French. Summary versions available in English and Spanish.



ATLAS OF AL HOCEIMA NATIONAL PARK (2012)

This book has been produced with the financial support of the Spanish National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN). It was prepared in the framework of the project to support the management of the Al Hoceima National Park under the authority of the High Commission for Water, Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLD) in Morocco.

Available in French and Arabic.





MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS (2012)

The number of species of seals, sea turtles, porpoises, dolphins and whales analysed in this report, which had been previously classified according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species globally, shows for the first time that the regional situation of cetaceans inhabiting the Mediterranean Sea has a greater risk of extinction compared to their overall condition. Also, this report has evaluated the only seal - *Monachus monachus* - and the two sea turtles - *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* - found in the region. Of the 87 species of cetaceans existing worldwide (whales, dolphins and porpoises), 21 species and 3 subspecies have been sighted in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea. Eight of these are common in the Mediterranean populations while three subspecies are endemic to the Black Sea and 12 are visitors and appear occasionally in the Mediterranean. This publication was supported by the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Turkish Marine Research Foundation, ACCOBAMS, the MAVA Foundation, AECID and the Total Foundation.

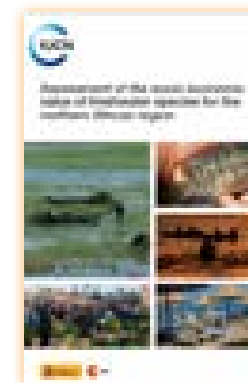
Available in English, French and Spanish.



ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUE OF FRESHWATER SPECIES FOR THE NORTHERN AFRICAN REGION (2012)

This study collects and integrates for the first time information on the socio-economic value of freshwater species and threats in North Africa. The aim has been to link data from the IUCN Red List on the risk of extinction of 877 species in North Africa with information on the socio-economic value they possess. For this, a total of 646 species -128 native fish and 518 wetland plants - were selected and the levels of dependence on services derived from freshwater ecosystems were evaluated. The study, coordinated by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and supervised by the IUCN Species Programme, clearly demonstrate the high socio-economic value of these species, with 46% of fish and 27% of the plants being used some way by people. Unfortunately, freshwater species that are wetland ecosystems are rapidly being lost due to human activity, with 25% of all species used being in danger of extinction. The financial support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) allowed IUCN to carry out this study.

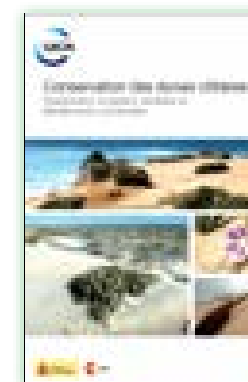
Available in English, French and Spanish.

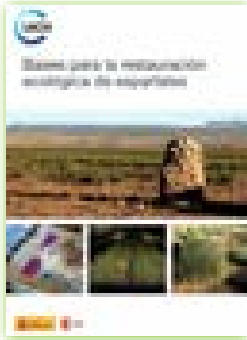


CONSERVATION OF COASTAL DUNES (2012)

This guideline is an example of the exchange of experiences and knowledge on various key aspects of dune ecosystems to prevent coastal erosion and wants to contribute to a better land use planning and increased awareness of its importance and fragility. This work is the result of collaboration between the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and IUCN-Med to implement actions that promote a sustainable development and the efficient use of natural resources in the region, particularly in North Africa, and has been produced with the support of experts from both shores of the Mediterranean.

Available in French.

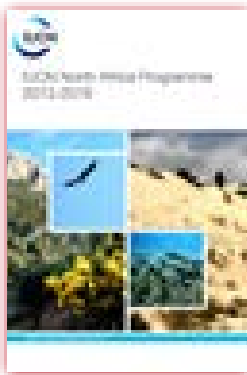




BASIC MANUAL FOR ESPARTO STEPPES RESTORATION (2012)

Halfah or esparto steppes are one of the most representative ecosystems in semi-arid areas of the Mediterranean basin. These ecosystems have been used for thousands of years for the collection and use of the esparto's valuable fibre and also for grazing, among many other uses. Its preservation and restoration can help curb soil erosion and combat desertification, fostering rural development, economic resources and generating local employment. This halfah restoration manual was developed in collaboration with the University of Alicante and the Centre for Environmental Studies of the Mediterranean.

Available in Spanish, French and Arabic.

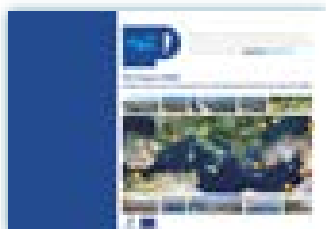


IUCN NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME 2013-2016

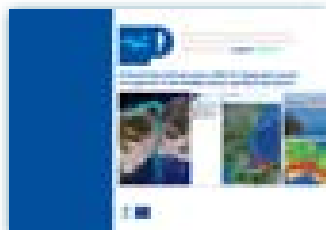
Proposals for the IUCN Programme in North Africa 2013-2016 were consulted and discussed during the IUCN North Africa Members Forum in Rabat in 2012. IUCN Members in North Africa approved the programme in the last World Conservation Congress held in Jeju, in conjunction with the IUCN Mediterranean Programme for 2013-2016.

Available in English, French and Arabic.





Building capacity and sharing experiences for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
PEGASO CASES (Collaborative Application SitES) (2013)
Available in French and English.



A Shared Data Infrastructure (SDI) for integrated coastal management.
PEGASO (2013)
Available in French and English.



Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean: from vision to action.
PEGASO (2012)
Available in French and English.



The visitors of Talasemtane National Park (2012)
Available in French and Arabic.



The visitors of Jebel Zaghouan National Park.(2012)
Available in French and Arabic.

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation also edits and disseminates digital newsletters to illustrate its general activities and the dynamics of the projects with which it collaborates actively.



IUCN Mediterranean Flashnews



Pegaso News

pegasoproject.eu



Transhabitat electronic bulletin



Medina

All publications and brochures produced by IUCN-Med can be freely downloaded from our website, from the Resources section or through the Publications Catalogue search index.

If you would like to be kept informed on our activities, please subscribe to Mediterranean Flashnews through the website.

www.iucnmed.org
www.iucn.org/mediterranean





FUNDING ALLOCATION
Projects



FUNDING ALLOCATION

In the past two years IUCN-Med has managed around 30 projects with a budget of € 4,148,083.

The operating budget for 2013 was € 1,667,474. Of this, 41% of the funding came from the MAVA Foundation, 40% from the European Union and 11% from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The rest is distributed between the regional Ministry of Environment and Land Planning of the Junta de Andalucía, RAC / SPA, the Fundación Biodiversidad, CEPF and other donors.

The number of funds managed in 2012 totalled € 2,480,609.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES

Finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding.

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

Finance part of IUCN-Med's yearly activity plan, Chapter 7.

MAIN DONORS

Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio, Junta de Andalucía (CMAOT)

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

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

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES PROGRAMME

PROJECT

Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment (Phase I and II)

Structure and development of Species Action Plans

Assessment of the socioeconomic value of species

OBJECTIVES

To assess the state of conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity (plants and some invertebrate groups) and Identification of Key Freshwater Biodiversity Areas.

Capacity building for making Species Conservation Strategies in three Maghreb countries.

Assessment of the socio-economic value of freshwater fish and plants in North Africa and dissemination of information among managers and decision makers.

MAIN DONORS

MAVA Foundation, CEPF, Junta de Andalucía, OAPN, MAGRAMA, AECID

MAVA Foundation, OAPN, FB

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)

NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

PROJECT

Support to conservation in North Africa

Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa

IUCN-Med Congress on Nature Conservation in North Africa, preparatory steps

Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN)

OBJECTIVES

Institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme.

Promote the value of Key Biodiversity Areas in North Africa by strengthening the role of NGOs in their management and conservation.

Organization of a Nature Conservation Forum and IUCN Members meeting in 2014/2015.

Strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations through the implementation of site projects on biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources.

MAIN DONORS

MAVA Foundation

CEPF
(Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund)

MAVA Foundation

MAVA Foundation
French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)

PROJECT

Sustainable livelihoods in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean

OBJETIVES

P1: Planning of uses and management practices of natural resources in semi-arid areas of North Africa, creating benefits to sustainable development and local communities' livelihoods.

P2: Analysis of the impacts, conservation and ecological restoration methods of coastal sand dunes systems in Algeria.

P3: Integration of biodiversity and energy efficiency aspects in the tourist sector in North Africa, with contribution to sustainable development of local communities.

P4: Young professionals' empowerment for the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

MAIN DONORS

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)

Support sustainable livelihoods through the development of governance systems and sustainable management of agroforestry resources in priority areas in North Africa

Improve the governance systems to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and demonstrate the role of traditional practices in reducing vulnerability and increasing the security of rural populations in North Africa.

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)

MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

MEDITERRANEAN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME

PROJECT

Improving the governance in the Maghreb region by the reinforcement of the capacities of biosphere reserve stakeholders and managers

SEARCH

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

MEET

Mediterranean Experience on Ecotourism

TRANSHABITAT

Sustainable development of transboundary areas belonging to Natura 2000 and Habitats of Common Interest between Andalucía and Morocco

OBJETIVES

Prepare a roadmap for the management of Biosphere Reserves in Maghreb countries and validate it in joint workshop with managers and stakeholders.

A three year regional project working in five countries to develop and pilot a resilience framework for local action planning capacities, and methodologies to increase climate change resilience through joint learning, planning and testing by stakeholders through demonstration sites.

Improve the sustainability and the rationalization in distribution of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region. In the framework of cross-border cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI Med), under the strategic line "Promoting sustainable tourism for the socio-economic development and enhancement of territories", this strategic project involves 10 countries: Italy, France, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Greece and Tunisia.

Action 1.1. Method of continuous transfer of knowledge and experience to Moroccan partners (joint work sessions and videoconferencing).

Action 1.2. Programme to foster Spanish-Moroccan synergies in relation to species and habitats (phytosociological identification of habitats in SIBEs and National Parks in Morocco with interest across borders and identification of priorities for management / environmental conservation in these transboundary habitats).

Action 1.3. Cooperative Environmental Management Programme (boosting connectivity and conservation of habitats and species of transnational interest through a representativeness study and a Red List).

MAIN DONORS

UNESCO
MaB Programme

European Union
(EUROPEAID)

European Union
(ENPI)

European Union
(POCTEFEX)

MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

PROJECT

Marine Protected Areas for Fisheries in Morocco

PEGASO

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

MEDINA

Marine dynamics and ecosystem indicators for North Africa

Life+ Posidonia

ALBORAN

Common management of a natural cross-border space

NEREUS

Identification of areas, features, species, ecosystems and threats in the Mediterranean for the construction of a representative network of Marine Managed Areas for Conservation

OBJETIVES

Develop a strategy for the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for fisheries in Morocco and the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in pilot sites.

Identify the necessary tools and strengthen capacities to implement the principles of the ICZM protocol (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in order to help countries put the Protocol into practice.

Improve the capacity of North African countries to implement environmental policies, agreements and protocols to maintain / improve the quality of their marine and coastal ecosystems.

Conservation of Posidonia oceanica meadows along the Andalusian coast.

Action 1.1. Establishment of an Alboran Observatory for Conservation and Sustainable Development.

Action 1.2. Alboran artisanal fishing network.

Action 1.3. Cooperative working group on "shared management of marine protected areas and biodiversity."

Action 3.1. Advance on Cape Three Forcas pilot appraisal, following the Marine Strategy.

Action 3.3. Cooperative proposal for the creation of a Centre, for Marine Environmental Management on the south shore.

Collect, produce, synthesize, and communicate information on the marine environment (species, features, resources, and threats) to identify priority areas for conservation in the Mediterranean Sea.

MAIN DONORS

Millenium Challenge Corporation

EUROPEAN UNION (FP7)

EUROPEAN UNION (FP7)

EuropeanUnion (Life+)
MAGRAMA
Fundación Biodiversidad (FB)

EUROPEAN UNION (POCTEFEX) FB

MAVA Foundation

MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROGRAMME

PROJECT

OBJETIVES

MAIN DONORS

PROMETEOS

Provide the best information available on mountains and sea canyons and research some case studies.

MAVA Foundation

Support the development of Al Hoceima National Park in Morocco

Understanding the challenges facing management in Morocco and Al Hoceima National Park, in particular, assessment of their marine resources. Study of socio-economic conditions and ecosystem goods and services from these offshore sites, in collaboration with local communities; design of governance systems that optimize ecological and social values.

Spanish National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN)

Legislation in the Adriatic

Analyse the legal and institutional framework for the creation of Marine Protected Areas in Adriatic countries.

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (PNUMA PAM – RAC / SPA)

Inventory of seagrass angiosperms in Spain

Edition and production of the collective work for a "Spanish Atlas of marine meadows".

Fundación Biodiversidad

MedPAN North

Improve the management effectiveness of MPAs, including marine Natura 2000 sites.

European Union (Med)
RAC / SPA
MAVA Foundation

MEDRAS

Identification of Priority Representative Areas and Species in the Mediterranean Sea to Conserve.

MAVA Foundation
TOTAL Foundation
AECID



PROGRAMME FORECAST 2014



MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS

The year 2014 is marked internationally by the celebration of [the World Parks Congress](#) from 12 to 19 November. Experts, managers, governments and NGOs will meet in Sydney (Australia) to discuss the current status and challenges of protected areas in the world. With the motto “Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions” innovative approaches to conservation and development will be discussed and examined at the Congress, setting the agenda for the next 10 years to come.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has already begun working with the French, Italian and Spanish governments to present at the World Parks Congress in Sydney a regional initiative with the IUCN [Green List of Protected Areas](#). The Green List is intended to highlight global successes in protected areas in relation to progress towards a fair, effective and innovative management; acknowledging the efforts made primarily in management. Among the advantages of belonging to the IUCN Green List is a better international recognition for the protected area, more political support, interest in quality tourism and a boosted motivation among protected area managers and other staff.

In relation to ecotourism in protected areas, IUCN-Med will keep moving forward within the MEET project to expand the network of [Mediterranean Experience en Ecotourism](#) with the totalling of 20 protected areas to participate as pilot projects. In parallel, various training activities for protected area managers and participatory processes, and the creation and promotion of ecotourism products are being coordinated.

Another line of work to offer first results in 2014 will be the Red List of Ecosystems. Within the project [POCTEFEX-TRANSHABITAT](#), it is expected that the [Red List of Ecosystems in Morocco](#) will be finalized. The work of experts will help identify if an ecosystem is vulnerable, endangered or even critically endangered, based on a set of internationally accepted criteria regarding the assessment of the risk of collapse. In the same area, IUCN-Med staff will also participate in the development of the Red List of Ecosystems in Europe which is coordinated by the IUCN office in Brussels.



BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES

The Mediterranean programme will continue the various open lines of work, such as the development of [Red Lists of Threatened Species for anthozoans, seagrasses, saproxylic and dung beetles, and monocotyledon plants](#) in the Mediterranean; and the preparation of an Atlas of seagrasses in Spain in collaboration with the various Spanish regional governments. The project on [Key freshwater biodiversity areas](#) in the Mediterranean is expected to be completed in 2014. The results will set the ground for the creation of a network of representative protected areas for freshwater species, providing at the same time information on key sites for freshwater biodiversity for public managers responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity in the Mediterranean basin. Support will equally continue for the development of [National Action Plans](#) of the Great Bustard in Morocco, the macaque in Algeria and the Barbary sheep in Tunisia, as well as a [transnational conservation strategy](#) for the Cuvier's gazelle in the Maghreb.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Within the Mediterranean marine programme, several reports focusing on the [legal, policy and institutional framework](#) to strengthen the process of creation and management of marine protected areas in Adriatic countries, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and North Africa are being finalised in 2014. The Centre will assist RAC / SPA in the assessment of priority areas such as [Alboran, the Strait of Sicily and the Adriatic](#). In 2014, work will be put into the production of three reports on fisheries, cetaceans and seabirds in the Alboran Sea, as well as a synthesis report on the marine ecology identifying areas in need of protection and management measures. These documents will provide the basis for the process of declaration as [Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance](#) (SPAMIs) in high sea areas.

In parallel, the project to provide support and build the capacity of fishing communities and national authorities responsible for fisheries will also move forward. This will be done by the identification, selection, designation and management of marine protected areas for [fisheries](#) through associative management and regulatory measures.



On the other hand, two projects; Life+ Posidonia Andalucía and POCTEFEX-Alboran, will end this year, and have their results available in mid-2014. IUCN-Med will finalise the Virtual Library on *Posidonia oceanica* that will serve as an information platform on seagrass beds at the regional and state level, and will contribute to the completion of an Atlas of seagrass meadows in Spain' initiative.

The Atlas is a project in collaboration with the Coastal Ecology Institute and the Spanish Institute of Oceanography in Murcia, funded by the Fundación Biodiversidad of the MAGRAMA. The [prototype Geoportal for the Alboran Seashould](#) also be finalised in 2014 with relevant information on biodiversity and natural resources with the objective of promoting a shared management amongst the bordering countries.

Other current initiatives include the further improvement of an online platform and Smartphone app called MedMIS as a tool for managers of marine protected areas to help identify and monitor the presence of invasive non-native species in Mediterranean marine protected areas and whose first version was released in early 2014.

Under the framework of the Life + Posidonia Andalucía project, a paper on the figures of protection in marine areas belonging to Red Natura in Andalucía will also be prepared during the year.

NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMME

Two significant projects are starting in 2014 for North Africa. The objective of the [Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations](#) in North Africa is to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in the four North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). In the short-term they will be able to develop specific field initiatives, and in the longer term, contribute to the implementation of strategies and national actions plans for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, and mitigation of negative climate change effects.

The second Project is related to the promotion of the [Value of Key Biodiversity Areas](#) through the participation of civil society organizations in the conservation and management of natural resources in four countries in North Africa. Preparations for the organization of the first [Congress for Nature Conservation in North Africa](#), scheduled to take place in the first half of 2015, are also under way.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

The Management of IUCN-Med will work on expanding and strengthening relations with governmental Members and key international and regional institutions in the Mediterranean: the [Barcelona Convention](#), the [Union for the Mediterranean](#), [ACCOBAMS](#), the [General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean](#), the [Union for the Maghreb Arab and MedPAN](#). A new Protocol of Collaboration 2015-2020 is being negotiated with the Spanish institutions that support the Centre. The diversification of funding sources will be sought with the aim of consolidating the basic operating funds for the office. Additionally, increased collaboration with the IUCN European Programme will be pursued.









OUR DONORS
AND PARTNERS



Our donors and partners

The work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is made possible by the generosity, trust and credibility provided by a growing number of associates and partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions and non-governmental organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals.

The fundamental support provided by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA); the Regional Ministry of Environment and Land planning, Junta de Andalucía (CMAOT); and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) through their five-year Agreement with IUCN is crucial for maintaining the Centre's operations.

We are extremely grateful for all the contributions received in 2012 and 2013 in support of the Centre and therefore of IUCN's work.

Projects developed in the past two years received support also from the following organizations:



Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)



French Agency for Marine Protected Areas (AFAMP)



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



European Commission EuropeAid



European Commission ENPI Programme



European Commission FP7 Programme



European Commission Life+ Programme



European Commission Med Programme



European Commission POCTEFEX Programme

PROGRAMA Cooperación Transfronteriza España-Fronteras Exteriores



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



French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)



Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)



European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisation (EFARO)



Fundación Biodiversidad (FB)



MAVA Foundation



TOTAL Foundation



Millenium Challenge Corporation



Spanish National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN)



Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA)



UNESCO

The work of IUCN-Med in partnership with organizations linked to IUCN and comprising Members, Commissions and other institutions, is reflected in the new cooperation agreements signed in 2012 and 2013 with the following institutions:

- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)
- CONAMA Foundation
- El Ejido City Council
- High Commission on Water, Forests and the Fight against Desertification in Morocco (HCEFLCD)
- IUCN Spanish Committee (CeUICN)
- Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (MAP UNEP): Barcelona Convention
- Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre (FNyH)
- Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- Red Eléctrica de España (REE)
- Tunisian Directorate General for Forests





NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2012-2013

CROATIA

Državnizavodzazaštitudprirode

EGYPT

Nature Conservation Egypt

FRANCE

Agence des Espaces Verts de la région Ile-de-France (AEV)

Association PAÏOLIVE

Conservation Sauvage Internationale

Fonds de Dotation pour la Biodiversité (FDB)

Natureparif, Agence régionale pour la nature et la biodiversité en Ile-de-France
Parcs nationaux de France (PNF)

Service des Parcs naturels régionaux et biodiversité - Conseil Régional Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur

SPM Frag'îles

GREECE

Society for the Protection of Prespa

ITALY

Lands Onlus

JORDAN

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)

MONTENEGRO

Public enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro

MOROCCO

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

Fondation EcoSylva (ECOSYLVA)

PALESTINE TERRITORIES

Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS)

SPAIN

Consell Insular de Formentera (CIF)

Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible (FLPS)

Mare Terra, Fundación Mediterrània

Organització Ecologista L'Escurçó

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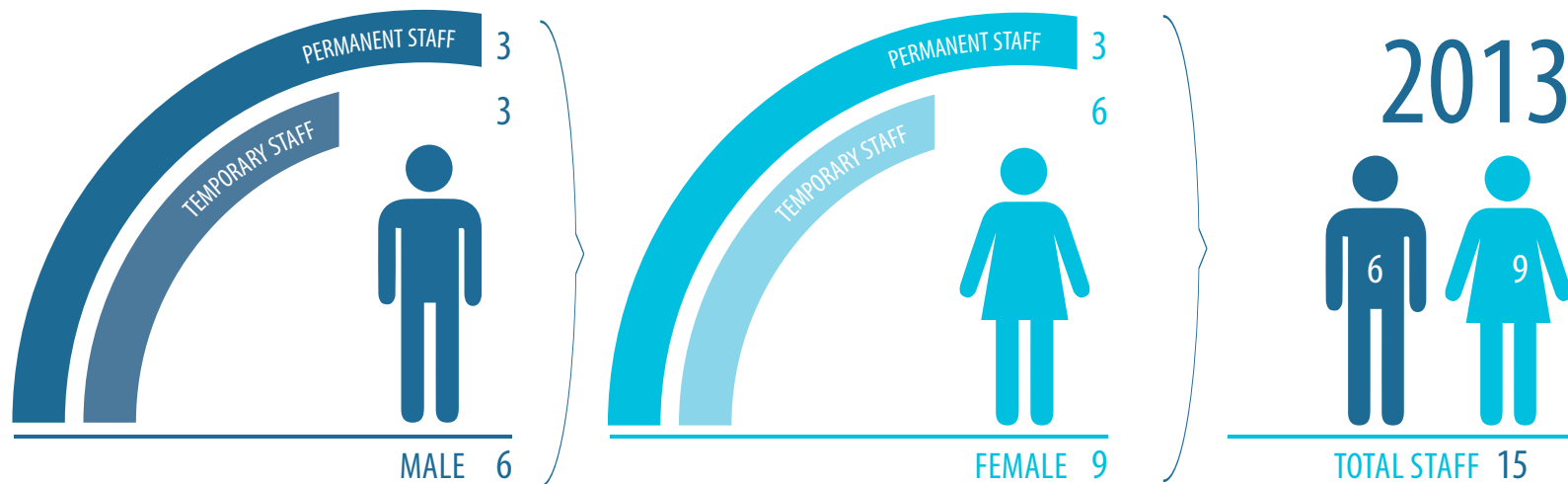
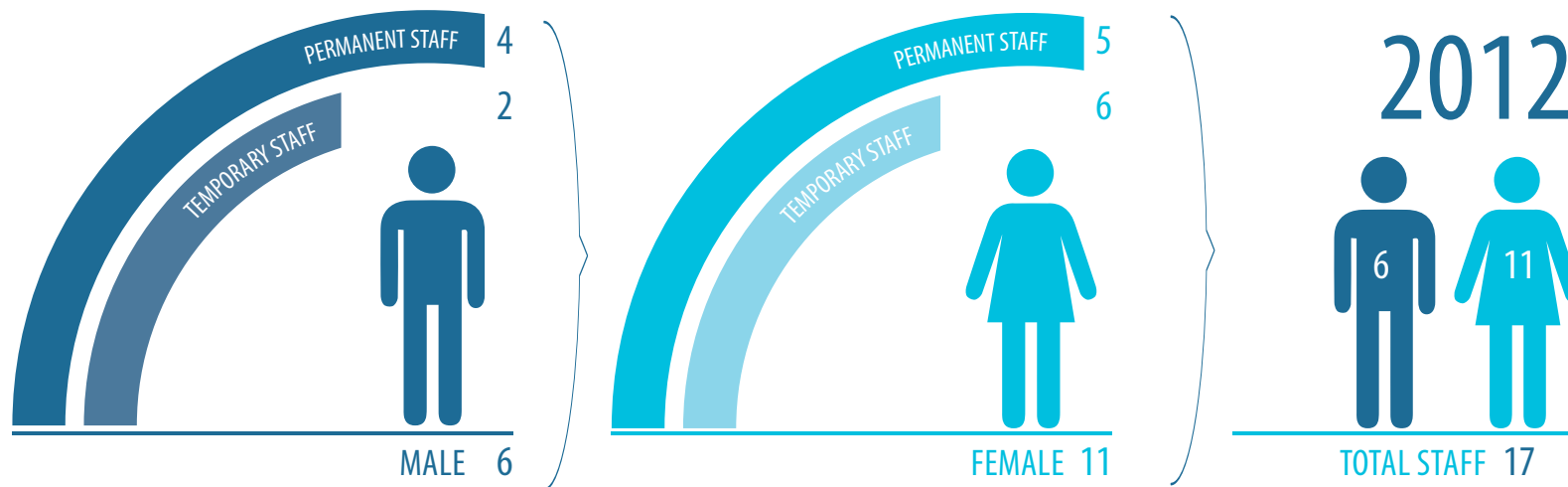


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The following people worked with us temporarily through several cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and further in the Mediterranean:

2012

- **BRAHIM ELYAMLAHI** Corporate Development and Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
Malaga University (Spain)
- **ELISA ALCÁZAR MONTAÑEZ** Marine and Species Programme
Malaga University (Spain)
- **LAURA TRELLA VIDA** Marine and Species Programme
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- **SIMON VERON** Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
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- **TANIA BRAOJOS BUENO** Terrestrial Ecosystems and Corporate Development
Malaga University (Spain)

2013

- **GISELLA COPPOLA** Terrestrial Ecosystems and North Africa Programme
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- **HORTENSE PENHIRIN** Corporate Development
HEC School of Management / HEC Paris (France)
- **LEA EYNAUD** Marine Programme
Sciences Po Paris (France) / FreieUniversität Berlin (Germany)
- **NATALIE LOBARTOLO** Species and Terrestrial Ecosystems Programme
University of Queensland, Brisbane (Australia)

ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS

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

AECID

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development

AfDB

African Development Bank

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

CEAM

Centre for Environmental Studies in the Mediterranean

CEPF

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

GFCM

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

ECAP

Ecosystem Approach

EFARO

European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organization

ENPI

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

EU

European Union

EDRF

European Development Regional Fund

FFEM

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

FREDIE

Freshwater Diversity Identification for Europe

GIS

Geographical Information System

HCEFLCD

High Commission for Water, Forests and the Fight against Desertification in Morocco

ICZM

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IUCN

International Union for Conservation of Nature

MAGRAMA

Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment

MCSO

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

MEDINA

Marine dynamics and ecosystem indicators for North Africa Project

MEDMIS

Smartphone and online information system for monitoring invasive non-native species in Mediterranean marine protected areas

MEDPAN

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean

MEDRAS

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

MEET

Mediterranean Experience on Eco-tourism project

MIO-ECSDE

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

MDG

Millennium Development Goals

MPA

Marine Protected Area

OAPN

National Parks Autonomous Agency in Spain

OTREMED

Project for the establishment of a Territorial Observatory of Mediterranean Regions

OZHM

Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

PAM

Mediterranean Action Plan

PEGASO

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

POCTEFEX

Programme for Spanish Cooperation across Borders

PPI-OSCAN

Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa

RAC/SPA

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

RAED

Arab Network for Environment and Development

SAP BIO

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

SBEI

Site of Biological and Ecological Interest

SEARCH

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

SPAMI

Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance

SSC

IUCN Species Survival Commission

TRANSHABITAT

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

UAL

University of Alicante

UMA

Unión del Magreb Árabe

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

WCPA

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas





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

International Union for Conservation of Nature
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