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1. Introduction

When the Mediterranean members of IUCN set off in 1994 to create a Mediterranean programme of IUCN, no one could have envisaged how far the idea would come, but after 10 years, it is a reality with a functional team and network. The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) began working on 1 October 2001 and this activity report for 2004 intends to bring IUCN members and partners in the region up to date with activities carried out in our fourth year of operation. The Centre receives core support from the Consejería de Medio Ambiente of Junta de Andalucía and the Ministry of Environment (Spain), which we acknowledge with grateful thanks.

Most of the areas in which we have focussed in 2004 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. During the year, collaboration agreements have been reached with Fundación CONAMA, Seo Bird Life - Malaga Science and Technology Park, The Regional Activity Centre of Specially Protected Areas (RAC SPA), Italian Ministry of Environment, University of Valencia, Forum de Barcelona and the European Commission.

In addition to this we have run a series of activities to demonstrate IUCN's added value and to continue to 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 West & Central Asia and North Africa (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 (1). Amongst other things, IUCN-Med established closer internal working relations with IUCN programmes and initiatives such as WesCANA through the implementation of the North Africa Biodiversity Programme in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia; the Global Marine Programme; the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI); the Global Programme; the Environmental Law Programme; the Monitoring and Evaluation Initiative; the Forest Conservation Programme; the Species Survival Commission Duck, Turtle and Shark Specialist Groups and with the Conservation International Centre for Applied Biodiversity Science-

Core support to the activities of the IUCN Mediterranean office is provided by:



Biodiversity Assessment Initiative.

The external strategic review, finalised in November 2004, has shown that the majority of over 100 members and partners interviewed feel that IUCN does good quality work, has a positive image and provides leadership on a wide range of issues, being regarded in the region as a credible partner. This very encouraging result reflects very positively on the Mediterranean membership as a whole, and also on the Centre's core donors, the Junta of Andalucia and the Ministry of Environment of Spain who have supported the development of the office and programme. The Naples members meeting in June also showed how the Secretariat and Members can work together to share experience and build a more sustainable Mediterranean.

The next few years set the scene for further strengthening of our working relations with our members throughout the Mediterranean, now that we have a competent professional team in place - they work hard and play hard and are a great group of people to work with, so do get in touch with us if you have any ideas you want to take forward with other members in the region.

(1) 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.

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.

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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 2004.

Much of 2004 has been devoted to the IUCN Mediterranean Members Meeting held in Naples in June, graciously hosted by the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Vesuvius National Park and to prepare the Mediterranean contributions to the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, 17-26 November 2004, we have also put in place a contribution process in Spanish, French and English to develop the 2005-2008 a intersessional plan that provides the framework for our future activities.

Below you will find summaries of the main activities led by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation followed by its contributions to the implementation of other processes.

Relevant documents:

2002-2004 strategy [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#)

Intersessional Programme 2005-2008: [EN](#) | [ES](#)

Regional Situation Analysis (May 2003): [EN](#)

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

KEY RESULT AREA	MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective management and restoration of ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved• Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported• Support is given to the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests• The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued• Integrated water catchments management is promoted
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key institutions, agreements, processes and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and implementation of Barcelona Convention provisions on biodiversity and resources use are supported• Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken• Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity is supported in the region• Mediterranean outputs to the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted• Guidance on adaptation strategies to climate change is developed under the UNFCCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equitable sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protected areas are used to support and revitalise rural economies.

- of costs and benefits
- Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared
- Assessment of biodiversity and of related social and economic factors
- Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors
- Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed
- Information management and communication systems
- A technical bridge between global convention processes and the Mediterranean region is developed
- Effective, efficient, and accountable governance and management of the Union
- North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured
- Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced
- The management structure and systems for the Med Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme
- Leadership is provided by the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN membership
- Sources of funding are diversified over time
- Project pipeline is strong and relevant to the key needs of the region
- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and Commissions in the region to support the programme are enhanced

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2.1 Processes and projects organised by IUCN

Azahar Seminar: Nature Tourism as Driving Force of Sustainable Development

A seminar to encourage sustainable tourism initiatives linked to Mediterranean protected areas was held in Malaga from 6-17 September. More than 20 participants from 12 southern countries -Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Serbia and Montenegro, Tunisia, Syria and Turkey - exchanged knowledge and identified opportunities for joint cooperation on sustainable tourism during the two week seminar held in Malaga. This activity was supported by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECI) and is a contribution to implementing the conclusions of the World Parks Congress in Durban (2003).



Documents:

[Project Report](#) (only in Spanish)

Links:

[Azahar Programme](http://www.programa-azahar.org/) <http://www.programa-azahar.org/>

Mediterranean results: - Protected Areas are used to support and revitalise rural economies
 - The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved

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Marine Biodiversity Conservation beyond Territorial Waters in the Mediterranean

A two-day legal experts' workshop, hosted by IUCN's Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the Total Corporation, was held in Malaga on 15-16 March. The discussions focused on how to improve the protection of high sea maritime zones in the Mediterranean (as no exclusive economic zone has been declared in the Mediterranean) through closer cooperation between neighbouring states. One of the main themes was the harmonisation of high seas protection measures, such as the creation of specially protected areas and the extension of jurisdiction beyond the existing breadth of 12 nautical miles with sui generis zones such as fishing and ecological zones. Strengthening the Mediterranean legal framework for marine conservation further supports the reinforcement governance of the high sea (which covers 80% of the global oceans). The workshop was held in partnership with the IUCN Environmental Law and Marine Programmes.



A full information pack on the legal aspects of the governance of the Mediterranean Sea has been produced

following the completion of the first phase of this programme. The CD-ROM containing the information lays the foundations for future work linking governance to management of natural resources and the establishment of high seas marine protected areas within the Mediterranean region.

Documents:

[CDrom Towards an Improved Governance in the Mediterranean Beyond Territorial seas.](#)

- Mediterranean results:
- A technical bridge between global conventions processes and the Mediterranean region is developed.
 - Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken

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Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture in the Mediterranean

To ensure that the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean does not exacerbate environmental degradation and social tensions, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation convened a group of experts from Algeria, Belgium, France, Spain and Tunisia in May in Barcelona to discuss development of a programme on aquaculture and environment-related issues. The objectives of the programme include promoting best environmental management practices for sustainable aquaculture, and developing and reinforcing communication, partnerships and links between environmental representatives and the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean. The meeting was followed by a workshop held in Bangkok during the World Conservation Congress in November to present sustainable aquaculture practice in the Mediterranean.



The first conclusion is that more communication and collaboration between conservation and the production sector is necessary. A memorandum of Cooperation between IUCN and the Federation of European Aquaculture producers (FEAP) has been prepared. On the other hand, it has been agreed that more work has to be done about criteria and indicators for sustainable development of aquaculture.

Documents:

[Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture and Environment.](#) Outcomes of the workshop hosted in Barcelona, May 2004

(PDF - 384KB)

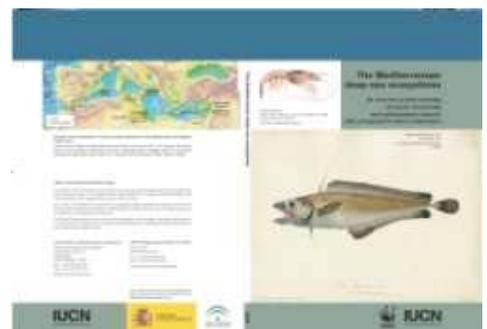
[L'aquaculture en Algerie et son contexte Maghrebin](#) (only in French)

- Mediterranean results:
- The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued.
 - Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced

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The Mediterranean Deep-Sea: Highly Valuable Ecosystems in Need of Protection

Submarine canyons, cold seeps, brine pools, cold water corals and seamounts are the hidden secrets of the Mediterranean deep seas. Deep waters ecosystems are highly vulnerable to commercial exploitation due to the low turnover rates of the species adapted to these environments and the lack of adaptation of deep ecosystems to cope with strong external perturbations. The CoP-7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Kuala Lumpur, 2004) invites States to raise their concerns regarding the issue of conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of the deep sea bed beyond limits of national jurisdiction. A round table on the knowledge and conservation status of the Mediterranean deep sea ecosystem has been organised during the Commission Internationale pour L'Exploration Scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée (CIESM) in June in Barcelona. As a result, a proposal to ensure the long-term sustainability of Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems based upon sound scientific information currently available has been published by a joint initiative between the WWF Mediterranean Programme and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.



The Mediterranean deep-sea: highly valuable ecosystems in need of protection - (PDF)

Book [EN](#) Brochure [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#)

- Mediterranean results:
- Status of threatened species in fisheries is assessed

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Ecosystem approach to Mediterranean Fisheries

The IUCN Fisheries Working Group of the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group met in Brussels from 25-27 March. Over-fishing, degradation of the marine environment and loss of marine biodiversity are ongoing problems occurring in the Mediterranean waters. Marine ecosystems are complex communities of interacting organisms and our knowledge of them is limited. In addition, the way in which fisheries affect them is badly understood.

The ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) emerged during the 1990s as a concept related to the management of biodiversity and natural resources. This concept is firmly embedded in a number of key international documents and legal instruments. The introduction of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management aims to ensure that fishery management decisions do not adversely affect the marine environment and wildlife. Although there are some conceptual problems with this term, IUCN experts believe this approach may contribute to maintaining the health of the ecosystem. They are therefore identifying possibilities to implement this concept to fisheries across the Mediterranean region. Implementation may kick off through the development of case studies under the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) projects. A first case study on the Alboran sea is being considered. A second workshop was held with the same group of specialists in Copenhagen in October 2004. It was decided to propose to the European Commission a 3-year project to identify best practices for implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). A third workshop on EAF was organised during the Forum of the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in order to exchange views and experiences at the global level.

Other issues discussed during the meetings of the IUCN Fisheries Working Group-European Sustainable Use Specialist Group were shark finning, high seas protected areas and by-catch. A sub-group of inland water fisheries was also set up within the IUCN Fisheries Working Group.

Documents:

[Report of the Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach with a Focus on the Mediterranean Sea](#) (Brussels 2004).

[Report: Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems \(SCMEE\) Scientific Advisory Committee \(SAC\) General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#) (Malaga, May 2004)

[Summary of the views on ecosystem approach to fisheries of the 15th Meeting of the ESUSG's Fisheries Working Group](#) (Copenhagen, October 2004)

[The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress: Workshop on "Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries"](#). (Bangkok, November 2004)

[IUCN Information Paper on Shark finning](#)

- Mediterranean result:
- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced
 - The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued

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Integrated Catchment Management in the Basin of the Moulouya, Morocco

Within its Water and Wetlands programme, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is developing pilot projects aiming to promote the use of environmental flows as a tool to develop integrated watershed management plans. During the week of 22-26 of March, staff from the Centre visited Morocco in a mission to explore the possibilities to undertake a project in the Basin of the Moulouya, and to identify and strengthen linkages with potential partners.

The largest basin of Morocco (54,500 km²), the Moulouya suffers from long drought periods combined with sudden floods, problems of erosion and dam siltation. It has two sites of special ecological interest declared, one at the river mouth and the other in the surroundings of the Mohamed V reservoir. The meetings held between the director of the Moulouya Basin Agency (ABM), M. Abdelilah Wardi, helped to identify points of common interest, such as capacity building of the ABM staff, climate change adaptation and management of the sites of special ecology interest management (SIBEs).



A second scoping mission was held in early July to better define the issues the project would tackle. In close cooperation with personnel of the Moulouya Basin Agency, the IUCN-Med delegation drafted a project proposal to submit to potential donors. During this project definition phase the main working lines of the project were defined; such as the cooperative implementation by IUCN-Med jointly with the Agence du Bassin Hydraulique de la Moulouya and regional stakeholders. The main objective will be the sustainable development in the region maintaining the basin ecological functions and its biodiversity richness.

The process will also provide clear linkages and will put into practice proposals and environmental flows methodologies in the basin. The project will complement the already ongoing activities in the delta region done by the Département des Eaux et Forêts through the project funded by GEF and will increase the capacity in the river agency but also through the local NGOs and the universities holding relevant data and capable of providing technical advice to the ABM.

Links:

[Water & Nature Initiative](http://www.waterandnature.org/) <http://www.waterandnature.org/>
[Direction Générale de l'Hydraulique de Maroc](http://www.mtpnet.gov.ma/dgh/) <http://www.mtpnet.gov.ma/dgh/>
[United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](http://unfccc.int/2860.php) <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Mediterranean results: - Integrated Catchment Management is promoted
- Guidance on adaptation strategies to climate change is developed under the UNFCCC

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Environmental Flows Can Help to Manage Ephemeral Rivers

Many Mediterranean rivers are temporary - that is to say they do not flow constantly, but dry out in summer. How to use rainy periods to recharge groundwater sources to secure water during drought, or to include social matters such as flood risk management, were just two out of the many faces of river management that were raised at the workshop on the Provision of Environmental Flows in Intermittent and Ephemeral Mediterranean Watercourses organized by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation on 18th September in Madrid. Scientists from across the Mediterranean basin and even from other areas of the world with Mediterranean climate (South Africa, Australia) concluded that the use of environmental flows as a framework for integrated water management might be valuable in trading off the economic, social and

environmental needs of these special habitats associated with water scarcity. However, experts pointed out the lack of knowledge of these ecosystems and hence the lack of a scientific basis for managing them. The meeting contributed to consolidating a network of experts on environmental flows for ephemeral rivers (also known as temporary, seasonal, wadis, or intermittent systems). The network is assessing to what extent environmental flow approach can manage ephemeral rivers; compile the current knowledge on this field as well as evaluate what might be needed to adapt environmental flow assessment tools to ephemeral rivers.

Report:

[Mediterranean ephemeral watercourses](#)

Working documents:

[Biotic Components of an ephemeral stream in Mediterranean: Study case of the Zegzel-Cherraa system in Morocco](#)

[River dynamics of intermitent/ephemeral rivers](#)

Mediterranean results: - Integrated Catchment Management is promoted

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Red Lists for Amphibians, Reptiles, Freshwater Fishes and Sharks in the Mediterranean

More than sixty experts gathered in a five-day workshop in Malaga in December to finalise species assessments for the 108 species of amphibians, the 370 species of reptiles recorded in this region and develop a population assessment for 249 freshwater fishes endemic to the Mediterranean. With amphibians, reptiles and fishes relying on freshwater, their decline is a warning about the state of the Mediterranean water resources. Even though the situation in freshwater habitats is less well known than for terrestrial habitats, early signs show it is likewise serious. Unique forms of life and relic species can be lost in the coming years if we do not halt biodiversity loss. IUCN is working on guidelines and criteria at regional level that will help conservation planning and implementation in the region and also feed into the global assessments being made for all major taxonomic groups.



Shark fisheries have expanded dramatically in size and number around the world since the mid-1980s, primarily in response to the rapidly increasing demand for shark fins, meat and cartilage. Despite the boom-and-bust nature of virtually all shark fisheries over the past century, most shark fisheries today still lack monitoring or management. The Mediterranean region is known to be an important habitat for cartilaginous fish and is thought to encompass unique breeding grounds for species such as the White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) and Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*). It may be surprising then that there is insufficient information for many Mediterranean species. Further research on the ecological status and exploitation of these populations is urgently needed. The preliminary results of a workshop of experts convened by the IUCN (Shark Specialist Group, Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, and Global Marine

Program) highlighted the highly threatened status of several sharks and rays. Some species, such as the Mediterranean populations of Sawfishes (*Pristis spp*) and Common or Gray Skates (*Dipturus batis*), may even be locally extinct. Approximately 46% of sharks and related species in the Mediterranean are threatened (IUCN categories "Critically Endangered", "Endangered" or "Vulnerable"). However, 30% are "Data Deficient" which indicates a lack of scientific and fisheries data but it must be emphasised this does not necessarily exclude these species from being a conservation concern. The Barcelona Convention recently adopted an Action Plan for cartilaginous fish and IUCN supports its implementation.

IUCN is grateful to all the participating scientists for offering to share their data on these species through the Red List assessment process.

Mediterranean Red Lists:

[Mediterranean sharks](#)
[Endemic freshwater fish](#)
[Reptiles](#)
[Amphibians](#)

Partners:

[Conservation International](http://www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/home) (http://www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/home)
[IUCN Species Survival Commission](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/) (http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/)
[IUCN Shark Specialist Group](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/organizations/ssg/ssg.htm) (http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/organizations/ssg/ssg.htm)

Mediterranean results:

- Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced
- Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors
- The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued

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Cooperating for the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity of the Barcelona Convention

A 3-day workshop was organised in Malaga in close cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in order to discuss and propose a set of criteria for amending the Annex II and III lists of the Protocol. Annex II is the List of Endangered or Threatened Species whereas Annex III is the List of Species Whose Exploitation is Regulated, according to the SPA Protocol of the Convention of Barcelona. A group of experts including RAC/SPA national focal points and experts as well as IUCN experts gathered and drafted a set of revised criteria which will be proposed to the Conference of Parties in 2005.

Links:

[Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas](http://www.rac-spa.org/). <http://www.rac-spa.org/>

Mediterranean results:

- Development and implementation of Barcelona Convention provisions on biodiversity and resources use are supported

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Mediterranean Members Decide their Future

Over one hundred IUCN Mediterranean members, including NGOs, government agencies and States gathered in Naples (Italy) from 19-22 June, to evaluate the progress, achievements and programme of the IUCN's Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, and draw up a line of work for the coming four years.

As an outcome of the conference, the members endorsed the Naples Declaration which supports the work developed by the Centre in these first three years and the IUCN intersessional programme 2005-2008 for the Mediterranean region. The Declaration also calls for further collaboration and explores potential partnerships with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, members and other regional institutions; exchange of knowledge and experience in managing natural resources and conserving biological diversity; and urges all Mediterranean countries and IUCN to coordinate their actions to promote specific strategic plans for the conservation of the major Mediterranean environmental systems such as mountain areas, large river basins, marine and coastal areas, islands and the high sea. IUCN is grateful to the Italian Ministry of Environment, Federparchi and the Vesuvius National Park for financing and hosting this event.



Mediterranean Member Meeting held in Naples (June 2004)

Documents:

Naples Declaration (June 2004): [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [IT](#)
[Summary- Report](#)
[Participants list](#)

Mediterranean results:

- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and

- commissions are supported and enhanced
- Capacity of IUCN Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced

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3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress shows Know-How for Conservation and Development



IUCN consists of diverse constituencies, but during the Bangkok Congress on 17-25 November around 5,000 participants managed to focus on what united rather than on what divided them. The Congress has recreated IUCN as a touchstone in the conservation movement around which people can work together. If we can work hard to keep this going it will make our work much more effective over the next few years. IUCN has achieved a tremendous amount over the past three years in rethinking, re-energizing and repositioning conservation - and Bangkok helped bring many of these efforts to a head. We have come away from the Congress with an incredible momentum for our work and that of our community over the next intersessional period, and a new sense of direction for engaging with the world on the contribution of conservation to the development process. While the extinction crisis intensifies, the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress has shown how reliable information and extensive know-how, a deep-rooted passion for life in all its forms, and powerful collaboration with all sectors of society can improve the wellbeing of six billion people and the 15,589 species identified in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The nine days congress underlined the concrete benefits of conservation action to poverty reduction and a healthy planet, and the effectiveness of the approaches and tools we have at our disposal. With huge areas of wilderness being lost every day, 1.4 billion people living along rivers with serious water shortages, glaciers and polar caps melting due to a 0.6 C increase in temperature, the conservation movement now invites the world: work with us to reverse the trend. Participants heard the world's latest scientific knowledge, saw the launch of landmark initiatives, took part in high-level debates, signed a number of agreements, and voted on over 100 resolutions on critical conservation issues, ranging from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to the conservation of our oceans. The approved motions are now officially published.

Resolutions proposed by Mediterranean members and approved during the 3rd World Conservation Congress

[RES 3.034: Strengthening the action of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation](#)

[RES 3.039: The Mediterranean Mountain Partnership](#)

[RES 3.052: Protected areas in the Mediterranean](#)

[RES 3.070: Environmental protection of the Mediterranean sea from the risk of maritime traffic](#)

[REC 3102: Conservation of Mediterranean-type ecosystems](#)

Five resolutions are related to the Mediterranean region concerning partnerships on Mediterranean mountains, impacts of maritime traffic on marine biodiversity, strengthening the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and reinforcing work on Mediterranean protected areas. This illustrates the active role of Mediterranean members within the Union.

Documents:

[Comments from Mediterranean Members and Councillors](#)

Mediterranean news in the Congress: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#)

Links:

[IUCN World Conservation Congress](http://www.iucn.org/congress/index.cfm): <http://www.iucn.org/congress/index.cfm>

- Mediterranean results:
- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and commissions are supported and enhanced.
 - The management structure and systems for the Med Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme.
 - Leadership is provided by the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN membership.

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Playing the Mediterranean Table Game

What are the greatest threats to protected areas in the Mediterranean? Ignorance may well be one! To raise awareness amongst the youth of the biodiversity-rich Mediterranean region, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation released a new table game on Mediterranean protected areas and presented it at the Universal Forum of Cultures held in Barcelona (Spain) in August. Players need to answer various questions on the benefits of protected areas to species conservation and ecosystem management, while protecting these areas from various 'threats' such as climate change, pollution, forest fires and other environmental hazards.

Through this initiative, IUCN seeks to complement its daily work on political and management issues throughout the region. The game also builds on one of the objectives of the Durban Action Plan, endorsed by last year's



Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, which calls for greater involvement of young people in the governance and management of protected areas.

Links:

[Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona 2004](http://www.barcelona2004.org/eng/portada.htm). <http://www.barcelona2004.org/eng/portada.htm>

- Mediterranean results:
- Leadership is provided by the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN membership
 - Mediterranean outputs of the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted

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Engaging the Private Sector on Caring for Birds

The Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the Spanish Society of Ornithology (SEO/Birdlife) along with 16 companies of the Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (PTA) have promoted a joint initiative to bring employees that come everyday to work at this important techno polis closer to nature. The project has developed an inventory of the main birds which use the PTA as their habitat or as a stop over during their migratory path, and a series of bird watching activities guided by the volunteers of SEO mainly for workers of the PTA companies, but also for students and interested individuals. Several routes have been identified and various panels will be installed to provide general information to help understand, learn and appreciate how vitally important birds are for our environment. Awareness of world's birds, their value to our community and the need for their conservation has been growing sharply supported by better data than ever before. Key actions have been identified for all Globally Threatened Birds with some successful conservation stories. However, local actions are needed as well.



Links:

[Project: Trabajando en verde](http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/new_page/convocatoria.html). http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/new_page/convocatoria.html

[SEO/Birdlife: Sociedad Espanola de Ornitologia](http://www.seo.org/) <http://www.seo.org/>

[Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía](http://www.pta.es/). <http://www.pta.es/>

- Mediterranean results:
- The management structure and communication system for the Med Programme are developed and strengthened to support effective delivery of the programme
 - Leadership is provided by the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN membership

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Important Plant Areas in the Mediterranean: Bridging Science and Policy

Important Plant Areas (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 global importance, and the Mediterranean was among one of the major hotspots. 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. This programme is intended to identify areas that are appropriate for a site-based approach to conservation. 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 (Red Lists) 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 IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation along with the different partners undertook the first national workshop in the region on 11-13 October 2004 in Rabat, Morocco. This workshop helped the Moroccan Government prepare the grounds for the identification of Important Plant Areas, realise its fulfilments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and generate a tool to help mainstream science into policy and decision-making.

Documents:

[Proposed Important Plant Areas in Morocco](#) (only in French)

[Important Plants Areas in Morocco workshop, Rabat, 11-12 oct.2004](#)

Links:

[IPA site selection manual](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/IPAmanuals.htm) (in three languages) <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/IPAmanuals.htm>

[Convention on Biological Diversity](http://www.biodiv.org/welcome.aspx) <http://www.biodiv.org/welcome.aspx>

- Mediterranean results:
- Implementation of the CBD/UNCCD is supported in the region
 - North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured

Cooperation North-South for the Chikli Island in Tunisia

IUCN along with the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECI, acronym in Spanish) and several Tunisian institutions (Institut National du Patrimoine and l'Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement) are exploring opportunities to develop a management plan for the island and its surroundings. As a first commitment, IUCN through the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation set forth a framework for this future management plan, which will be developed by a joint team made up of representatives of the aforementioned institutions. This process, with the participation of Tunisian institutions, local and private sector involvement, aims to set up an effective management system of cooperation between among IUCN members.



The small island of Chikli is also known as Chekla. It is a natural reserve in the middle of the El Bahira Lake, a shallow water lagoon connected to the sea. It is an important nesting space for birds, specially for little egrets (*Egretta garzetta*). Yet, looking down from a well preserved Spanish Fortress from the XVI century; the view includes an ongoing urban expansion of the city of Tunis.

Links:

[Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional](http://www.aeci.es/). <http://www.aeci.es/>
[Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement](http://www.anpe.nat.tn/). <http://www.anpe.nat.tn/>
[Institut National du Patrimoine](http://whc.unesco.org/sp/tun.htm). <http://whc.unesco.org/sp/tun.htm>

Mediterranean results: - North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured
 - The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved

Promoting conservation of threatened plants in North Africa

Recognising the social, cultural and growing economic importance of medicinal plants on one hand, and threats to their survival on the other, IUCN and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have been working with countries in North Africa to promote the conservation of endangered and economically useful medicinal and aromatic plants in North Africa, as well as promote indigenous knowledge, and equitable participation of people in the management and conservation of those plants. North Africa has one of the oldest, richest and most diverse cultural traditions associated with the use of medicinal plants. A considerable percentage of the population in North Africa still relies on traditional medicines for their primary health care needs. Nowadays, the demand for medicinal plants is increasing in both developing and developed countries due to growing recognition of natural products having no side effects and easily available at affordable costs. Moreover, many experiences from other developing countries have proven that the cultivation of medicinal plants, in addition to their role in conserving biodiversity and promoting traditional use, can also contribute to improving livelihoods of rural communities. An important product of the Programme is the compilation by all five North African countries of a compendium on medicinal plants with scientific information on the plants and description of their traditional usage. Experts from the region met in October 2004 in Egypt to develop this compendium, which will be posted on the Programme's website.



Links:

[North Africa Biodiversity Programme](http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/nabp/) <http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/nabp/>

Mediterranean results: - Implementation of CBD/UNCCD is supported in the region
 - Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared

Distribution of the Basking Shark in the Mediterranean: Implications for Conservation

The pelagic Basking Shark, *Cetorhinus maximus*, is used as a case study as it is globally endangered, wide-ranging in the Mediterranean, and unlike many other cartilaginous fishes, distribution data for this species is available. A paper was presented at the 8th European Elasmobranch Association Conference in October in London as a first step in providing a decision support tool for implementing regional and national conservation plans of action, in particular, the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan for Cartilaginous



Fish Species. This project can be extended to include other endangered Chondrichthyans in the Mediterranean, specifically those whose ecology may result in high susceptibility to fishing. Cartilaginous fish are known to be a large diversified group occupying a great variety of habitats and displaying different life strategies. Populations are dynamic and fluctuations may depend on oceanographic and biological parameters, and commercial exploitation. However, there is a lack of life-history and habitat distribution data in many areas and this has traditionally impeded conservation efforts. IUCN would like to thank these scientific experts who contributed unpublished data to this collective product.



Documents:

[Status and Conservation of Sharks in the Mediterranean Sea](#) (October 2004).

- Mediterranean results:
- Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors
 - The sustainable use of Mediterranean fishery resources is pursued

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2.2 Events supported by IUCN

International Seminar on Road Infrastructures and Natural Protected Areas: Putting Into Action Durban Resolutions

IUCN along with IUCN member WWF supported the organisation of a seminar on road infrastructures and natural protected areas promoted by the regional government of Andalucia from 26-27 January in Seville. Diverse groups such as conservationists, governmental institutions and civil engineers, who have traditionally clashed, discussed during three days how to keep working together on the quest for solutions and new mechanisms to harmonize and optimize development, roads and natural areas, in a more sustainable way.

By bringing together different sectors, this initiative is an example of putting into action one of the main Durban resolutions approved at the World Park Congress celebrated in South Africa last year. As a result of the seminar, an accord and several recommendations have been produced by more than a hundred participants. Driving through gorgeous landscapes produces pleasure to many people. However, roads may also have significant negative impacts on nearby communities and natural areas. It is a fact that thousands of animals get hit by motor vehicle cars, apart from other kind of disturbance (noise, pollution). However, different combinations of solutions such as fencing, underpasses and so on, have been effective in routing animals off the road.



Documents:

[Final recommendations](#) (only in Spanish)

[Seville Accord](#) (only in Spanish)

- Mediterranean results:
- Mediterranean Outputs of World Park Congress (2003) are promoted
 - A technical bridge between global convention processes and the Mediterranean region is developed

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Training Course for Protected Area Managers

During two weeks in February, 15 experts on protected areas coming from the Maghreb region joined a training course organized by the Junta de Andalucia in Malaga with the support of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), the Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. Amongst the speakers, the IUCN Councillor Zohir Sekkal heralded the need for an in-depth view of the protected areas in Algeria and encouraged the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation to help to identify pilot projects in collaboration with the regional government of Andalucia and other institutions.

One of the subjects underscored was the work programme to declare the Transcontinental Biosphere reserve between Andalucia and Morocco with more than 1.000.000ha of land in the area of Alboran. Moreover, the representative of RAC/SPA explained the importance of the "specially protected areas of Mediterranean Importance" (SPAMI) and called for more SPAMI declarations in North African countries. For UNITAR, the Mediterranean landscape has a strong link with the Maghreb region and consequently with the traditional values and culture of local communities.

Links:

[Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas](http://www.rac-spa.org/). <http://www.rac-spa.org/>

[Unitar](http://www.unitar.org/) <http://www.unitar.org/>

- Mediterranean results:
- The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved.

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National Strategies and Policies for Wetlands in Mediterranean Countries

Capacity building has been the main component in the regional seminar organized by MedWetCoast in Beirut from 16-20 February in an effort to facilitate exchange of experience and expertise across the Mediterranean on wetland and coastal issues. Spain, France, Turkey, Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine Authority and Tunisia shared their experience in the preparation and implementation of national strategies.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation introduced the environmental flow concept as a valuable tool to link wetland management and watershed planning. Environmental flow broadly recommends the management of water resources in an integrated and sustainable way on the basis of hydrological basins, hence, ensuring that downstream wetlands and rivers are provided with water of quality and quantity to maintain their natural functions and values. These activities form part of the IUCN support to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

Links:

[Ramsar Convention](http://www.ramsar.org/) <http://www.ramsar.org/>
[Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative](http://www.medwet.org/). <http://www.medwet.org/>

- Mediterranean results:
- Integrated Catchment Management is promoted
 - North-South linkages between IUCN members are supported and structured

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Revitalising Partnerships for Mediterranean Forests

Mediterranean forests share many unique and common features, and Silva Mediterranea is an international forum dedicated to Mediterranean forest issues in which member countries meet, share experiences and set cooperative programmes. Silva Mediterranea became a statutory body of FAO in 1948, and the revitalisation of this forum was undertaken in 2002, based on the growing need for such an initiative at the regional level.



Silva Mediterranea and Blue Plan have joined forces to work on the Mediterranean Forest Sustainable Development Project. To set the stage for the implementation of this initiative, a meeting was held from 23-24 January at the Blue Plan offices in Sophia Antipolis, where the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation was present as a member of the steering committee, and introduced its regional preparatory work on Forest Landscape Restoration. The meeting gathered the Mediterranean steering committee of Silva Mediterranea, as well as regional experts and research organisations working on forest issues. The aim of this common project, with a duration of 3 years, is to develop Mediterranean-specific thought process for promoting the inclusion of woodland management in regional planning, improve capacities, as well as gather information and case studies and make them available to decision-makers.

Links:

[CDrom Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mediterranean](http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/CDForest/index.html).
<http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/CDForest/index.html>
[International Association for Mediterranean Forests](http://www.aifm.org/). <http://www.aifm.org/>
[FAO - Silva Mediterranea](http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/x1880E/x1880e0a.htm). http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/x1880E/x1880e0a.htm
[Plan Bleu - Regional Activity Centre](http://www.planbleu.org) <http://www.planbleu.org>

- Mediterranean results:
- A technical bridge between global convention processes and the Mediterranean region is developed
 - Support is given to the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests

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Spanish Workshop on Marine Turtle Tagging

The Mediterranean holds a remarkable loggerhead turtle breeding population. Over twenty Spanish experts discussed tagging methodologies and standard models that allow scientific assessment of marine turtles which swim through Spanish waters and live in the Mediterranean. This workshop, organized by the Spanish Ministry of Environment at the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation from 31 March-1 April, aimed at coordinating the different methodologies applied by a wide range of scientists in Spain so as to create a unique marine turtle tagging protocol. This experience can be a good example to be taken by other countries as a way to bring together scientists that often work on marine conservation but come from various backgrounds. As scientist information is hard to come by, success on marine turtle conservation needs cooperation between different sectors and also collaboration between countries.



These activities support the implementation of action plan under the Barcelona Convention and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas.

Documents:

[Press Release](#) (only Spanish)

Links:

[Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas](http://www.rac-spa.org/). <http://www.rac-spa.org/>

Mediterranean results:

- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and Commissions in the region to support the programme is enhanced
- Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported

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WWF and IUCN Input to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

The WWF Mediterranean Programme Office and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation as major conservation organizations in the region, will participate to the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The aim is to suggest input and outline orientations that could feed into the strategy, promote engagement of a broad spectrum of actors and stakeholders and help ensure that the strategy responds to global and regional commitments and challenges. For that, the two organizations have highlighted several issues to be taken into consideration in the MSSD and that help mainstream sustainability into national and regional policies and processes. Among these issues, the development of national and regional Red Lists of Endangered Species and working on developing indicators from them as well as the need to build biodiversity concerns in the context of the World Trade Organisations and Euro-Med Partnership were outlined.

Other issues include linking biodiversity conservation with poverty alleviation, enhancing governance and integrating the Ecosystem Approach to support synergies among the conventions, conserve biodiversity and help in combating land degradation in the Mediterranean. The MSSD should be finalised by November 2005, and for that process, a wide consultation is being carried out, involving all relevant stakeholders in the region.

Documents:

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (Draft feb 2005) [EN](#) | [FR](#)
[WWF-IUCN input to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development](#)

Mediterranean results:

- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and commissions are supported and enhanced
- A technical bridge between global conventions processes and the Mediterranean region is developed

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Assessment of the Economic Value of Sustainable Use of Resources

The Tunisia and Morocco IUCN national committees, in collaboration with IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group have embarked on a project to assess the economic value of natural resource use in their respective countries. By involving scientists and national partners, the committees hope to obtain the best possible overview of the national data available on how natural resource use contributes to the national economy. Several national workshops have been organised to plan data collection and assessment and the results are expected early in 2005. The National Committees are breaking new ground in finding ways for the membership, and the commissions to work together at national level with a common purpose.

Links:

[IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/) <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/>

Mediterranean results:

- Implementation of the CBD/UNCCD is supported in the region
- Linkages, networking and partnerships among IUCN members and commissions are supported and enhanced

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3. Communication Activities

During 2004 the communications of the Centre have been consolidated. Regular electronic bulletins have been 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, etc). 14 press releases linked to ongoing activities have been distributed to the press.

The website records around 123,554 visitors and a total of 184,045 documents have been downloaded from the site in 2004. 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.

	Top 10 Downloaded Documents	Downloads
1	Les Espèces Introduites et Envahissantes dans les îles Méditerranéennes (FR)	10,356
2	Management of Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (EN, FR, ES)	8,394
3	The Mediterranean Deep Sea Ecosystems (EN)	4,598
4	Climate change and water resources in the Mediterranean (EN, FR, ES)	4,276
5	Impacts des changements climatiques sur les ressources en eau et les zones humides du Maroc (FR)	3,016
6	La problématique de l'aménagement des bassins versant - Maroc (FR)	2,424
7	Dossier sobre tiburones (ES)	2,247
8	Marine and Coastal Protected Areas - A guide for planners and managers (EN)	2,195
9	Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo de la UICN: Análisis de la Situación Regional (ES)	2,187
10	Recomendaciones para el diseño de herramientas: coexistencia de espacios naturales protegidos e infraestructuras viarias en Andalucía (ES)	1,716

Geographic regions	Visits	%
North America	54,774	44.33%
Western Europe	39,237	31.76%
Asia	5,396	4.37%
South America	4,222	3.42%
North Africa	3,177	2.57%

4. Administration



During 2004 the staffing of the office has been consolidated and the following full-time and part-time positions were occupied:

Staff	
Ameer Abdulla	Marine Specialist officer
Chadi Abi Faraj	Web design intern
Cesar Alcácer	Water officer
Andrés Alcántara	Protected areas senior officer
Sonia Ávila Carmona	Protected areas intern
Claudiane Chevalier	Marine Lawyer
Isaac Jiménez	Finance and administration officer
Lourdes Lázaro	Communication officer
Agnese Mancini	Marine Programme Intern
José Pérez	IT support (part time)
Miriam Puga	Executive assistant (part time)
Rami A. Salman	Programme coordinator
Sonsoles San Román	Executive Assistant
Cecilia Saura	Library and administration Intern
François Simard	Marine coordinator
Jamie Skinner	Director

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5. Outlook for 2005

Our Centre, your Centre, opened its doors just over four years ago and since then we have made substantial progress in establishing IUCN as a credible regional partner and meeting the expectations of our membership. This was largely confirmed in our first independent external review, to which many of you contributed and which will be available publicly in 2005. The 31 December 2004 also marked the end of the Centre's first funding agreement with the Junta of Andalucia and the Spanish Ministry for Environment, and they have both confirmed their continued support to the Mediterranean Centre for the 2005-2008 programme. The Members recorded their thanks to these core donors in the resolution passed in Bangkok.

Looking forward, there are a series of exciting Mediterranean resolutions from Bangkok and now that the Centre is at the end of its "installation" phase we can begin to make strategic plans for reinforcing IUCN's Mediterranean activities, and building on our long term relations with key members, commissions and partners. In doing so all of you can and should play a central role, whether it be in providing information to consolidate the knowledge we have on Mediterranean biodiversity and resource use, by sharing your experiences in the field, or by developing and implementing policies and projects in each of your countries and internationally. Collectively we can move towards our shared goal of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of our Mediterranean natural resources.

The 2005 programme builds on the planning process for the 2005-2008 programme 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 will start implementing the 2005-2008 programme during 2005, taking into considerations the Bangkok resolutions.

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