

# IUCN CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION: A REGIONAL SITUATION ANALYSIS

May 2003



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## 1. Background

The resolutions adopted at the 1994 General Assembly of IUCN in Buenos Aires and at the World Conservation Congress in Montreal in 1996 called on the IUCN Secretariat to work with the members to develop a programme for the Mediterranean region, and to establish an IUCN Mediterranean Programme Office. The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation was subsequently established in October 2001. The Centre and its programme have received generous core support from the Junta of Andalucia and the Spanish Ministry of the Environment until the end of 2004.

The work of the Centre from 2002-2004 was laid out in a planning document submitted to the Chairmen of the IUCN National Committees for comment, and subsequently to all IUCN members<sup>1</sup>. The current document serves as a baseline for the development of the 2005-2008 programme to be discussed in the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Bangkok during November 2004. It sets out the information and analysis that will provide the foundation for the development of a relevant and sustainable IUCN Programme for the Mediterranean. Furthermore, it is hoped that this document will help to identify those areas in which IUCN can have longer term impact in the Mediterranean in terms of addressing the key issues affecting conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, and identify opportunities for maximizing the roles that IUCN can play with the IUCN constituency and other regional partners in the Mediterranean in order to best deliver a relevant, focused and sustainable Programme.

The Mediterranean programme will be developed in two parts; firstly a situation analysis and vision laid out in the present document. Members and partners are invited to comment on this draft by 31 July 2003. Secondly a Mediterranean programme (that conforms with the global IUCN inter-sessional programme 2005-2008) that will be circulated in September 2003, inviting comments by 30 November 2003. The final draft Mediterranean programme 2005-2008 will then be completed by December 2003 as one component of the programme to be agreed at the World Conservation Congress in November 2004.

## 2. The Mediterranean – A Shared History

The Mediterranean region is identified on the basis of its common history and culture, by its common geography and ecological characteristics and by the enclosed nature of the shared sea. This “Mare Nostrum” has been the basis for concerted policies and actions in the region over the last 30 years.

The particular Mediterranean geography, where a narrow, productive coastal fringe, is bounded to the south and east by desert, and to the north often by mountain ranges, has meant that the shared sea has frequently been the inward-looking focus of civilizations for thousands of years. From the sea-faring Phoenicians, through Romans, Moors, Ottomans, and smaller States such as Navarre, Venice, Genoa - all have made their mark on the region, often with significant regional empires lasting hundreds of years. More recently, countries such as France, Italy and Spain have all occupied southern or eastern Mediterranean countries at particular times in the late 18th century, or following the break-up of the Ottoman Empire around the time of the First World War.

These historical links have led to the establishment of trading networks, significant exchange of populations and a sense of shared culture that continues to this day. It has also led to some European countries having privileged links with particular southern and eastern Mediterranean countries through common language and a sense of shared history that still strongly influences financial flows and linkages. The Balkans are marked by their historical association with the former communist bloc, and the geo-political logic often locates them as a subset of Eastern Europe, although these countries also assert their Mediterranean character.

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<sup>1</sup> Document available at <http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/documentation.htm>

As far as links with Europe and the European Union are concerned, the 1995 Barcelona declaration marked a turning point that committed the entire EU to implement a “proximity policy” of aid and assistance for the region, that provided 9 billion Euros in grant and loans during 1995-1999 under the MEDA programme, far beyond what the riparian European states alone had previously been able to provide. Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia are candidates for the current round of accession to the EU, and others, especially Turkey, remain candidates for the subsequent round(s). North African States have also developed a regional group – L’Union du Maghreb Arabe, which includes Mauritania. Long term regional policy envisages the development of a regional free trade area by 2012.

**Box1: The MEDA Priority Areas (2002-2004)**

1. Making the Euro-Med Free Trade Zone a reality;
2. Promoting regional infrastructure initiatives;
3. Promoting the sustainability of Euro-Mediterranean integration;
4. Enhancing the rule of law and good governance;
5. Bringing the partnership closer to the people.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the annual allocations as per each priority of the 2002-2004 programme.

**Table1: Regional support envelope– financial breakdown by priority (€million)**

PRIORITY	MEASURES	Annual Allocations			
		2002	2003	2004	Total 2002-2004
1. making the Euro-Med Free Trade Zone a Reality / Making sure the Association Agreements get Results	1.1. Helping the Association Agreement signatories to develop free trade among themselves, and with the EU		4		4
	1.2. Training of public administrations and institutions. Furthering the Euro-Med internal market programme		6		6
2. Promoting Regional Infrastructures Initiatives	2.1. Transport		9		9
	2.2. Energy		4		4
	2.3. Telecommunications			4	4
3. Promoting the Sustainability of the Euro-Mediterranean Integration	3.1. Environment			15	15
	3.2. Equal Opportunities for Women			5	5
	3.3. Education and Training for Employment			5	5
4. Enhancing the Rule of Law and Good Governance		6			6
5. Bringing the Partnership closer to the People	5.1. Euro-Med Audiovisual			15	15
	5.2. Euro-Med Heritage			10	10
	5.3. Information and Communication	4	6		10
6. Others					
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>

### 3. The Mediterranean: Current Human and Environmental Trends

It is useful to start any analysis with a general overview of the human (meaning social, economic and cultural aspects), and environmental trends in the region.

**Table2: Human wellbeing index**

<b>Medium</b>
Albania
Croatia
Egypt
France
Greece
Israel
Italy
Macedonia
Portugal
Slovenia
Spain
<b>Poor</b>
Algeria
Bosnia
Jordan
Lebanon
Libya
Morocco
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey

This purpose is well served by the Wellbeing Index recently developed by Prescott-Allen, which includes and aggregates in a single Index a broad range of Human and Environmental Indicators.

The Wellbeing Index is built by aggregating 87 environmental, economic and social indicators. The Index has a 0 to 100 range, divided in five sections: Bad (0-20), Poor (21-40), Medium (41-60), Fair (61-80) and Good (81-100). The Index considers Human and Environmental Wellbeing together, therefore it is not possible to obtain a good overall ranking without performing well in both areas. As can be seen in table 2 all the Mediterranean Countries fall in the Poor and Medium Categories.

#### 3.1 Mediterranean Economics

The GDP per capita of the Mediterranean EU countries is twelve times that of their North African counterparts, and population growth and slow-growing economies make legal or illegal immigration to the EU an attractive prospect for many as well as providing temporary jobs especially in the agricultural sector.

By level of economic development, most Non-EU Mediterranean countries are middle to low-income countries, with income per capita ranging between USD 1000 and 4000, and an average GDP per capita of USD 2100, compared to USD 20800 for the EU (EIU, IMF, World Bank, Moody's, FEMIP estimates).

EU policy is clearly aimed at creating a free trade space in the region to promote exchange and economic growth, although divergent opinions, notably in the agriculture sector, make this a challenging process.

EU and non-EU Mediterranean economies continue to diverge on a per capita basis (table 3). Population growth and poverty could be among the reasons contributing to that.

**Table 3: Comparative growth rates**

<b>Real GDP growth</b>	<b>Average 1990-1995</b>	<b>Average 1996-2001</b>
Mediterranean countries Non-EU	2.8%	3.1%
EU average	1.5%	2.5%

<b>Real GDP growth</b>	<b>Average 1990-1995</b>	<b>Average 1996-2001</b>
Mediterranean countries Non-EU	0.2%	1.4%
EU average	1.1%	2.2%

Sources: EIU, IMF, IF, Eurostat, FEMIP estimates

In general, the main EU policy thrust is to improve economic growth throughout the region (while ensuring sustainable development) and promoting exchanges of experience to continue to improve mutual understanding between the region's countries and cultures.

Data from the World Bank show that the level of poverty is decreasing in the Middle East and North Africa region. However, long-term poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth are now being undermined by the continuing degradation of soils, the increasing scarcity of freshwater, the overexploitation of coastal ecosystems and fisheries, the loss of forest cover, and the loss of biological diversity at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level. Poor and near-poor people in this region are disproportionately affected by these bad environmental conditions and are particularly vulnerable to shocks from environmental change and natural catastrophes.

Environmental changes can make poverty worse by compromising health, livelihoods, and protection from natural disasters. And economic growth can create new stresses on the environment as the demand for environmental resources rises and the damaging by-products of economic activity accumulate. But environmental resources are needed to promote economic growth and reduce

**Table 4: Population Living Below \$1.08 a day (1993 purchasing power parity)**

	Poverty rate (% below \$1.08)					Number of poor (1,000,000)				
	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998	1987	1990	1993	1996	1998
<b>Middle East &amp; North Africa</b>	11.53	9.28	8.41	7.81	7.32	24.99	21.99	21.54	21.35	20.85
<b>Total</b>	28.69	29.32	28.50	24.86	24.27	1196.48	1292.74	1320.88	1206.92	1214.18

poverty, and growth itself creates the means and the demand for an improved environment.

Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/research/povmonitor/index.htm>

### 3.2 Mediterranean Demographics

The Mediterranean-rim countries hold around 400 million people, and 135 million of them live on the Mediterranean coast. This migration towards coastal areas, and specifically in the south and east of the Mediterranean, is causing a pressure on the coastal environment, and more importantly on its biodiversity.

**Table 5: The population of the Mediterranean coastal regions**

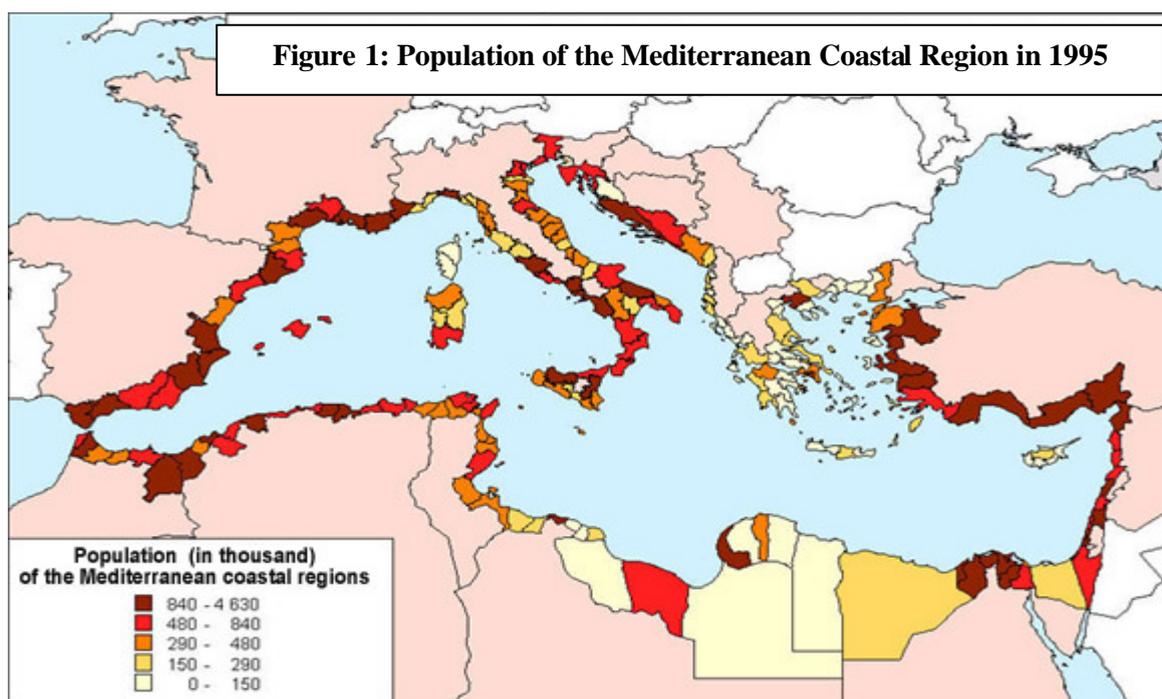
COUNTRY	Last Year Available	POPULATION			DENSITY		
		Total	Med	Med/Tot	Total	Med	Med/Tot
		(Thousand inhabitants)		(%)	(inhab./km <sup>2</sup> )		(index)
SPAIN	1991	39 434	15 926	40	78	167	2,13
FRANCE	1990	56 556	5 839	10	103	124	1,20
ITALY	1991	57 104	32 621	57	190	197	1,04
MALTA	1992	362	362	100	1 145	1 145	1,00
MONACO	1990	30	30	100	15 000	15 000	1,00
SLOVENIA	1991	2 020	250	12	100	57	0,57

CROATIA	1991	4 900	1 520	31	87	59	0,68
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	1991	4 470	300	7	87	51	0,58
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO	1991	10 580	360	3	104	57	0,55
ALBANIA	1990	3 256	1 325	41	113	146	1,29
GREECE	1991	10 264	9 209	90	78	92	1,18
TURKEY	1990	56 473	11 336	20	72	92	1,28
CYPRUS	1982	503	503	100	54	54	1,00
SYRIA	1995	14 186	1 362	10	77	324	4,23
LEBANON	1992	3 000	2 700	90	293	552	1,88
ISRAEL	1994	5 472	3 041	56	263	784	2,98
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1995	2 250	843	37	365	2 310	6,33
EGYPT	1995	58 978	24 004	41	59	209	3,54
LIBYA	1994	4 900	3 920	80	3	23	8,28
TUNISIA	1994	8 785	6 164	70	57	135	2,37
ALGERIA	1987	23 039	10 105	44	10	215	22,21
MOROCCO	1990	26 074	3 670	14	37	87	2,39
TOTAL*		392 636	135 391	34	45	132	2,95

\* The total, calculated using data corresponding to different years, is only shown as an indicative information.

Sources : Statistical yearbooks, census and Blue Plan estimates

Blue Plan estimates that the population of the northern-rim nations will grow by around 4 million between 2000 and 2025; the population of the southern- and eastern-rim nations will grow by around 98 million over the same period. Mediterranean countries are also an international travel destination for nearly 200 million visitors per year, the majority of whom visit the coastal zone.



Source: Blue Plan

### 3.3 Mediterranean Environment Trends

Analysis of the environmental situation provides additional information on the overall sustainability values for Mediterranean countries. There have been several attempts at developing indices for measuring sustainability, however this issue remains quite controversial and would vary on basis of the methodology adopted, the indicators used and the reliability of the data in question.

One of these indices is the Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI). This is a measure of overall progress towards environmental sustainability. The ESI permits cross-national comparisons of environmental progress in a systematic and quantitative fashion. It represents a first step towards a more analytically driven approach to environmental decision-making. Among the 20 indicators that comprise the ESI are factors such as urban air quality, water, and the strength of environmental regulation. Moreover, the ESI takes the following into account:

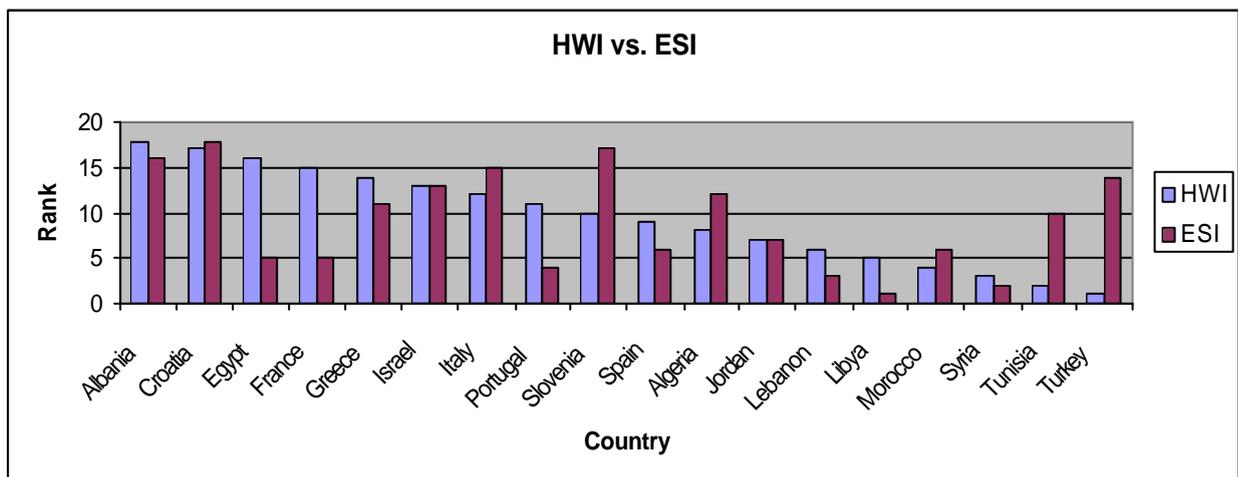
- environmental systems,
- environmental stresses,
- human vulnerability to environmental risks,
- a society's institutional capacity to respond to environmental threats, and
- a nation's stewardship of the shared resources of the global commons.

The ESI is the result of collaboration among the World Economic Forum's Global Leaders for Tomorrow Environment Task Force, The Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy, and the Columbia University Centre for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).

Figure 2 combines both the Human wellbeing index and the ESI, to help in the perception of how these different indices might relate. Considering that they reflect more or less a comparable level of development, these indices should logically be closely related. However, the variation indicates that measuring sustainability is a very challenging process.

In the Mediterranean region, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable development is charged with developing appropriate regional policies and proposing them to the governments of the region through the Mediterranean Action Plan.

**Figure 2: Human well-being (HWI) index and Environmental sustainability index (ESI) for Mediterranean countries**



(see references in text)

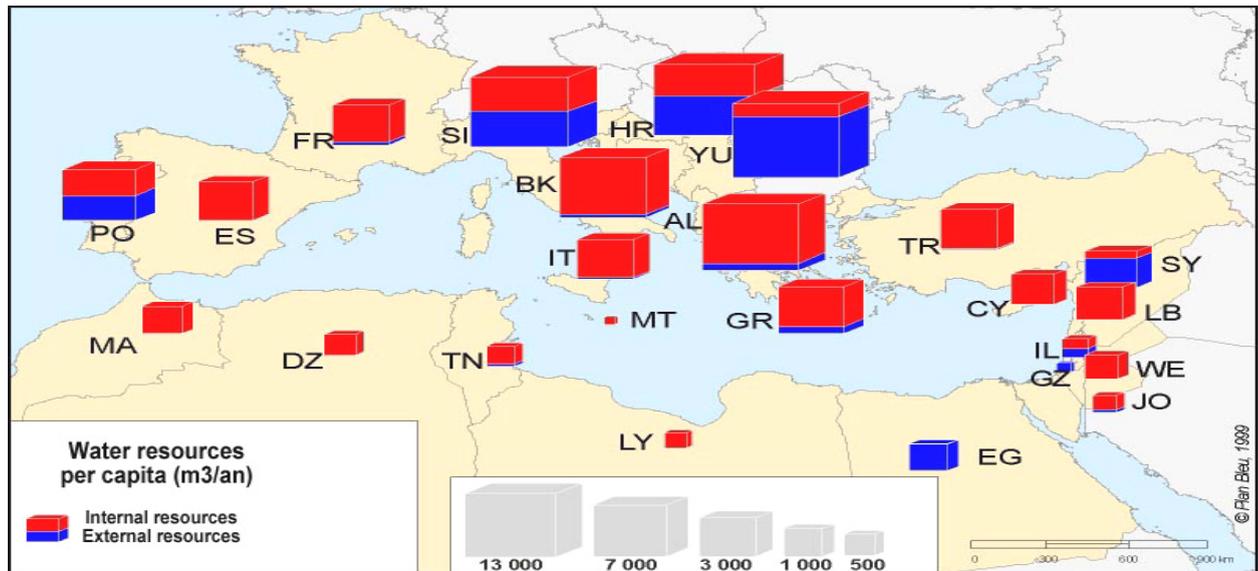
### 3.4 The Mediterranean: A Question of Water

For many countries, water resources are a key issue, except perhaps in the more water-rich Balkans, and the global debate on water finds a voice in the Mediterranean region. For example, of the 12 southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, the Blue Plan estimates that 8 now annually use more than 50 per cent of their renewable water resources; two of them (the Palestinian Territories and Libya) are already using more than their renewable water resources. By the year 2025 the Blue Plan estimates that 10 of the 12 countries may be consuming more than 50 per cent of their renewable

water resources, with eight of them using more than 100% (figure 3). Some 70 % of Mediterranean water is used for agriculture, much of it for consumption within Europe. Many wetlands have been lost through drainage and diversion (eg. 65% in Greece, 28% in Tunisia).

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development proposes to pursue increased demand-side management rather than following historical strategies of offering new resources that may prove costly (as the cheaper sources have already been mobilised) and less sustainable. The Blue Plan estimates that if the quantities of water now being lost or wasted in Mediterranean countries were reduced by half (estimated at 75 km<sup>3</sup>), nearly 80% of the additional needs for water between now and 2010 could be made met through savings alone.

**Figure 3: Water resources per capita (m<sup>3</sup>/an)**



Source: Blue Plan

Dams are the main means for storing and diverting water in the Mediterranean region and are also extensively used for flood control and hydro-power (table 6). They are a key component of water management strategies and IUCN is committed to promoting the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations from the World Commission on Dams concerning social economic and environmental impacts of such infrastructure.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 6: Dams and their functions in Mediterranean countries**

Country	Number of dams	Irrigation %	Energy %	Flood control %	Water supply %	Other uses* %
Albania	306	98	2	0.3	0.7	0.7
Algeria	107	91	2	0.9	25	0.9
Bosnia	25	20	56	20	12	20
Croatia	29	10	66	66	10	3
Cyprus	52	96	0	0	0	19
Egypt	6	100	50	17	0	67
France	569	19	54	8	22	26
Greece	46	48	50	0	15	0.9
Italy	524	32	60	3	21	0
Lebanon	5	40	100	0	0	0
Libya	12	83	0	83	8	0
Morocco	92	67	22	15	37	37
Portugal	103	49	54	1	40	6
Slovenia	30	10	60	30	0	37
Spain	1187	51	32	2	35	7
Syria	41	66	7	2	15	5

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 2.19 at Amman World Conservation Congress 2000

Tunisia	71	92	0	3	4	31
Turkey	625	88	9	11	10	1
Yugoslavia	69	16	36	1	45	3

\*Includes fish farming and recreation.

NB The sum of percentages is not necessary 100% because some dams have multiple uses.

Source: World Register of Dams 1998

Country	Dam Name	Location	Height (meter)	Reservoir Max. Yield(M <sup>3</sup> )	Irrigation (percent)	Municipal (percent)
Jordan **	King Talal <sup>1</sup>	Zarqa River	108	75	100	0
	Karama <sup>2</sup>	Middle Jordan Valley (Wadi Mallaha)	55	55	100	0
	Wala <sup>3</sup>	Wadi Wala	49	9.3	0.	100 <sup>4</sup>
	Mujib <sup>5</sup>	Wadi Mujib	62	35	40	60

1. Operational since 1979, raising completed 1986

2. Operational since 1998

3. Operational since 2003

4. Recharges ground water used for municipal supply to Amman, Madaba, and other villages on the way.

5. Operational since 2004

\*\* Personal comm. with Dr. Munther

Low rainfall combined with unsustainable farming practices has led to desertification and land degradation in many areas, with for example 30% of Greece being declared “threatened” and 60% of Portugal facing a moderate risk of desertification. In semi-arid areas, many years of unsustainable farming techniques have led to erosion, salinisation and land degradation.

#### 4. A Distinctive Eco-region: Mediterranean Biodiversity<sup>3</sup>

##### *Terrestrial environments*

The Mediterranean region has high levels of endemism that have led to its identification as a global biodiversity hotspot. This is in part due to the area being spared during the recent ice ages, the presence of significant massifs (eg Atlas, southern Taurus, Gudar, Javalambre, Levant...) and also to the long history of varying land-use by people in the area that has created and maintained a wide range of habitats.

Table 7 shows that the diversity of vascular plants in the Mediterranean is significant compared to other regions of the world<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 7: Diversity of vascular plants in four global hotspots**

Region	Area sq km	No. plant species	No. endemic species	% endemic species
Mediterranean	2,300,000	25,000	12,500	50 %
Zaire	2,345,000	11,000	2,800 (approx)	30 %
India	3,166,000	15,000	5,000	30 %
Australia	7,682,000	22,000	7,600	34 %

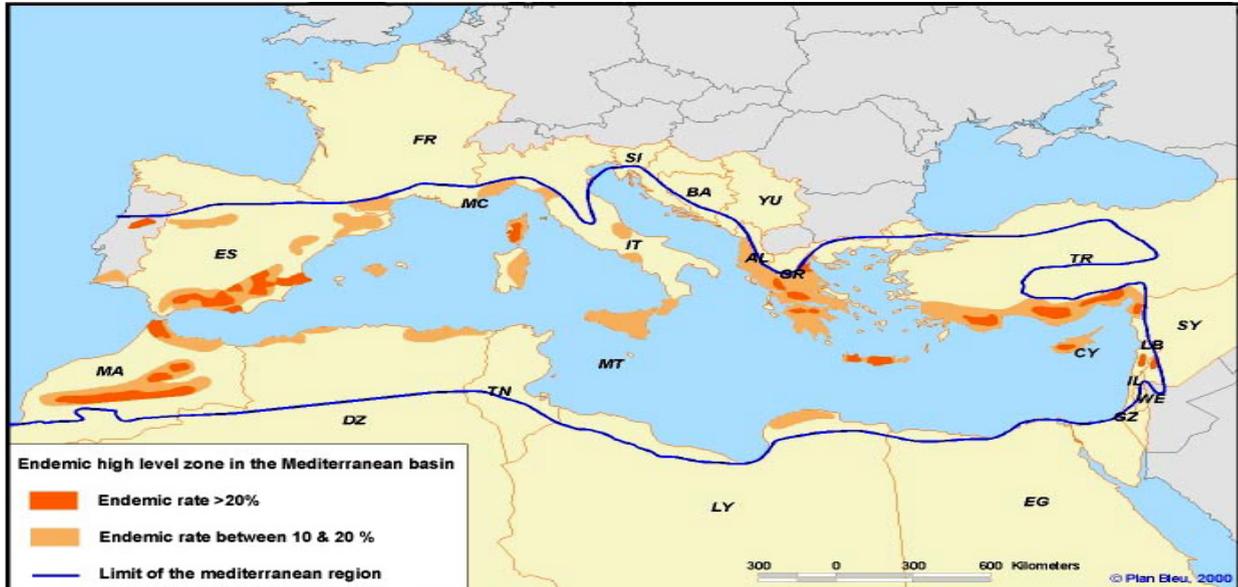
Data for Morocco shows that it has particularly high species diversity and endemism and holds approximately 3,800 species of plant, of which 829 are endemic. Four of these are in danger of extinction and 238 species are directly threatened. Other countries with high species richness and endemism representative of the region as a whole include Syria (2,600 species, 395 endemic) and Greece (4,000 species, 554 endemic). The rate of endemism on Mediterranean islands is especially high, with 10% of species often being endemic.

<sup>3</sup> Drawn from UNEP (1997). Conservation of wetlands and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region.

<sup>4</sup>Quezel P and Médail F, 1995. La région Méditerranéenne, centre mondiale majeur de biodiversité végétale. 6ème rencontres de l'Agence Régionale pour l'environnement Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur.

The biological diversity of the Mediterranean is not limited to plants. Of 62 species of amphibians in the Mediterranean, 35 are endemic (56%), as are 111 of the 179 reptile species (62%). In Morocco, for example, there are 93 reptile species, 20 of which are endemic (21%). Of the 184 mammal species recorded, 25% are endemic and 52 species are threatened (excluding marine mammals). 28% of the marine species found in the Mediterranean are endemic to this sea.

**Figure 4: Level of endemism for biodiversity in the Mediterranean region**



Source: Blue Plan

The Mediterranean is also hugely important for its bird populations, being on the migration route of millions of waterfowl. An estimated 2 billion migratory birds of 150 species use Mediterranean wetlands as stopover or seasonal sites. About 50 per cent of the wintering Western Palearctic populations of ducks and coot occur in the Mediterranean region. Countries of the region have ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Annex 3) and listed 160 sites for protection, covering 1,500,000 ha.

Twenty globally threatened bird species live in the region. Seven of these breed in Mediterranean wetlands, and wetlands host about seventy other species whose populations are locally threatened. Stress on water resources in many Mediterranean countries makes this biome of particular vulnerability.

With almost 5000 islands and islets (figures differ a little from one authority to the other), the Mediterranean comprises one of the largest groups of islands in the world. The region is of high value to global biodiversity due to its wealth of species, relatively high rate of endemism, long history, and tolerance of all kinds of disruptions, as well as its role as a natural laboratory for evolutionary studies.

There are some 4000 islands of less than 10 km<sup>2</sup> in area in the Mediterranean, and 162 islands which are at least 10km<sup>2</sup>. The nine Mediterranean islands of over 1000km<sup>2</sup> account for 83% of the total island area.

In the sea, about 20 species of cetaceans from small dolphins to huge sperm and baleen whales occur and there may be significant migratory exchanges with the Atlantic through the Strait of Gibraltar. Knowledge of the biodiversity of the region is heterogeneous at country level, sometimes restricted to species lists, occasionally also including spatial distribution. Data is dispersed, and there is no regional summary, nor internationally recognised baseline for easily assessing which plants or invertebrates listed as endemic or on national red lists are in fact truly globally threatened. This fact is particularly true for the marine environment where basic knowledge on inventories and species distribution is missing.

All Mediterranean countries have created protected areas networks that seek to protect pristine or representative areas, both terrestrial and marine. Some of these are uninhabited, others depend on the active participation of local people in and around them for the maintenance of their natural values. Table 8 illustrates the number, surface and percentage in the whole territory of the protected areas by category and by country within the Mediterranean region.

Mediterranean forests provide a wide range of important benefits and services to society that go far beyond traditional forest products. Furthermore, they represent one of the planet's important centres of plant diversity, with an estimated 25,000 species of plant which around half are endemic.

Forests have always played, and still play, an important role in the daily life of the Mediterranean peoples. Although Mediterranean forests provide low direct economic returns on wood products in comparison to the Northern European forests, they play a crucial role in maintaining key ecosystem components for securing human welfare and life in the region. Previously, exploitation of the natural landscape was long, slow and relatively sustainable. In the past decades, that balance between nature and humankind has been lost. The forests are now fragile and under threat. Agricultural intensification, fires, over-grazing, and climate change are some of the major threats to Mediterranean forests and have helped lead to forest loss and degradation in many countries over the past several decades. Action is needed to conserve, sustainably manage and restore forests in the region for the maintenance of watersheds and local climate and to protect against desertification, erosion and flood damage.

Sustainable use of Mediterranean forests is affected by the economics of exploitation that usually render them less economically viable than those in northern Europe. A dynamic approach to tackle this issue is needed, linking inter-governmental initiatives with concrete actions at the local and regional level – explicitly linking policy with practice - and bringing key actors together to share constructive insights and identify opportunities.

There are several synergies among the leading forest-related international conventions, which can facilitate effective implementation, and support the sustainable management of forests in the region. These include synergies among the UNFF, CBD, FCCC and CCD regarding restoration, rehabilitation and reforestation; public participation in decision-making and implementation; and ecosystem-related considerations. These synergies can be harnessed to successfully conserve, sustainably manage and restore forests in the region.<sup>5</sup> Forest-related issues are clearly linked to land degradation and desertification in much of the region where rainfall allows forest development.

#### **4.1 Conserving Mediterranean Biodiversity**

Different countries display different degrees of flexibility with respect to incentives for biodiversity conservation, and provisions for sustainable use. Many still implement a “protectionist approach” with strong centralized jurisdiction over particular land areas, with weak linkage to local populations, resource users, or local economies although legislation, and attitudes, continue to evolve. Often centralized jurisdiction over protected areas may be at odds with decentralized powers (e.g. of regional governors and their equivalents), or there may be conflicts of interest between the concerned ministries (e.g. where new environmental ministries have been created), raising the need for interministerial coordination with existing protected area managers such as forestry or agriculture departments. Equally there is recognition that land-use policies outside protected areas, both in coastal zones and semi-mountainous areas, contribute to the creation of unique Mediterranean landscape values. The significant presence of people living in and around protected areas is reflected in the predominance of IUCN categories IV and V (figure 5)

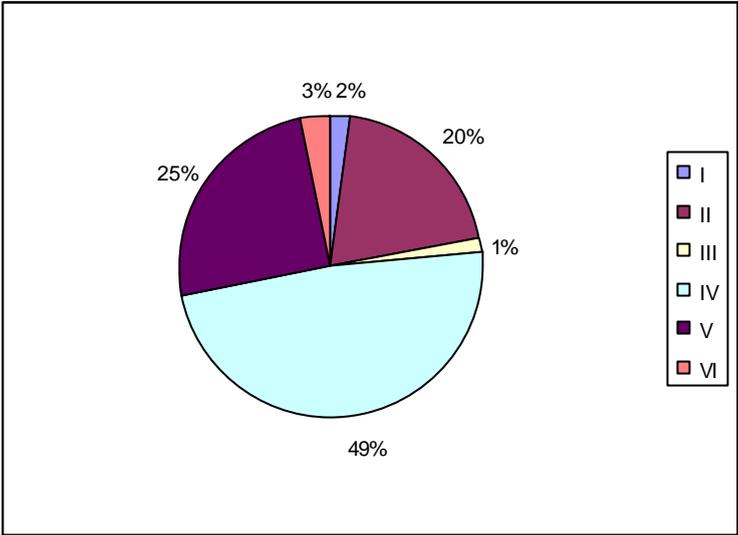
The capacity of protected areas to be seen as an opportunity, rather than a constraint, for local development, represents one of the emerging areas of work in the region. Several countries have a growing experience on this topic while others are still far behind in meeting their protection commitments. The World Parks Congress in 1992 called on all countries to increase their protected areas to 10% of their total surface area. Good regional data on this issue are not available, or vary according to the source, however, it is clear that this percentage has not increased beyond 1% for

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<sup>5</sup> Drawn from Saint-Laurent C, 2003, 'Background Paper on Supporting Implementation of International Forest Objectives in the Mediterranean'

countries in North Africa (table 8). Of the total protected surface area in the Mediterranean, terrestrial areas have a higher share of protection than either wetlands or marine protected areas (figure 6).

**Figure 5: The majority of Protected Areas in the region are of IUCN Category IV and V and the small number of categories I, II and III indicates the Mediterranean reality and the presence of human activities.**



Source : Blue Plan

**Table 8: Protected Areas in Mediterranean countries (CED PPN 1999 for the EU, data IUCN 1997 for the MED., elab. CED PPN 2001)**

	National Parks			Regional Parks			Protected Landscapes			Reserves			Natural monuments and others areas			TOT		
	n	% Surf.	sup (ha)	n	% Surf.	sup (ha)	n	% Surf.	sup (ha)	n	% Surf.	Surf. (ha)	n	% Surf.	Surf. (ha)	n	Surf. (ha)	% Surf.
Albania	6	0,80%	23.000	18	2,51%	72.055	1	0,05%	1.370	18	2,51%	72.055	0	0,00%	0	43	168.480	5,86%
Bosnia-Erz.	2	0,40%	20.625	2	0,08%	4.000	3	0,00%	197	8	0,05%	2.519	0	0,00%	0	15	27.341	0,53%
Croatia	7	1,24%	70.163	6	4,60%	260.243	7	0,20%	11.095	7	0,49%	27.434	0	0,00%	0	27	368.935	6,53%
France	6	0,65%	352.598	35	9,51%	5.172.376	0	0,00%	0	1.058	1,43%	778.855	0	0,00%	0	1.099	6.303.829	11,59%
Greece	11	2,19%	288.742	0	0,00%	0	19	0,25%	33.067	662	15,79%	2.083.575	10	0,11%	14.685	702	2.420.069	18,34%
Italy	21	4,45%	1.340.706	131	5,50%	1.658.966	0	0,00%	0	484	1,37%	412.490	341	0,18%	52.756	977	3.464.918	11,50%
Macedonia	3	4,21%	108.338	3	0,09%	2.338	0	0,00%	0	2	0,11%	2.730	39	2,21%	56.850	47	170.256	6,62%
Portugal	1	0,76%	70.290	11	5,80%	533.690	3	0,03%	2.374	8	0,64%	58.951	7	0,00%	0	30	665.305	7,23%
Slovenia	1	4,14%	83.807	1	0,02%	416	36	2,98%	60.289	0	0,00%	0	0	0,00%	0	38	144.512	7,14%
Spain	11	0,44%	222.324	104	5,04%	2.550.759	88	0,53%	270.329	152	0,19%	96.441	119	0,09%	47.760	474	3.187.613	6,30%
Yugoslavia	9	2,33%	237.673	20	0,49%	50.380	0	0,00%	0	7	0,34%	34.603	0	0,00%	0	36	322.656	3,16%
tot MED EU	78	1,52%	2.822.980	347	5,53%	10.281.519	157	0,20%	378.721	2.476	1,94%	3.603.346	529	0,09%	170.498	3.488	17.243.914	9,28%
Algeria	10	0,12%	282.592							8	0,04%	86866				18	369.458	0,16%
Egypt	1	0,06%	61.500							11	0,73%	731700				12	793.200	0,79%
Israel	1	0,41%	8.400							14	14,78%	299.435				15	307.835	15,20%
Lebanon	1	0,34%	3.500							1	0,05%	500				2	4.000	0,38%
Libya	3	0,03%	51.000							3	0,07%	122000				6	173.000	0,10%
Marocco	2	0,15%	69.800							5	0,54%	246103				7	315.903	0,69%
Tunisia	6	0,29%	44.417								0,00%					6	44.417	0,29%
Turkey	21	0,59%	446.264	4	0,07%	51.624				41	1,04%	785031				66	1.282.919	1,70%
tot MED AA	45	0,15%	967.473	4	0,01%	51.624	0	0	0	83	0,35%	2.271.635	0	0	0	132	3.290.732	0,50%
TOT MED	123	0,45%	3.790.453	351	1,23%	10.333.143	157	0	378.721	2.559	0,70%	5.874.981	529	0	170.498	3.620	20.536.646	2,44%
tot EU	269	2,0%	9.953.761	445	3,5%	17.296.202	9.289	6,3%	31.441.790	20.193	2,3%	11.563.232	2.283	0,0%	240.819	32.479	70.495.804	14,1%

## 4.2 The Mediterranean Marine Environment

The Mediterranean Sea covers about 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, with an approximate coastline of 46,000 km. It is considered as a poorly productive sea, although the most diverse in terms of species.

Introduction of non-indigenous species is one of the most pervasive and irreversible impacts of human activities on natural ecosystems. This is particularly true for the Marine environment, where the impact of alien invasive species has proven to be immense, and usually irreversible. In the Mediterranean Sea, the number of exotic species is estimated to be around 1000<sup>6</sup>. Many of these species became invasive and have caused considerable ecological and economic impacts in some Mediterranean countries.

The Mediterranean hosts a number of critically endangered species, but the assessment of the status of some vulnerable and poorly known marine groups, like sharks and their relatives is still lacking. So far, the attention has been focused on flagship and charismatic species, like the Monk Seal or marine turtles, but a first assessment of the status of sharks has shown that some species are thought to be extinct from the Mediterranean Sea, and others threatened with extinction.

The enclosed nature of the Mediterranean Sea and the high levels of urbanisation and industrialisation along its shores and rivers have long made it sensitive to profound environmental change. The riparian states have recognised this through their ratification of the Barcelona Convention and their joint commitment to work together to conserve its values, natural resources and biodiversity features in a rapidly changing context.

The Mediterranean sea includes 6 percent of the worlds species for less than 1 per cent of the worlds ocean area, and while much of the fauna is of Atlantic or Red Sea origin, the levels of endemism are also high (28%), including some emblematic species of global conservation concern. Fisheries involve some 120 commercial species and an annual catch of 1.1 million tonnes per year – recent trends have threatened stocks of swordfish and tuna, and increasingly riparian countries struggle to maintain artisanal fisheries of local economic and cultural importance. Aquaculture in the region fails to fill the gap between annual catches and consumption in riparian states (4 million tonnes per year), and sustainability of fisheries is rapidly becoming a major concern.

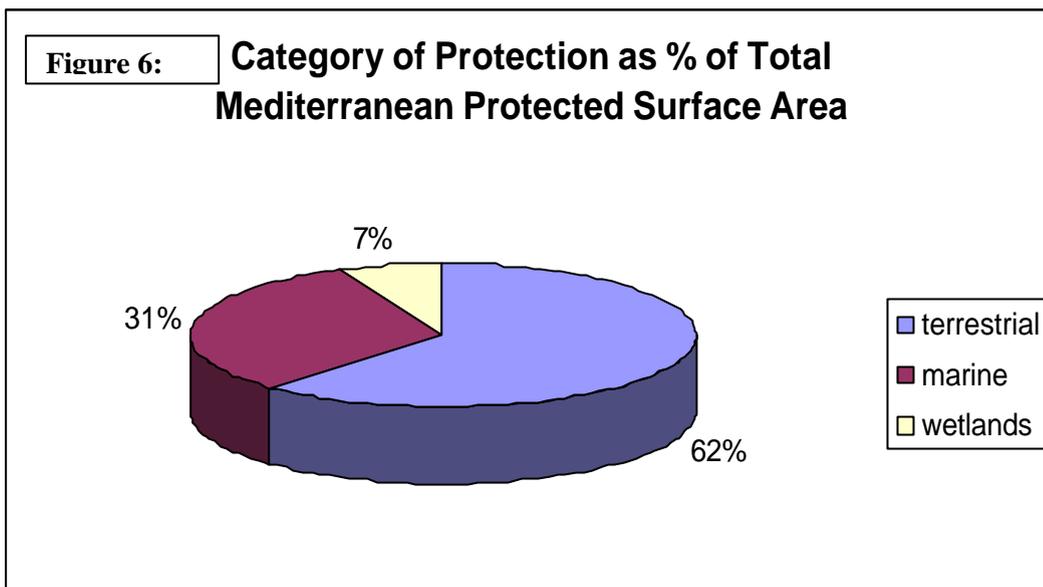
The prospect of a Euro-Mediterranean Free trade by 2012 brings with it the promise of additional transport links between north and south and east and west, with implications for the extension of ports in natural coastal areas and increased maritime traffic, associated pollution and perturbation of marine biodiversity. Continued growth in tourism, currently at 150 million people per year is also forecast, and the sustainable use of many marine resources is yet to become a reality at either national or regional level.

Marine protected areas have contributed to the emergence of a regional conservation programme for the region's marine resources, driven both by the Barcelona Convention protocol on Specially Protected Areas (1995), the Natura 2000 network and some GEF support. These provide tourism opportunities, and support improved artisanal fisheries for local communities, while conserving key sites of biodiversity interest from development and degradation. Within the Mediterranean Action Plan, countries are free to delineate their own "coastal zone". Within the geographic area designated by different countries, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) has identified 1,700,000 ha of protected area, divided as shown in the figure below. Across the Mediterranean, there have been 57 marine protected areas established (200,000 ha) and 123 coastal areas protected. Twelve sites are currently listed under the new SPA protocol of the Barcelona Convention<sup>7</sup>. The effective management of these MPAs and the marine issues associated with them is hampered by weak institutional structures and lack of capacity, although the Protocol envisages that each site should have an effective management plan.

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<sup>6</sup> CIESM, Atlas of Exotic Species in the Mediterranean

<sup>7</sup> Special protected areas of Mediterranean importance



Source: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)

So far, only a few States have extended their national jurisdiction beyond 12 miles (extent of territorial waters). Therefore most of the Mediterranean comes under the high seas system, where significant collaborative efforts are required to ensure the sustainable use and the conservation of shared Mediterranean natural resources.

In 2003, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recognised that the ocean-related objectives of Chapter 17 were still largely unmet, and that the needs addressed by them are becoming critical. Governments agreed to specific time-bound commitments relating to marine resources including the establishment of a representative network of MPAs by 2012, including in the high seas. The list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) existing under the Barcelona Convention is an innovative system that promotes cooperation between member States to establish protected areas including beyond their national jurisdiction.

The governance of the Mediterranean Sea is complex with different mandates shared, and at many instances overlapping, between national jurisdictions as well as international conventions and agreements, such as the Barcelona Convention, Accobams<sup>8</sup>, International Maritime Organisation, FAO and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

On the high seas, one protected area for cetaceans has already been created between France, Monaco and Italy in the Ligurian Sea, and other initiatives are being considered for the Alboran Sea, amongst others. About 20 species of cetacean occur in the region, around half of which migrate through the straits of Gibraltar. A transboundary agreement between Sardinia and Corsica has also improved the protection of the ecologically-sensitive Straits of Bonifacio from ships carrying dangerous substances.

<sup>8</sup> Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area.

**Table 9: Extent of Protected coastal area (ha) in 1995**

Country	Area
Albania	3 550
Algérie	85 750
Bosnia	-
Chypre	3 319
Croatia	45 026
Egypte	128 200
Espagne	196 111
France	129 568
Gaza	-
Grèce	33 695
Israël	3 094
Italie	68 105
Liban	500
Lybie	50 000
Malte	260
Maroc	51 050
Monaco	51
Slovénie	0
Syrie	-
Tunisie	20 770
Turquie	320 060
Yougoslavia	12 550

(Source : Blue Plan)

Fisheries have long been exploited by artisanal and industrial fishermen, and globally local consumption now exceeds production fourfold. In developing countries the strong demand from rich countries (Europe, Asia) leads to an over exploitation of the stocks for exportation purposes. Aquaculture has yet to make up the gap, and expert views are divided on the feasibility, and advisability of taking this course. Many important species are in decline, not only pelagic fishes like tunas and swordfishes but also benthic species which are exploited by the bottom trawlers.. EU policies sustaining fishing fleets are partly to blame for over-fishing. The by-catch of threatened species (dolphins, seals, turtles) is also significant locally, although the situation appears to be improving. The complexity of the Mediterranean fishery is illustrated by the presence of 110 commercial species, compared to only 40 for the North Atlantic. On the coasts of the Mediterranean a series of conservation measures have been put in place, at least in part as a response to increasing urbanisation of coastal areas (table 9) and in three countries, around 30 % of the linear coastline is under some form of protection. According to the Blue Plan, between 1985 and 1995, the area of coastal protection tripled to around 1,200,000 hectares

**Table 10: Level of protection of the coastline in Mediterranean EU countries**

Country	Length of coastline (in km)	linear % sustainably protected
France	1735	31%
Portugal	1246	29%
Spain	3385	30,8%
Italy	7680	10,9%
Greece	16600	2%

Source: <http://www.green-register.org/>

## 5. Stakeholder Analysis – Major Actors Relevant to IUCN in the Mediterranean

This section presents an overview of the major IUCN constituency in the Mediterranean Region, including:

- IUCN Members in the region
- IUCN Commissions in the region
- International and Regional organizations active in the field of conservation and sustainable development

## **5.1 IUCN members in the Mediterranean**

IUCN has more than 150 members in 19 riparian Mediterranean countries plus four countries – Andorra, Jordan, Portugal and the FYROM (Macedonia) which are non-riparian but may be considered culturally and ecologically Mediterranean. This figure includes sixteen State members of IUCN. There are 10 formally or informally recognised IUCN National Committees that are in Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Syria and Tunisia.

France, Spain and Italy hold more than 50% of this membership. These are followed by Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Greece, Egypt, Portugal, Tunisia, Turkey and Israel. Many countries only have 1 or 2 members (Andorra, Cyprus, FYROM, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Syria); Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine do not have members.

National Committees in Northern Africa and the Middle East have been working through the N.Africa/W.Asia Programme of IUCN; those from European countries have been in liaison with IUCN directly through the European Programme Office.

Within the existing IUCN Statutes, and taking account of the IUCN regionalisation structure, the Director General of IUCN has directed the Mediterranean office to focus on thematic programmes, and to collaborate and coordinate closely with WesCANA and ROFE. These latter offices retain responsibility for membership-related issues.

## **5.2 IUCN Commissions**

IUCN has six scientific Commissions and all of them have voluntary members in the Mediterranean. These Commissions are:

- WCPA        World Commission on Protected Areas
- SSC         Species Survival Commission
- ELC         Environmental Law Commission
- CEC         Commission on Education and Communications
- CEM         Commission on Ecosystem Management
- CEESP      Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

Annex 2 presents the membership of these Commissions in the Mediterranean region.

## **5.3 Regional cooperation**

Regional environmental conventions and programmes have been in place since 1976. The first international environmental Convention signed after the World Summit in Stockholm (1972) was the Barcelona Convention of 1975, ratified by 20 Mediterranean riparian Parties (19 States plus the European Union). The Convention has had numerous legal consequences, namely in supporting and updating legal provisions at the national levels. The first Regional Seas Programme of UNEP (Mediterranean Action Plan - MAP) was established in 1976 to support the implementation of the Convention. Annex 3 summarises the status of ratification of the different conventions and agreements throughout the Mediterranean.

Other pan-Mediterranean agreements have followed, such as the Genova Declaration (1985), the Nicosia Charter (1989), and Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean (Tunis 1995), establishing a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (1996). The Convention on Desertification has an Annex devoted to the northern Mediterranean region.

The EU has recognized cooperation with southern and eastern Mediterranean countries as a priority and launched an ambitious cooperation programme (MEDA) following the Euro Mediterranean Summit in November 1995. The World Bank acts in the region through a special unit, the

Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), in concertation with the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.

The Barcelona Convention was reviewed by the parties in 1995. It is now called the "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean". Significantly, it includes a new "Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" (1996), which is to a certain extent a regionalization of some elements of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was created as an autonomous body of the MAP. It has a unique structure, bringing together NGOs, private sector, governments and local authorities. The Director General of IUCN has named the Malaga Office as the IUCN focal point for the Convention and the reinforcement of collaboration between IUCN and the Convention is one of the motivating forces described in the financing agreement between the Spanish Ministry for the Environment, Andalucia and IUCN.

Mediterranean countries have signed or ratified most, if not all, of the major international conventions (see Annex 3). These include:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Convention on Migratory Species
- The Barcelona Convention
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Taken together they provide a comprehensive policy framework for action within the Mediterranean region and allow IUCN to play a technical role in supporting implementation of their provisions, in partnership with member NGOs and governments.

In the 1990s pan-Mediterranean initiatives were launched by some NGOs, many of which involve IUCN members - eg the WWF-International Mediterranean Programme, the MEDForum network of NGOs, the Mediterranean information Office and the MedWet Programme for Mediterranean Wetlands (EU and Ramsar Convention). Mediterranean networks also exist on other topics such as water (Global water partnership – MedTAC) and fisheries (FAO – GFCM).

In conclusion, the Mediterranean ecosystem has been identified as one of the major global biodiversity hotspots, and it is clear that there is a genuine Mediterranean space that is recognised through regional policy and funding initiatives, and through the institutionalised structure of the governmental, intergovernmental and NGO bodies in the region. Information and experience on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use exists, yet this is rarely available to all concerned actors. The strong institutional framework on the northern shore (strong NGOs and universities, clear EU Directives and finance, effective Protected Area networks) is mirrored to the South and East by weaker NGOs and lack of human and financial capacity that hampers an effective approach to conservation and sustainable use of the region's shared biodiversity and natural resources.

## **6. Complementarity between the Mediterranean Programme and IUCN regional programmes.**

The Mediterranean programme will work in coordination with the WESCANA programme and the European Regional Office and will implement initiatives in the countries of the Mediterranean sub-region, particularly through promoting North/South linkages and regional action. ROfE is the IUCN platform in Brussels for EU activities and policies relevant to the Mediterranean, as well as providing a focal point for issues concerning the EU – either policy processes, or fund-raising.

WESCANA assumes full responsibility for membership matters, national committees and statutory issues. At the programme level, one of the important guiding principles is "complementarity": the Mediterranean programme does not seek to replace the existing programmes and structures already in place but to clearly be synergistic at regional level.

The Mediterranean Centre will normally focus on initiatives at pan-Mediterranean regional/ecosystem level that involve more than one country, and on North-South linkages. It will thus be an added value to the ongoing IUCN technical programmes, in particular for European and WESCANA programmes, and will play no role in membership matters, which remain clearly linked to the IUCN statutory regions. The Mediterranean programme is IUCN's official point of contact for the Barcelona Convention.

## 7. IUCN's Niche and Comparative Advantage in the Mediterranean

A few environmental organizations have a multi-thematic programme for the Mediterranean region. As compared to these partners, the main strengths of IUCN are its mixed membership and the scientific and technical knowledge and expertise provided by the Commissions. Hence, the main types of activity for the IUCN Mediterranean Programme should fall within those for which IUCN is specially well placed given its characteristics and experience in convening, acting as a policy catalyst, coordinating with partners, involving members to regional efforts, networking and establishing linkages between north and south members, and facilitating scientific advice and information exchange.

If IUCN is to have a long-term impact and a sustainable presence in the Mediterranean, careful and strategic choices must be made in the development of the Programme. Areas of work must be selected that maximize IUCN's core competencies, that build on the strengths and comparative advantages of the membership and partners, and that attract long term investment from donors and partners.

### **Types of activity undertaken by the IUCN Mediterranean Programme**

*(as identified by the members meeting in Malaga in 1997)*

- **Policy development:** by supporting the implementation and development of regional Conventions, strengthening equity, influencing cooperation policies and programmes, formulating new initiatives.
- **A convening role,** as facilitator and catalyst, facilitating that Mediterranean issues have a stronger influence in the EU, linking inter-governmental organizations, governments and NGOs, creating a climate for greater dialogue, collaboration, and strengthening existing partnerships.
- **Advocacy:** providing advice to influence policy makers, public administrations and cooperation agencies, closing the gaps between the legal provisions and their enforcement.
- **Identifying and mobilising financial resources** from multi and bi-lateral donor and cooperation agencies.
- **Programme coordination** and networking, establishing and strengthening links with other regional partners, promoting members activities within the frame of identified common objectives and regional priorities, establishing north/south linkages between members, helping the Commissions implement their strategic plans.
- **Capacity building:** exchanging experiences within members through thematic workshops and discussion fora, drawing common lessons, facilitating training activities.
- **Technical assistance,** facilitating technical services provided by the Union, providing advice in the preparation of strategies and action plans, assisting in their implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

## 8. The IUCN Global Intersessional Plan (2005-2008)

This intersessional plan will be based on IUCN's global situation analysis and will be articulated around six Key Result Areas (KRA) to which all IUCN regional and thematic programmes and Commissions contribute. The Key Result Areas provide a framework to guide the delivery of IUCN's work.

The six Key Result Areas that are currently under discussion by IUCN Council are:

1. **Understanding Biodiversity** – Improved knowledge about natural systems.
2. **Social Equity** – Improved knowledge of the interdependence of social equity and natural systems
3. **Conservation Incentives and Finance** – Improved knowledge of indicators and incentives, including financing mechanisms, for efficient biodiversity conservation.
4. **International Engagement for Conservation** – International arrangements that promote and support effective, efficient and equitable biodiversity conservation
5. **Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods** – Ecosystem uses are sustainable and managed to reconcile social, economic and environmental aims.
6. **Programme Delivery** – Effective and efficient delivery of the IUCN Policy and Programme

Council is expected to agree the outline of the 2005-2008 programme during 2003 and to submit it to the membership prior to the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in November 2004. Thereafter, aligning the Mediterranean programme with the IUCN intersessional programme is an essential first step to developing annual workplans that clearly define how the products of the regional programme fit clearly into IUCN's global framework.

This intersessional plan will provide the context for developing annual work plans and budgets to meet the outcomes expected. Challenges for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the Mediterranean region are considerable, and the capacity of the Mediterranean programme to meet members' expectations will need to be reviewed on a regular basis.

## 9. Conclusion

This situation analysis for the Mediterranean provides an analytical basis upon which to choose the most relevant areas of work for IUCN. It should also offer guidance on the most appropriate roles and partnerships for IUCN in order to deliver a relevant, high quality programme.

Based on that analysis, it appears that the key issues and trends affecting conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean are:

- The overall human wellbeing picture for Western European countries is medium, while human wellbeing in Northern Africa, Middle East and the Balkans is poor to medium;
- Human population density is high and increasing in most coastal areas;
- There are major wealth disparities between rich countries and poor countries in the region (12 times more in the North than in the South);
- The general environmental situation can be substantially enhanced throughout the region;
- The biodiversity conservation situation can be improved – only few countries have more than 10% of their land surface as protected areas leaving the remainder below minimum international standards;
- The situation of fresh water balance (withdrawal and renewal) is critical in half of the basin. Only the northern Balkan countries and France have a good fresh water supply.

In order for the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation to undertake adequate planning to adequately tackle these issues, there are certain guiding principles that will dictate how the intersessional programme will be designed and implemented. These could be summarised by the following:

Members' Participation: to add value to existing member activities, and to use and strengthen existing member's capacities.

Complementarity: New activities will be focused to cover gaps, to build on existing achievements, and to add value through additional input to existing activities of partner organizations. Within IUCN itself the Mediterranean Programme will seek synergies with existing Regional Programmes, Commissions, and National Committees.

Green and eco-regional focus: to work on 'green' topics of Mediterranean-wide character.

Regional Involvement: to develop activities of pan-Mediterranean significance, and to work at sub-regional and national levels only in so far as activities form an essential part of regional initiatives.

Build partnerships: Coordination will be fostered with other regional initiatives from partner organizations and with those of other IUCN structures operating in the Mediterranean region. When developing common activities, members with adequate resources and trained personnel will be encouraged to assist those who do not, and in effect strengthening equity in the region.

Other considerations: The Programme will favour activities responding to regional Conventions, requiring multilateral involvement (several countries) or transboundary cooperation. The Programme will be realistic and ensure that there is the appropriate capacity to deliver the activities.

### **Next Steps**

- Comments on the relevance and accuracy of this situation analysis from IUCN Members are invited by 31 July 2003.
- A draft IUCN inter-sessional programme for the Mediterranean region that responds to this situation analysis will be circulated to members for comment by 30 September 2003.
- Comments on this programme will be invited from IUCN Members by 30 November 2003.
- A revised programme will be submitted to the Director General, for eventual consideration by Council in December 2003.

## **Annex 1      Steps leading to the establishment of an IUCN Mediterranean Centre and implementation of the programme**

- 1994: Recommendation 19.17 of the IUCN General Assembly in Buenos Aires calls for a "New operative region and IUCN Office for the Mediterranean".
- 1995: The 42<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting endorses the recommendations of the Working Group and recommends further elaboration of an IUCN Mediterranean Programme.
- 1996: Resolution CGR.1.15 is adopted at the World Conservation Congress in Montreal, recommending the establishment of an Office for the Mediterranean, implementation of recommendations from the 1995 Working Group, evaluation of potential financial needs and sources taking into consideration the proposed offer from Spain, establishing a network of regional members, and promoting the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and the MAP.
- 1997: An analysis of IUCN's niche and potential roles in the region is prepared based on consultations with regional partners (MAP, Bern Convention, Ramsar, WWF, MedWet). The draft framework document and niche analysis is circulated to all IUCN members in the Mediterranean.
- 1997: The IUCN Mediterranean Members Meeting in Malaga 23-25 Oct.1997 discusses the draft strategy document; considerations and recommendations are made and included in the meeting report. The meeting approves the location of the Mediterranean Programme Office in Malaga and welcomes the offer from the Spanish authorities to cover the core funding for the first years of office operation.
- 1999: WCPA members organize a meeting at Cilento, Italy to discuss approaches to Mediterranean protected areas through an IUCN programme.
- 1999: IUCN Mediterranean meeting in Malaga to update the 1997 draft strategy.
- 2000: The Ministry of Environment, Spain, the Consejeria de Medio Ambiente of Andalucia and IUCN sign a tripartite agreement establishing the office in the Technological Park in Malaga.
- 2001: Office opens in October 2001.
- 2001: Draft 2002-2004 programme aligning themes identified by members in 1997 with the IUCN intersessional programme agreed in Amman 2000 is discussed with Chairmen of IUCN National Committees.
- 2002: Circulation of 2002-2004 programme to membership (in English, French and Spanish).
- 2003: Development and consultation on 2005-2008 programme.

**Annex 2      Mediterranean members of IUCN Commissions**  
**-    JANUARY 2002    -**

	<b>Ecosystem Management CEM</b>	<b>Environmental Law CEL</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communication CEC</b>	<b>Environmental Economics &amp; Social Policy CEESP</b>	<b>World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA</b>	<b>Species Survival Commission SSC</b>
<b>ALGERIA</b>	1	2	1		1	8
<b>CROATIA</b>	1	1	3	1	2	12
<b>CYPRUS</b>						3
<b>EGYPT</b>	2	2	3	1	14	12
<b>FRANCE</b>	10	12	5	8	32	193
<b>GREECE</b>	2	1	3	1	6	35
<b>ISRAEL</b>	1	3	3	2	1	34
<b>ITALY</b>	2	6	2	3	20	94
<b>JORDAN</b>		3	6	1	4	7
<b>LEBANON</b>			4	1	5	3
<b>LIBYA ARAB JAMAHIRIYA</b>		1	1			1
<b>MALTA</b>						4
<b>MONACO</b>				1	2	1
<b>MOROCCO</b>		5	3	1	1	21
<b>PORTUGAL</b>		5	6		2	38
<b>SLOVENIA</b>		2	4	1	17	13
<b>SPAIN</b>	2	11	25	2	13	167
<b>SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC</b>		2		2		2
<b>TUNISIA</b>	1		1		2	12
<b>TURKEY</b>		2	2		3	32

### Annex 3 Status of ratification of major Conventions and Agreements in the Mediterranean

Country	Accobams	Barcelona Convention	Berne Convention	CBD	CITES	UNFCC	UNCCD	RAMSAR
Albania	03/07/2001	30/05/1990	13/01/1999	-	25/09/2003	-	-	29/02/1996
Algeria	-	16/02/1981	-	14/08/1995	23/11/1983	09/06/1993	22/05/1996	04/03/1984
Andorra	-	-	13/10/2000	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	10/07/2000	08/10/1991	03/07/2000	07/10/1996	14/03/2000	-	-	25/06/1991
Cyprus	-	19/11/1979	16/05/1988	10/07/1996	18/10/1974	15/10/1997	-	11/11/2001
Egypt	-	24/08/1978	-	02/06/1994	04/01/1978	05/12/1994	07/07/1995	09/09/1988
France	-	11/03/1978	26/04/1990	01/07/1994	11/05/1978	-	12/06/1997	01/12/1986
Greece	-	03/01/1979	13/06/1983	04/08/1994	08/10/1992	04/08/1994	05/05/1997	21/12/1975
Israel	-	03/03/1978	-	07/08/1995	18/12/1979	04/06/1996	26/03/1996	12/03/1997
Italy	-	03/02/1979	11/02/1982	15/04/1994	02/10/1979	15/04/1994	23/06/1997	14/04/1977
Jordan	-	-	-	12/11/1993	14/12/1978	12/11/1993	13/04/1995	10/05/1977
Lebanon	-	08/11/1977	-	15/12/1994	-	15/12/1994	16/05/1996	16/08/1999
Libya	1/09/2002	31/01/1979	-	12/07/2001	28/01/2003	14/06/1999	22/07/1996	05/08/2000
Malta	23/03/2001	30/12/1977	26/11/1993	29/12/2000	17/04/1989	17/03/1994	15/10/1994	30/01/1989
Monaco	30/04/1997	20/09/1977	07/02/1994	20/11/1992	19/04/1978	20/11/1992	-	20/12/1997
Morocco	05/07/1999	15/01/1980	25/04/2001	21/08/1995	16/10/1975	28/12/1995	15/10/1994	20/10/1980
Portugal	-	-	03/02/1982	21/12/1993	11/12/1980	21/12/1993	01/04/1996	24/03/1981
Serbian & MonteNegro	-	-	-	01/03/2002	27/02/2002	-	-	27/04/1992
Slovenia	-	15/03/1994	29/09/1999	09/07/1996	24/01/2000	01/12/1995	-	25/06/1991
Spain	02/02/1999	17/12/1976	27/05/1986	23/03/1994	30/05/1986	21/12/1993	31/01/1996	04/09/1982
Syria	07/02/2002	26/12/1978	-	04/01/1996	30/04/2003	-	10/06/1997	05/07/1998
Tunisia	15/01/2002	30/07/1977	12/01/1996	15/07/1993	10/07/1974	15/07/1993	11/10/1995	24/03/1981
Turkey	-	06/04/1981	02/05/1984	14/02/1997	23/09/1996	-	31/03/1998	13/11/1994

### Convention on Migratory Species

Country	Date of Signature	AEWA	CURL	ACCO
Albania	1/09/2001	X	S	X
Algeria				
Andorra				
Croatia	1/10/2000	X	S	(X)
Cyprus	1/11/2001		S	(X)
France	01/07/1990	(X)		(X)
Egypt	1/11/1983	X	S	
Greece	01/10/1999	(X)	S	(X)
Israel	01/11/1983			
Italy	01/11/1983		S	(X)
Jordan	01/03/2001	X		
Lebanon				
Libya	01/09/2002			
Malta	01/06/2001			X
Monaco	01/06/1993	X		X
Morocco	01/11/1993	(X)	S	X
Portugal	01/11/1983			(X)
Serbian & Monte Negro				
Slovenia	01/02/1999			
Spain	01/05/1985	X	S	X
Tunisia	01/06/1987		S	X
Turkey				

X: Party/ (X) Signed but not ratified / S MoU signatory

- AEWA = Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (01.11.1999)
- ACCO = Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (01.06.2001)
- CURL = Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (10.09.1994)