

## DURBAN ACTION PLAN

### REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTION NEEDED TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF PROTECTED AREAS

**OUT OF THE ACTIONS LISTED BELOW, PLEASE CHECK A MAXIMUM OF FIVE ACTIONS YOU PERCEIVE AS MAIN PRIORITIES THAT WOULD SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

#### Regional action

1. Governments should agree to strengthen existing instruments and encourage new regional instruments which will contribute to increased funding that secures the effective, efficient and equitable management of the region's protected areas.	
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#### National action

2. Governments and the private sector should adopt consistent principles and procedures to establish and project funding needs and shortfalls for the operation of protected area systems, including World Heritage sites by 2005. These assessments should be the basis for agreeing national and global targets for increased funding.	
3. Based on these estimates, by 2006, governments should commit to country-level Sustainable Financing Plans that support national systems of protected areas and begin to implement these, including necessary regulatory, legislative, policy, institutional and other measures.	
4. Governments nationally and locally should regularly assess the full benefits that protected areas generate at different levels (local, national, global) and increase their funding commitments accordingly.	
5. Collaborative partnerships of governments and the private sector should be used to establish new and expanded funding for the protected areas network.	
6. A range of instruments, such as taxes, tradable or market permits and environmental bonds which discourage activities that damage natural resources should be used to produce income for protected areas and provide benefits to those areas and their host human communities.	
7. Where appropriate, Governments should consider regulated commercialization of products derived from protected areas to increase revenues providing that the use is environmentally sustainable.	
8. Governments should distribute income flows from protected areas to improve their management and increase such flows as needed in view of the intrinsic benefits to society.	
9. Revenue streams for protected areas should be developed from the growing list of goods and services, such as watersheds for water supply, genetic resources for pharmaceutical use and cosmetics, viewsheds and images of charismatic biodiversity for visitors, low impact agriculture and forestry, tourism and leisure. Special attention to payments for environmental services that have traditionally fallen outside formal markets.	

<b>10.</b> Contracts between public authorities and protected areas should be developed, recognizing the full social and economic benefits of protected areas in the reduction of poverty and the creation of wealth.	
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<b>11.</b> By 2006, governments should commit, in the fourth Global Environment Facility (GEF) replenishment, to a substantive increase in funding for protected areas and conservation across the developing world, commensurate with the identified funding shortfall.	
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**Local action**

<b>12.</b> Where appropriate, collaborative arrangements between protected areas authorities and profit-making organizations should be established to generate a diversified funding base for protected area management.	
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<b>13.</b> Creative combinations of financial and other economic mechanisms for conservation and poverty reduction should consider income generation opportunities through the creation of small businesses and employment associated with protected area management. (e.g. parataxonomists, ecotourism service providers, guides and other visitor services, conservers of traditional knowledge, etc.) and payments linked to improving the health of protected areas.	
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<b>14.</b> Consideration should be given to charging commercial users of protected areas according to the real costs of their use, including the full, long-term conservation and protection costs.	
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