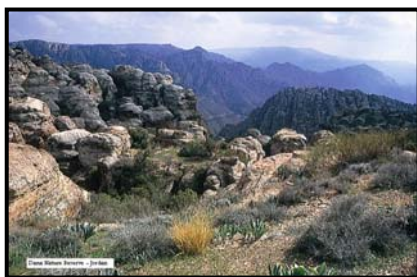


## IUCN Regional Office for West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA)

### REACHING OUT:

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the WESCANA E-Newsletter.



IUCN WESCANA Regional Office is pleased to share with you our purposeful effort to contribute to conservation, human wellbeing, and sustainable livelihood through our thematic programmes focusing on Protected Areas, Water, and Communication and Education.

The main focus for this e-letter will be on Protected Areas. As a knowledge-based organization, IUCN through its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) contributes to enrich and enlighten both practitioners and researchers working in the field of protected areas.

Protected areas safeguard biological and cultural diversity, help to improve the livelihood of many local communities and bring many benefits beyond the boundaries of the protected areas. The shift in paradigm of how we view the relationship between humans and protected areas is considered a valuable transformation in the governance of natural resources.

I am hopeful that the richness of local knowledge and culture in conservation and development in the WESCANA region will be documented and shared with the global community.

Dr Odeh Al Jayyousi  
Regional Director

### FOCUSING:

#### Protected Areas in WESCANA

The World Conservation Union embraces the world's largest knowledge and experience network, the strongest convening power and the most certified scientific authority in regards to effective management of Protected Areas and collaborative management of Natural Resources.

IUCN operates through its commissions, members and partners to set the global guidelines and frameworks for Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable use of Natural Resources.



The newly relocated IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Asia and North Africa is currently developing its PA strategy as one of its main areas of intervention in the region. Led by WESCANA PA Program, the strategy is being based on the region's needs and priorities and focuses on three main fields of engagement:

- Guide and enhance the development of adequate regional approaches and models for effective PA management with focus on community participation and involvement at all levels.
- Build the region's capacity in PA management with focus on the development of regionally appropriate and sound guidelines and tools drawing on global knowledge and experience in this regard.
- Support the regional WCPA network in achieving its mission, objectives and outputs as stated in its strategic plan 2002-2012.

IUCN WESCANA Protected Areas Program is eager to lead several regional initiatives

on effective management of protected areas and collaborative management of natural resources as one of its priority programs for the three years to come.

Through these initiatives, WESCANA PA Program attempts to capitalize on the region's past experience, consolidate the on going successes, analyze the previous shortfalls, and takes the region's collective efforts a few steps ahead through facilitating a structured regional dialogue.

For more info please contact: Tarek Abul Hawa: [tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org](mailto:tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org)

### IUCN-WESCANA News:

#### Building the Capacity of Yemeni Partners on PA management

The IUCN WESCANA PA program organized an intensive training program for three young professionals (including one woman) of the environment protection authority in Yemen in the field of protected areas management, community involvement and empowerment of women in natural resources management.

The training took place in Jordan on 4-26 August 2005 and was organized in cooperation with the royal society for the conservation of nature (RSCN), Jordan's



leading agency in biodiversity conservation and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development

(ZENID), one of Jordan's most renowned organizations in the field of rural development and empowerment of women and youth.

For more information, please contact Tarek abul Hawa at: [tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org](mailto:tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org)

## Senior PA staff of RSCN Jordan introduced to Namibian PA and NRM experiences

IUCN WESCANA PA Program, in cooperation with the Directorate of Parks and Wildlife Management of the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation Program, is currently organizing a study tour for Mr. Maen Al Smadi, the reserves' Section Head of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan in the fields of Collaborative Management of Protected Areas and Natural Resources.

The tour will take place until the end of September 2005 during which Mr. Smadi will be looking at the various aspects of PA and NRM in Namibia with focus on:

- PA legislation and policies development and implementation
  - Institutional arrangements for PA management on the national and site levels.
  - Various models and approaches for PA governance.
- Team building, planning and management aspects of protected areas.
- Development and implementation of patrol plans and enforcement measures.
- Community liaison skills and practices.
  - Community participation mechanisms and tools.
- Tourism development and visitor management and operations.
  - Monitoring impact of tourism on PA, tools and methods.
- Ecological monitoring programs with focus on ecosystem approaches.
- Education and awareness raising approaches and techniques.
- PA effectiveness assessment methodologies and tools.

For more information, please contact Tarek abul Hawa: [tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org](mailto:tarek.abulhawa@iucn.org)

## Management Effectiveness Study of Central Asian Protected Areas and Strengthening of the sub-regions IUCN-WCPA network

In Central Asia less than 10% of the region's area has been set aside as protected areas -



despite the fact that many of the ecosystems are under-

represented in the global network of protected areas. In the past decade, the difficult socio-economic conditions have placed these once well run protected areas under considerable pressures. The current

effectiveness of the management of Protected Areas (see photos) in the 5 Central Asian states is little understood and information is urgently required to assist prioritizing and implementation of field support initiatives. To address this need a small regional meeting of IUCN membership representatives was held in Dushanbe (see photo) in March 2005 to identify a/ priority protected areas in the 5 countries for assessment and b/ methodologies and processes for assessing effectiveness. Since then some funding has been raised by IUCN WESCANA to undertake the project, a team of largely volunteer specialist has been engaged (existing or potential members of the IUCN

World Commission on Protected Areas – WCPA) and the field studies



have started. The initiative is coordinated by Dr Roman Jashenko, acting as the WCPA coordinator in the sub-region.

The project will run until March 2006 when the following 3 results should be achieved: A sub-regional network of protected areas specialists (WCPA) established; the management effectiveness of selected protected areas assessed; a web site devoted to the activities of Central Asian expert network on PAs and the project results online.

Anyone with an interest in this project, the activities of WCPA in Central Asia or with information on PAs of the sub-region are encouraged to contact for more details:

Roman Jashenko : [rjashenko@nursat.kz](mailto:rjashenko@nursat.kz) or [romajashenko@yahoo.com](mailto:romajashenko@yahoo.com)  
Simon Anstey: [simon.anstey@iucn.org](mailto:simon.anstey@iucn.org)

## Protected Areas in Egypt: An Asset for People and Nature

The protected areas of Egypt are without a doubt a great asset to Egypt and every effort to improve the management effectiveness of them should be supported and encouraged. Egypt's Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) has made great progress in establishing a system of Protected Areas that is representative of the country's biodiversity. However, further effort is needed to ensure that those areas are effectively managed, sustainably funded and contribute to the livelihoods of communities living in and around them.

IUCN was entrusted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a technical partner for the implementation of the "Phase II of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program".

The aim of this programme is to enhance the institutional capacity of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency for planning and implementing nature conservation activities on a sustainable basis. Specifically, the project aims to assist the NCS to

properly establish and manage a representative national network of protected



areas, and will also work on the three protected areas of the Siwa Oasis, Wadi Rayan and Gabal Elba National Park. These areas will serve as demonstration sites to test management effectiveness and the results will be used to propose reforms to the NCS governance structure of Protected Areas.

During the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, Wadi Al-Hitan, which forms a part of the Wadi El-Rayan protected area, was designated, as a World Heritage Site. The programme will be working on the development of a management plan for this site to support its sound management and highlight it on the map of special conservation sites, both in Egypt and at the international level.

For further information, please contact: Rami A. Salman: [rami.salman@iucn.org](mailto:rami.salman@iucn.org)

## MEMBERS NEWS:

### Sustainable Development Plan for Boubyan Island in Kuwait

Boubyan Island, 888 km<sup>2</sup> in area, is strategically located in Kuwait in the northwestern corner of the Arabian Gulf and separated by the As-Subiyah Khor. The essentially flat island is seasonally flooded by rainwater and sea tides. A unique network of tidal channels in the northern part of the island encompasses regionally important salt marsh wetlands. The island, uninhabited for many years, was selected by the Kuwait Government for development of an environmentally driven master plan in 2003. The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) conducted a comprehensive baseline environmental field inventory program of the designated terrestrial, atmospheric and marine ecosystems, accounting for both natural and man-made influences on the island. Remote sensing images were reviewed and a project database management system was developed. The application of GIS created over seventy-five interpretive thematic and constraint maps that were evaluated and considered by the planning team and decision makers. The conclusions of the field study analysis

demonstrated Boubyan Island has a very unique significance for terrestrial and marine biodiversity with habitats and species conservation value being of both national and international importance, which should become key components of any master plan.

KISR, as part of a joint venture international planning team under Kuwait Mega Project Agency (MPA), had direct input throughout the environmental assessment and master planning process.



The resulting sustainable development plan is unique to the region by utilizing the environmental baseline study as a primary basis for master planning decisions and the resulting long-term national policies. Building on the designated conservation elements in the master plan, KISR is involved in the follow-up development of a comprehensive resource management plan.

IUCN WESCANA Protected Areas Programme contributed to this national effort through a short mission focusing on the development of the management planning process for the Islands' protected areas aiming to ensure that the Islands' biodiversity is effectively conserved and managed and that development impacts on it are carefully monitored and evaluated.

For more information, please contact Dr Samira Omar: [somar@safat.kisr.edu.kw](mailto:somar@safat.kisr.edu.kw)

### Taghit – un patrimoine naturel et historique à conserver

Taghit fait partie de ces vastes régions d'Algérie où a eu lieu une implantation humaine très ancienne et dont en témoigne la présence de gravures rupestres, de monuments funéraires et autres. Elle possède de nombreuses potentialités aussi



biens naturels et historiques, un riche savoir populaire en matière de diversité biologique et de pratiques pastorales et agricoles traditionnelles. En plus de la diversité de ses paysages, de la variété de sa faune et flore, la région de Taghit compte également d'importants sites et vestiges historiques (anciens et récent).

Pour toutes ces considérations, le Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural, à travers son Agence Nationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (ANN), avait initié un projet de classement de la région en Parc National qui s'étend sur une superficie de 83350 Ha comprenant également la réserve naturelle de Dayat Tiour 12573 Ha, soit un total de 95923 Ha.

En attendant la finalisation du dossier de classement, la wilaya de Béchar pourra prendre des dispositions préliminaires en vue de protéger les sites les plus fragiles, notamment:

- o La protection des savanes à **Acacia**.
- o La protection et mise en valeur du patrimoine archéologique.
- o La promotion et le développement d'infrastructures touristiques.
- o Le rajeunissement de la palmeraie et la création de vergers arboricoles.
- o La création de vergers conservatoires pour le développement des ressources phytogénétiques.
- o La création de point d'eau et le reboisement en terrain nu d'espèces autochtones.
- o La réintroduction d'espèces faunistiques par l'aménagement d'enclos.
- o La mise en valeur des terres au niveau des zones périphériques.
- o La protection et la mise en valeur des paysages et des sites d'intérêt exceptionnel : Site géologique; Site historique.
- o Le traitement de la pollution des eaux domestiques.

Pour plus d'informations : Ratiba Sengui, MEA : [FAO-DZ@fao.org](mailto:FAO-DZ@fao.org)

### Reviving Our Traditions in Conserving Natural Resources

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon-SPNL



strives to protect nature, birds and biodiversity in Lebanon and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources with and for people. Within this context, SPNL is currently advocating the revival of the traditional Hima approach that was widely spread in West Asia and North Africa region.

Ever since its establishment in 1986, SPNL advocated the establishment of protected areas and initiated with the Ministry of Environment the protected areas in Lebanon, and helped in managing the Al Shouf Cedar Reserve. After twenty years of experience working with nature reserves through government agencies, and with the rising issues at the local, national and

international levels for co-management of natural resources, and the challenges facing local communities and the protection of private lands, SPNL is now reviving and advocating the Hima practice.

The Hima is a traditional protected area system that aims at the sustainable use of natural resources by and for the local communities surrounding the Hima, indirectly benefiting the conservation of biodiversity as well as the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Since 2004, SPNL has re-established two Himas, in two key biodiversity areas;



namely Ebel es-Saqi in South Lebanon and Kfar Zabad wetland in the Bekaa

region. Although driven by conservation priorities set by SPNL, the management and objectives of these two sites have been entirely devolved to local community groups. This has been achieved through participatory planning, capacity building and awareness raising at the local level. Both sites are public land, and the municipalities are enthusiastic to preserve them for nature, birds, and people. They were declared as "Hima" based on the suggestion of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon-SPNL through Municipal Council Decisions and banned bird hunting in the area.

Because of the limited ownership of the local communities in the centralized system of protected areas resulting in limited benefit sharing with local community groups, SPNL is hoping to gain stronger support for the Hima practice as a viable and sustainable alternative to nationally designated protected areas. The increased involvement of the local communities, direct benefit derived from protection will ultimately result in improved status of the natural resources themselves. The overall goal of this whole revival aims at meshing traditional practices with recent conservation science as a way to reach sustainable development.

For more information: Bassima Khatib, SPNL: [bkhatib@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:bkhatib@cyberia.net.lb)

### IUCN NEWS:

#### The Mediterranean Sea safeguarded by Marine Ecosystem Protection Plan

A group of experts from the World Commission on Protected Areas - the Marine Mediterranean Group in cooperation with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, is working together on a

process aiming to implement a region-wide system of ecologically and culturally representative networks. Under a strategically planned and multi-institutional framework, this process will also contribute to build capacity in support of existing networks, such as the SPAMIs (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance) and Natura 2000, the European Protected Areas Network.

Despite the Mediterranean's image as vastly overpopulated and polluted, it is a thriving ecosystem upon which many cultures depend. It was the first region in the world to put in place a Regional Sea Programme. Now the Mediterranean is poised to lead the world towards effective conservation of large marine ecosystems, by being the first region to adopt a strategic plan for utilizing marine protected areas to safeguard the vital areas that keep the sea healthy and beneficial to coastal communities.

The initiative is part of an expert process to support the Mediterranean coastal states in their commitment to reach the marine protected area network goals by 2012, set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

For further information, François Simard:  
[Francois.simard@iucn.org](mailto:Francois.simard@iucn.org)

## COMMISSIONS NEWS:

### Protected Areas Learning Network PALnet: The World Commission on Protected Areas

The Protected Area Learning Network (PALNet) is an interactive, web-based knowledge management tool for protected area managers and stakeholders. Those engaged in the network will contribute to and benefit from lessons learned regarding adaptation of protected area policies, strategies and practices to global change. These case studies will be distilled from existing literature and a set of field learning sites. The initial learning sites will also be the focus of workshops to train stakeholders in the use of the mechanism and will be expanded over time as a global community is encouraged to participate. PALNet promotes peer-based learning interactions across regions and ecosystem types with a particular emphasis on South - South exchange. In addition it is designed and managed to foster the use of adaptive management strategies which will secure biodiversity in situ, where it otherwise would be lost to the inexorable forces of change.

The PALNet is compatible with and supportive of other conservation networks, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity's Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). However, the audience and purpose of this mechanism is unique. This tool seeks to actively engage protected area managers globally and promote

knowledge exchange to foster experimentation with adaptive management techniques. This activity is different than, yet supportive of, other ongoing efforts to protect biodiversity, especially those of CBD States Party regarding Article 8 on In Situ Conservation.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.parksnet.org/index.php>

### WCPA in North Africa/Middle East Region

The North Africa and the Middle East region is characterized by an arid and semi arid environment. Being at a junction between three continents it is considered as one of the most diverse areas on earth. The region features a unique experience in land management for conserving natural resources, which is the *hema* system. *Hema* is an Arabic word, which means an area that is protected. The concept of *hema* is demonstrated in the practice of setting aside and protecting an area with good vegetation cover. Such an action was usually taken by a governing authority, a group of people (a tribe or a clan), or an individual. Those sites were mostly protected for grazing during drought seasons and in other instances for multiple uses such as bee-keeping and for the protection of large trees. The practice of *hema* dates back, in the Arabian Peninsula, to the pre-Islamic era. It probably goes as far back in history as 2000 years ago or maybe more. It developed as an acknowledgment of the need to conserve and wisely use scarce renewable resources.

The main aim of the WCPA MENA regional program is to ensure that protected areas effectively fulfill their role in conserving biodiversity and to contribute to sustainable development. Moreover, the program aims to assist governments of the region in meeting their obligations regarding the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related conventions. A WCPA Regional Action Plan has been completed and will be considered part of the next IUCN regional programme.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/region/mideast/mideast.html>

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEW  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS TO BE  
CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL  
IN MARCH 2006, IS OCTOBER 10, 2005**

**A Networking Opportunity for IUCN  
Members in 2005! Have you updated  
your organization's information in the  
Membership Database?**

Download the form in Ms Word and in PDF  
<http://www.iucn.org/members/portal.htm>

Complete and e-mail the completed and signed form to [dok@iucn.org](mailto:dok@iucn.org) or to [membership@iucn.org](mailto:membership@iucn.org).

### The 2006 Membership Dues Guide and the July 2005 Membership List

The Membership Dues Guide for 2006 is now out and a copy is available on <http://www.iucn.org/members/application.htm>. Please note that this booklet will be produced yearly. The 2004 Congress approved the proposition of Council to index membership dues annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Switzerland published by the Swiss National Bank. This guide includes tables, showing projected dues for 2006 based on a 1.5% anticipated increase in the Swiss CPI which will be subject to revision when the latest Index is published by the Swiss National Bank in October.

### Members' meetings

We kindly remind you to send us all information on members', National/Regional Committee meetings taking place in your country. This information needs to be uploaded and up-dated on the Knowledge Network. Please send information to Dona Khanfour: [dok@iucn.org](mailto:dok@iucn.org)

### Maintaining up-to-date information in Knowledge Network

Just to remind you again that in readiness for the launch of the IUCN Membership Portal, it is absolutely crucial that the information for members in the Knowledge Network is maintained and updated. We thank you in advance for continuing helping us with this important task and sending us updated information on new contact details. You can send information to Dona Khanfour at [dok@iucn.org](mailto:dok@iucn.org)

### Contribution and Feedback:

We encourage all of our members and partners to share their thoughts and stories with us so as to provide evidence on where and how conservation and development can be mutually reinforcing. Please send your news, events or successful stories, or any feedback to share with all WESCANA members and partners. Via e-mail to Dona Khanfour at [dok@iucn.org](mailto:dok@iucn.org)

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