

World Headquarters

Rue Mauverney 28

CH-1196 Gland

Switzerland

Tel.: +41(0)22 999 00 00/01

Fax: +41(0)22 999 00 02

E-mail: mail@hq.iucn.org

www: <http://iucn.org/>

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Mr Mohammad Shahbaz
President
Jordan National Committee of IUCN
c/o IUCN National Committee Office
PO Box 140823
Amman 11814
Jordan

via email: brdp@hcst.gov.jo

9 August 2006

Dear Mohammad Shahbaz,
Dear Members of the Jordan National Committee of IUCN,

Thank you for the letter of the 25th of June from the Jordan National Committee of IUCN.

Before addressing the actions points in your letter I would first like to express my deep personal sadness at the pain and suffering being experienced by the people in the region, particularly in Lebanon, and IUCN's concern on the impact of this conflict on human livelihoods and the environment.

I fully agree with the need to implement Resolution 3.046 on War and Environment in West Asia and equally to take practical and urgent steps to respond to the current humanitarian and environmental tragedy in the region. This is, I believe, a challenge for the whole Union – Members, Commissions and the Secretariat and I am working with the Acting Director General, his staff in headquarters, the WESCANA Regional Office, under the leadership of Dr Odeh Al Jayyousi, and elsewhere to put together IUCN's response.

I would like to inform that the following actions are now underway or under preparation within the Union:

1. Contacting, communicating and planning with relevant organizations including those of the UN (UNEP/OCHA) for the sharing of information, the identification and offer of deployment of IUCN technical expertise from the broad network of the Union (as is now occurring with regard to the major oil spill off the Lebanese and Syrian coast) and disseminating information on the environment impacts of this war through IUCN channels of communication;
2. Liaising with the leadership of key international environment and humanitarian agencies such as UNEP, ICRC, UNDP and OCHA to ensure effective coordination and efficient use of available expertise and knowledge in the Union to address the key environmental issues. These include missions to assess the impacts of the conflict, priority needs for limiting further environmental losses and identifying the resources needed in the short and medium term for rehabilitation. These are being undertaken with our members and partners.

3. Disseminating the information collated by the Union, through reports on such missions to appropriate fora.

I would like once again to thank you for your letter and the initiative taken by the Jordan National Committee of IUCN in this particularly tragic time and reassure that you IUCN will play the strongest role possible within its mandate and available resources, using the combined strengths of its Members, Commissions and Secretariat.

We are committed that the Union contributes in full to both the urgent priorities and the longer term difficult task of rehabilitation of human livelihoods and the environment that result from this tragedy.

Yours sincerely,



Valli Moosa
President

copy: Dr Ali Darwish, IUCN Regional Councillor
Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Director General
Dr Odeh Al-Jayyousi, Regional Director - West/Central Asia and North Africa
(WESCAN)