

West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA)

October 2006 – Volume 4



Editorial



Dear Members, Partners and Colleagues,

IUCN with its members and Commissions demonstrated the unifying power of the Union in their purposeful efforts to address the oil spill and destruction of the natural capital in Lebanon as a result of the tragic war. It was humbling to see the emergence of all the positive energy and empathy with the sufferings of the people from this region. It is this human dimension that brings a new meaning and value to our very existence.

What is alarming is the fact that the deterioration of natural resources and environment is not only due to spill over effects from economic development but also is attributed to deliberate human conflict. It is worthwhile mentioning that according to METAP study on the cost of environmental degradation, it was documented that in 2000, the cost of environmental degradation in Lebanon was estimated to at 2.8 – 4.0 percent of GDP per year, with a mean estimate of about \$500 million per year. In addition the cost to the global environment is estimated at about 0.5 percent of GDP per year. The war must have altered all these statistics. Man-made wars can destroy the enabling environment necessary for the livelihood of people and their health.

The key message is that life should be defended for what it is and that there is an intrinsic value when life is defended. I am hopeful that a new value-rationality and a new environmental cosmo-ethics will evolve after this human tragedy.

Odeh Al Jayyousi
Regional Director

Headline News

IUCN close to members in times of Crisis: War & Environment in Lebanon

Responding to the request of its state member in Lebanon, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), IUCN headed to Lebanon on August 14th on a mission to assess the impact of the war on the environment. The mission worked side by side with its Lebanese members devising strategies to respond effectively to the oil spill and carry out in parallel a Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Among the wide array of organizations, which came to Lebanon to attend to the crisis, IUCN was among a few, which arrived first on the ground and addressed biodiversity issues and livelihood in relation to protected areas and community based conservation initiatives. The mission was composed of WESCANA staff, Simon Anstey and Hala Kilani as well as member of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Rick Steiner, who experienced working on the 1989 Exxon-Valdez oil spill in Alaska and the 2003 Pakistan oil spill.



Oil spill documentary team lead by IUCN

One of the main highlights of the mission is that IUCN jointly produced with the MoE a 4-minute documentary as the only communication tool the oil spill that the Lebanese government distributed to more than 50 donors at the Lebanon Reconstruction Conference that was held in Stockholm, Sweden on August 31st.

For more stories and information on the Lebanon Crisis, please consult the WESCANA website for the following stories:

[Lebanon Oil Spill Threatens Migrant Birds and Marine Life](#)

[Recent Attacks on Lebanon Undermine Conservation Efforts](#)

[Endangered Species Caught in Conflict](#)

[The Jordan National Committee Sends a Call For Action On Implementing IUCN'S Resolutions on War and the Environment in West Asia](#)

Acting DG establishes a six-month operational Lebanon Task Force chaired by WESCANA Regional Director



Palm Island Nature Reserve - oil covered rocky shore and Rick Steiner IUCN Advisor

IUCN's Director General ad interim Dr Ibrahim Thiaw has established a task force to ensure that IUCN's efforts to assist with assessing the scale of environmental damage and corresponding impact on livelihoods and advising on restoring damaged ecosystems as a result of the current conflict in West Asia.

The team has been established under the authority of the Director General, it will remain operational for six months renewable by the DG. It will be chaired by Dr Odeh Al Jayyousi Regional Director WESCANA. Other members of the task force include Simon Anstey (Regional Programme Coordinator WESCANA), Rami Salman (Mediterranean Programme Office), Richard Steiner (CEESP) Enrique Lahmann (IUCN Global Programme Team), Hala Kilani (Communications WESCANA), and John Kidd (Global Communications).

For a more detailed Web stories please refer to the following story on the WESCANA website:

[IUCN Emergency Taskforce in Lebanon to Assess Oil Spill](#)

For further information contact Hala Kilani at hala.kilani@iucn.org

General WESCANA Activities



Project master plan

IUCN WESCANA and Jordan Environment Society to start a joint National Environment Center project in Jordan

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an eco-center, which would connect further people with nature and culture, IUCN WESCANA and the Jordan Environment Society (JES) pursued efforts to attract funding that would materialize the agreement.

On August 17, IUCN WESCANA and its member JES presented the master plan of a Jordanian National Environment Center project to a wide spectrum of stakeholders, Environmental NGOs, donors, government officials and private sector, during a workshop entitled "Connecting with Nature: The Jordanian Experience" held at the Regional Office's premises.

[Full Story](#) | [Jordan Environment Society](#)

For more information contact Odeh Al Jayyousi at odeh.al.jayyousi@iucn.org

Water Activities

InWent & IUCN WESCANA conduct a regional training course on IWRM awareness campaigns in Syria



Sixty trainers from seven countries are now able to design a public awareness campaign aimed at water conservation following a 6-day-training course implemented by IUCN WESCANA Water Project. The training course entitled "How to Design and Implement a Public Awareness Campaign" which was held during Sept. 9-14, 2006 in Damascus-Syria was conducted in partnership with InWent (Capacity

Building International, Germany) and in cooperation with Damascus University, Jordan Environment Society and the Jordanian Association for Water Conservation (JACA). [Full Story](#)



IUCN WESCANA DGCS Regional Water Project Holds First Nodes Formation Workshop

In culmination of efforts towards nodes formation, the Regional DGCS Water Project succeeded in establishing exchange and networks between the main international and regional organizations representing the WESCANA region. IUCN Water Project gathered the Ministry of Environment from Jordan, (CITET) based in Tunisia, (CEDARE) based in Egypt, (PME) based in KSA, and (ACSAD) based in Syria gathered in a two-day-workshop in Cairo – Egypt. [Full Story](#) | [CEDARE](#)

IUCN WESCANA Collaboration with Egypt in the Water Sector

In the aim to explore potential cooperation in the water sector in Egypt, IUCN WESCANA Regional Director Dr. Odeh Al Jayyousi accompanied by Water Programme Coordinator, Ms. Nadia Juhari, met with the Egyptian Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid early this month to identify the strategic areas of collaborations in the field of water sector and relevant capacity building programs in Egypt. The Minister invited IUCN WESCANA to be part of the Arab Water Council so as to



contribute to its governance. [Full Story](#)

IUCN WESCANA expands collaboration with Tunisia in the water sector

As part of the Nodes Formation process undertaken by the IUCN WESCANA Water Project, a strategic mission to Tunisia was concluded to establish an IUCN Water Node (Center of Excellence) in North Africa. IUCN WESCANA Regional Director Dr. Odeh Al Jayyousi accompanied by Water Project Manager Ms. Nadia Juhari met with Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development HE Nazir Hamadi, who welcomed the IUCN team and praised the efforts that are made to formalize this partnership. [Full Story](#)



USD30 million estimated cost for Zarqa River Basin Restoration



polluted Zarqa River basin, which is considered one of the major Jordan, The Ministry of Environment in Jordan has addressed the restoration by organizing a number of multi-stakeholders workshops in collaboration with IUCN to devise a strategy for river restoration. [Full story](#) [Jordanian Ministry of](#)

Contact Nadia Juhari at nadia.juhari@iucn.org

JREDS launches Second Phase of *Right to Water Project*

Under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Khalid Al-Irani, Jordanian Minister of Environment Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) launched the second phase of the project is funded by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF), and aims at empowering the Right to Water topic and provide them with the needed skills to train others for the effect. [Full story](#) | [JREDS](#)

For more information contact Fadi Sharaiha at sharaiha@jreds.org



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Fair Trade

Fair Trade Jordan is to become an independent entity

Passionately working to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, Fair Trade Jordan is on its way to become an independent entity through the Memorandum of Cooperation that was signed between IUCN West Central Asia & North Africa Regional Office, The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). With this cooperation, the three parties aim to establish a non-profit enterprise to be referred to as Fair Trade Jordan (FTJ) to strengthen fair trading systems in Jordan through promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and contributing to social equity and poverty reduction. [Full story](#) | [JOHUD](#) | [RSCN](#) | [Fair Trade Jordan](#)



Cape Town

Fair Trade Jordan learns from the South African Fair Trade experience

Efforts towards information and experience exchange between fair trade initiatives around the world is an essential activity for the creation of a sound fair trade system. In this regard, the FTJ coordinator recently returned from a study tour that aimed to show-case successful fair trade programmes in South Africa.

The study tour was facilitated by IUCN South Africa Regional Office, assisted by IUCN SA partners such as Phytotrade. A number of fair trade examples were studied, including Fair Trade Tourism South Africa, Phytotrade and certified fair trade enterprises. The study-tour created linkages between several fair trade initiatives and FTJ and resulted in a number of recommendations for the establishment of FTJ, which was shared with the alliance at a recent strategic meeting. The activity further reinforced linkages between IUCN regional and country offices. [JOHUD](#) | [RSCN](#) | [Fair Trade Jordan](#)

For more information contact Lianne Al Romahi at fairtradejordan@iucn.org

WESCANA Members News

Jordan River Foundation supports Lebanon



Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Jordan River Foundation (JRF) launched a national campaign urging Jordanians to participate in supporting Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, in light of the disastrous war on Lebanon last month. JRF collected financial and in-kind donations, such as medication, canned food, blankets and sanitary products. Joining efforts with JRF were the Lebanese Community in Jordan, the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University Alumni Club, Aramex, and all local media and telecommunications companies in Jordan. [Full Story](#) | [Jordan River Foundation](#)



APN Lebanon Donations Campaign

In view of the tragic circumstances in Lebanon, The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) is contributing with the Lebanese Committee in Amman, Jordan to provide relief aid to Lebanon. [Full campaign details](#)

Members Portal

Get your Password NOW – The World Conservation Union launches a new Portal for its members: The World Conservation Union launched an exclusive electronic platform for its members to share knowledge and directly engage with each other.

<http://www.iucn.org/members/portal.htm>

For more information please contact the Communications Programme Division at: wescana@iucn.org