

**IUCN – Centre for Mediterranean  
Cooperation**

**PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

**2003**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation began working on 1 October 2001. However, the Centre did not become fully functional until early 2003, where the office staff has been consolidated. For that reason, this report will only outline the summary of progress during 2003, and will not cover the preparatory work for the establishment of the office and the few initiatives that were undertaken during the previous period.

The Mediterranean programme is a technical one that should bridge two statutory regions, and seek to take an innovative ecosystem approach to dealing with regional issues. Much of the effort during 2003 has been put to better define the niche of the Centre and know how to prove its added value as a main actor in the region.

## 2. PROGRESS

The progress of the Centre in 2003 has been mainly devoted to programme design, implementation of pilot activities, linking up with IUCN global events (such as the World Parks Congress), definition of priorities and seeking linkages with regional policy processes and with IUCN members in the region.

The 2002-2004 strategy for the programme envisaged a set of key results in different programme areas, and the table below summarises key result areas where progress has been made during 2003.

KEY RESULT AREA	MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective management and restoration of ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved</li> <li>✓ Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported</li> <li>✓ Support is given to the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests</li> <li>✓ The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued</li> <li>✓ Integrated water catchments management is promoted</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key institutions, agreements, processes and policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Development and implementation of Barcelona Convention provisions on biodiversity and resources use are supported.</li> <li>✓ Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken</li> <li>✓ Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity is supported in the region</li> <li>✓ Mediterranean inputs to the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted</li> <li>✓ Guidance on adaptation strategies to climate change is developed under the UNFCCC.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable sharing of costs and benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of biodiversity and of related social and economic factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors</li> <li>✓ Progress on implementing species action plans is monitored</li> <li>✓ Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information mgmt and communication systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A technical bridge between global conventions processes and the Mediterranean region is developed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective, efficient, and accountable governance and management of the Union.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured</li> <li>✓ Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced</li> <li>✓ The management structure and systems for the Med Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme</li> <li>✓ Sources of funding are diversified over time.</li> <li>✓ Project pipeline is strong and relevant to the key needs of the region.</li> </ul>

Details of this progress were described in the 2003 Activity Report which is attached in Annex 1. This report was used to inform the main donors (Junta de Andalucía, Consejería de Medio Ambiente and the Ministry of Environment of Spain) of the 2003 activities.

### **3. WORKING WITHIN SYSTEMS**

For that purpose, the following section is going to focus solely on the analytical questions, and basically on 'Working within Systems', as the Centre has particularly addressed several issues that fall within this framework.

#### **THINKING BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL FOREST CONSERVATION BOX**

The concept of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is being promoted by IUCN, WWF International and various other partners and governments. It builds on a number of existing rural development, conservation and natural resource management principles and approaches, bringing the together to restore multiple forest functions to degraded landscapes.

Building on the initiative of the IUCN Forest Conservation Programme, The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation organised an expert workshop on FLR during the second week of May 2003 in Castellabate, Italy. The objective of this workshop was to identify the efforts that are taking place at the international level, and explore ways to promote FLR in the region.

The workshop established a network of experts at the regional level, as well as gathered diverse examples of Forest Landscape Restoration initiatives. This has set the information platform for developing a regional approach relevant to this issue, document success and failure stories, share examples and experiences, and promote this concept through the region.

This initiative created partnerships among three major actors in forest conservation in the Mediterranean, and these are IUCN, WWF and the International Association for Mediterranean Forests. It also highlighted how FLR can become one of the key areas for synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, as well as defined the role of the different stakeholders in restoration of degraded forests.

Beyond that event, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been communicating the significance of this holistic approach to forest conservation, and especially its importance in re-establishing ecological integrity and enhancing human well-being in deforested or degraded forest landscapes. All the case studies and technical papers related to this initiative were compiled and widely disseminated at the regional level, which has generated a great deal of knowledge on FLR. This can be found at: <http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/CDForest/index.html>

From the feedback received, whether directly to the Centre or through events where the Centre has disseminated this initiative, it has proven that this theme is highly promising in the Mediterranean context as it:

- Concerns the restoration of functionality of landscapes and respects their dynamic nature, as well as their complexity;
- Considers landscapes in a broader level, including biological and social values and parameters;
- Acts in a complementary way for the protection and enhancement of ecosystem integrity, especially of degraded forests;
- Involves stakeholders and encourages participation - secures long-term existence of the benefits for the society;
- Is the most appropriate tool against desertification, due to its holistic approach and the integration of social, economic and ecological parameters in planning procedures.

The Centre is part of the Steering Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*, and this network ensures broader dissemination of the concept in several countries in the region.

### **PROTECTING MEDITERRANEAN SHARKS**

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation had gathered thirty shark experts and members of the Shark Specialist Group from eight Mediterranean countries in order to assess the status of the species in the Mediterranean. Discussions tackled opportunities for shark management and conservation in the Mediterranean Sea and the identification of priority actions for the conservation of this vulnerable group of fishes. The shark experts assessed the threatened status of the 86 species of sharks and rays that occur in the Mediterranean Sea, by applying the internationally recognised IUCN Red List criteria. The results of this assessment were submitted for discussion to other members of the Shark Specialist Group to reach consensus on the status of the species. The final assessment would enable species of particular conservation concern to be identified and targeted for conservation action.

Moreover, and to bring this initiative to the policy level, and within the context of the Barcelona Convention, the Centre has participated actively in the elaboration of the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes within the framework of the SPA Protocol.

At the level of communication and education, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has launched a web-based media kit for journalists, educators and all those interested in sharks and marine conservation issues. It aims at raising awareness on sharks as vulnerable animals and on their populations that are in decline worldwide. The on-line media kit contains information on shark biology and environment, threats, conservation status, legislation and other general data. It has a special focus on the Mediterranean and the species occurring in this sea. The kit also includes links to other shark-related sites, documents and conservation programmes all over the world. This kit will be available soon in all the three IUCN languages to guarantee wider dissemination.

### **TURNING SCIENCE INTO POLICY: DEFINING IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and Plantlife International are working in partnership with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Planta Europa to develop the Important Plant Areas (IPA) programme in the Mediterranean region. IPAs are intended to be areas of great botanical importance for threatened species, habitats and plant diversity in general, that can be identified, protected and managed as sites. The WWF/IUCN Centres of Plant Diversity project (1994) identified large regions of botanical importance, and the Mediterranean was among one of the major hotspots. This IPA programme is intended to build on this approach to identify areas that are appropriate for a site-based approach to conservation.

The first step towards pursuing this initiative in the Mediterranean was the gathering of around 35 plant specialists from the region who presented and discussed current conservation initiatives in their countries: legislative, national strategies, *in situ* and *ex situ* initiatives and special country specific needs. The experts also developed proposals for the identification of Important Plant Areas (IPA's) in the region, and for moving the IPA programme in Mediterranean countries forward.

Responding to International policy processes, IPA identification provides the framework for governments to achieve Target 5 in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. IPA identification is also a tool intended to add to conservation efforts by providing specific plant data (Redlists) that can inform other existing national, regional and global conservation programmes. It will also make available a foundation of mapped data regarding IPA's, set standards and act as a reference point linking science and policy, thus guiding relevant national legislation and providing a structured approach for future environmental impact assessments, compensation measures and further decision-making processes.

The Centre is following up on the initiative through building partnerships and drawing up specific funding proposals that will support the implementation of this initiative in several countries in the region. The Centre will also support a series of scientific studies in four countries to help them prepare the grounds for the identification of Important Plant Areas.

#### **WORLD PARKS CONGRESS: BACK TO THE REGION WITH A BROADER VISION**

The Mediterranean region has over 2,200 protected areas scattered through the 21 riparian countries, and the richness of this regional experience was analysed in Murcia where a Mediterranean Protected Areas meeting was organised by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. This event represented a common will to develop partnerships at the Mediterranean level and was a major step towards defining a Mediterranean vision for the management of protected areas. 120 representatives from 22 Mediterranean countries participated in the event and developed common orientations related to 5 different Durban workshop streams. These orientations were later fed into the Durban process to guarantee that the Mediterranean 'voice' is heard in International fora.

This process was later followed up by an activity to build the capacity of protected area managers in the region, where IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation organised, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, an advanced seminar on management of protected areas. This seminar gathered managers, experts and personnel working in protected areas from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Albania, where the Durban Action Plan was exposed, and experts exchanged views on how to promote its implementation at the national level, as well as means for improving governance processes that would support building an efficient Mediterranean Protected Areas network. This will also be pursued through the meeting that the Centre is planning to hold this coming year, gathering directors of nature conservation in the region, in an effort to mainstream the outcome of the World Parks Congress in national policy planning. Moreover, The Centre is promoting co-operation in conjunction with regional authorities who are responsible for management of protected areas, and reinforcing regional initiatives and partnerships that are relevant to management of reserves and natural areas in the Mediterranean.

#### **4. CHALLENGES**

Among other activities, the above described initiatives present an opportunity in making the Centre fulfil its niche as a major actor in the region, as well as pose several challenges. The main challenges lie in responding to the high expectations that the Centre has raised within this short period of time. For those expectations to be met, funding and building on the developed partnerships is key. Most of the activities so far have dealt with increasing knowledge and building the capacities of regional actors to respond to pressing regional issues and becoming part of International policy processes. Using those first steps to further empower a broad spectrum of stakeholders and improve leadership for sustainable conservation are essential.

Another challenge would be to find the correct pathway to create the environment – livelihood link, which would ensure that the momentum generated by the Centre tackles the broad pillars of sustainable development. This issue has been taken into consideration through the 2005-2008 Intersessional Plan, where major component results have been identified, and consulted upon with the IUCN constituency in the region, to make sure the programme responds to the need that had initially led to the establishment of the IUCN Mediterranean Centre.



**Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation**

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**ACTIVITY REPORT  
2003**

**Comision de seguimiento Dic 17 2003**

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## 1. Introduction

The IUCN Centre began working on 1 October 2001 and this activity report for 2003 intends to bring IUCN members and partners in the region up to date with activities carried out in our third year of operation. The Centre receives core support from the Junta de Andalucía (Consejería de Medio Ambiente) and the Ministry of Environment (Spain), which we acknowledge with grateful thanks.

Most of the areas in which we have focussed in 2003 deal with the reinforcement of capacity (both inside and outside the office) and launching pilot activities to build a regional constituency, identifying how best to respond to the regional needs and context, adapting and adopting IUCN procedures to our local reality, while building working and personal relationships with key Spanish and Mediterranean partners. Memoranda of understanding have been signed with local partners, Diputación and Ayuntamiento de Málaga, and with regional partners UNEP – Mediterranean Action Plan.

In addition to this we have run a series of activities to demonstrate IUCN's added value and to begin to work closely and build good working relations with key regional partners, IUCN National Committees and IUCN members. Not least we have also developed innovative ways of working with the European and WesCANA programmes, regional commissions and global thematic programmes in a cross cutting manner as this programme is unique within IUCN in developing an ecosystem approach to programming.<sup>1</sup>

### Mediterranean results:

- The management structure and systems for the Mediterranean Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme
- Sources of funding are diversified over time.
- Project pipeline is strong and relevant to the key needs of the region.

In addition to these structural issues the Centre also began running technical activities that are described in more detail below.

## 2. Programme development and implementation

The 2002-2004 strategy for the programme envisages a set of key results in different programme areas, and the table below summarises key result areas where progress has been made during 2003.

Much of 2003 has been devoted to programme design, implementation of pilot activities, and linking up with IUCN global events, such as the World Parks Congress (Durban Sept 2003) definition of priorities and seeking linkages with regional policy processes and with IUCN members in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> In that respect it is worth mentioning that the Mediterranean programme is conceived as a regional thematic programme, and does not seek to replace or duplicate any ongoing RoFE or WesCANA programmes in the region.

Table. Mediterranean results areas from the 2002-2004 strategy where progress has been made in 2003.

KEY RESULT AREA	MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective management and restoration of ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved</li> <li>Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported</li> <li>✓ Support is given to the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests</li> <li>Importance of arid lands for biodiversity is assessed</li> <li>Linkages between agriculture and biodiversity are explored</li> <li>Driving forces in land-use change are identified and linkages to key actors developed</li> <li>✓ The role of marine PAs in supporting artisanal fisheries is assessed and promoted</li> <li>Experience on the management of island protected areas is shared</li> <li>✓ The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued</li> <li>✓ Integrated water catchments management is promoted</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key institutions, agreements, processes and policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Development and implementation of Barcelona Convention provisions on biodiversity and resources use are supported.</li> <li>✓ Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken</li> <li>✓ Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity is supported in the region</li> <li>The global biodiversity forum prior to Ramsar COP 8 (2002) is undertaken in Valencia</li> <li>✓ Mediterranean inputs to the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted</li> <li>Policies for biodiversity protection and sustainable use in island communities are promoted</li> <li>✓ Guidance on adaptation strategies to climate change is developed under the UNFCCC.</li> <li>✓ Linkages are established with the desertification convention, and IUCN's emerging policy is supported</li> <li>Environmentally-sensitive water use indicators for policy makers are developed</li> <li>✓ The World Commission on Dams report is followed up in the region</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentives and finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Incentives for sustainable use, agriculture and biodiversity are developed and promoted</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable sharing of costs and benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected areas are used to support and revitalise rural economies.</li> <li>Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared</li> <li>Development of nature-based tourism is promoted</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of biodiversity and of related social and economic factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A Mediterranean Red List is developed</li> <li>✓ Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors</li> <li>✓ Progress on implementing species action plans is monitored</li> <li>✓ Information on status of island biodiversity is developed</li> <li>✓ Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information mgmt and communication systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Linkages are built with key Mediterranean actors on fisheries and arid lands conservation and management</li> <li>✓ A technical bridge between global conventions processes and the Mediterranean region is developed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective, efficient, and accountable governance and management of the Union.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured</li> <li>✓ Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced</li> <li>✓ The management structure and systems for the Med Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme</li> <li>✓ Leadership is provided by the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN membership.</li> <li>✓ Sources of funding are diversified over time.</li> <li>✓ Project pipeline is strong and relevant to the key needs of the region.</li> </ul>



## **Transboundary Areas of biodiversity importance**

In the spirit of IUCN Congress resolution 2.46 “Protected areas of Mediterranean and international importance” IUCN contracted to the emerging WesCANA Biodiversity centre in Lebanon a study to assess the information available and identify sites of biodiversity importance straddling national boundaries of countries in the south and east of the region<sup>2</sup>. The consultants contacted members and sought to gather appropriate data by questionnaire with only limited success. It quickly became clear that for many countries, especially in the South and East of the basin, transboundary issues are extremely sensitive, and even though the focus of the study was on the scientific aspects of biodiversity the data was hard to collect. This project was therefore abandoned uncompleted.

Mediterranean result: Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported

## **Promoting integrated catchment management through environmental flows**

The diagnosis on freshwater management issues in the Mediterranean and the potential role of IUCN were developed in a draft paper which was circulated and then discussed and complemented in a Workshop (Malaga 8-9 April 2002). In 2003 work focussed on linkages with the Water and Nature Initiative of IUCN, especially addressing the issue of Environmental Flow Requirements within the framework of integrated catchment management. 8 case studies from different Mediterranean countries were contracted (Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Slovenia, Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco) and these documents give an overview of how EFR is being addressed regionally. In addition papers on strategic interactions with partners, EFR specificities in the Mediterranean and linkages with the global book entitled “Flows” were also developed.

Within Spain, IUCN has worked towards a partnership with local institutions involved in the management of the Rio Guadalhorce to assist in ensuring that river basin management is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The programme is also building working links with a new regional partner – the Mediterranean network of Basin Organisations, based in the Confederacion hidrografica de Jucar.

Mediterranean result: Integrated water catchments management is promoted

## **North-South Links with Morocco**

An IUCN mission identified in October 2002 the development needs of key parts of the N. Moroccan coast if biodiversity conservation, and sustainable natural resource use is to underpin local economic development. A project portfolio of 33 projects of around 9 million euros in total has been proposed by local partners through a

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<sup>2</sup> The northern shores have already been covered in a previous WCPA activity – Transboundary PAs in Europe

transparent consultation process, and assessed by the mission that was supported by the Département des Eaux et Forêts in collaboration with the Moroccan National Committee of IUCN. Project proposals are as diverse as upstream sewage treatment for pollution affecting important biodiversity-rich wetlands, through to definition of important plant areas for local endemics, or ideas for environmental education. Donors have been informed of this portfolio to facilitate bringing together project proponents with potential donors.

Mediterranean result: North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured

### **Adaptation to Climate change**

To date much of the international and national work on climate change has focused on reduction of GHG emissions, rather than adaptation to climate change per se. Attention is now shifting to adaptation planning, as called for under the UNFCCC. IUCN developed a collaborative programme to assist eight Mediterranean countries in their efforts to better integrate climate change considerations in their water and wetland resource management policy and practices; and, to advance climate change adaptation planning in a manner consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and compatible with the Ramsar Convention. Under the Mediterranean component of the programme, country baseline studies were prepared for Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. These studies, together with 4 papers on crosscutting themes (floods, droughts, water resources planning, and wetlands), informed a regional roundtable discussion with 85 participants held in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership in Athens in December 2002. The "Dialogue on water and climate" provided financial support for the initiative through WANI.

In 2003, these reports have now been translated in to English, French and Spanish and published as a full resource package on this issue, and follow-up activities with different partners are being discussed.

Mediterranean result: Guidance on adaptation strategies to climate change

### **World Parks Congress in Durban**

The IUCN Mediterranean programme has been using the IUCN World Parks Congress as a vehicle for beginning work on Protected Areas in the Mediterranean region, promoting interactions with World Commission on Protected Areas, developing partnerships and raising funds.

Through 4 preparatory workshops and a major Mediterranean protected area meeting IUCN has been able to mobilise 250 people, 6 donors, and experience from 15 countries to discuss Mediterranean specificities, provide inputs to Durban, and to assess how the Durban process can reinforce protected area management in our region.

The four key themes identified for the Mediterranean were:

1. *Connectivity – Linkages in the landscape*
2. *Training - New skills for a new century*
3. *Governance – new ways of working together*
4. *Gaps in the protected areas system*

These themes were debated over 2 days in the Murcia Conference on protected Areas, organised in partnership with the CEMACAM and the Region of Murcia, and then fed into the Durban World Parks Congress where the Centre organised a series of Mediterranean events to ensure that the regional vision and perspectives were reflected in the conclusions of the Congress.

Mediterranean results:

- Mediterranean inputs to the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted
- A technical bridge between global conventions processes and the Mediterranean region is developed
- Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors

### **Shark Conservation in the Mediterranean region**

Working with SSC- Shark Specialist Group (SSG) and the Regional Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention, IUCN is building regional capacity to address the assessment and conservation of threatened sharks. A red listing workshop on the Mediterranean level has been undertaken in San Marino, and IUCN through its specialist group has contributed significantly to the policy discussion on shark finning policies.

Mediterranean results:

- Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed
- The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued
- Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors

### **Forest landscape restoration in the Mediterranean**

The concept of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is being promoted by IUCN, WWF International and various other partners and governments. However, this is not a new idea. It builds on a number of existing rural development, conservation and natural resource management principles and approaches, bringing the together to restore multiple forest functions to degraded landscapes.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation organised an expert workshop on FLR during the second week of May 2003 in Castellabate, Italy. The objective of this workshop was to identify the efforts that are taking place at the international level, and to explore ways to promote FLR in the region.

The workshop has established a network of experts at the regional level, as well as gathered diverse examples of Forest Landscape Restoration initiatives. This has set the information platform for developing a regional approach relevant to this issue.

Mediterranean result: Support is given to the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests

## **Linkages with the Barcelona Convention**

The agreement between the donors and IUCN stipulates that the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation shall support the work of the Barcelona Convention.

In this regard the Centre offers technical advice, using IUCN's Commission networks, to the following activities:

1. Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes
2. Action Plan for invasive species
3. Strategic Action Plan for Mediterranean Biodiversity
4. Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable development

The first three action plans were agreed at the Plenipotentiary meeting of the Parties held in Sicily in November 2003. At the same occasion a 2-year MoU was signed between IUCN and the Mediterranean Action Plan – this MoU creates a framework for collaboration between MAP and IUCN that formalises the informal working relationships developed over the last two years.

IUCN presented information papers on sharks and on invasive species to technical meetings of the Barcelona Convention.

Mediterranean result: Development and implementation of Barcelona Convention provisions on biodiversity and resources use are supported

## **Support to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

At the COP6 meeting in The Hague in April 2002, parties adopted Decision VI/9 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for implementation by 2010.

IUCN has organised a workshop with the SSC Mediterranean Island Plants Specialist Group and Planta Europa (an IUCN member based in UK) to promote plant red lists in the Mediterranean and identify Important Plant Areas (IPA) within the region (notably in countries with foci of high endemism) as a contribution to assisting contracting parties implement their commitments under the CBD. The Mediterranean region is especially rich in plant species and is recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot.

In consequence, at least one national project, in Lebanon, has been developed to identify IPAs and others are under discussion.

Mediterranean result: Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity is supported in the region

### **Developing a national action plan to control alien Ruddy Ducks in Morocco**

At the request of the Moroccan government, IUCN organised a national workshop in Rabat to discuss the framework for a National Action Plan to control the Ruddy Duck, that originates in N America but breeds in the wild and hybridizes with the globally threatened White Headed Duck. The governments and biologists of Spain, UK and France, together with experts from the SSC Threatened waterfowl specialist group, participated to share their experiences of this issue and assist Morocco in developing an effective plan.

Mediterranean result:  
- Progress on implementing species action plans is monitored  
- Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity is supported in the region

### **Assessing the legal situation of High seas marine protected areas**

In January 2003, 45 participants came together in Malaga from around the world to discuss how to develop and implement High Seas Marine Protected Areas, at the invitation of WWF and IUCN. A strategy was developed, that is now being followed up and implemented in the Mediterranean region, and which focuses on improving legal tools. A review of the legal controls on navigation has been undertaken through a case study of Bonifacio (a marine protected area between Sardinia and Corsica), and this has supported the emergence of a network of marine environmental lawyers throughout the region that can also interact with the new Sub group of the Environmental Law Commission, and the High Seas Marine Protected area working group of WCPA on related topics.

The IUCN team has also strengthened linkages with other regional conventions dealing with these issues to promote a harmonized approach (eg Helsinki Convention – Baltic Sea, Barcelona Convention – Mediterranean, OSPAR – NE Atlantic).

Mediterranean result: Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken

### **Managing populations of Barbary Macaques in Morocco**

The Moroccan Government has requested the assistance of IUCN to address the management of Barbary Macaques in Morocco and the interaction between the apes and local human activities, as well as their impact on cedar forests. Barbary Macaques are restricted to three areas of the Western Mediterranean in Morocco, Algeria and Gibraltar, and are considered by the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group to have a

declining population. An IUCN mission will work with local biologists and managers to design a medium term management policy for the species and their habitat.

Mediterranean result: Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared

### **Promoting sustainable fisheries**

IUCN has developed a programme and information paper on shark-finning that has contributed to the ongoing policy discussions in the EU concerning this fishery that is widely considered unsustainable and wasteful as fins are kept for export, but bodies are often discarded at sea. A shark media kit has also been designed to help raise awareness of the issues, and the red-listing process for Mediterranean sharks, hosted by San Marino, has laid the basis for objective scientific assessment of their status at Mediterranean scale.

Mediterranean result: Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed

### **Advanced seminar on Protected Areas Management**

In partnership with the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI), IUCN organised a 2 week advanced seminar in Andalucia for 26 participants from AECI beneficiary countries and from Spain. The programme involved a wide range of Spanish IUCN members and partners (eg. Organismo Autonomo de Parques, Diputacion de Barcelona, Diputacion de Malaga, Consejeria de Medio Ambiente de Andalucia, Donana 2005 etc) sharing their experiences on Protected areas management, as well as addressing elements of the Durban Accord from the World Parks Congress.

Mediterranean result: The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved

### **Supporting the management of Ichkeul National Park**

The Tunisian Government requested IUCN's support for the management of Ichkeul National park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. IUCN worked with international and local specialists to develop a set of indicators that can guide a monitoring programme for the management and restoration of the site as requested by the World Heritage Committee. These were debated in an international workshop hosted by the government that laid the basis for future policies and management and monitoring activities in the National Park and its catchment.

Mediterranean result: The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved

### **Involvement of IUCN Members and Commissions in the programme**

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean cooperation is pursuing partnerships with a range of IUCN members, IUCN Commissions and regional organisations in implementing

its programme. Emphasis in 2003 has been placed on promoting regional activities and participating in key regional fora to make IUCN's presence and technical contribution tangible and visible. Due to our presence in Andalusia, the Centre has also sought to establish relationships with key Spanish and Andalusian institutions in different thematic areas, as well as developing working linkages with other Autonomous regions of the Mediterranean coast.

The Executive Committee of the Species Survival Committee met in Malaga in October 2003 and Mediterranean work is ongoing with 8 of the SSC specialist groups (Threatened Waterfowl, Cetaceans, Sharks, Sustainable Use, Plants/Mediterranean Island Plants, Primates, Invasive species).

The Centre increasingly works with the Commission on Environmental Law through a network of marine lawyers addressing the challenges of Mediterranean High Seas Marine Protected Areas, and with the World Commission on Protected Areas (European and WesCANA sections).

Mediterranean result: Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced

During 2003 the communications of the Centre have been consolidated. Regular electronic bulletins are sent out to members (in English, French and Spanish) for information and to encourage their participation in the programme; the web site has been designed following IUCN's corporate image and is regularly updated with news, events and reports; and relations with the press are improving as we associate our communications strategy with major regional or global events (eg Ramsar Convention, Johannesburg WSSD etc). 15 press releases linked to ongoing activities have been distributed to the press. The website records around 8,000 visitors per month, and a total of 72,000 documents have been downloaded from the site in 2003. 15% of visitors return for a second visit or more. The website therefore continues to play its role in disseminating IUCN results and this can be expected to increase as new results are posted on a regular basis.

#### Documents downloaded 2003 (as at 4 December)

	Documents	Downloads
1.	Mediterranean islands	4,977
2.	Adapting to climate change - Tunisia	2,187
3.	Adapting to climate change - Morocco	2,215
4.	Adapting to climate change -France	1,658
5.	Protected areas in the Mediterranean	1,197
6.	Information on environmental education congress - Portugal	994
7.	Adapting to climate change	799
8.	Ballast_Water_News.pdf	793
9.	Adapting to climate change - Flood management	779
10.	Training for protected area management	768

### 3. Administration and finance

#### Finance

The financial component of the report will be finalised following the production of consolidated end of year accounts.

## **Staff**

During 2003 the staffing of the office has been consolidated and in 2003 the following positions were occupied :

Cesar Alcacer	Water officer
Andrés Alcántara	Protected areas programme officer
Claudiane Chevalier	Marine Lawyer
Karima El Kasmi	Executive assistant
Isaac Jiménez	Finance and administration officer
Lourdes Lázaro	Communication officer
Imène Meliane	Marine officer
José Pérez	IT support (part time)
Miriam Puga	Executive assistant (part time)
Rami Salman	Programme coordinator
Francois Simard	Marine coordinator
Jamie Skinner	Director

The Centre also benefited from the temporary contributions of Sylvia Gillion as communications intern, Marina Alvarez Gonzalez and Cecilia Saura Drago for documentation and library services, and Sahar Omais and Teresa Gil Gil on a studentship via EuroParc. Larry Haas supported the emerging water programme as a part time consultant.

## **4. Outlook for 2004**

The 2003 programme continues to build on activities begun in 2002 and 2003 to meet the Mediterranean results laid out in the strategy. The major IUCN event for this year is the World Conservation Congress in Thailand in November and much of our energies at regional level are focussed on the Mediterranean membership consultation planned for June 2004.

During 2003, IUCN as a whole has initiated the planning process for the 2005-2008 programme that will be discussed in Thailand at the 2004 World Conservation Congress. The Mediterranean programme has consulted members on its draft situation analysis that analyses key environment and development challenges for the Mediterranean region, and drafted a 2005-2008 programme during 2003.