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Foundations meet in Monaco for the Mediterranean

As was announced by Prince Albert II at the marine foundations dinner during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, the Prince Albert Foundation organized a meeting to gather the main foundations currently working in or with an interest in the Mediterranean region, in order to promote synergies between the private donors and organizations working in the Mediterranean for the protection and conservation of the environment, especially in matters relating to biodiversity loss and energy and water issues in the Mediterranean region.

Margarita Astrálagu and Aymeric Eeckman from IUCN-Med attended this meeting from 15 April to 16 April 2009 in Monaco. Margarita participated in the roundtable on biodiversity conservation, gave a presentation on the main threats to regional biodiversity, and made a set of specific recommendations for facing these challenges. During this meeting, potential IUCN-Med partners were identified and discussions were held with the Oceana Foundation, Fondation Mohamed VI pour l'environnement, the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan, the Veolia Environment Foundation, the Climate Group, Fondation de France, and Global Greengrants. Slow Food, Fondation Merieux, the Total Foundation, CI and MAVA were also present.

Global recommendations from the foundations focused on the importance of catalyzing the different funds in the region so as to increase results and ensure sustainable development in the region. The foundations agreed that there is an urgent need to address and talk about biodiversity, not just from a conservation perspective, but also from an economic point of view, in order to highlight the possibilities as well as the values and benefits that biodiversity can offer.



This meeting highlighted the importance of gathering all organizations and foundations working in the Mediterranean, and the importance of working together on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development issues. A second meeting is scheduled for next year.

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AECID confirms its will to collaborate with IUCN-Med

The Annual Monitoring Commission Meeting between IUCN and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID) was held in Madrid on 30 April 2009, and attending this meeting were representatives from AECID (Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Department of Sectorial Cooperation and Gender), as well as the Office of Development Planning and Policy Evaluation (DGPOLDE) and IUCN employees



from the IUCN regional offices in the Mediterranean, Mesoamerica, South America and Headquarters in Switzerland. During the meeting, the progress made by the different IUCN regional offices in implementing the projects approved in 2008 was analysed, and the prospects for the future were discussed.

AECID showed it was pleased with the progress made and confirmed Spain's interest in continuing to be an IUCN Framework Donor, together with Canada (CIDA), Denmark (DANIDA), France (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Territorial Development), Italy (DGDC), the Mava Foundation, the Netherlands (DGDC), Norway (NORAD), Sweden (SIDA) and Switzerland (SDC), as well as continuing to support the Spanish Cooperation's priority regions defined in its new Master Plan, which was approved at the beginning of 2009.

During this meeting it was agreed that the next Monitoring Committee meeting will be held in September 2009 so as to begin early discussions about the priority projects for 2010. Likewise it was decided that IUCN will collaborate and work together with AECID in defining working priorities for the coming years. At regional level, IUCN will promote a dialogue amongst its regional offices, the Spanish Cooperation's Technical Offices, and the Directorate for Sectorial and Multilateral Cooperation.

Additionally, AECID showed an interest in joining the General Protocol of Understanding between the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, the Regional Ministry of Environment of the Andalusian Government and IUCN. The new General Protocol of Understanding to support the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and its actions would be signed in September 2009.

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IUCN-Med at the World Water Forum

The World Water Forum takes place every three years and is a key forum for dialogue and exchanges on water policy. A total of 33,058 participants from 192 countries took part in the 5th World Water Forum from 16 to 22 March in Istanbul, making it the world's biggest ever water-related event.

Margarita Astrálaga, Director of IUCN-Med, attended this event with a delegation from the IUCN Water programme. The Forum provided the Union with an important opportunity to present to other stakeholders, governments and donors working in this field their key messages on water, the ecosystem approach to water management and the results from Phase 1 of the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI).



In December 2006, a committee was set up to start preparing the Mediterranean Session of the 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul 2009). This committee, which includes Mediterranean stakeholders dealing with water issues (Mediterranean countries, Initiatives, Programmes and Networks), presented a regional document with the following objectives: to set out the context of the Mediterranean, in particular the main data regarding water resources and their management; to highlight the existing similarities and differences between the countries; to ensure the region achieves the Millennium Development Objectives; to highlight the points of view of the various stakeholders for each of the key issues affecting the region in order to create cooperation synergies; to develop initiatives to reach a sustainable and efficient management of water resources; and to contribute to the preparation of the Mediterranean Water Strategy. The Regional sessions provided an important opportunity for all regional stakeholders to have an open discussion on the issues of concern and adopt key recommendations to be implemented over the coming years.

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Link: www.worldwaterforum5.org

Agreement on the future of the Alboran Sea

The 2nd International Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea, which was held in the city of Oujda (Morocco) from 16 to 18 April, has ended with the “Oujda Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea”; a document that will enable a strategy to be drawn up for carrying out pilot actions in the coming years.

This three-day meeting, which was organized jointly by IUCN and the National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH), with support from the Department of Environment and Territorial Planning of the Provincial Council of Malaga as well as the Development Agency for East Morocco, gathered more than 200 experts and representatives from various institutions and NGOs from Algeria, Morocco and Spain to discuss all the necessary aspects for strengthening the movement that was created during the 1st Alboran Sea meeting held in Malaga in 2007. As a result, it has been agreed that an Action Plan is to be drawn up for the Alboran region based on the document: “OUJDA Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea”.



Full News

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Twinning of Protected Areas for international cooperation

Entitled “International Cooperation in Managing Protected Areas” and with the aim of collaborating in sharing knowledge, experiences and ideas for the preservation of protected natural areas, a seminar organized by CEIDA (Centre for Continuing Education and the Dissemination of Environmental Information of Galicia) was held in the Santa Cruz Castle in Oleiros (A Coruña, 26-27 March). The event, which gathered national and international experts in this field was sponsored by the General Management for the Conservation of Nature of the Regional Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (Regional Government of Galicia), in collaboration with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Europarc and Ibader-USC.



Full News

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National Forest and Forest Fire Strategy in Lebanon

The Lebanese Council of Ministers has approved a new national strategy, supported by IUCN-Med, and with a financial contribution from the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development and the European Union. The strategy integrates the need for adapting to climate change in order to reduce the risk of harmful fires and build ecological and social resilience faced with the impacts of global change.

Lebanon is known worldwide for its unique *Cedrus libani* forests which have been the object of a constant quest to control the exploitation and trade of its valuable timber for millennia. Until June 2006, the Lebanese forests and woodlands covered around 13.5% of the overall area of Lebanon. During recent years, climate change has exacerbated the impact of the numerous human-induced forest fires, which every year are causing catastrophic effects on the environment, the rural population and the economy of the country. In order to respond to this alarming situation, the Lebanese government has established a national committee to revise and adapt the National Forest and Forest Fire Strategy so as to make it effective in the current context of global change.



Full News

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Holcim Spain and IUCN-Med sign an agreement for biodiversity protection

The objective of this cooperation agreement is to develop a series of joint short-term activities and establish a future collaboration framework in order to begin new conservation and restoration projects of the natural surroundings affected by the industrial activities of the company.



The central theme of the cooperation agreement between Holcim and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) is to carry out activities for the protection of the environment and biodiversity in the natural surroundings of Holcim's operations. The cooperation agreement between Holcim and IUCN-Med will be in effect for 6 months (from April until September 2009) and reflects IUCN-Med's commitment to advising Holcim as to how to properly integrate ecological and social aspects into the final restoration process of the Torredonjimeno quarry, which is situated in the town of Jamilena (Jaén, Spain).

Full News

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Coordination of activities in Al Hoceima

IUCN-Med is continuing to support the management of Al Hoceima National Park (Morocco) with the help of the Spanish Autonomous Organization of National Parks. The agreement signed on 30 January 2009 between HCEFLCD (the High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification) and IUCN-Med referred to the implementation of the four following aspects: consolidating actions for the conservation of habitats and species; organizing and specifying the recreational and educative uses of the Park; organizing and analysing the eco-touristic value of the Park; as well as supporting the sustainable development of local communities. A Committee has been put in place to monitor the implementation of this agreement at central and local level.

From 10 to 16 May 2009, Alain Jeudy de Grissac and Aymeric Eeckman from IUCN-Med travelled to Morocco to discuss the administrative aspects and the implementation of the activities with the Director of the Park. In addition, the various meetings with regional administrations and associations active in the region of the Al Hoceima National Park allowed specific activities, as well as those which will be carried out jointly, to be defined.

An initial meeting with representatives of the fisheries has allowed the problems to be evaluated and an action schedule to be drawn up for the marine sector in the National Park, concerning the installation of mooring buoys along the outer border, the zoning of the activities and management principles. A workshop on marine protected areas is planned to take place during the course of the summer.

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IUCN-Med attends the WCPA/CEC Steering Committee Meeting

The Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) invited IUCN's Regional Focal Points for Protected Areas (PAs) to attend the WCPA/CEC Steering Committee Meeting held in San Pablo del Lago (Ecuador) from 11 to 16 May 2009. This meeting, jointly organized by the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), the WCPA and the IUCN Regional Office for South America, also had the support of Ecuador's Ministry of Environment. Pedro Regato, Senior Programme Manager of IUCN-Med, attended this meeting which aimed to reinforce the dialogue with the IUCN Regional Programmes in order to define key priority issues for joint actions between the WCPA, the IUCN Global Programme on Protected Areas, and the IUCN Regional Programmes.



Among the issues discussed were: the review of the IUCN Global Programme on Protected Areas; the need to strengthen joint work between commissions (CEC, WCPA), the Secretariat and IUCN members so as to achieve the objectives of the new intersessional programme; the need to raise the profile of PAs and raise awareness about the critical link between PAs, adapting to climate change, the CBD; and ensuring there are sufficient financial resources and collaboration for the effective implementation of the resolutions on PAs from the Barcelona World Conservation Congress.

This was the first WCPA/CEC Steering Committee meeting to which IUCN Secretariat staff members were invited. This responds to the decision to strengthen work among commissions, the Secretariat and members. The meeting was a very good opportunity to meet the Focal Points for PAs from other regions and all the WCPA regional and Vice-Chairs. It was agreed that a Focal Point Network for all the experts working on protected areas would be established in order to help pass on to the IUCN Focal Points within the Union information about what is happening at regional level, and as a first step in demonstrating the WCPA's commitment to the "One Programme" approach towards implementing the IUCN 2009-12 Programme.

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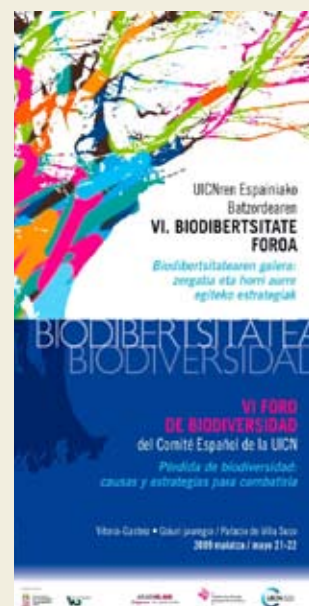
IUCN Spanish Committee holds 6th Biodiversity Forum

The even entitled "Loss of Biodiversity: Causes and Strategies to combat it", dealt with the most pressing environmental issues in Spain and at international level.

On 21 and 22 May, the IUCN Spanish Committee held its 6th Biodiversity Forum in the Palacio de Villa Suso in Vitoria (Northern Spain) following the invitation of the Regional Council of Álava, new IUCN member. During this forum, which is the annual meeting of the Spanish IUCN Committee, its 40 members analysed the different factors that are causing the various forms of biodiversity loss and threatening the conservation of Spain's rich natural heritage, such as climate change, deforestation, town planning, demography or renewable energies. For this, a detailed programme was drawn up with the help of national and international experts from IUCN, WWF, Ecologists in Action and the Biodiversity Foundation amongst others, who offered a more up-to-date vision on the situation.

Full News

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The Barcelona Convention and Specially Protected Areas

The 9th Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) within the framework of the Barcelona Convention was held in Malta from 3 to 6 June 2009. IUCN-Med participated in this opportunity to exchange information on the activities carried out during the 2008-2009 period in order to implement the “Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” (SPA/BD Protocol) in the different countries of the region, and to review the activities of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) since the last NFP Meeting (Palermo, June 2007).



RAC/SPA also used this meeting to consult with its NFPs about its working programme for the coming two-year period (2010-2011), which is to be implemented by RAC/SPA with the support of all its partners. The programme will include two important activities: on the one hand, creating SPAs and establishing a representative network of well-managed protected areas (funded by the Global Environment Fund); and on the other, implementing the decisions adopted during the meeting of the Contracting Parties, which was held in Almeria in January 2008, concerning biodiversity conservation and climate change.

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Presentation of “A Sea Change” in Malaga

To mark the occasion of World Ocean Day, on 8 June, IUCN-Med, Malaga’s City Council and Aula del Mar organized a showing of the documentary “A Sea Change” in Malaga, together with an expert roundtable on acidification.

“A Sea Change” is the first film about the acidification of the oceans, and presents contrasted scientific data, by way of interviews with internationally recognized scientists, together with the personal story of a fishing family. Sven Huseby, co-producer and protagonist, is a retired teacher and concerned grandfather who travels from Norway to the north-east coast of the United States gathering scientific and economic data, and investigating the social and cultural implications of the acidification of the oceans.



To coincide with World Ocean Day, IUCN-Med presented this film produced by Nijiji Films, the world premiere of which took place on 14 March at the Natural History Museum in Washington. The Contemporary Art Centre in Malaga (CAC) hosted the event, attended by more than 150 students. The event benefitted from the presence of the Malaga City Council’s Department of Environment, Aula del Mar and the University of Malaga, whose experts took part in the roundtable on acidification bringing about an interesting discussion.

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Many Voices, One Programme

From 23 to 27 May, IUCN Regional Directors met in Delhi in order to discuss a common strategy so as to strengthen collaboration between regions and work more effectively as a Union. The meeting also aimed to establish the base for a network for the experience and knowledge of the regions so as to support the implementation of the 'One Programme' approach; to offer an opportunity to learn from each other and better understand the ways and means of tackling some of the common problems faced by all regions; to support management training and confidence building amongst the regions in order to make the Union more resilient, especially during difficult times; and to help define regional support from IUCN Headquarters.



This meeting was then followed by a strategic discussion with IUCN President, Ashok Khosla, regarding the role of IUCN in a changing world, exchanging views with Global Directors and the Director General of IUCN.

The meeting provided an opportunity to meet with staff members from IUCN's office in India and Indian members of IUCN, as well as to listen to the perspectives of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Nobel Prize winner, Mr Rajendra Pachauri, who shared with the group his concerns and key recommendations on tackling climate change from the biodiversity perspective.

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Empowering NGOs to make their voice heard

Global agreements and conventions follow a negotiation process which is not always known by the main actors directly affected by climate change. In the framework of a global initiative to build their capacity on the subject of international negotiations regarding climate change, NGOs from 13 different countries gathered in La Marsa (Tunisia) from 25 to 27 May, for a workshop hosted by IUCN and ATPNE, and financed by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

This initiative has been developed following discussions on climate change held in Bamako (Mali) in May 2008. IUCN and ENDA's Climate Development Network led by the RAC (Climate action network) jointly organized a workshop for NGOs to work together and draft a joint declaration expressing their requests and concerns to be presented at COP15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December 2009 in Copenhagen.



This common declaration, representing the Africa platform, sends a clear message with concrete recommendations and actions to politicians and governments in the Northern hemisphere. Reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, adapting to climate change, access to energy in developing countries, transfer of technology, financing, and the fight against deforestation and degradation (the REDD concept that IUCN is promoting to enhance the key role of forests in biodiversity), are amongst the issues raised.

Civil society and NGOs are essential actors in these negotiations to voice local concerns, implement relevant actions and help establish the links between current needs and political priorities.

The African continent is not considered a major contributor to CO₂ emissions, but is nevertheless witnessing the impacts of climate change such as drought, loss of crops and water shortage. In order to avoid the over

exploitation of natural resources and the consequent economic loss, funds aimed at promoting adaptation to climate change, capacity enhancement, communication and education, the transfer of technology in the field of renewable energy as well as major changes in production and consumption patterns are required urgently. This, along with the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation in policy processes, will help increase the resilience of rural people faced with the expected impacts of global change.

Similar workshops are due to be held in Asia and Latin America through the IUCN network over the coming months so as to bring a global and united perspective to this process.

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Link: [Declaration from the NGOs of the climate & development network's](#)

In the press

A selection of stories and news articles published in the Spanish press:

- [La protección de las cuencas hidrográficas ahorra miles de millones de dólares](#) (Soitu.es, 13 March)
- [La desertización es un proceso que se acelerará con el cambio climático](#) (El Almería, 26 April)
- [El Mar de Alborán, calificado como motor medioambiental](#) (El Almería, 2 May)
- [La UICN-Med apoya la nueva estrategia contra incendios forestales en el Líbano](#) (Suplemento BIO, El Mundo, 13 May)
- [La siempreviva en riesgo](#) (Diario Sur, 9 June)

Any interesting articles about the Mediterranean published outside of Spain can be sent to:

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Agenda

17 June

UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

22-30 June

UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting - Seville

28 September - 1 October

Adaptation to climate change: Experiences and Challenges in the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) - Cairo



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Core support to the activities of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is provided by:

