



International Union for Conservation of Nature

Draft IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016

Draft for Consultation

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

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Foreword

This document contains a preliminary version of the IUCN Programme in North Africa for the period 2013-2016. It was prepared by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga IUCN (IUCN-Med) in the light of the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016 guidelines and the lessons learned from the implementation of the North Africa Programme 2008-2012.

This version will be sent in September 2011 to all IUCN Members in North Africa for comments, and then it will be presented, discussed and eventually approved during the IUCN North Africa Members Forum which will be held from 5 to 7 October 2011 in Rabat, Morocco.

The IUCN North Africa programme involves the following five countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

Introduction

For more than 60 years, IUCN has led the development of conservation knowledge, and brought together governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses and community organizations to help the world make better decisions in the field of conservation and development. With its unique convening power and scientific credibility, the Union will always be in front of the stage to help the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing challenges in conservation and development.

IUCN's assets include its Members, its networks of experts organized through six Commissions, and its highly motivated and competent staff within its world-wide secretariat. To achieve the changes necessary for a more sustainable world, IUCN recognizes it must apply these assets more effectively to deliver results at a scale and level of influence far greater than ever before. The way in which an organization uses its assets to deliver added value through its products and services is called a value proposition. IUCN's value proposition includes the following:

- IUCN provides credible, trusted knowledge;
- IUCN convenes and builds partnerships for action ;
- IUCN has a global-to-local and local-to-global reach ;
- IUCN influences standards and practices.

These four features of IUCN's value proposition make IUCN distinct from others in the conservation and sustainable development arena. They enable the Union to demonstrate leadership and ensure it has strategic influence at many levels.

IUCN's business model builds on the Union's strengths and aims to focus our fund-raising, package our deliverables, and account for our results around three business lines:

1. **Providing knowledge products:** The scope is to develop and disseminate selected world-class knowledge products, for which IUCN already is well recognized – or will become so when we deliver new and emerging knowledge products.
2. **Delivering results on the ground:** The scope is to focus our attention in selected priority programmes on the actual impact on the ground in the form of biodiversity conservation and the use of nature-based solutions to address the big development challenges of climate change, food security, green growth, etc.
3. **Mobilizing the Union:** The Secretariat must continue to provide information services to Members, support Commissions, organize Congress and Council, and exercise policy influence through our convening and networking power.

IUCN's Global Programme

Every four years, the Members of IUCN adopt a programme of work that has been developed in consultation with Members from the Region, scientists from the Commissions, IUCN staff and inputs from key partners. The current global IUCN Programme started in 2009, after its adoption at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008, and runs out in 2012. The development of the IUCN Programme 2013–2016 builds on the work achieved in the current 2009–2012 period and key international processes such as the agreement on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the current efforts to reach, by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Building on IUCN’s Vision, *a just world that values and conserves nature*, the IUCN Programme 2013–2016 sets out what IUCN intends to accomplish over the next four-year period. The Programme is organized around **two Core Programme Areas and three Thematic Programme Areas**, all of which leverage the IUCN Value Proposition as a means of delivering results.

Thus, the two programme areas, ***Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity*** and ***Sharing nature’s benefits fairly and equitably*** are the heart of IUCN work. These areas are essential for the conservation of biodiversity and the ongoing process of developing knowledge, tools and standards underpinning the work of the Thematic Programme Areas.

1. IUCN has been dealing with ***Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity*** since its inception. In this regard, the tools and standards under Valuing and Conserving Biodiversity represent IUCN at its best, and are areas where IUCN has unparalleled expertise.
2. However, this has not resulted in halting biodiversity loss; therefore it is imperative that IUCN develop comparable tools and standards for the way its work for biodiversity conservation involves people and ensures their needs by way of rights, equity and governance. It is in this context that ***Sharing nature’s benefits fairly and equitably*** is proposed as the second core programme area.
3. IUCN promotes ***nature-based solutions to climate change***, combining policy influence with action on the ground for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is the first thematic area of the programme.
4. In order to ***manage ecosystems to improve food security***, IUCN will extend beyond growing and catching food and take into account the wider livelihood and ecosystem considerations necessary to provide long-term resilience, security and development opportunities. It is the second thematic area of the programme.
5. In combining IUCN’s current work on private sector, public policy and economics into a set of integrated solutions for bringing about the transformational change needed to ***green the economy***, IUCN will seek to influence relevant policy and develop knowledge and tools to enable transformative change in this area. It is the third thematic area of the programme.

Core	Valuing and conserving biodiversity		Sharing nature’s benefits fairly and equitably	
Thematic	Nature based solutions to climate change	Managing ecosystems to improve food security		Greening the economy

Figure 1: Core and thematic areas of the programme

IUCN in North Africa

IUCN is involved in North Africa through the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation located in the city of Malaga in Spain. The involved countries are: Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Currently, IUCN has 16 Members in North Africa, as follows (note that Libya has not yet IUCN Members):

ALGERIA (03)

- Association Ecologique Boumerdes
- Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
- Mouvement Ecologique Algérien

EGYPT (03)

- Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
- El Maktab El Arabi Lei Shabab Wal Biah
- Tree Lovers Association

MOROCCO(04)

- Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature
- Association Ribat Al Fath
- Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification
- Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature

TUNISIA (06)

- Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"
- Association Nationale du Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage (ANDDCVS)
- Association tunisienne pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement
- Fédération Nationale des Associations des Chasseurs et des Associations de Chasse Spécialisées.
- Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement
- Union nationale de la femme tunisienne

The long term goal of the IUCN in North Africa is to preserve biodiversity components and restore degraded ecosystems. The development of knowledge and skills to achieve this goal is one of the constants of IUCN.

According to IUCN Global Programme guidelines, the objectives for the period 2013-2016 will be broken down as follows:

- Valuing and conserving biodiversity in North Africa;
- Sharing the benefits of nature in North Africa fairly and equitably;
- Developing nature-based solutions to climate change in North Africa;
- Managing North Africa ecosystems to improve food security;
- Greening the North African economy.

According to the IUCN mission, achieving these objectives will be through influencing national and regional policies related to natural resources conservation and ecosystem management, while mobilizing the three IUCN pillars (Members, Commissions and Secretariat) to achieve these purposes as part of the IUCN "One Programme" approach. In general, the intervention methodology of IUCN in North Africa includes the following:

- Promoting and encouraging adhesion of new IUCN Members to strengthen IUCN representation.
- Supporting and strengthening the capacity of IUCN Members in North Africa and the creation and functioning of national committees in each country, so they can fully play their role in influencing national and regional policies in relation with nature conservation.
- Communicating and providing technical and scientific information for Members and partners and its adaptation to region and country level specificities.
- Assisting in setting proper conservation actions through pilot projects including new approaches and conservation models for further strategies to be developed and implemented.

Insight on previous IUCN programmes in North Africa

1994 - 2008

IUCN started developing a programme for North Africa in 1994, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resources management, and training for local communities – especially women and youth-for the conservation of the biodiversity. It included also the development of a platform to exchange experiences and information.

The last period of this Programme 2004-2008 has been developed in the 5 countries, and allowed to develop a very important work related to: conservation and valorization of medicinal and aromatic plant species; and environmental education with local populations.

2008 – 2012

After the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme in 2008, several activities were implemented by Members according to their mission and areas of competence. The subjects addressed by North Africa Members were: biodiversity conservation, fight against pollution and desertification, public awareness and environmental education.

However, despite the rate of implementation of activities under the programme, it does not yet have a strong ownership and recognition from IUCN Members in North Africa. This perception was justified by the following main reasons:

- Low involvement of Members during the phases of design and development of the programme.
- Lack of information on the procedures to have IUCN Secretariat and partners support for the implement the programme.
- Activities within the programme are mainly targeting governmental institutions. Those involving civil society are limited and do not contribute to strengthen national actions.
- Lack of information in the programme on the role and responsibilities of Members and the Secretariat for its implementation (technical and financial aspects).

Therefore, the new phase of the IUCN Programme 2013-2016 in North Africa, should address these issues and implement mechanisms to achieve the desired objectives.

IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016 – ongoing and proposed activities

While keeping a close link with the core and thematic areas of the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016, the development of the new IUCN North Africa Programme should also consider the following:

- The characteristics and needs of the region, particularly in light of recent changes and the new socio-economic framework that is setting.
- Lessons learned from the IUCN North Africa Programme 2008-2012.
- The orientations of the major international processes, such as the agreement on the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the main thematic interventions of key international organizations and aid agencies operating in the region.

The strategic lines and working packages that are suggested below, have been identified as potential areas of action for the coming period. The Forum of IUCN Members in North Africa in Rabat in October 2011, will be reviewing these proposals and making the necessary recommendations to finalize the Programme 2013-2016. This will be presented, let us recall, for final approval at the IUCN World Congress in Jeju-South Korea in September 2012.

1st Core programme Area: Valuing and conserving biodiversity in North Africa

Core Programme Area 1 has two global results: the first on tools and knowledge for biodiversity conservation; the second on policy change in support of biodiversity conservation.

Global result 1.1: IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for valuing, conserving and sustainably using biodiversity are accessible, widely adopted in North Africa and result in action for effective and efficient management of biodiversity.

- Protected areas are considered among the most effective means for the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. The IUCN North Africa programme should help to strengthen the existing network of protected areas (including support for the implementation of management plans, improving the ecological representation, and evaluation of management effectiveness) and support the process of identifying new sites to be preserved. The ongoing study on Important Plant Areas and the development of the Red List of Mediterranean ecosystems will be a solid reference for the identification of future protected areas.
- The Red List of Threatened Species of IUCN is the most comprehensive source of information on species in the world. The region of North Africa should benefit more from this tool and initiate the implementation of both, national red lists of threatened species, and action plans for the conservation of endangered species. In this context IUCN-Med is expected to support this process, particularly through coaching and training for the development of red lists in the various countries of North Africa.
- Improving information and promoting knowledge exchange on ecosystems-biodiversity to better face challenges of nature conservation have always been a priority for IUCN. IUCN-Med shall take appropriate measures to address gaps in information and knowledge, enhance the national efforts, support knowledge exchange at regional and global

scale, and promote educational and environmental communication, as the basis for sustainable development.

- In addition to knowledge products described above, the next four years will offer many opportunities to IUCN-Med to organize meetings with its Members and partners in North Africa, conduct training and build capacities, and to develop and disseminate guidelines and best practices in all relevant areas in coordination with experts from IUCN Commissions.

Result 1.2: Policy and governance systems in North Africa reflect the full values of biodiversity to enable action at all levels towards the achievement of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- The five North African countries have adopted the main international environmental conventions. The new Programme should support the implementation of these Conventions' provisions at the national level, in particular countries' contribution to the achievement of Aichi Targets within the framework of CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- New priorities and approaches to natural resource management dictated by the international situation and new economic, social and political contexts emerging in North Africa require new models of governance of natural resources to optimize conservation actions and the sustainable use of biodiversity. IUCN-Med is required to monitor these processes and to mobilize the Union's components to achieve these objectives.
- The UNESCO World Heritage Convention provided a clear political mandate to IUCN. On the North African level only three natural sites, including one mixed site (natural and cultural) have been until now under this Convention. IUCN-Med will take steps to revitalize the implementation of the Convention, in partnership with IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and IUCN Regional Office for West Asia. Sites already registered will also receive support and assistance on regulatory and technical aspects, in order to conserve the values that justified their inscription. Opportunities for twinning between World Heritage Sites in North Africa and the Mediterranean region will be explored by IUCN-Med to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experiences among managers of these sites.

Core Programme Area 2: Sharing the benefits of nature fairly and equitably in North Africa

Core Programme Area 2 has two global results: the first on tools and knowledge for better decision making for biodiversity conservation; the second on policies and governance for biodiversity conservation that recognize and respect rights.

Result 2.1 : IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for valuing, conserving and sustainably using nature and natural resources foster fair, equitable, just and efficient decision making in North Africa and are accessible and widely adopted by the five countries.

- The work undertaken by IUCN-Med on Important Plant Areas in the South and East of the Mediterranean region will be reinforced by a second phase aiming to improve the diagnosis for sites already selected and to propose guidelines for their preservation.

Result 2.2 : Policies and governance systems in North Africa recognize and respect the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, and effectively empower vulnerable and poor stakeholders, especially women, to value, conserve, sustainably manage and benefit from biodiversity.

- Strategies and tools for land use planning determine and organize the use of space. Often decisions on (agricultural) land use changes caused negative impacts on users and local communities that depend on natural resources for their survival. In this context, IUCN-Med will establish actions to better understand the relationship between land use and natural resources conservation, including strengthening the knowledge on spatial planning tools.
- IUCN recent work on criteria for assessing the effectiveness of marine and terrestrial protected areas management, as well as those on approaches related to integration of social equity in the management of natural resources will be disseminated to stakeholders, and will be evaluated and adapted to the specific areas of intervention.

Thematic area 3: Nature-based solutions to climate change in North Africa.

This thematic area has three global results: the first two focusing on policy and best practise, respectively, for mitigation and adaptation; the third on assessing impacts of climate change on biodiversity while encouraging action.

Result 3.1: National and North African climate change policies and funding optimize ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation solutions with appropriate social and environmental safeguards that improve natural resource governance and increase the resilience of vulnerable livelihoods.

- IUCN-Med will promote the consideration of nature-based solutions in the formulation of strategies and national action plans on climate changes. Additionally, innovative funding mechanisms for the fight against climate change will be widely spread, to improve the adoption of these tools at a national and regional level.
- Special attention will be given to the empowerment of local communities to participate more effectively in negotiation processes and to ensure a sustainable use of natural resources on which they depend for their survival.

Result 3.2: Institutional arrangements, standards and tools that enable the equitable and efficient implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation solutions are available and widely adopted at local and national level in North Africa, with particular emphasis on the participation of and benefits for natural resource dependent communities.

- There is a need to improve knowledge, promote dialogue and empower Members and nature conservation stakeholders for the implementation of adaptation and mitigation solutions based on ecosystems. At a North African level, IUCN-Med will contribute to reach this result, in coordination with partners operating in the region, and will continue supporting Members' activities in the field of conservation, management and restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Result 3.3: Knowledge, standards and tools to assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity continue to be improved and are widely available to support conservation, adaptation and mitigation at local, national and North African level.

- The North Africa Programme calls for the support of national efforts to promote further knowledge of ecosystems. In this framework, IUCN-Med will assist with its expertise to undertake assessment activities related to ecosystem vulnerability to climate change in North Africa. Special attention will be given to mountain ecosystems, wetlands' forests and oasis to promote adaptive management systems and increase their resilience.
- Climate changes are considered among global phenomena affecting biodiversity. Terrestrial and marine protected areas are one of the most efficient natural solutions to face this problem through carbon sequestration (35% of total carbon emissions are captured in protected areas) and the upkeep of the natural dimension of space. Their effectiveness would increase even more if ecological corridors to interconnect them were identified and put in place. IUCN-Med will consult on the implementation of this issue with Members and main national stakeholders involved, in coordination with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.
- Invasive alien species (IAS) are considered one of the main causes of biodiversity degradation. Several terrestrial and marine species have been identified in North Africa as invasive species, and they should be closely monitored. IUCN-Med will contribute to the completion of data on these species and will share this information with national stakeholders for the preparation of action plans. A debate on possible IAS early warning and impact mitigation mechanisms will also be part of it.

Thematic area of the Programme 4: Managing ecosystems to improve food security in North Africa.

This thematic area has three global results: the first two are related to IUCN influencing policy and best practices related to ecosystem management and food security. The third one aims to mobilise the conservation community to strengthen the role it can play in food security.

Result 4.1: National and North African food security policies and strategies benefit from biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management in strengthening the resilience and sustainability of small-scale, community-based production and wild-harvest food systems (terrestrial and fisheries/marine).

- Food security is closely linked to the status of the conservation of natural resources and good ecosystem management. In this context, IUCN-Med will support best practices to ensure food security mainly through assisting public management policies of traditional agro-systems and fisheries. The North Africa Programme will favour projects to boost local traditional knowledge and improve the living conditions of communities neighbouring terrestrial and marine protected areas as well as priority ecosystems.

Result 4.2: Multifunctional landscape and seascape management, incorporating the differentiated roles of men and women, is recognized and widely adopted in North Africa as tools, standards and institutional arrangements that contribute to the stability and sustainability of food systems.

- An integrated management approach to terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems require a close involvement of various stakeholders along with a good knowledge of the current opportunities and challenges at national and local level from an environmental, economical and social perspective. IUCN-Med will develop the capacities of national stakeholders active in this domain to achieve a better implementation of the integrated ecosystem management approach and support related actions initiated by IUCN Members.

Result 4.3: North African, national and local conservation policies, practices and standards contribute to improved food production systems, food security and wider livelihood needs of both men and women at the local level.

- IUCN-Med will provide the expertise to support the initiatives of its Members in order to improve standards of conservation and production systems to promote sustainable livelihoods of local people. It will also encourage dialogue with Members and key players in North Africa to better embrace the relationship between conservation of natural resources, livelihoods and food security, and support the development of an agenda of activities with this aim.

Thematic Programme Area 5: Greening the economy in North Africa.

This Thematic Programme Area has two results : the first on integrating nature into economic risk management; the second on building biodiversity-based economic opportunities. In both results, the common purpose is to make biodiversity increasingly 'material' and relevant in economic decisions.

Result 5.1: Green economy policies and actions are enhanced through stronger integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management at local and national scales and in North Africa.

- Some sectors such as tourism, industry and agriculture have a great economic importance in North Africa. Their activities can cause a significant impact on natural resources and livelihoods of people who depend on them. IUCN-Med in collaboration with its Members, will identify potential resources and partnerships to make activities of the private sector more sustainable. It will support the promotion of environmental certification as an opportunity to promote economic products and services of sustainable ecosystem management, and study opportunities for developing sustainable tourism, especially around terrestrial and marine protected areas.
- IUCN-Med should also participate and contribute to the empowerment actions of target groups around certain topics such as responsible consumption patterns and sustainable waste management. Actions to raise awareness and communication could also be considered.

Result 5.2 : Opportunities to benefit from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in North Africa are supported by relevant public policies and private decision making and contribute to greening the economy at local and national scales and in North Africa.

- IUCN-Med will continue its strategy to look for new technical and financial partners, particularly in the government sector of North Africa, NGOs and the private sector with an interest and/or an input for the conservation of nature. It will also work with Members to develop guidelines on the relationship between trade and biodiversity and to support efforts to better understand the economic value of biodiversity in North Africa in the light of recommendations of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study.

Implementation of IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016

With an organization as large as IUCN, encompassing some 1100 Members, 12000 volunteer scientists in the Commissions and 1100 staff in the Secretariat distributed globally, it is important to be continually reminded that the Programme is shared by all constituents and by doing so, all have a role to play in its successful delivery. All Members, Commissions and the Secretariat have a responsibility to contribute to the implementation of the Programme: to plan within its framework and results, to monitor and report progress, and to evaluate its successes in order to share learned lessons with the wider conservation community.

For the implementation of the new IUCN Programme 2013-2016 in North Africa, IUCN-Med will pay particular attention to:

- Strengthening the capacities of its Members, to support the implementation of actions to be developed in the framework of this Programme.
- Involvement and participation of all Members in the implementation of the Programme and in finding ways to bring more national contributions to IUCN regional work.
- Development of a methodology for monitoring-evaluation and ongoing communication with Members on progress in implementing the Programme and expected results and products/completed and any problems encountered.
- Identification, with the support of current Members, of potential new Members including Members of IUCN Commissions in North Africa, as well as new technical and financial partners to support the implementation of the Programme.
- Supporting the creation and the work of IUCN National Committees in the five North African countries. These committees will then be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the IUCN Programme at national scale.
- Encouraging the development of regional projects involving several Members in order to optimize the technical and financial resources available.
- Promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices among Members in North Africa and their counterparts in the Mediterranean.

Thus, during the next stage, IUCN-Med will mobilize all its resources to provide support, technical assistance and ensure the achievement of objectives in its various actions with Members and partners in North Africa. To optimize this mission, IUCN-Med will focus its actions on a specific number of initiatives and priority areas in North Africa, under the 3 operational areas of IUCN, which are: *to bring knowledge, produce results on the ground and mobilise the Union*. IUCN-Med will focus on the need of involvement and participation of all Members in the implementation of the Programme and on how to strengthen national contributions to the implementation of IUCN actions at a regional scale.

The following table resumes the ongoing and planned priority intervention areas in North Africa:

	Provide knowledge products	Obtain results on the ground	Mobilizing the Union
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red List of threatened species • Important Plant Areas • Categorization and assessment of protected areas management effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of key ecosystems in North Africa (alfa and coastal dunes) • Support for improving forests resilience against the effects of climate change (e.g. fire risks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information • World Congress and regional conservation forums • Strengthening membership and setting-up National Committees • Raising awareness and communication
Under development or planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red List of ecosystems • Ecological corridors and connectivity of landscapes and seascapes • Governance of natural resources • Land use planning and conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of degraded ecosystems • Assessment of protected areas management effectiveness • Ecotourism and protected areas • Adaptive management systems to face climate change in mountain ecosystems • Environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Promoting cooperation between North African and Mediterranean protected areas and natural World Heritage sites • Finding new partnerships and sources for funding biodiversity conservation from foundations, international organizations and the private sector