



Report of the IUCN Mediterranean Members' Meeting

19-22 June 2004

Naples, Italy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mediterranean Members' Meeting in Naples was made possible through the contributions and dedicated efforts of many different people and organisations. The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation would like to express its particular gratitude to the following:

- The Minister of Environment, the Hon. Altero Matteolli;
- The Director-General for Nature Protection, Dr. Aldo Cosentino;
- The President of Federparchi, Prof. Matteo Fusilli;
- The President of Vesuvius National Park, Mr. Amilcare Troiano;
- The President of Campania Region, Mr. Antonio Bassolino;
- The Mayor of Naples, Mr. Rosa Russo Jervolino;
- All the individual session chairs and facilitators;
- The rapporteurs: Ms. Dinia Hayat, Mr. Maher Mahjoub, Ms. Nada Omeira, Dr. Scott Perkin (Chief Rapporteur), Ms. Erkan Yesim and Ms. Maja Zitkovic;
- The translators, local organisers and travel agents;
- All the IUCN Members, Commission specialists and partners who made the time to participate;
- The many IUCN Secretariat staff who took part in the meeting, made presentations and provided support. Particular thanks are due to Ms. Virginia Tschopp, Ms. Sonsoles San Roman and Ms. Agnese Mancini, from the IUCN Malaga Office, for their roles in organising the meeting.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APE	Appennino Parco d'Europa
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CEC	IUCN Commission on Education and Communication
CEESP	IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
CEL	IUCN Commission on Environmental Law
CEM	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness
CIESM	International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ELC	IUCN Environmental Law Centre
ESUSG	European Sustainable Use Specialist Group
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
Federparchi	Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIS	Geographic Information System
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
KRA	Key Result Area
LIFE	Financial Instrument for the Environment (of the EU)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PA	Protected Area
RAC	Regional Advisory Committee
ROfE	IUCN Regional Office for Europe
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPAMI	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance
SSC	IUCN Species Survival Commission
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
WESCAN	West/Central Asia and North Africa
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This report summarises the proceedings of the IUCN Mediterranean Members' Meeting, held in Naples, Italy from 19 to 22 June, 2004. The meeting brought together nearly 140 participants from some 22 countries, and was designed to: review the progress of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation; engage Members and Commissions in the Mediterranean Programme for 2005-2008; discuss the implications of the World Parks Congress within the context of the Mediterranean; and prepare the region's input to the forthcoming World Conservation Congress in Bangkok.

The meeting was held at the historic Castel dell'Ovo, under the overall patronage of the Directorate-General of Nature Protection, within the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Protection. It was organised by the Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves (Federparchi), the Vesuvius National Park and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, with the support of the municipal authorities of Naples and the regional government of Campania.

Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was formally opened with a series of welcome addresses by representatives from Italy and IUCN. **Mr. Amilcare Troiano**, the President of Vesuvius National Park, drew attention to the rich biological and cultural heritage of the world-renowned Vesuvius volcano; he also highlighted the fact that Mediterranean ecosystems have been influenced by people for millennia, and expressed his belief that the best way to conserve the region's environment is to protect the region's cultural traditions. **Prof. Zohir Sekkal**, IUCN Councillor, noted that the origins of the Mediterranean Programme can be traced back to a resolution put forward at the IUCN General Assembly in 1994; he went on to identify some of the key environmental challenges which he felt should be addressed by the Centre, including over-exploitation of the region's fisheries, desertification and the unsustainable use of water resources.

On behalf of the regional government of Campania, **Mr. Mario Lumpocini** described the administration's integrated approach to the environment; he highlighted the fact that some 30 per cent of the region has now been designated as a protected area of some kind. **Dr. Bill Jackson**, IUCN Global Programme Director, drew attention to IUCN's unique structure and to the dramatic changes that have taken place within the Union over the last two decades; he emphasised that IUCN is a highly adaptable organisation that is well-placed to respond to global concerns such as climate change. **Prof. Matteo Fusilli**, the President of Federparchi, expressed his conviction that protected areas have a fundamental role to play in Italy's sustainable development and noted that PAs now cover some 12 per cent of the country; he described a number of recent initiatives involving Federparchi and the Ministry of Environment, including their participation in European Parks Day.

The keynote address was given by **Dr. Aldo Cosentino**, the Director-General for the Protection of Nature. He drew attention to the region's shared history and experience, and observed that most Mediterranean protected areas have been influenced by people for generations; he explained that, for this reason, the standpoint of the Italian Ministry of Environment is that people must be placed at the centre of the system.

Session 1: The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation – Context and Achievements

This session began with a presentation by Mr. Jamie Skinner, the Director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. He noted that whilst the Centre itself is only three years old, the planning for a Mediterranean Programme was actually initiated some ten years ago. Mr. Skinner described the five thematic priorities that have been identified by Members and incorporated into the programme (biodiversity; desertification; sustainable use; islands; and water), and outlined the various activities that have been undertaken within each theme. Although significant progress has been made in most areas,

he noted that the work on islands has lagged behind, primarily because there is no structured, regional entry point through which to initiate activities.

Following Mr. Skinner's presentation, Mr. Rami Salman provided a brief overview of the new intersessional programme for 2005-2008. Amongst other measures, the new programme seeks to capitalise upon IUCN's unique convening power, promote synergies with other organisations, encourage transboundary cooperation and respond to regional policy processes. Mr. Salman explained that each of the results identified in the Mediterranean Programme corresponds to one of the six Key Result Areas identified in the IUCN Global Programme.

Ms. Marie-Helene Adrien, from the consulting firm Universalia, presented a short briefing on the strategic review that was being undertaken of the Mediterranean Programme. Among other objectives, the review had been designed to assess the relevance, effectiveness and financial viability of the Malaga Office, and to identify any major gaps in the programme. In addition to the Membership, a wide range of stakeholders had been consulted during the review, including donors, IUCN senior management, IUCN thematic programme staff and other IUCN regional programmes.

During the discussion which followed, Members emphasised the importance of enhancing the Mediterranean Programme's work on islands. They also recommended that the Malaga Office: develop a list of Commission members from the Mediterranean region; promote coordination with other regional programmes and processes (e.g., the Barcelona Convention); reconsider whether or not sustainable use should be treated as a separate theme; promote harmonisation with the Millennium Development Goals; and assist with the implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species. Members also suggested that higher priority should be accorded to cultural landscapes, international trade, the mobilisation of civil society, and the economic and social aspects of conservation.

Engaging the Different IUCN Constituencies

A brief overview of the IUCN Regional Office for Europe (ROfE) was provided by Mr. Tamas Marghescu, the Regional Director for Europe. He outlined the various functions of the Brussels Office, including ROfE's role in implementing the European Programme, carrying out research, and serving as an IUCN "embassy" to the European Union. He also described the Countdown 2010 initiative, which seeks to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Mr. Marghescu characterised the interactions between ROfE and the Malaga Office as synergistic and cooperative, but noted that there are still some internal governance issues to be resolved. During the discussions which followed, participants suggested that ROfE should: include Europe's overseas territories within the scope of the European Programme; establish a small working group to identify practical means of increasing collaboration between the Mediterranean and European Programmes; and accord highest priority to its "embassy" functions.

Dr. Odeh Al-Jayyousi presented an overview of the IUCN West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA) Programme. He noted that the programme covers a vast region spanning 26 countries; although the programme had formerly been managed from IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Dr. Al-Jayyousi explained that a new regional office had now been established in Amman, Jordan. He noted that interactions between the WESCANA and Mediterranean Programmes are becoming both more frequent and more formalised; in this regard, he drew attention to the North Africa Biodiversity Programme, which is currently being managed by the Malaga Office under the terms of a special agreement between the WESCANA and Mediterranean Programmes.

Dr. Bill Jackson examined the role of Members and Commissions in the IUCN Programme. He noted that Members' interests vary widely, and that there is no single approach for their engagement. However, he also emphasised that the Director-General has committed the Secretariat to working more closely with the Membership, particularly in such areas as programme development, communication and the organisation of the World Conservation Congress. Dr. Jackson observed that the Commissions also play a key role in the work of IUCN. They implement conservation action; share information and knowledge; provide expertise; and support IUCN policies. He emphasised that Commission members offer their contributions on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Jamie Skinner noted that – although there are some 1,000 Commission members in the region – the IUCN Mediterranean Programme has had relatively little interaction with the Commissions to date; he expressed his hope that the meeting would serve as an introduction to the work of the Commissions and provide an entry point for greater collaboration in the future. A series of presentations on various IUCN Commissions followed:

Mr. Brahim Haddane introduced the **Species Survival Commission (SSC)**. He noted that SSC is the largest of the six IUCN Commissions, with some 7,000 members worldwide, including approximately 700 from the Mediterranean. He explained that much of SSC's work in the region has focused on the development of Red Lists of threatened species and the identification of Important Plant areas;

An overview of the **Commission on Environmental Law (CEL)** was provided by Mr. Tullio Scovazzi. He noted that CEL has established 13 Specialist Groups, and that it also works with 13 recognised centres of excellence around the world. He drew particular attention to the Working Group on Marine Law in the Mediterranean, and to the results of a recent workshop held in Malaga on improved governance beyond territorial seas;

An introduction to the **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)** was provided by Mr. Mohammed Sulayem. He observed that the Commission has approximately 1,300 members worldwide, but only some 120 from the Mediterranean. He explained that WCPA is currently revising its strategic plan to integrate the recommendations of the World Parks Congress in Durban as well as the CBD's programme of work on protected areas;

Mr. Notarbartolo provided an overview of the WCPA's **Working Group on Marine Protected Areas**. Although more than 300 marine protected areas (MPAs) have already been established in the Mediterranean, he emphasised that there is still a need to improve MPA governance, enhance public awareness and improve ecological coverage. In this regard, he noted that WCPA and the IUCN Mediterranean Programme are currently involved in a project to design the "ideal" MPA network from a biodiversity standpoint;

Mr. Ted Tryzna presented a brief description of the **Task Force on Cities and Larger Ecosystems** which is focusing initially on geographical areas with Mediterranean-type climates. He noted that these occur in only five parts of the world, all of which have been heavily impacted by rapid urbanisation and population growth. He also drew attention to the "Malibu Declaration" on cities and conservation in Mediterranean-type ecosystems, which was adopted in April, 2004;

On behalf of Ms. Susanna Calvo, Mr. Francisco Heras presented a summary of the work of the **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**. He explained that CEC's activities are founded on the premise that effective biodiversity conservation requires social commitment and social change. Communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) are crucial to fostering such change. Mr. Heras also noted that virtually all the major multilateral environmental agreements (e.g., the CBD) have articles and programmes of work dealing with education and awareness.

Plenary Discussion on Opportunities in the Region

At the end of the first day of the meeting, a plenary discussion on opportunities in the Mediterranean region was held. Amongst other suggestions, participants recommended that:

- IUCN Headquarters should provide more financial support to the various regional offices, in order to strengthen their programmes and their work with Members and Commissions;
- IUCN in general, and the Malaga Office in particular, should develop closer relationships with the private sector;
- Communication, coordination and collaboration among the three IUCN offices dealing with the Mediterranean region (Malaga, Brussels and Amman) should be strengthened.

Session 2: Relations with Members

Ms. Marie-Helene Adrien explained that she had been requested by IUCN to prepare a report on communications with the Membership, based on the responses to the questionnaires that had been circulated as part of the strategic review of the Malaga Office. Although only a relatively small number of replies had been received at the time of the Naples meeting, the findings so far suggested that the Malaga Office is entering a critical stage in its development, in which effective communication will become increasingly important. Members had recognised that the Malaga Office has a significant number of communications achievements to its credit, including a website, an electronic newsletter and a range of thematic publications. However, Members had also emphasised the importance of continuing to enhance the office's role as an information dissemination hub. Several Members had also noted that email is not an appropriate communications tool in all circumstances.

In the discussions which followed, participants recommended that the Mediterranean Programme: devote greater resources to the translation of correspondence and documents into French and Arabic; develop an organisational chart, showing which staff are responsible for particular projects; and re-structure its website in order to make it easier for users with particular thematic interests to access relevant material.

A brief overview of the organisation and structure of the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok was provided by Ms. Ursula Hiltbrunner. She explained that the Congress will be composed of three distinct components: Commission meetings; the World Conservation Forum (which will be open to the public); and the Members' Business Assembly (which will be reserved for Members). She emphasised the importance of early registration for the Congress, and noted that online registration is now available for the first time. Ms. Hiltbrunner also described the processes that will need to be followed by Members in order to receive accreditation, obtain a Letter of Credentials, give a proxy vote to another organisation, and expand the size of a delegation beyond three representatives.

Ms. Puri Canals, IUCN Councillor, presented a summary of the work of the IUCN Task Force on Governance. She explained that the Task Force had been appointed by Council in 2001, and that it had addressed four priority areas of work: the World Conservation Congress; the IUCN Council; the Commissions; and regional governance. She outlined the principal recommendations that had been made in each of these areas. On the issue of regional governance, she noted that the Task Force had recommended that the statutory regions remain unchanged, and that any problems be addressed by other means such as inter-regional committees.

During the final part of this session, a number of suggestions for resolutions at the World Conservation Congress were put forward and briefly discussed. These included resolutions on: the importance and value of the Malaga Office; sea pollution and seabirds; and the protection of the Mediterranean from oil pollution. Additional suggestions for resolutions included the role of the IUCN office in Brussels and the conservation and management of Mediterranean mountain ecosystems.

Session 3: IUCN's Contribution to the Management of the Mediterranean Sea – *Mare Nostrum*

This session began with a presentation by Ms. Despina Symons on an ecosystem approach to marine resource management. She noted that the need for an ecosystem approach is now widely accepted, but that a great deal of uncertainty remains about such issues as the definition of ecosystem boundaries. She drew attention to the EC's recent decision to establish Regional Advisory Committee (RACs) to promote fisheries management on a regional basis, with stakeholder involvement. In this regard, she explained that the Mediterranean RAC is expected to be established toward the end of 2004, and that it will present IUCN with an important opportunity to promote the ecosystem approach

Mr. Ameer Abdullah, from the Malaga Office, gave a presentation on the conservation and management of Mediterranean sharks. He highlighted the fact that sharks are uniquely vulnerable to direct and indirect human impacts, because of their longevity, slow pace of growth, and slow rate of reproduction. A recent IUCN workshop had concluded that 46 per cent of all Mediterranean shark species can now be classified as threatened. To help address these concerns, IUCN has established a Mediterranean section of the

SSC - Shark Specialist Group, launched a regional ecological assessment, and promoted capacity building.

Mr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo noted that there are two basic approaches that can be taken to conserve deep sea biodiversity in the Mediterranean: a site-based approach, focusing on the establishment of protected areas to conserve sites of special biological significance (e.g., submarine canyons and brine pools); and a fisheries management approach, focusing on controlling the depth at which deep sea fishing can legally take place. He expressed his support for the latter option, as it is essentially precautionary in nature; however, he noted that such an approach would still need to be complemented by the creation of some protected areas, in order to ensure the conservation of selected sites of particular importance and vulnerability.

Mr. Tulio Scovazzi looked at the legal aspects of the Mediterranean's governance regime. He noted that - with the exception of Morocco and Syria - most Mediterranean States have refrained from establishing the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) envisioned by the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, many countries have created some form of exclusive use zones within their waters (e.g., fisheries zones or ecological protection zones), leading to a fragmented, *sui generis* system of governance in the Mediterranean. Similarly, Ms. Claudiane Chevalier drew attention to the conclusions of an IUCN workshop on governance of the Mediterranean beyond territorial seas, which had recently been held in Malaga. The workshop had highlighted the lack of cooperation beyond territorial seas, and warned that unilateral extensions of jurisdiction are preventing the development of a coordinated legal framework.

Session 4: Implementation of the Conclusions of the World Parks Congress in the Mediterranean

Mr. Andres Alcantara, from the IUCN Malaga Office, introduced the session by providing a brief overview of the IUCN Mediterranean Protected Areas Programme. He noted that the Mediterranean is considered to be a particularly important biodiversity hotspot, but that most PAs in the region have been inhabited by people for generations. For this reason, the overall vision of the IUCN programme is that protected areas will eventually be seen as the "engines" of local development, rather than as an unwelcome constraint. Among other objectives, the programme seeks to: assist with PA planning and management; promote the integration of PAs into all sectors; strengthen the capacity of PA managers; and persuade both government and civil society of the added value that economic investment in protected areas can bring. The programme is also seeking to promote the recommendations of the Durban Action Plan within the context of the Mediterranean.

Mr. Chedly Rais explained that governance had featured prominently at the World Parks Congress in Durban. Among other recommendations, the Durban Action Plan had called for the development of participatory governance evaluation tools and comparative analyses of different governance models; the importance of regional agreements and regional governance structures for transboundary protected areas had also been highlighted. Mr. Rais noted that most PAs in the Mediterranean region can be classified as IUCN Category V or VI; the implication is that there is a critical need to develop effective mechanisms for stakeholder participation, for example, by promoting more decentralised and participatory PA management systems.

Ms. Puri Canals explained that the Durban Action Plan had highlighted the importance of enhancing connectivity within both terrestrial and marine protected area systems. Amongst other measures, the Durban Action Plan had identified the need to promote transfrontier parks and to establish PA networks composed of different categories of protected areas. Within the Mediterranean region, Ms. Canals drew attention to the need to promote harmonisation of different governance regimes across PA networks, and to launch sustainable development programmes for Category V protected areas. She also drew attention to the importance of reversing rural out-migration and of working beyond PA boundaries.

Mr. Jean Jalbert looked at the issue of capacity building. He explained that the Durban Action Plan had identified the need to develop national capacity building strategies for all PA actors, develop human resources policies for PA staff and establish an international network of training organisations. Within the Mediterranean region, Mr. Jalbert highlighted the importance of developing recruitment systems based

on job descriptions and skills requirements, encouraging the exchange of trainers and promoting the development of new learning tools (such as e-learning). In closing, Mr. Jalbert drew attention to a Memorandum of Understanding that had recently been signed among four training centres of excellence in the Mediterranean; among other activities, the agreement will promote the design of common training modules, aimed in particular at assisting PA staff to contribute to sustainable development.

Mr. Maher Mahjoub summarised the Durban Action Plan's key recommendations on sustainable financing. Amongst other measures, it called for: the development of country-level financing plans for PA systems; the careful commercialisation of PA products under government regulation; and the use of taxes, tradable permits and other financial instruments in order to generate increased revenues. Within the Mediterranean region, Mr. Mahjoub drew attention to the need to develop PA business plans, explore public/private sector partnerships and promote the use of innovative financing mechanisms.

In the final presentation of the session, Ms. Maria Teresa Martin-Crespo looked at the issue of gaps in the PA system. She noted that the use of PA gap analysis had been actively promoted at the World Parks Congress, particularly as a tool to prioritise additions to existing PA networks. She emphasised that total PA coverage in the Mediterranean region currently stands at only seven per cent, and that six countries in the region have PA systems covering less than two per cent of their territory; the issue of ecological representation and system gaps is therefore very pertinent to the Mediterranean context.

Protected Areas in Italy: Sharing the Experience

Throughout the course of the Members' meeting, a series of presentations on the Italian experience of protected area management was given. The first talk was by **Dr. Luigi Boitani**, who presented a summary of a recent project which assessed the role of Italy's protected areas in conserving vertebrate biodiversity. The project used map overlays to compare species' requirements with the existing protected area system. The results demonstrated that the current PA network plays a significant role in conserving Italy's vertebrate biodiversity; however, there is still an important need to enhance connectivity between the mountains and the plains, and to establish corridors among existing protected areas. Another striking finding to emerge from the project is that a PA system designed solely with a focus on Italy's endangered vertebrate species would also succeed in providing adequate protection for most other vertebrate species as well. Dr. Boitani noted that this has important implications for policy makers.

Mr. Fabio Renzi presented an overview of the Appennino Parco d'Europa (APE) project. He noted that the Apennines stretch some 1,500 kilometres across the length of Italy, and span a vast area of some nine million hectares. The overall objective of the APE project is to enhance the potential for protected areas along the entire Apennine range, by promoting consensus building, the integration of PAs into other sectors, and collaboration among multiple stakeholders. To this end, the project has helped to revise legislation, promoted the incorporation of APE concerns into regional economic planning instruments, and organised over 1,000 meetings and debates. Mr. Renzi went on to describe APE's four pilot projects and its efforts to conserve the region's threatened wolf and bear populations. He concluded by noting that the mountain areas of the Mediterranean are continuing to experience depopulation, the loss of cultural identity and the loss of biodiversity. To address these concerns, he suggested that the lessons learned from APE be used as the basis for a new convention for the Mediterranean's mountains.

Prof. Matteo Fusilli, the President of Federparchi, presented a paper on PA governance and participatory management approaches in Italy. He noted that the adoption of new protected area legislation in 1991 had catalysed the creation of hundreds of new PAs; in total, Italy now has over 1,000 protected areas, covering some 12 per cent of the country. Prof. Fusilli observed that one of the reasons for the success of the 1991 framework law is that it is based on the principle of sharing decisions with local stakeholders. He also noted that the Italian PA authorities are engaged in both conservation activities and local development initiatives. Prof. Fusilli emphasised that the Italian landscape has been shaped by both nature and man through centuries of interaction, leading to the development of many traditional cultivars and foodstuffs; some 1,600 unique products are now being marketed through a special scheme involving the Ministry of Environment, Federparchi, the Legambiente environmental association and "Slow Food". As a result of these various initiatives, protected areas have now become

important hubs for the regional economy, and a wide range of alliances has been forged between PA managers and other stakeholders.

Reinforcing the Linkages between WWF and IUCN in the Mediterranean

Mr. Marco Pagliani gave a presentation on the WWF Mediterranean Programme, which encompasses all the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, as well as Jordan, Macedonia and Portugal; however, the programme has accorded priority geographical focus to the south-western Mediterranean countries and the eastern Adriatic states. Priority thematic areas include forests, marine and coastal, fresh water, education/capacity building and Mediterranean policy issues. Mr. Pagliani went on to describe several representative WWF projects, including: the southern Portugal green belt project, which is seeking to link three separate protected areas through a series of corridors and buffer zones; a project on the Lycian coast in Turkey, which aims to protect turtle nesting beaches, enhance fisheries management and promote responsible tourism; and a protected areas project in the Atlas mountains of Morocco.

Following Mr. Pagliani's presentation, Ms. Isabella Pratesi provided more detailed information about the activities of WWF-Italy, which has taken the lead role in respect to Sardinia/Corsica and the Italian peninsula. The programme is currently involved in a major data collection and analysis effort, aimed at identifying priority areas for biodiversity conservation within these two ecoregions. WWF-Italy is also involved in a number of urgent conservation initiatives, such as the effort to conserve Brown bears in the central region of the country. In closing, Ms. Pratesi emphasised that she sees significant potential for collaboration between WWF and IUCN in the Mediterranean region.

The Naples Declaration

At the final session of the Mediterranean Members' Meeting, participants unanimously adopted the "Naples Declaration". An initial draft of the declaration had been prepared by the IUCN Italian National Committee, and had subsequently been revised based on comments received from the floor.

The declaration highlights the Mediterranean's rich cultural and biological heritage, and recognises the valuable contributions made by the IUCN Malaga Office and several other national and regional initiatives. However, it also notes that the region's ecosystems are continuing to deteriorate at an alarming rate. To address this concern, the declaration urges all Mediterranean countries to: develop strategic plans for the conservation of major Mediterranean environmental systems (e.g., mountains); establish a representative and well-managed system of terrestrial and marine protected areas; enhance the transparency, efficiency and equity of PA governance; protect and sustain systems of traditional knowledge; strengthen regional initiatives; and improve relations between protected areas and local communities. The declaration also calls upon the countries of the Mediterranean to renew and strengthen their efforts to implement the CBD and other multi-lateral environmental agreements.

At a more specific level, the Naples Declaration expresses support for the IUCN Mediterranean Programme's 2005-2008 intersessional plan and the IUCN Countdown 2010 initiative. It requests IUCN to work with Members and partners to facilitate the development of a Mediterranean strategy on invasive alien species and to design conservation plans for species of regional interest. The declaration also expresses support for the establishment of a regional association of Mediterranean protected areas; welcomes Italy's offer to host the first *Ad Hoc Open Ended Meeting on Protected Areas* under the CBD in April 2005; and invites IUCN to organise a preparatory meeting of Mediterranean PA stakeholders.

Closing of the Meeting

The Mediterranean Members' Meeting was formally closed by Dr. Jamie Skinner just before noon on 22 June 2004. He expressed his thanks to the many people who had made the meeting possible, particularly: the President and staff of the Vesuvius National Park; the President and staff of Federparchi; the translators; the local organisers and travel agents; the Members; and the staff of the Malaga Office.

REPORT OF THE IUCN MEDITERRANEAN MEMBERS' MEETING

Naples, June 2004

Overview and Objectives

The IUCN Mediterranean Members' Meeting was held in Naples, Italy from 19 to 22 June, 2004. The meeting brought together nearly 140 participants from some 22 countries, and was designed to meet the following objectives:

- Discuss the evolution, achievements and programme of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation;
- Engage the Members and the Commissions in the Mediterranean Programme for 2005-2008;
- Prepare the Mediterranean region's input to the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok;
- Discuss the outputs of the World Parks Congress within the context of the Mediterranean region;
- Promote information exchange and the creation of Mediterranean networks.

The meeting was held at the historic Castel dell'Ovo, under the overall patronage of the Directorate-General of Nature Protection, within the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Protection. The meeting was organised by the Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves (Federparchi), the Vesuvius National Park and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, with the support of the municipal authorities of Naples and the Campania government.

The meeting's agenda is presented at **Annex 1**, whilst a full list of participants is provided at **Annex 2**. The "Naples Declaration", which was adopted unanimously by participants at the close of the meeting, can be found at **Annex 3**.

Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Amilcare Troiano, the President of Vesuvius National Park, welcomed participants to Naples and expressed his thanks for the choice of Vesuvius National Park and Naples as a venue for the meeting. Although Vesuvius National Park is one of the smallest parks in the Italian protected area (PA) network, Mr. Troiano noted that it has a rich history of research and protection; the world's first volcanic observatory, for example, was established on Vesuvius in the early 1700s. Today, several hundred thousand people live within the park's boundaries, making the area an important example of sustainable development. Mr. Troiano drew attention to the fact that Mediterranean ecosystems have been influenced by people for millennia. In this regard, he expressed his belief that the best way to conserve the region's environment is to protect the Mediterranean's rich heritage of cultures and traditions, both within and adjacent to protected areas.

Prof. Zohir Sekkal, IUCN Councillor, expressed his thanks to both the Malaga Office and the meeting's Italian hosts. He explained that the origins of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation can be traced back to a resolution put forward by Members from North Africa, Italy and Spain at the IUCN General Assembly held in 1994 in Buenos Aires. He noted that the Centre is now involved in a wide range of activities, and is well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that are arising as the southern Mediterranean countries join the European Union (EU). Prof. Sekkal also highlighted some of the region's key environmental challenges, including over-fishing, desertification and the over-

exploitation of water resources; he drew particular attention to the water-related challenges facing the countries of North Africa.

On behalf of the regional government of Campania, **Mr. Mario Lumpocini** also welcomed the participants to Naples. He explained that the regional government has adopted an integrated approach to environmental management and protection, which involves awareness raising through the provision of information, and investment in environmental activities. Today, some 30 per cent of the region falls within a protected area of some kind. However, Mr. Lumpocini expressed his belief that the Campania government still has much to do in the field of environment; for this reason, he welcomed international gatherings such as the Mediterranean Members' Meeting and the opportunity to learn from others' experiences.

Speaking on behalf of the IUCN Director-General, **Dr. Bill Jackson** (IUCN Global Programme Director) drew attention to IUCN's unique structure, which is based on the principle of collaboration between government and civil society. In the face of a rapidly changing world confronted by such global concerns as climate change, Dr. Jackson emphasised that IUCN is a highly adaptable organisation. He noted that IUCN has changed from a small, centralised organisation to one which today has over 1,000 Members, 12,000 Commission members, and 42 offices around the world. Dr. Jackson said that it was a pleasure to see so many Members and Commission specialists taking part in the meeting, and expressed his hope that the region would also be well represented at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok. He concluded his speech by thanking the participants for their attendance, and the Vesuvius National Park and the Italian government for their hospitality; he also expressed IUCN's gratitude for the generous support which the Union continues to receive from Italy at the national, regional and global levels.

Prof. Matteo Fusilli, the President of Federparchi, said that he was delighted that Italy and Vesuvius National Park had been chosen as the venue for the Mediterranean Members' meeting. He observed that protected areas have a fundamental role to play in Italy's sustainable development, and highlighted the fact that PAs now cover some 12 per cent of Italy's national territory. Prof. Fusilli drew attention to a number of recent initiatives involving Federparchi and the Ministry of Environment, including their participation in European Parks Day and their involvement in the development of a training programme for the managers of protected areas containing active volcanoes. He noted that all of these initiatives had made reference to – and drawn upon – the work of IUCN. In closing, Prof. Fusilli expressed his gratitude to Dr. Jamie Skinner and the Malaga Office, and said that he looked forward to further collaboration with the IUCN Mediterranean Programme in the future.

Dr. Aldo Cosentino, the Director-General for the Protection of Nature, delivered the keynote speech, entitled: *The Italian Experience of Managing Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development: Lessons for the Mediterranean*. He emphasised that it would be important for the Mediterranean Members of IUCN to pursue a set of common objectives at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, based on the region's shared history and experience. In this regard, he observed that protected areas in the Mediterranean region are about landscapes, cultures and traditions; most areas in the Mediterranean have been affected by people, and have been handed down through generations. For this reason, the standpoint of the Italian Ministry of Environment is that people must be placed at the centre of the system. Dr Cosentino highlighted the critical importance of securing public funding for conservation initiatives. However, he also drew attention to the need to draw upon other sources of support and to the importance of coordination among different bodies. Dr. Cosentino concluded his keynote speech by noting that Italy looks forward to the Congress in Bangkok and to the opportunity to share its experiences with others.

Session 1: The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation – Context and Achievements

Evolution of the Centre and Overview of Achievements (Dr. Jamie Skinner)

Mr. Skinner, the Director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, provided a brief overview of the evolution and accomplishments of the Mediterranean Programme between 2001 and 2004. He noted that whilst the Centre itself is only three years old, the development of a Mediterranean Programme was initiated some ten years ago. He expressed his gratitude to IUCN's partners in Spain for all their support and contribution. The five principal themes that have been identified by the Members and incorporated into the Mediterranean Programme are as follows:

- **Biodiversity:** Activities have focussed upon: Red Lists; protected areas; regional action plans (particularly those that are linked to the Barcelona Convention); assessments of deep sea biodiversity; and the identification of important plant areas;
- **Desertification:** Issues related to desertification are being addressed primarily through the Centre's work on forest landscape restoration. Particular emphasis is being placed on promoting the ecosystem approach, in collaboration with the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM);
- **Sustainable Use :** Activities under this theme have focussed upon: the ecosystem approach to fisheries; governance of the marine environment; the environmental impacts of aquaculture; forest landscape restoration; assessment of the economic value of natural resource use; and work with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development;
- **Islands** Although there are over 5,000 islands in the Mediterranean Sea, Mr. Skinner noted that there are at present no structured, regional entry points for work on island-related issues. He observed that IUCN has made less progress in this area than in the other themes, although an initial assessment report was released in 2002;
- **Water:** Activities have focussed on: adaptation to climate change; integrated catchment management; and the promotion of the concept of environmental flows.

In closing, Mr. Skinner identified a number of strategic priorities for the future, including the need to: strengthen linkages with the Commissions; develop regional components of global IUCN programmes; support the Membership; and organise annual meetings of the Chairs of the National Committees. He also highlighted the importance of coordinating with other IUCN regional programmes, in particular, the West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCAN) Programme and the Regional Office for Europe (ROfE).

The 2005-2008 Programme (Mr. Rami Salman)

Mr. Rami Salman provided a brief overview of the Mediterranean Programme's new intersessional programme for 2005-2008. He explained that the programme had been developed through a series of steps, including the preparation of a situation analysis, the circulation of a draft programme document for comment, and the finalisation of the document based on the comments received.

The overall vision of the new intersessional programme is: "*Sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation are promoted through cooperation and supported by shared values and cultures.*" The key objectives of the new programme are to: make knowledge available; strengthen the efforts of IUCN Members to mainstream sustainable development; and to support the implementation of Mediterranean policies on conservation. In fulfilling these objectives, the new intersessional programme seeks to capitalise upon IUCN's unique convening power, promote synergies with other organisations, encourage transboundary cooperation, and respond to regional policy processes. It also seeks to increase the participation of IUCN Members and Commissions.

Mr. Salman observed that the new intersessional programme is immediately relevant to the concerns and priorities of the region, but remains within the overall IUCN Global Programme framework. In this regard, each of the specific results identified in the Mediterranean Programme corresponds to one of the six Key Result Areas (KRAs) identified in the Global Programme.

More detailed information about the new intersessional programme can be found at: www.uicnmed.org.

Strategic Review of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (Ms. Marie-Helene Adrien)

Ms. Marie-Helene Adrien, from the consulting firm Universalia, presented a short briefing on the strategic review that she was carrying out of the Mediterranean Programme. She explained that the overall purpose of the review was to assess the progress that had been made in establishing the Mediterranean Programme. Specific objectives were to:

- Assess the relevance of the Malaga Office;
- Assess the effectiveness of the thematic work carried out to date;
- Assess the effectiveness of the management and organisational development of the programme;
- Assess the financial viability of the programme;
- Identify major gaps in the programme and suggest future directions for programme development;
- Make recommendations for the future development and management of the Malaga Office.

The methodology for the review had involved interviews, questionnaires, and informal dialogue at regional meetings and other events. In addition to the Membership, other stakeholders consulted during the course of the review had included donors, IUCN senior management, IUCN thematic programme staff, and other IUCN regional programmes (such as WESCANNA).

Discussion on the Progress and Achievements of the Malaga Office

Participants congratulated the Malaga Office on its achievements to date, its approach and its focus on transparency. However a number of concerns were expressed as follows. Much of the discussion was dominated by the topic of islands. The importance of islands for biodiversity conservation was emphasised, and concern was expressed about the relative lack of progress made by the Malaga Office in this programme area. Mr. Skinner agreed that the Mediterranean Programme should intensify its efforts on islands, and as a first step, suggested that Members with a particular interest in this topic make their names known to the Malaga Office. He also proposed that interested Members consider forming a small working group on island ecosystems.

In addition to enhancing its work on islands, participants recommended that the Malaga Office should:

- Develop a list of Commission members from the Mediterranean region, in order to facilitate networking;
- Promote coordination between the IUCN Mediterranean Programme and other regional processes, such as the Barcelona Convention and the EU's LIFE initiative. In response, Mr. Skinner emphasised that the Mediterranean Programme had been created to provide added value, and not to duplicate the existing work being undertaken by Members or others. With respect to the Barcelona Convention, he noted that the Malaga Office is in frequent contact with the Convention Secretariat and is currently assisting with the criteria for revision of the Convention's annexes;
- Reconsider whether or not sustainable use should be included as a separate theme within the Mediterranean Programme. Some participants argued that sustainable use is an *approach* that is applicable to all thematic areas, and wondered how overlap and duplication would be avoided. Mr. Skinner agreed that there *is* a danger of overlap, and noted that the Mediterranean Programme is gradually shifting towards a convergence with the IUCN Global Programme;

- Seek to promote harmonisation between the Mediterranean Programme and the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), including the Millennium Development Goals. Mr. Skinner agreed that the WSSD recommendations and the Millennium Development Goals are particularly important, as they represent commitments from heads of states. He noted that the WSSD targets for sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas are of direct relevance to the work of the Mediterranean Programme;
- Assist with the implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which has now been approved by the Council of Europe. Participants also noted that invasive species could provide a useful focus/entry point for the Mediterranean Programme's work on islands, since island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of IAS;
- Accord higher priority to: the economic and social aspects of conservation (particularly in relation to water); the Mediterranean region's cultural landscapes; international trade; and the mobilisation of civil society.

Engaging the Different IUCN Constituencies

Interaction with the IUCN European Programme (Mr. Tamas Marghescu)

A brief overview of the IUCN European Programme was provided by Mr. Tamas Marghescu, the Regional Director for Europe. He noted that the European region is the largest IUCN region in the world; one-third of IUCN's global Membership is based in the European region, and 50 per cent of IUCN's core funding comes from Europe. The Regional Office for Europe (ROfE) is located in Brussels, and seeks to:

- Implement the European Programme (with a geographical focus on central and eastern Europe);
- Implement research projects;
- Serve as the secretariat for various European initiatives, including Countdown 2010, the Pan-European Green Belt and the European Habitat Forum;
- Serve as an IUCN "embassy" to the EU, representing the needs of IUCN Members to the various EU institutions and providing information and advice to IUCN about EU programmes and activities.

The overall goal of the European Programme is to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. In this regard, the principal delivery mechanism for the programme is the Countdown 2010 initiative. Mr. Marghescu observed that this goal may not be met, but that it can be used to build political pressure and to remind governments of their commitments.

Mr. Marghescu described the interactions between ROfE and the Malaga Office as synergistic and cooperative. Although the two programmes share a considerable number of Members and countries, they have a different geographical focus. However, he observed that there are still some internal governance issues that remain to be resolved.

Discussion: Following Mr. Marghescu's presentation, participants suggested that ROfE should:

- Include Europe's overseas territories within the European Programme. Mr. Marghescu agreed that this is an important issue and noted that ROfE had recently facilitated a meeting of IUCN National Coordinators on this topic;
- Seek to increase the level of interaction between the Mediterranean and European Programmes. Members suggested that a small group be formed to identify practical ideas for collaboration. In response, Mr. Marghescu noted that he views the Mediterranean Programme as an integral – but autonomous – component of the European Programme. He welcomed the idea of establishing a small task force, and noted that the Malaga and Brussels Offices had recently been discussing potential mechanisms for enhancing synergy between the two programmes;

- Serve exclusively as an “embassy” for IUCN. Mr. Marghescu noted that the Brussels Office *does* play an important representational function for IUCN, but emphasised that this is only one of its mandates; ROfE is also responsible for implementation of the European Programme.

Interaction with the IUCN WESCANA Programme (Dr. Odeh Al-Jayyousi)

A brief overview of IUCN’s programme in the WESCANA region was provided by Dr. Odeh Al-Jayyousi, the WESCANA Regional Director. He began by noting that the region is composed of 26 countries, making it both large and complex. Although the WESCANA Programme was formerly managed from Headquarters, a new regional office is now being established in Amman, Jordan.

The new WESCANA intersessional programme contains nine objectives and 40 results. It seeks to: build upon existing achievements; sustain partnerships; enhance transparency; encourage “bridge building” among different stakeholders (particularly government and civil society); and promote the role of IUCN as a convening body and neutral platform. Dr. Al-Jayyousi noted that interactions between the WESCANA and Mediterranean Programmes are becoming both more frequent and more formalised. Increasing emphasis is being placed on: the organisation of joint meetings; increased sharing of documentation; the elaboration of mechanisms for the sharing of staff time; and the preparation and implementation of joint workplans and projects. Dr. Al-Jayyousi drew particular attention to the North Africa Biodiversity Programme, which is currently being managed by the Malaga Office under a special agreement with the WESCANA Programme.

Discussion: In the discussion which followed, participants suggested that the WESCANA Programme should not simply copy the Mediterranean or European Programmes, but rather, develop its own approach to deal with the region’s special needs. In response to a query about the size of the new regional office in Amman, Dr. Al-Jayyousi noted that it would have at least five, full-time staff.

The Role of Members and Commissions in the IUCN Programme (Dr. Bill Jackson)

Dr. Jackson observed that there is no single approach for engaging the Membership. The interests of Members vary considerably: some are interested primarily in knowledge sharing, networking and advocacy; others are interested primarily in project implementation at the field level. However, the Director-General has committed the Secretariat to work more closely with the Membership, particularly in such areas as programme development, communication and the organisation of the World Conservation Congress. In this connection, Dr. Jackson noted that the new IUCN programme has been developed with the active collaboration of the Membership and the six Commissions. He also emphasised that - for the first time - the new programme incorporates the work of both the Secretariat and the Commissions.

Dr. Jackson explained that the Commissions play a key role in the work of IUCN. Amongst other activities, they: implement conservation action; share information and knowledge (e.g., they are prodigious publishers); provide expertise (e.g., Red Listing); and support IUCN policies (e.g., at meetings). He noted that their contributions are offered on a voluntary basis.

Discussion: During the discussion which followed, participants expressed concern about the potential for overlap among the WESCANA, Mediterranean and European Programmes; they wondered what steps had been taken by the Secretariat to address this issue. Mr. Skinner replied by noting that the Malaga Office had been established at the specific request of the Membership. He reiterated that there is frequent communication among the three Regional Directors, and drew particular attention to the framework agreement which has recently been drawn up between the Malaga and Amman Offices. Mr. Skinner explained that the focus of the Mediterranean Programme is on North-South collaboration, common regional issues related to the Mediterranean ecosystem, and the marine environment. He stated that he was not aware of any conflicts or overlaps among the different IUCN programmes at the present time.

Dr. Jackson observed that the Malaga Office is an experiment, and explained that this is one reason the strategic review by Universalis had been commissioned. He noted that there have been many recent changes which should lead to better collaboration, including: better programming; better use of technology (such as email); and the preparation of business plans for all three offices which identify the ways in which the different regions will collaborate with one another.

Partnerships with the Commissions

Mr. Skinner introduced the session by noting that the Commissions are a key part of IUCN. Despite their fundamental role, however, and the presence of some 1,000 Commission members in the region, the Mediterranean Programme has had relatively little interaction with the Commissions to date. As a step toward addressing this concern, the session had been designed to provide a brief introduction to the work of the Commissions, in the hope that this would serve as an entry point for working more closely together in the future.

Species Survival Commission (Mr. Brahim Haddane)

Mr. Haddane began by noting that the Species Survival Commission (SSC) is the largest of the six IUCN Commissions, with some 7,000 members world-wide; there are approximately 700 members in the Mediterranean region, although some countries (such as Libya and Monaco) are poorly represented. The Commission has a Steering Committee, an Executive Committee and eight Vice-Chairs. Commission members are organised into 120 Specialist Groups, dealing with particular subjects (e.g. invasive species). There is also a Sustainable Use Specialist Group, with 24 sub-groups. Much of SSC's work within the Mediterranean region has focused on the development of Red Lists of threatened species and the identification of Important Plant Areas. In terms of sustainable use, SSC is working on medicinal plants, migratory birds and a variety of other subjects.

Commission on Environmental Law (Mr. Tullio Scovazzi)

Mr. Scovazzi explained that there are approximately 150 members of the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) in the Mediterranean region. The Commission has established 13 Specialist Groups, and also works with 13 recognised "centres of excellence" located around the world. Mr. Scovazzi highlighted the activities of CEL's Working Group on Marine Law in the Mediterranean, which is composed of 25 legal experts (professionals and academicians) and aims to address governance challenges in the Mediterranean Sea. Particular attention is being accorded to promoting action on a regional scale and to the implementation/integration of the Barcelona Convention and the General Fisheries Commission. In closing, Mr. Scovazzi drew attention to the results and recommendations of the recent workshop, "Towards Improved Governance in the Mediterranean beyond Territorial Seas", held in Malaga from 15-16 March 2004.

World Commission on Protected Areas (Mr. Mohammed Sulayem)

Mr. Sulayem provided a brief introduction to the work of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). He explained that the Commission has some 1,300 members world-wide, of which approximately 120 are from the Mediterranean region; he observed that the membership in the region is smaller than the Commission would like. WCPA is currently revising its strategic plan to integrate the recommendations of the World Parks Congress in Durban as well as the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In closing, Mr. Sulayem drew attention to the World Protected Area Leadership Forum, which was established in advance of the Durban Congress. Although the Forum was originally intended to be a temporary initiative, it has proven to be such a useful mechanism for interaction and exchange among protected area executives that a decision was subsequently taken to continue its work; the most recent meeting of the Forum was held in Finland from 14-16 June 2004.

Task Force on Cities and Larger Ecosystems (Mr. Ted Tryzna)

Mr. Tryzna explained that he is currently leading a Commission initiative dealing with cities and larger ecosystems. He noted that IUCN has traditionally accorded relatively little attention to urban issues, but that a Task Force has now been established to look at the role of local authorities in the conservation of urban biodiversity. The Task Force's first theme is cities and larger ecosystems in Mediterranean climates (characterised by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters). These exist in only five parts of the world, all of which have been heavily impacted by urbanisation and population growth. In closing, Mr. Tryzna drew attention to the "Malibu Declaration", which was adopted in April 2004 by the organising committee for an Intercontinental Programme on Cities and Conservation in Mediterranean-type Ecosystems.

The Malibu Declaration can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

WCPA Working Group on Marine Protected Areas (Mr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo)

Mr. Notarbartolo noted that more than 300 marine protected areas (MPAs) have already been established in the Mediterranean Sea. He also drew attention to the Barcelona Convention, and highlighted the fact that the Specially Protected Areas (SPA) Protocol adopted in 1995 provides for the establishment of MPAs in the high seas. Despite these achievements, Mr. Notarbartolo emphasised that there is still a need to improve MPA governance, enhance public awareness and improve ecological coverage. He noted that WCPA and the Mediterranean Programme are currently involved in a project to design an ideal MPA network from a biodiversity standpoint; in designing such a system, he explained that consideration must be given not only to hotspots, but also to sinks, corridors and life sustaining oceanographic processes.

Commission on Education and Communication (Mr. Francisco Heras)

Mr. Heras introduced the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) on behalf of Ms. Susanna Calvo. He explained that the work of CEC is based on the premise that making biodiversity conservation compatible with the maintenance and improvement of people's quality of life requires social commitment and social change. Communication, education and participation are crucial to these endeavours. CEC uses the acronym "CEPA" (Communication; Education; Participation; Awareness) to summarise these social tools. Mr. Heras observed that virtually all the multilateral environmental agreements (e.g., the CBD) include articles dealing with communication, education, public awareness and/or public participation. CEC is convinced that CEPA can play a pivotal role in promoting the implementation of these environmental agreements and fostering synergies among them.

Discussion on the IUCN Commissions

Following the presentations, there was a general request for clarification on the ways in which the Commissions operate. Members wondered, for example, if the Commissions have their own plans of action, and if so, how these relate to the IUCN programme? Mr. Skinner explained that the Commissions are independent bodies, composed of volunteers. Commission Chairs are elected at the World Conservation Congress. Each Commission decides on its own activities and develops an individual workplan, which is linked to the IUCN Global Programme.

Some participants also wondered why there had been no presentation on the work of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) or the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). Mr. Skinner explained that the Malaga Office has attempted to engage all the Commissions in the development and implementation of the Mediterranean Programme, but that the degree of interaction and collaboration has varied; whereas there have been several subjects of mutual interest developed with WCPA and several other Commissions, progress with CEESP and CEM has been more limited.

Plenary Discussion on Opportunities in the Region

At the end of the first day of the meeting, a plenary discussion on opportunities in the Mediterranean region was held. The following points were made by the meeting participants:

- Several participants felt that insufficient funding and support are provided to the IUCN regional offices by Headquarters. As an example, they cited the new WESCANA Regional Office in Amman, which is to have only five full-time staff to cover a vast region of 26 countries. Headquarters was urged to provide more financial support to the various regional offices, in order to enhance their programmes as well their work with Members and Commissions;
- Members recommended that IUCN and the Malaga Office develop closer relationships with the private sector. In this regard, Mr. Salman noted that there will be a special session on the private sector at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok; in addition, the new IUCN intersessional plan has a number of specific results related to collaboration with the private sector;
- Several participants expressed concern about the potential for overlap and conflict among the three IUCN offices involved in the Mediterranean region (Malaga, Brussels and Amman); they emphasised the need for enhanced communication and coordination. Other participants argued that the region covered by the WESCANA Programme is too large; they suggested that the Malaga

Office should be responsible for the Mediterranean ecoregion, and that the Amman Office should become responsible for countries lying outside this zone. Still other participants observed that Members are free to choose the regional office with which they would like to work; they emphasised that it is important to have freedom of choice and to be able to choose partners with whom one feels comfortable.

- One member noted that only 34 per cent of the meeting's participants represented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and urged the Malaga Office to enhance NGO participation by not organising meetings in Spring and making more funding available for their involvement.

Session 2: Relations with the Members

Communication and Information (Ms. Marie-Helene Adrien)

Ms. Adrien explained that Universalis had been requested to prepare a report on communications with the Membership, based on the responses to the questionnaires that had been circulated as part of the strategic review of the Mediterranean Programme. She summarised the initial findings as follows:

- Email was felt to be a useful and important communications tool, but some Members had noted that it is not appropriate to all circumstances;
- Members felt that it was important for the Malaga Office to continue to serve as an information dissemination hub;
- Respondents also observed that it is important for Members to communicate among themselves and with the Malaga Office.

Overall, the questionnaires reflected the sense that the Malaga Office is entering a critical stage in its development, and highlighted the important role of communications in this process. Members had also recognised that the Malaga Office has a significant number of communications achievements to its credit. These include: a dedicated website; an electronic newsletter; a range of thematic publications; its work with the media on Mediterranean environmental issues; and its successful promotion of Mediterranean positions at IUCN events.

Discussion: During the ensuing discussion, the following points and issues were raised:

- Several participants noted that the Malaga Office has made a tremendous effort to ensure that materials are available in English, French and Spanish (e.g., the electronic newsletter). However, a number of Members from North Africa expressed their concern about the continued dominance of English within IUCN; they requested the Malaga Office to devote greater resources to the translation of correspondence and documents into French. They also urged the WESCANA Programme to make greater use of Arabic in its communications;
- In order to enhance communications, Members suggested that it would be useful for the Malaga Office to develop an organisational chart, showing who is responsible for what. This would help Members to know who to contact about particular projects;
- Some Members felt that the structure of the current website is confusing. They suggested that the site could be improved by enabling users with particular interests to access specific thematic material more quickly and easily.

Organisation and Structure of the Bangkok Congress (Ms. Ursula Hiltbrunner)

A brief overview of the organisation and structure of the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok was provided by Ms. Hiltbrunner. She explained that the Congress will be composed of three distinct components: Commission meetings; the World Conservation Forum (which will be open to the public);

and the Members' Business Assembly (which will be reserved for Members). Amongst other measures, the Members' Assembly will be responsible for: approving the 2005-2008 intersessional programme and budget; adopting resolutions; and setting the level of Membership dues. The Assembly will also hold elections for the positions of IUCN President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and Commission Chairs.

Ms. Hiltbrunner urged Members to register for the Congress as soon as possible, and noted that online registration is now available for the first time. She explained that documentation for the Congress, including the 2005-2008 programme as well as detailed information on election candidates, will be sent out in three languages. She also drew attention to the deadline of 20 July for the receipt of draft motions, and noted that guidelines on the resolutions process are available on the Congress website.

In closing, Ms. Hiltbrunner provided additional information on the processes that need to be followed by Members in order to receive accreditation, obtain a Letter of Credentials, give a proxy vote to another organisation, and expand the size of a delegation beyond three participants.

Recommendations of the IUCN Task Force on Governance (Ms. Puri Canals)

Ms. Puri Canals, IUCN Councillor, presented a brief summary of the work of the IUCN Task Force on Governance. She explained that the Task Force had been appointed by Council in 2001, in response to the recommendations made by recent external reviews as well as the concerns of Council itself.

The Task Force identified four priority topics on which to work: the World Conservation Congress; the IUCN Council; the Commissions; and regional governance. The principal recommendations in each of these areas were as follows:

World Conservation Congress: The Task Force recommended that the Congress be divided into two distinct components (a Conservation Forum and a Members' Assembly) and organised on the basis of a four-year cycle. It also recommended that a more efficient, upstream process be introduced for the management of resolutions;

Council: The Task Force recommended that the Council remain the same size as at present, and that it meet at least once each year. However, the Task Force proposed that the number of Vice-Presidents be increased to a total of four, and that strategic work between Council meetings be undertaken by specialist committees. Rather than making statutory changes, the Task Force proposed that these new arrangements be formalised through the adoption of a set of rules;

Commissions: The Task Force called for the development of a single IUCN programme, incorporating the work of both the Secretariat and the Commissions. It also recommended that the Commissions improve their reporting and accountability;

Regional Governance: The Task Force identified a list of accepted roles and functions for Regional Committees, including: engaging in the development of the IUCN programme; advising on the implementation of regional programmes and business plans; participating in monitoring and evaluation; adopting policies consistent with IUCN's overarching policies; and assisting with the recruitment of Commission members. The Task Force recommended that the statutory regions remain unchanged, and that any problems be addressed through other means such as inter-regional committees.

Proposals for Resolutions at the World Conservation Congress

A number of suggestions for resolutions were put forward and briefly discussed, including the following:

- *Malaga Office:* It was suggested that there should be a resolution reaffirming the importance of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, and calling for a programmatic focus on: trans-frontier protected areas; climate change; water resources; and governance of the Mediterranean Sea;
- *Sea Pollution and Seabirds:* Members' attention was drawn to a draft resolution that had already been prepared on this topic. Although there have not yet been any oil slicks in the Mediterranean

Sea on the scale of the recent spill along the Spanish coast, it was noted that the risk of damage in the future cannot be ignored;

- *Protection of the Mediterranean from Oil Pollution:* Participants noted that some 25 per cent of the world's oil passes through the Mediterranean, and suggested that a resolution be drafted calling for greater protection of the Mediterranean Sea and coast from oil pollution. It was also suggested that the Malaga Office should consider organising a special workshop on the theme of oil pollution, as it is a common concern for all the Mediterranean countries.

Additional resolution topics put forward by the Members included the role of the IUCN office in Brussels, and the conservation and management of Mediterranean mountain ecosystems.

Session 3: IUCN's Contribution to the Management of the Mediterranean Sea – *Mare Nostrum*

An Ecosystem Approach to Marine Resource Management (Ms. Despina Symons)

Ms. Despina Symons introduced herself as a member of the SSC's European Sustainable Use Specialist Group (ESUSG), and as the Coordinator of the EUSG's Fisheries Working Group. She explained that the group is currently involved in a project with the Malaga Office, which seeks to look at the application of the ecosystem approach to the Mediterranean. She noted that the need for the ecosystem approach is now widely accepted, but that a great deal of uncertainty remains about how to implement it. There are, for example, a range of conceptual problems related to the identification of ecosystem boundaries, the definition of ecosystem health and the definition of measurable indicators to assess the state of ecosystems.

Ms. Symons drew attention to the EC's recent decision to establish Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to promote fisheries management on a regional basis, with stakeholder involvement. Seven RAC areas have now been adopted by the European Council, including the Mediterranean Sea. The RACs will be composed of fisheries organisations and other stakeholders (including environmental groups), and will have a critical role to play in promoting the ecosystem approach. Ms. Symons noted that the Mediterranean RAC is expected to be established toward the end of 2004, and that it will present important opportunities for IUCN and the Malaga Office.

The Conservation and Management of Mediterranean Sharks (Mr. Ameer Abdullah)

Mr. Abdullah began his presentation by noting that sharks are uniquely vulnerable because of their life history: they are long-lived; they grow very slowly; and they have as few as two young per reproductive season. They also play a critical role in ecosystem maintenance. Human impacts on shark populations include: shark fishing; shark finning (in which only the fin is taken and the remainder of the carcass is discarded); by-catch (which could be as high as 12 million sharks per year); and pollution. In recent years, there has been a sharp rise in shark landings, and there are growing concerns about the sustainability of current practices. Mr. Abdullah noted that a recent IUCN workshop had concluded that 46 per cent of Mediterranean shark species can now be classified as threatened and a further 30 per cent as data deficient.

To help address these concerns, IUCN has established a Shark Specialist Group within the Species Survival Commission, launched a regional ecological assessment and promoted capacity building, education and training. The next steps will include the definition of criteria to amend Annexes II and III of the SPA Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (which deal with endangered and exploited species).

Protecting the Mediterranean Deep Seas (Mr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo)

Mr. Notarbartolo observed that there are two basic approaches that can be taken to conserve deep sea biodiversity: a site-based approach, focusing on the establishment of protected areas; and a fisheries

management approach, focusing on controlling the depth at which deep sea fishing can legally take place.

Mr. Notarbartolo noted that the Barcelona Convention and other agreements provide a range of important opportunities for site-based conservation. However, he also drew attention to the many different types of deep sea sites that are deserving of protection, including submarine canyons, cold water corals and brine pools; he cautioned that it would be difficult to establish PAs in all these different areas.

In contrast, Mr. Notarbartolo observed that the second approach is essentially precautionary in nature. Although commercial fisheries in the Mediterranean rarely go below 800-1,000 metres at present, it would be useful to have a moratorium in place to prevent an extension of the legal limit. He noted that there are still opportunities to integrate such a provision into the new EU regulation on Mediterranean fisheries. Such a moratorium could then be complemented by site-specific measures to protect selected features of particular biodiversity and ecological importance (e.g. cold water corals).

Governance of the Mediterranean: Legal Aspects (Mr. Tullio Scovazzi and Ms. Claudiane Chevalier)

Mr. Scovazzi explained that, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), States have the right to establish territorial jurisdictions of up to 12 nautical miles. UNCLOS also allows for the creation of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of up to 200 nautical miles, within which States have the sovereign rights to living and non-living resources. The situation on the high seas, however, is currently a legal vacuum; treaties concerning the high seas are binding only on the ratifying parties.

Mr. Scovazzi noted that most Mediterranean States have refrained from establishing EEZs to date, with the exception of Morocco and Syria. However, Tunisia, Malta, Algeria, Spain, France and Croatia have all established some form of exclusive use zones within their waters (e.g., fisheries zones or ecological protection zones). As a result, a *sui generis* system of governance has emerged, and there is a risk of fragmentation. Mr. Scovazzi expressed his view that governance of the Mediterranean would be greatly enhanced if States were to extend their jurisdiction beyond the 12 mile limit and the high seas were eliminated from the Mediterranean. He noted that the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Barcelona Convention have great potential; the GFCM, for example, has the power to determine and allocate fisheries quotas.

Ms. Chevalier drew attention to the conclusions of an IUCN workshop on governance of the Mediterranean beyond territorial seas, which had recently been held in Malaga. The workshop had highlighted the lack of cooperation beyond territorial seas; it had also noted that the delimitation of maritime borders is a highly politicised topic, and that unilateral extensions of jurisdiction are preventing the development of a coordinated legal framework for the Mediterranean. The workshop had concluded that there is a critical need to promote regional cooperation, enhance implementation of relevant legal instruments, build the capacity of Mediterranean States, and develop effective measures to deal with non-compliance.

Discussion: Participants raised a number of points and queries, as follows:

- A participant noted that it would not be possible to apply the 200 mile limit to establish EEZs in the region because the Mediterranean Sea is simply too small; he felt that the only solution would be to develop bilateral agreements on the limits of territorial waters. Mr. Scovazzi agreed that the 200 mile limit would not be feasible in the Mediterranean, and that it would therefore be necessary to negotiate agreements, even if these cannot be reached quickly;
- Another participant wondered whether Libya's claim to the Gulf of Sidra has international legal standing. Mr. Scovazzi expressed his personal opinion that the legal situation with regard to the Gulf of Sidra is confused and vague; in principle, he noted that he does not support claims made on "historical" grounds;

- One Member recommended that a Mediterranean Action Plan for the High Seas be developed, involving all stakeholders. He noted that IUCN – and in particular, the Malaga Office - could play a key role in the development and implementation of such a plan.

Session 4: Implementation of the Conclusions of the World Parks Congress in the Mediterranean

Mr. Andres Alcantara introduced the session by providing a brief overview of the IUCN Mediterranean Protected Areas Programme. He noted that the Mediterranean is regarded as a particularly important biodiversity hotspot. However, most protected areas in the region are characterised by the presence of local communities who live within and adjacent to PA boundaries, and who also use PA resources. For these reasons, the vision of the Mediterranean Protected Areas Programme is that PAs should increasingly be managed as an opportunity for local development, rather than as an unwelcome constraint.

Mr. Alcantara explained that the development of the Protected Areas Programme had been guided by a number of key documents and policies (e.g., the CBD), inputs from Members and partners, and the recommendations of the WCPA Conference on Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Context, held in Murcia. Among other objectives, the programme seeks to: assist with PA planning and management; promote the integration of PAs into all sectors; strengthen the capacity of PA managers; and persuade the public, the corporate sector and governments of the added value that economic investment in PAs can generate. In closing, Mr. Alcantara drew attention to the varied and valuable outputs of the World Parks Congress in Durban; he noted that the Protected Areas Programme is now seeking to implement the Durban Action Plan within the context of the Mediterranean region.

Governance (Mr. Chedly Rais)

Mr. Chedly Rais highlighted the fact that most PAs in the Mediterranean region are classified as IUCN Category V and VI; there is therefore a critical need to develop effective mechanisms for stakeholder participation. He observed that governance issues had featured prominently at the World Parks Congress in Durban. Among other measures, the Durban Action Plan had recommended that: participatory governance evaluation tools be made available; comparative analyses of different governance models be undertaken to assess their relative performance; and that regional agreements and governance structures for transboundary PAs be promoted.

Prior to the World Parks Congress, the Murcia workshop on protected areas in the Mediterranean had also highlighted the importance of governance issues. In particular, participants had identified the need to: strengthen the role of the Barcelona Convention in providing benchmarks of good PA governance; promote the adoption of more decentralised and participatory PA management systems; and to undertake a comparative analysis of the different PA governance systems in operation in the Mediterranean region, including an analysis of the obstacles to more effective stakeholder participation.

Connectivity (Ms. Puri Canals)

Ms. Canals emphasised that it is necessary to enhance connectivity within both terrestrial and marine protected area systems. She noted that there is a very close relationship between protected areas and culture in the Mediterranean; in contrast to regions such as North America, Ms. Canals argued that the primary PA management unit in the Mediterranean should be *cultural landscapes*.

Ms. Canals explained that the Durban Action Plan had accorded considerable attention to the issue of connectivity. Among other recommendations, the Action Plan identifies the need to: promote transfrontier parks (e.g., peace parks); establish PA networks on both land and sea, composed of multiple PA categories; and put into place a coherent and integrated management system. Within this context, Ms. Canals identified a number of priorities for future action within the Mediterranean region, including the need to: take account of ecological, social, economic and cultural linkages; find new ways of working with countries that are not covered by the existing regional environmental agreements; promote the harmonisation of different PA governance regimes across protected area networks; and launch

sustainable development programmes for Category V protected areas. Ms. Canals also highlighted the need to develop initiatives to reverse rural out-migration, and to work beyond PA boundaries.

Capacity Building and Training (Mr. Jean Jalbert)

Mr. Jalbert began his presentation by noting that IUCN is already involved in a number of important capacity building initiatives in the Mediterranean. These include the WCPA/European Training Task Force and an informal network of 13 Mediterranean training organisations from 11 countries.

Mr. Jalbert observed that the Durban Action Plan had identified a wide range of capacity building measures, including the need to: develop national capacity building strategies and guidelines for all PA actors; develop human resources policies for PA staff; and establish an international network of training organisations and regional centres of excellence. The Action Plan also identifies the need to enhance the awareness of senior decision makers of the many valuable goods and services provided by protected areas.

Within the Mediterranean region, Mr. Jalbert highlighted the need to: establish a database of training institutions and training materials; develop networks of training centres; encourage the exchange of trainers and training methods; promote the development of recruitment systems based on job descriptions and skills requirements; and develop new learning tools and methods (e.g., e-learning).

In closing, Mr. Jalbert drew attention to a Memorandum of Understanding that has recently been signed among four training centres of excellence in the Mediterranean. Amongst other activities, the MOU calls for the exchange of trainers and the development of common training modules, aimed in particular at assisting PA staff to contribute to sustainable development.

Sustainable Financing (Mr. Maher Mahjoub)

Mr. Mahjoub summarised the key sustainable financing recommendations of the Durban Action Plan. He explained that the Action Plan calls for countries and PA authorities to develop a credible, global estimate of funding needs by 2006, and to have the necessary resources in place to meet these needs by 2010; in this regard, the Action Plan draws attention to the agreements reached under the CBD and WSSD, which call for the transfer of substantial new and additional funding to developing countries. The Action Plan also recommends that collaborative partnerships be developed with the private sector.

The Durban Action Plan calls on governments to develop country-level, sustainable financing plans for protected area systems. In order to increase revenues, it recommends that the products derived from protected areas be commercialised under government regulation, so long as such practices are environmentally sustainable. The Action Plan also recommends that a range of instruments be used to generate revenues, including taxes, tradable permits and environmental bonds.

Following this general overview of the sustainable financing components of the Durban Action Plan, Mr. Mahjoub went on to identify a number of specific priorities for the Mediterranean region. Amongst other activities, he identified the need to: promote the development of business plans for protected areas; reduce costs through twinning and sharing of resources among reserves; provide advice on the use of public/private sector partnerships; and promote the establishment of environmental funds and other innovative financing mechanisms.

Gaps in the System (Ms. Maria Teresa Martin-Crespo)

Ms. Martin-Crespo began her presentation by noting that total PA coverage in the Mediterranean region currently stands at only seven per cent. She also highlighted the fact that six countries in the region have PA systems that cover less than two per cent of their area; the issue of ecological representation and system gaps is therefore very pertinent to the Mediterranean context.

Ms. Martin-Crespo explained that six key deficiencies had been identified at the protected areas meeting in Murcia:

- 1) Inadequate collaboration;
- 2) Lack of information;
- 3) Lack of integration of protected areas into landscape planning;
- 4) Inadequate legal frameworks for marine protected areas;
- 5) The existence of a North-South divide with regard to the establishment and management of protected areas.

She went on to say that the use of PA system gap analyses had been actively promoted at the World Parks Congress (particularly by Australia). This approach was felt to be particularly useful for prioritising additions to the existing protected area network.

In closing, Ms. Martin-Crespo noted that the CBD has now been almost universally ratified. In the Mediterranean context, the implication is that there should be an effectively managed and ecologically representative system of protected areas in place by 2010 (for terrestrial PAs) and by 2012 (for marine PAs).

Special Session: Protected Areas in Italy: Sharing the Experience¹

Connectivity: The Italian National Ecological Network and its Contribution to a Mediterranean Network (Dr. Luigi Boitani)

Dr. Boitani presented a summary of a recent project entitled, *The Role of Protected Areas in Conserving Italian Vertebrates*. He noted that the design of ecological networks has traditionally been based on landscape features; however, there is no guarantee that a landscape approach will adequately protect biodiversity. To address this concern, the objective of the project was to develop a tool to analyse and possibly revise the system of protected areas in Italy, in order to maximise the system's contribution to biodiversity conservation. The project was initiated in 1999, with funding from the Ministry of Environment.

The project team carried out a detailed assessment of the requirements of some 477 vertebrate species. In the initial stages, information was collected on the taxonomy, activity patterns, social structure, habitat use, elevation preferences and water dependency of each species. Distribution ranges were determined, using the most recently published data and additional input from leading biodiversity experts. Deductive models were subsequently used to generate habitat suitability maps within these ranges; to ensure that the models were accurate, they were verified using data collected independently from the project. Through the use of map overlays, all the species' requirements were then combined, to generate the "ideal" ecological network for the conservation of vertebrate biodiversity in Italy. This map was then compared with the existing protected area system, in order to identify gaps.

The results of the project demonstrated that the current PA system plays a significant role in protecting vertebrate biodiversity, and highlighted the critical function of the central mountain ranges (the Alps and the Apennines). However, the findings of the project also suggest that the PA system should be revised in a number of areas; in particular, there is a need to enhance connectivity between the mountain areas and the plains, and to establish corridors among existing PAs.

Another striking finding to emerge from the project was that a PA system designed solely with a focus on endangered species would also succeed in providing adequate protection for most other vertebrate species as well. Dr. Boitani observed that this has important implications for policy makers, but cautioned that the project's conclusions cannot necessarily be applied to other countries outside Italy, especially if the concept of biodiversity is expanded beyond vertebrates. He also emphasised that the approach developed by the project is not "the solution", but rather, an important tool to help conservation planners.

¹ Presentations on the Italian experience of PA management were given at various points throughout the meeting. For the sake of convenience, however, this report has grouped all the presentations together under one heading, rather than adhering strictly to chronological order.

The Ecosystem Approach: Apennino Parco d'Europa (APE) as a Model for the Integrated Management of Mountain Areas in the Mediterranean (Mr. Fabio Renzi)

Mr. Renzi explained that the Apennines stretch some 1,500 kilometres across the length of Italy, and span a vast area of some nine million hectares. The adoption of new protected areas legislation in 1991 led to a dramatic expansion of the Italian PA system. Many of these areas were established in the Apennines, where regional authorities and local communities have come to view PAs as a source of opportunities for local development and the maintenance of traditional cultures and identities. More than 50 per cent of Italian protected areas are now located in the Apennine mountain range.

Mr. Renzi noted that all of these factors make the Apennines a particularly appropriate region in which to experiment with new approaches to ecosystem management. The overall objective of the APE project is to enhance the potential for protected areas along the entire Apennine range, by promoting consensus building, the integration of PA policies with other policies (e.g., agriculture and tourism), and collaboration among public and private institutions, local communities and national agencies. To this end, the project has helped to revise national and regional laws, assisted with regional and provincial planning processes, promoted the incorporation of APE concerns into regional economic planning instruments, facilitated two national conferences on protected areas, and organised over 1,000 meetings and debates.

Mr. Renzi went on to describe APE's four pilot projects, which are carrying out a diverse range of economic, ecological and cultural activities. One pilot project led by Tuscany, for example, is seeking to rebuild ancient pathways, promote the ecological restoration of chestnut forests, rehabilitate small-scale local infrastructure, and enhance soil and water conservation. It is being carried out through a remarkable partnership involving three regions, 15 mountain communities, seven provinces, one national park and eight regional parks.

Another significant APE initiative is its programme to promote the conservation of wolf and bear populations. Among other activities, the APE project is trying to discourage infrastructure development within key wolf habitat. The project has also been providing shepherds with dogs and electric fencing, to assist them to protect their sheep; Mr. Renzi noted that some shepherds have no historical experience of dealing with wolves, and rely on the project for advice and guidance.

In conclusion, Mr. Renzi observed that the APE project has important implications for conservation within the Mediterranean region and the EU more broadly. He noted that the mountain areas of the Mediterranean are continuing to experience depopulation, the loss of cultural identity, accelerating soil erosion, and the loss of biodiversity. Climate change and new infrastructural development pose additional threats. To address these concerns, Mr. Renzi suggested that the lessons learned from the APE experience could be used to develop a new convention for Mediterranean mountains, focusing on protected areas, sustainable development and the maintenance of cultural diversity.

Discussion: After Mr. Renzi's presentation, the following points and queries were raised:

- One participant noted that the Apennine region is critically important for migratory birds, and wondered whether the APE project had undertaken any activities to curb poaching (for example, in the Straits of Messina). In response, Mr. Renzi explained that APE has not dealt directly with bird poaching in the Messina Straits, since the project has been operating at a broader, strategic level. He noted, however, that the staff of individual protected areas as well as numerous local groups have been doing some excellent work to curb the illegal hunting of birds;
- Another participant noted that transhumance is in crisis in many countries, and wondered what steps the APE project had taken to support transhumance in the Apennines. Mr. Renzi replied that the project has been working to promote the sale of livestock products, and has also been encouraging tourism, horse riding and other revenue-generating activities in pastoral areas;
- A question was raised regarding the project's approach to monitoring. In response, Mr. Renzi noted that the project remains very open-ended and that no structured monitoring systems have as yet been put into place;

- Several participants requested additional information on the project's wolf and bear conservation initiatives. Mr. Renzi emphasised that dialogue and interaction with the region's shepherds have been fundamental to success. He also explained that the legal framework has been changed, in order to remove the incentives that were once provided for the killing of bears and wolves.

Governance: The Challenge of an Effective Participatory Management Approach - Lessons from the Italian Protected Areas (Prof. Matteo Fusilli)

Prof. Matteo Fusilli, the President of Federparchi, noted that the first modern parks in Italy had not been established until the 1970s, following a concerted press campaign and a series of public petitions. However, the adoption of the new protected areas law in 1991 had marked a critical turning point, and had catalysed the establishment of hundreds of new PAs. In total, Italy now has over 1,000 protected areas of different kinds, covering some 12 per cent of the country. The management of this protected area estate involves virtually all the regional and provincial authorities, some 2,675 local communities, and one-third of the total Italian population.

Prof. Fusilli observed that Italy possesses the richest biological heritage in Europe, including some 57,000 animal species (one-third of the European total) and 5,600 plant species (50 per cent of the European total). He highlighted the fact that the Italian landscape has been shaped by both nature and man through centuries of interaction. This has led to the development of many traditional cultivars and foodstuffs; some 1,600 unique products are now successfully marketed through a special scheme involving the Ministry of Environment, Federparchi, the Legambiente environmental association, and "Slow Food".

Prof. Fusilli emphasised that successful conservation relies on the involvement of local communities and the provision of local development opportunities. He noted that the framework law of 1991 is based on the principle of sharing decisions with local stakeholders, through the Assembly of Mayors and other bodies. In addition to conservation activities, the Italian PA authorities are involved in a broad range of socio-economic initiatives; they have invested heavily in community development and have also raised funds through the EU.

Prof. Fusilli explained that Federparchi has been involved in a diverse spectrum of activities, including the development of national programmes for the conservation of large ecosystems (e.g., the Appennino Parco d'Europa project), the training of PA staff, the establishment of ecological research centres, and the provision of information and documentation. Protocols of understanding and agreements have been developed with many different kinds of stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, universities and research centres. Prof. Fusilli also highlighted Federparchi's role in celebrating European Parks Day, through the organisation of cultural shows, visits to protected areas, conferences and media events.

Prof. Fusilli noted that PAs have now become important "hubs" for the regional economy, and that areas which were once considered marginal are now seen as valuable economic assets. A wide range of alliances is being forged between PA authorities and other stakeholders, including farmers and shepherds, shop keepers, and young people. He noted that this new, inter-sectoral approach to conservation and development is in line with the Durban objectives, which seek to link protected areas with the wider landscape. The theme of the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok - "People and Nature" - also effectively summarises the Italian experience.

In closing, Prof. Fusilli noted that Federparchi accords high priority to the establishment of an "Association of Mediterranean Parks". He also highlighted the Federation's support for the continued growth and development of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.

Special Session: Reinforcing Linkages between WWF and IUCN in the Mediterranean (Mr. Marco Pagliani and Ms. Isabella Pratesi)

Mr. Pagliani began his presentation by explaining that the WWF Mediterranean Programme Office was

founded in 1996, and that it has its headquarters in Rome; it currently employs some 25 staff around the region. The programme encompasses all the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, as well as Jordan, Macedonia and Portugal. However, the priority geographical foci of the programme are the south-western Mediterranean countries and the eastern Adriatic states. Priority thematic areas include forests, marine and coastal, freshwater, education/capacity building and Mediterranean policy issues.

Mr. Pagliani explained that the WWF-Mediterranean Programme Office had spent its first two to three years undertaking a gap analysis in order to establish the scientific foundation for the programme. In collaboration with researchers across the region, they had mapped terrestrial and marine ecosystems and compared these with a map of the existing PA system to identify areas of high biodiversity that are not currently protected. The results of this exercise had also been overlaid with the ecoregional work carried out by the WWF global programme, to help determine the geographical focus of the Mediterranean Programme.

Mr. Pagliani went on to provide an introduction to a number of representative WWF projects. These included: the southern Portugal green belt project, which is seeking to establish a set of corridors and buffer zones to link three separate protected areas; a project on the Lycian coast in Turkey, which aims to protect turtle nesting beaches, enhance fisheries management and promote responsible tourism along some 200 kilometres of coastline; and a project in the Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco, which seeks to establish a system of protected areas and restore forest ecosystems. He noted that the typical field project operates at a scale of approximately 4,000 to 10,000 square kilometres.

With regard to forests, Mr. Pagliani noted that WWF and IUCN are already engaged in a number of collaborative activities at the global level. These include the forest landscape restoration partnership and the global fire partnership (which also involves The Nature Conservancy). He explained that these partnerships are also being implemented at the regional level within the Mediterranean.

Although the Mediterranean does not support a particularly high number of “flagship” species, Mr. Pagliani noted that the region does contain several important endemic species, such as the Barbary deer and the Barbary ape. WWF is involved in a number of species-related activities, including “Barbary deer weeks” in Morocco and Tunisia, and a conservation programme for the Barbary ape in Morocco.

In addition to these activities, WWF is also examining the threats posed by mass tourism to biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean; Mr. Pagliani noted that this is another area in which WWF and IUCN could collaborate. WWF is also involved in helping to influence and implement regional Mediterranean policies, particularly those related to the Barcelona Convention, freshwater, and fisheries management.

Following Mr. Pagliani’s presentation, Ms. Isabella Pratesi provided more detailed information about the activities of WWF-Italy. She explained that WWF-Italy is leading on Ecoregions 10 (Sardinia and Corsica) and 17 (Italian Peninsula and Southern Tyrrhenian Sea). The principal task is to identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation within these two ecoregions. To this end, the programme is currently involved in a major data collection and analysis effort, which relies heavily on the use of GIS. In addition to these activities, WWF-Italy is involved in a number of urgent conservation initiatives, such as the effort to conserve Brown bears in the central region of the country.

In closing, Ms. Pratesi emphasised that she sees great potential for collaboration between WWF and IUCN. She noted that both organisations are widely-recognised “brand names”, and that by working together, it would be possible to achieve concrete and important conservation gains.

Presentation of the Draft “Naples Declaration”

Towards the end of the day on 21 June, Mr. Skinner and Dr. Cosentino drew participants’ attention to the draft “Naples Declaration”, which had been prepared by the Italian National Committee of IUCN, with the involvement of park managers, government and NGOs. Mr. Skinner expressed his gratitude to the National Committee for its excellent work, and requested participants to review the draft and comment on any substantive issues of concern.

A number of comments were subsequently received from the floor. Although there was widespread support for the draft declaration, participants emphasised the need to improve the terminology used in the English and French versions (the original version had been prepared in Italian and then translated). Several specific points were also made, including the need to incorporate references to: the Ramsar Convention's MedWet programme; the Bonn Convention; the Malibu Declaration; the Specially Protected Areas Protocol of the Barcelona Convention; and the CBD's Global Plant Conservation Strategy. In addition, participants requested the inclusion of a statement calling for the economic valuation of the goods and services derived from protected areas. They also suggested that a reference to the need for peace and security in the Mediterranean region be incorporated.

Adoption of the Naples Declaration and Closing of the Meeting

At the final session of the Mediterranean Members' Meeting on 22 June 2004, Dr. Cosentino and Dr. Jamie Skinner presented the revised Naples Declaration. They noted that all the major comments and suggestions received earlier from the participants had been incorporated, but that a number of translation problems remained; the IUCN Malaga Office assured participants that these would be resolved in the final text.

After reviewing the draft English version, the participants unanimously adopted the Naples Declaration; Dr. Cosentino expressed his hope that the declaration would become a "point of reference" for the work of the Union, and said that he looked forward to further collaboration with the Malaga Office in the future. The final version of the text is presented at **Annex 3**.

Following the adoption of the "Naples Declaration", Mr. Skinner formally brought the meeting to a close. He expressed his thanks to the many people who had made the Mediterranean Members' Meeting possible, including: the President and staff of the Vesuvius National Park; the President and staff of Federparchi; the translators; and the local organisers and travel agents. Within IUCN, Mr. Skinner thanked Ms. Virginia Tschopp, Ms. Sonsoles San Roman and Ms. Agnese Mancini from the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation for the long hours they had invested in the organisation of the meeting. He also expressed his gratitude to all the Members for making the time to attend the meeting and for taking such an active part in the discussions. In closing, Mr. Skinner said that he looked forward to the next Mediterranean Members' meeting and to celebrating the Union's achievements together.

Annexes

IUCN Mediterranean Members Meeting Naples (Italy), 19-22 June 2004

Background

Created in 1948, IUCN - The World Conservation Union brings together 79 states, 112 government agencies, 760 NGOs, 37 affiliates and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation started its activities in October 2001 with the mission to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region, as well as to work with the 150 IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN.

The five key themes on which the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is working are the following:

- a) biodiversity conservation and integrated management of coastal zones
- b) islands
- c) sustainable use of natural resources
- d) water and catchments
- e) arid zones, transition areas and desertification

Objectives of the meeting

During their meeting in February 2003 in Malaga, the Presidents of the IUCN National Committees decided in favour of organizing a regional meeting before the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok. The objectives of the meeting would be to:

- Discuss the evolution, achievements and programme of the Centre ;
- Engage the Members and the Commissions in the Mediterranean Programme 2005-2008;
- Prepare the Mediterranean input to the Bangkok Congress (resolutions, election of Councillors);
- Discuss the Durban outputs within the Mediterranean context and develop priority actions for Mediterranean protected area management
- Favour exchanges and the creation of Mediterranean networks

Agenda

DAY 1	Saturday 19 June 2004 – Arrival of participants
14:15	Visit to the Vesuvius National Park
19:30	Welcome dinner hosted by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
DAY 2	Sunday 20 June 2004
9:00 – 10:00	Registrations
10:00 – 11:30	Opening of the meeting (Master of Ceremonies: Jamie Skinner)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President of the Vesuvius National Park – Amilcare Troiano ○ Mayor of Naples – Rosa Russo Jervolino ○ Councillor - Zohir Sekkal ○ Representative of IUCN Secretariat - Bill Jackson ○ President of Federparchi – Matteo Fusilli
	Keynote Speech: The Italian experience in managing nature conservation and sustainable development : lessons for the Mediterranean - Aldo Cosentino, General director for the protection of Nature, Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Territory
1st SESSION	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation: context and achievements
	Chair : Mohammed Shahbaz
	Rapporteur : Maja Zitkovic
11:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of the Centre and overview of achievements - Jamie Skinner • Presentation of the 2005-2008 Programme - Rami Salman • Presentation of the Strategic Review of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation – Marie-Hélène Adrien
	General discussion

13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:00	Protected areas in Italy: sharing the experience
	Connectivity: The Italian National Ecological Network and its contribution to a Mediterranean network – Luigi Boitani
15:00 – 17:30	Engaging the different IUCN constituencies
	Interaction with the IUCN European programme - Tamas Marghescu Interaction with the IUCN WESCANA programme - Odeh Al-Jayyousi
	The role of members and commissions in the IUCN Programme – Bill Jackson
	Partnerships with the Commissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brahim Haddane – Species Survival Commission ○ Tullio Scovazzi – Environmental Law Commission (specialist group – governance of the Mediterranean sea) ○ Mohammed Sulayem – World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) ○ Giuseppe Notarbartolo – World Commission on Marine Protected Areas ○ Francisco Heras – Commission on Education and Communication
	Discussion on the opportunities of IUCN in the region
20:30	Dinner
DAY 3	Monday 21 June 2004
9:00 – 9:30	Protected Areas in Italy: sharing the experience
	Ecosystem Approach: Appennino Parco d'Europa (APE) as a model for the integrated management of mountain areas in the Mediterranean - Fabio Renzi
2nd SESSION Relations with the members	
<i>Chair : Nezha Riki</i>	
<i>Facilitator : Marie-Hélène Adrien</i>	
<i>Rapporteur : Erkan Yesim</i>	
9:30 – 10:30	Communication and information
	How to improve exchanges amongst the members themselves and between the members and the secretariat? Results of the questionnaire for members and discussion
10:30 – 11:45	The Bangkok Congress
	Presentation on the functioning of the Bangkok Congress– Ursula Hiltbrunner

	Proposals by the Task Force concerning IUCN governance – Puri Canals
	Proposals for resolutions and discussion
3rd SESSION IUCN contribution to the management of the Mediterranean sea – <i>mare nostrum</i>	
Chair : Omar Sudani	
Facilitator : Leonardo Tunesi / Francois Simard	
Rapporteur : Maher Mahjoub	
11:45 – 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An ecosystemic approach to marine resources management - Despina Simons, EUSG ○ The conservation and management of Mediterranean sharks - Ameer Abdullah ○ Identification of sea bed sites of biological interest – Giuseppe Notarbartolo ○ Governance of the Mediterranean – legal aspects -Tullio Scovazzi et Claudiane Chevalier <p>Debate and Discussion</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 15:30	Protected Areas in Italy: sharing the experience
	Governance: The challenge of an effective participatory management approach : lessons from the Italian protected areas - Matteo Fusilli
4th SESSION Implementation of the conclusions of the World Parks Congress in the Mediterranean context and opportunities for Mediterranean cooperation	
Chair : Aldo Cosentino - General director for the protection of Nature, Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Territory	
Facilitator : Andres Alcantara	
Rapporteur : Dinia Hayat	
15:30 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connectivity: presentation and discussion – Zohir Sekkal ○ Capacity building and training: presentation and discussion – Jean Jalbert ○ Governance: presentation and discussion – Chedly Rais ○ Sustainable financing: presentation and discussion – Ali Darwish ○ System gaps: presentation and discussion – Maria Teresa Martin-Crespo <p>General Discussion</p>
17:30 – 18:00	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of Declaration – Aldo Cosentino, General director for the protection of Nature, Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Territory ○ Discussion
20:30	Dinner in Pizzeria Rosati
DAY 4	Tuesday 22 June 2004
9:00 – 9:20	Reinforcing linkages between WWF and IUCN Mediterranean programmes – Marco Pagliani
5th SESSION The Bangkok Congress (continued)	
	<i>Chair : Puri Canals</i>
	<i>Facilitator : Ali Darwish</i>
	<i>Rapporteur : Nada Omeira</i>
9:20 – 10:30	The Mediterranean presence in Bangkok Discussions on resolutions and elections
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30	Follow up Discussion on resolutions for Bangkok
11:30 – 12:00	Conclusions
12:00	Closing of the meeting
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

IUCN MEDITERRANEAN MEMBERS MEETING 2004 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organisation
ALBANIA	
Ms Klodiana Marika	Ministry of Environment
ALGERIA	
M. Nacer Riad Ben Daoud	Association Ecologique Boumerdes AEB
Prof. Zohir Sekkal	Mouvement Ecologique Algérien (MEA) - UICN Région d'Afrique
ANDORRA	
Mr Roger Caritg Bofill	Centre de Biodiversitat
BELGIUM	
Mrs Despina Symons	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Mr Tamas Marghescu	IUCN Brussels
CANADA	
Ms Marie-Hélène Adrien	Universalia
CROATIA	
Ms Daniela Hamidovic	Hrvatsko Biolosko Društvo (Croatian Biological Society)
Mr Matija Curic	Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate
Ms Andrea Stefan	Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate
FRANCE	
Dr Xavier Monbailliu	Association méditerranéenne pour l'avifaune marine (MEDMARAVIS)
M. Albert Maillet	Office National des Forêts - Direction Territoriale Méditerranée
M. Jean Jalbert	Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat
ITALY	
Arch. Anna Maria Matrone	Agenzia regionale di protezione dell'ambiente – regione Campania (ARPAC)
Sig. Salvatore Viglietti	Agenzia regionale di protezione dell'ambiente – regione Campania (ARPAC)
M Antonino Miccio	AMP Punta Camaparella
Pres. Raffaele Mascolo	Associazione culturale ambientalista « L'Olivella »
Ms Maria Grotta	Association méditerranéenne pour l'avifaune marine (MEDMARAVIS)

Ms Isabella Pratesi	Associazione Italiana per il World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Italy)
Dir. Federico Iannuzzi	Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca (CNR)
Sig. Valter Rossi	Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca (CNR)
Ms Elizabeth Fox	Consultant in Ecotourism; Legambiente
Mr Luigi Bertone	Federazione Italiana dei Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali FEDERPARCHI
Dott. Matteo Fusilli	Federazione Italiana dei Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali FEDERPARCHI
Mr Giuseppe Rossi	Federazione Italiana dei Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali FEDERPARCHI
Dott.ssa Paola Magnani	Fondazione Europea Il Nibbio (FEIN)
Sig.ra Tina Quarto	FORMEZ
M Luigi Russo	Ge.Ri.Co
M Carlo Porcaro	Giornale "Roma"
Ms Rita De Stefano	Istituto Pangea Plus
Dr Leonardo Tunesi	Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologia Applicata al Mare (ICRAM)
Dr Piero Genovesi	Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica
Mr Tullio Scovazzi	IUCN/ELC (University of Milano-Bicocca)
Mr Claudio Celada	Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli LIPU
Mr Giuliano Tallone	Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli LIPU
Mr Fabio Renzi	Legambiente Onlus
Mr Antonino Morabito	Legambiente Onlus
Mr Antonio Nicoletti	Legambiente Onlus
Mr Domenico Sturabotti	Legambiente Onlus
Mr Paolo Chelli	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Arch. Federico Cinquepalmi	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott. Aldo Cosentino	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Mr Stefano Curzi	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott.sa Patrizia De Angelis	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott.sa Renata de Ponte	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott.sa Terese Gagliardi	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott. Stefano Gomes	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott. Damiano Luchetti	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Sig.ra Viviana Palanca	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Sig.ra Paola Nico	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Sig.ra Mizar De Dominicis	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dr.ssa Maria Gabriella Natale	Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
Dott. Carlotta Zanardi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Avv. Amilcare Troiano	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Ms Rossella Barile	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Mr Carlo Bifulco	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Ms Paola Conti	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Ing. Bruno Del Vito	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio

Ms Veronica Formisano	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Ing. Gino Menegazzi	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Ms Adriana Nave	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Sig.ra Tiziana Occhino	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Dott. Pasquale Raia	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio; Legambiente Campania
Prof. Amalia Virzo	Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio
Sig. Luciano Signorello	Parco dell'Etna
Mr Enzo Valbonesi	Regione Emilia Romagna
Dr Marco A.L. Zuffi	Societas Europaea Herpetologica SEH
Mr Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	Tethys Research Institute
Prof. Luigi Boitani	Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
Prof. Andreina Ziltelli	Università IUAV di Venezia dU Dipartimento di Urbanistica
Prof. Almo Farina	University of Urbino
JORDAN	
Mr Mohammed Shahbaz	Badia Research & Development Programme - the Higher Council for Science and Technology
Mr Odeh Al-Jayyousi	IUCN West/Central Asia & North Africa (WESCANA)
Mrs Leila Issa Naffa	Jamiyat Al-Nisa Al-Arabiyat (Arab Women Organisation)
Mr Ghazi Hamdan Amreen	Jordan Environment Society (JES)
Eng. Abdel-Majid Khabour	Ministry of Environment
Dr Said Damhoureyeh	University of Jordan
LEBANON	
Dr Ali Darwish	Al-Khat Al Akhdar (Green Line Association)
Nada Omeira	Al-Khat Al Akhdar (Green Line Association)
Eng. Amer Haddad	Lajnat Reayet Al Bia (Environment Protection Committee)
Bassima Khatib	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
LIBYA	
Dr. Abdulfatah Boargob	Peoples Committee on Environment General Authority (CEGA) - Ministry of Environment
MONTENEGRO	
Mr Darko Saveljic	National Institute for the Protection of Nature, Montenegro
MOROCCO	
Dinia Hayat	Association Marocaine pour la protection de l'environnement

M. Abdelhadi Bennis	Association Ribat Al Fath pour le développement durable
Prof. Lahcen Amaoun Ms Nezha Riki	Haut Commissariat des Eaux et des Forêts Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération. Direction de la Coopération Multilatérale.
Mr Brahim Haddane	Parc Zoologique National de Rabat, Ministry of Environment, Forest Department
Prof. Abdelhamid H. Belemlih	Société protectrice des animaux et de la nature SPANA
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	
Mr. M.Sc. Sashko Jordanov	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
SAUDI ARABIA	
Mr Mohammad Sulayem	National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development
SERBIA	
Mr Jovan Angelus, MSc	Ecolibri Bionet: Nezavisna agencija za ocuvanje biodiverziteta (Agency for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development)
Ms Maja Zitkovic	IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe
Mr Srdjan Marincic	Zavod Za Zastitu Prirode Srbije (Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia)
SPAIN	
Mr Angel Rodriguez-Williams Blanco Sra Rosa M ^a Lara Fernández	Asociación Amigos de Doñana Aula del Mar - Malaga Asociación para la Conservación del Medio Marino
Sr. Francisco López Jaime	Aula del Mar - Malaga Asociación para la Conservación del Medio Marino
Prof. Dra Purificació Canals Sr. Josu Erkiaga Laka	DEPANA/UICN Departamento de Ordenación del Territorio y Medio Ambiente, Gobierno Vasco
Sr. Abel Muniategi Elorza	Departamento de Ordenación del Territorio y Medio Ambiente, Gobierno Vasco
Mr Nils Schulz	Fundación Desarrollo Sostenible FUNDESO
Mr Ameer Abdulla	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Mr Cesar Alcacer	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Mr Andres Alcantara	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Ms Claudiane Chevalier	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Ms Lourdes Lazaro	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Ms Agnese Mancini	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Mr Rami Salman	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Ms Sonsoles San Roman	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Mr François Simard	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Mr Jamie Skinner	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Ms Virginia Tschopp	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Mr Francisco Heras	IUCN/CEC c/o CENEAM, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Sr. Lluís Toldrà	Lliga per a la Defensa del Patrimoni Natural (DEPANA)
Sra M ^a Teresa Martin-Crespo	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Mr Marco Pagliani	WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
SWITZERLAND	
Ms Ursulla Hiltbrunner	IUCN HQ
Mr Bill Jackson	IUCN HQ
Mrs Dona Khanfour	IUCN West/Central Asia & North Africa (WESCANA)
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	
Mr Imad Hason El Shahir Bel Homs	Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
TUNISIA	
Prof. Ali ben Mohamed El Hili	Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"
M. Alya Tounsi	Association nationale tunisienn e de la protection de la faune sauvage ANTPFS
M. Mondher Farhat	Fédération Nationale des Associations des Chasseurs et des Associations de Chasse Spécialisées
Mr Chedly Rais	IUCN
M. Maher Mahjoub	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement et des Ressources Hydrauliques
Mrs Selma Zaiane Ghalia	Union nationale de la femme tunisienne/Alliance Femme et Environnement
TURKEY	
Ms Reyhan Akarsu	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Mr Atila Uras	Türkiye Dogal Hayati Koruma Vakfi- WWF Turkey
Ms A. Yesim Erkan	Türkiye Erozyonla Mücadele, Agaçlandırma ve Dogal Varliklari Koruma Vakfi (Tema Vakfi)
UNITED KINGDOM	
Mr Scott Perkin	
USA	
Mr Ted Trzyna	California Institute of Public Affairs