

## Secure Living in a Healthy Environment

January 2006: Volume 1

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### Editorial: Odeh Al Jayyousi

Dear Members and Colleagues,



After the first year of full operations of the Regional Office in Jordan in 2005, IUCN stands at a new and exciting juncture in its activities in the West and Central Asia and North Africa region.

After a process of reviewing past approaches, the concerns of members and wider IUCN regional experience, WESCANA has adopted a pragmatic approach focused around two linked strategies. The first focuses on thematic programmes and the second adopt a sub-regional approach.

In 2005, IUCN WESCANA Regional Office strategically positioned itself and found its core niches. The 3 main achievements were focused around 1) strengthening its presence at the regional and sub-regional levels and identifying strategic partnerships, 2) developing a number of key thematic programmes, and 3) consolidating the establishment of the office with effective planning and financial management systems. Besides, we intend to capitalize on our Observer Status in CAMRE-Arab League to help our members in environmental policy and conventions.

We are looking forward to another fruitful year 2006, building on the strengths and comparative advantages of the membership and partners, and attracting long term commitments from donors and partners.

Odeh Al Jayyousi, Regional Director

### Looking Back: 2005 Highlights

#### **Collaborative Management of Protected Areas and Natural Resources in Yemen**

In 2005, IUCN WESCANA developed its Protected Areas Programme (PA) as one of its main thematic areas of intervention in the region. The PA strategy was based on the region's needs and priorities on Protected Areas management with a particular focus on community participation and the involvement of relevant commissions.

Collaborative management of protected areas and natural resources was the focus of a new IUCN project in Yemen, which was launched in May 2005, in cooperation with the Yemeni Environment Protection Authority. The new project, funded by the Italian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS), supported the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan that had previously been developed with input from IUCN.

Under this project, WESCANA worked with its Yemeni partners to implement the national biodiversity strategy, focusing on the development of an effectively managed national protected area network, on improving community participation and gender equity and strengthening Yemen's collaboration with its regional and international partners in the field of biodiversity.

Through this and other initiatives, WESCANA PA Programme 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 forward through facilitating a structured regional dialogue. For more information: [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**



existing protected areas is also poorly understood.

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. Knowledge of the current status and effectiveness of

To address this need, a small regional meeting of IUCN membership representatives was held in Dushanbe in March 2005 to identify the priority protected areas in the 5 countries for assessment and the methodologies and processes for assessing their management effectiveness. Teams of largely volunteer specialists were engaged (existing or potential members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas – WCPA) in each of the 5 Central Asian states and undertook the field assessments of Category 1 protected areas.

Reports are being prepared to collate the results of the country scale studies and this information is also being made available through a website that links the network of specialists and data on protected areas. The next steps are to consolidate the WCPA membership and activities in Central Asia and secure the resources to tackle the priority needs of protected areas identified during this management effectiveness study. For more information: [rjashenko@nursat.kz](mailto:rjashenko@nursat.kz) or [simon.anstey@iucn.org](mailto:simon.anstey@iucn.org)

### **Sustainable Freshwater Management in West Asia, Central Asia and North Africa**



operation (DGCS). DGCS recently approved the first year funding.

Freshwater resources are considered to be one of the main limiting factors for sustainable development of WESCANA Countries. Recognizing the urgency of tackling this environmental risk in the Region, WESCANA has established a Regional Water Programme with the support of the Italian Development Co-

This programme will focus on strengthening water knowledge and eco-system approach, environmental law, networking, advocacy and policy reforms in areas of fresh water resource use and conservation, especially with regards to fresh water biodiversity. For more information: [nadia.juhari@iucn.org](mailto:nadia.juhari@iucn.org)

### **IUCN WESCANA contributes to strengthening linkages between conservation, gender equity and poverty alleviation**



respond to the diversity of local ecological, social and economic conditions.

IUCN WESCANA has taken the initiative to prepare a regional strategy to incorporate gender equity and poverty alleviation into its conservation programmes (shortly to be published and available on [www.iucn.org/wescana](http://www.iucn.org/wescana)). For the WESCANA region, with its 88 members in 25 countries, the challenge was to ensure the development of a strategy that was sufficiently broad-based to be applicable to each member state, and yet is also sufficiently specific to

In response to these challenges, the Strategy recognized that objectives of gender equity, poverty alleviation and social inclusion need to be fully considered and integrated into their own institutional policies, systems and processes. This will involve explicit consideration of gender equity and poverty alleviation at all stages of the project planning cycle, with targets, indicators and a commitment to monitor progress and assess impacts. For more information: [dona.khanfour@iucn.org](mailto:dona.khanfour@iucn.org)

## Feature: Fair Trade Jordan

**Fair Trade Jordan** was launched in late 2005 as an alliance of leading NGOs in the country, with a shared interest in conserving nature, protecting biodiversity, and promoting economic empowerment, human development and full social inclusion. Fair Trade Jordan has undertaken a number of events focused on encouraging general Fair Trade awareness amongst consumers and local producers.



Those events provided a place for producers from Jordan and other countries in the region to promote their goods and ideas and to network and build partnerships with like minded and concerned organizations in order to facilitate knowledge sharing; and a platform for debates and discussions to identify opportunities to consolidate a Fair Trade initiative in Jordan. Participants were also able to learn from the experience of successful regional and global Fair Trade organizations, with experts from Healthy Basket from Lebanon and PhytoTrade from Southern Africa.

As a result of this process, a new innovative and cross-cutting programme linking conservation, poverty reduction and equity is underway and shows considerable promise for the years to come. For more information: [fairtradejordan@iucn.org](mailto:fairtradejordan@iucn.org) or [simon.anstey@iucn.org](mailto:simon.anstey@iucn.org)

## Looking ahead: WESCANA Water Programme



**The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs makes major commitment to Sustainable Freshwater Management in WESCANA** Earlier this year, the IUCN-DGCS cooperation in conservation was enhanced through the launch of a three-year joint initiative on Systemic Integration of Sectoral Networks for Sustainable Freshwater Management in West and Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA).

The collaboration will cover the period from 2006 to 2008. The Water Programme, covered by this collaboration, is funded by the Italian Government for the first year and aims at integrating the comprehensive development and conservation pursuits of the IUCN WESCANA Regional Office, assisting the countries in the region to adopt a systemic approach to water management at policy, decision-making and field levels.

As a starting point, WESCANA has begun to provide resources and training to regional and country public officials and policy makers to facilitate the development of regulatory frameworks for water management in the various member countries, and to offer a platform for debate to improve coordination and the sharing of experiences between these countries.



The WESCANA Water Programme will form part of and directly contribute to the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), a world-wide effort to implement a systemic approach to water management. This will allow the WESCANA network members to benefit directly from the experience and expertise available in this Initiative worldwide. The Water Programme intends to establish water nodes in selected countries as a mean to enhance knowledge management models in the region. For more information: [nadia.juhari@iucn.org](mailto:nadia.juhari@iucn.org)

## IUCN Update: CEC Governance



**CEC Governance Process Continues:** Every four years, the reconstitution of the CEC membership brings new faces to the steering committee and kicks off a search to fill important positions. The aim is to have a full CEC Steering Committee in place by the end of 2006 that will remain until the next World Conservation Congress in late 2008.

A **new structure** will divide the steering committee's work into three thematic areas: WCLN, CEPA and ESD. Each area will be headed by co-chairs and include a small management committee and a larger working group. The larger groups will include CEC members who have expressed an interest in the thematic area.

The following co-chairs have been nominated: Brad Smith and Mike Moss for WCLN, Haroldo Castro and Susana Calvo for CEPA, and Hans van Ginkel and Cheryl Charles for ESD.

CEC is seeking **regional chairs** for Central Africa, Europe, Northern Asia, Oceania, Southern Africa and Southern Asia. Chairs must be active CEC members who are enthusiastic about mobilizing their regional membership and facilitating activities in their region. Several regional chairs have been appointed thus far: Brad Smith for North America, Juanita Castaño for South America, **Sherif Kandil for North Africa/Middle East**, and Edgar Gonzalez for Mesoamerica.

**Special advisors** will be appointed for Knowledge Management, Private Sector Partnerships, and Media and Communication. These advisors help the CEC through their networks, knowledge and experience in strategic areas. The title of special advisor to the CEC is also used for those individuals with whom CEC has a special relationship and who support the CEC and its activities within their spheres of influence.

Denise Hamú and Keith Wheeler, Chair and Co-chair of the Commission, would like to thank those involved in the new governance structure for their energetic commitment to the future of the CEC. They also encourage CEC members to express interest in those positions yet to be filled, and to participate in the management committees for our three thematic areas of work. For more information: [cecnews@iucn.org](mailto:cecnews@iucn.org)

## New Feature: News from WESCANA Members



All WESCANA members are invited to send brief items of interest for posting in "News from WESCANA Members" – a new feature of this newsletter. Submissions should be sent to [dona.khanfour@iucn.org](mailto:dona.khanfour@iucn.org)

We would like to pay tribute to our Councilors, Members and Commissions' members, who have provided valuable guidance and support during the transition phase of the WESCANA Regional Office. Their contributions were of great benefit to its success and we are counting on their continued support for year 2006.

Thank you for your participation.

## IUCN Members' Portal



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

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