



**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

**CENTRE FOR
MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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This report summarises the main activities undertaken by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med), based in Málaga.

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MESSAGE FROM THE IUCN-MED DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Once again, it is my pleasure to present the IUCN Centre of Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) Annual Report for 2021. The past year, our office made a special effort to manage the uncertainties caused by the pandemic and succeeded in executing a series of key achievements and events, including assessments over species, Red List Assessments, preparing for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, and achieving milestones with our work in conservation.

This fall, the Director-General of IUCN, Bruno Oberle, signed a **Collaboration Protocol** to continue promoting the work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Spain with Teresa Ribera, the Spanish third Vice-President of the **Government and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge**. The Collaboration Protocol is the first step to establishing the terms of a binding agreement that will provide a framework for the implementation of activities of IUCN-Med, as well as financial support and the official recognition of the Mediterranean office as an international organisation in Spain.

Further governmental support for our Programme in the region comes from the **Regional Government of the Balearic Islands**, financing the TransCap programme, which was launched in May 2021 to support projects run by civil society organisations along the Mediterranean coasts of Morocco and Tunisia, complementing the outcomes of the PPI-OSCAN programme in Northern African countries. Also, IUCN-Med signed an agreement with the **Regional Government of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** in France to launch a joint call for local projects to reduce plastic pollution named "For a plastic-free Mediterranean". The call was presented during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

This year, an important step was the creation of the **Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity**. Six

international organisations, including IUCN-Med, joined forces to bring together their skills, experience, and scientific knowledge to develop innovative solutions that respond to the challenges of biodiversity conservation, as well as promoting greater efficiency in the use of available economic resources for managing natural resources in the Mediterranean.

In June 2021, the Centre welcomed the successful proposal made by DG Mare of a new Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Essential Fish Habitats **in the Bari Canyon** (Adriatic Sea, Italy) at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) commission meeting. It is a clear example of success in our policy advocacy activities within the international legal framework in the region.

NEW PROGRAMME 2021–2024 (NORTH AFRICA AND MEDITERRANEAN)

Last year marked the end of the IUCN 2017–2020 Programme and the launch of the decadal programme **Nature 2030** that highlights six new working areas. To complement this new global Programme, IUCN-Med published a **new Strategic Framework Programme** that applied the goals of the global IUCN Programme Areas (2021–2024) and presented how these will be implemented in the context of the Mediterranean and North African regions. The strategic framework for both areas addresses two key regional challenges: biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. Capacity building and policy influencing have also been identified as crosscutting issues in the IUCN-Med strategy and will be embedded into the core work of the Centre.

As part of our regular activities, we have continued working to create sustainable tourism models that provide both indirect and direct positive conservation impacts, enhancing capacities in Mediterranean islands to reduce plastic leakage into the environment, promoting the understanding



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and use of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™ and establishing strategic partnerships with actors in private sector such as Red Eléctrica de España (REE), the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers and Cepsa Foundation, among other activities that are contributing to implement the IUCN Programme in the region in collaboration with our key partners and Members.

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS: THE MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS STAND

After a year's delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Conservation Congress took place during the early fall of 2021 in the Mediterranean city of Marseille, France. Despite travel restrictions, the World Conservation Congress was the first major environmental event held in a hybrid format since the COVID-19 pandemic began. IUCN-Med coordinated a partnership of 11 organisations to develop a programme of activities for the pavilion known as the "Mediterranean Solutions" stand, all of which was made possible thanks to the support of the MAVA Foundation.

During the week, the "Mediterranean Solutions" stand highlighted the strength of the existing political frameworks, partnerships and networks in the region from a global perspective, and was crucial to achievements for the region such as joint commitments for the plastic-free Mediterranean, governmental agreements to increase protection of marine protected areas, launching funding initiatives for protecting biodiversity, civil society, and more.

2020 also marked the 20th anniversary of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, inaugurated in 2000 in Málaga. After two years of postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IUCN-Med will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2022 in the form of a **"Mediterranean week" in Málaga**. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to bring together the conservation community from both sides of the Mediterranean, so as to promote the value of nature in discussions, different encounters, engaging workshops and to explore innovative solutions to cross-cutting issues affecting nature, in particular, our sea and the livelihoods that depend on it.

This year IUCN-Med also welcomed 6 new Members, making up a total of 258 IUCN Members in the Mediterranean. IUCN's membership exemplifies how the Union's prosperity is based on the collaborative nature of its Members. Many milestones and achievements have been reached thanks to this membership framework, together with the support of four partners and the Secretariat. On behalf of IUCN-Med, I would like to express our continued appreciation for their participation and commitment to the crucial challenges we face today in the region.

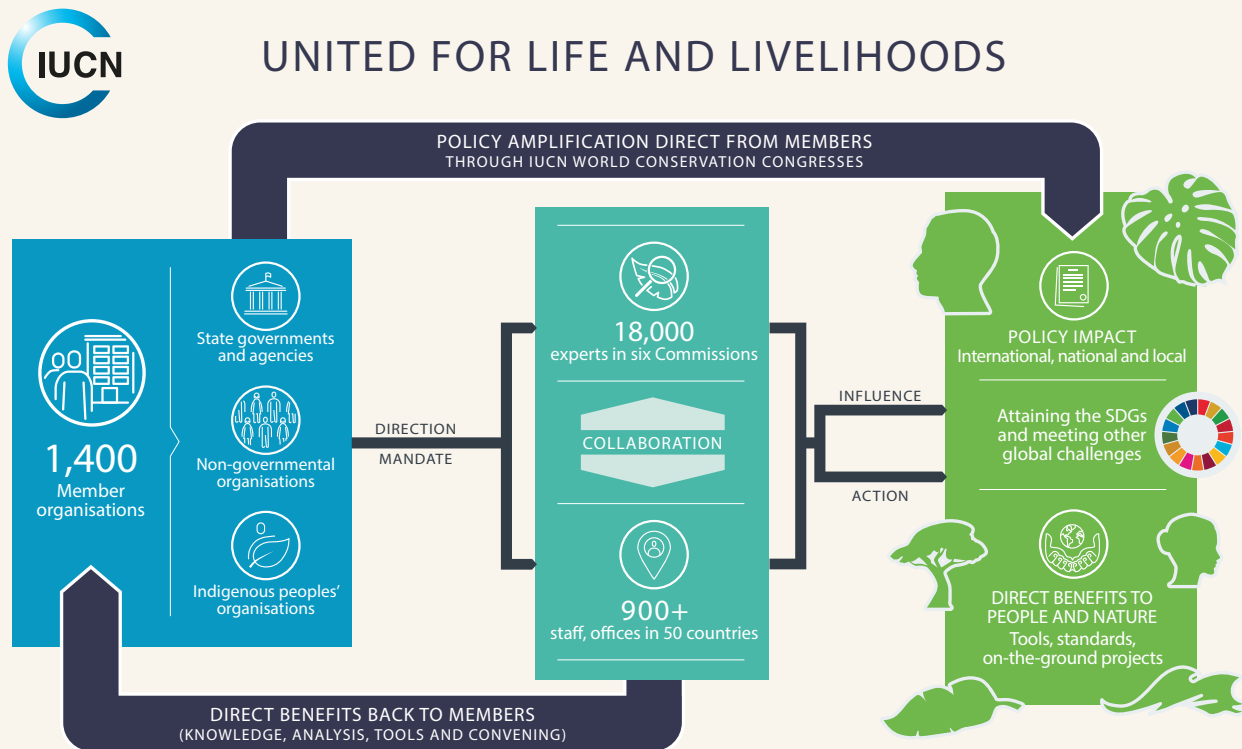
I am pleased to share with you the results and milestones achieved by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in this annual report.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO TROYA
Director, IUCN Centre for
Mediterranean Cooperation

IUCN AT A GLANCE

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.



Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 18,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the state of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six Commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

The ability to bring together a wide range of stakeholders and present them with the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.



The 11 Mediterranean leading organisations at the “Mediterranean Solutions” pavilion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille. © IUCN

By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals, including on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

Our knowledge base and diverse membership combine to make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. With its official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

IUCN’s expertise and extensive network underpin a large and varied portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people’s well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information that feeds into IUCN’s analytical work.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, passing Resolutions that drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union’s Programme of Work. IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. We continue to help these conventions strengthen and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. With its headquarters in Switzerland, the IUCN Secretariat comprises around 900 staff members in more than 160 countries.

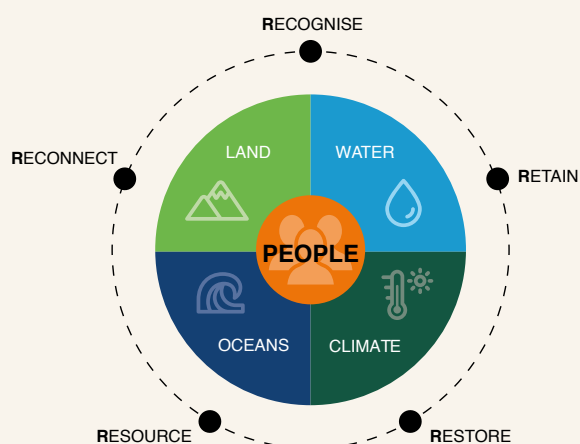
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

IUCN's Members, composed of States, government agencies, both non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organisations – whether national or international – approve a work programme once every four years, which is supported by a four-year Financial Plan.

For the first time, IUCN created a decadal timeframe known as the **Nature 2030 IUCN Programme** (2021–2030) as a call for mobilisation to the entire Union. This high-level, strategic document ensures alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In order to maintain its own statutory cycles, IUCN Members will have the opportunity to review a revised version for the Nature 2030 IUCN Programme in 2024 and 2028 in order to shape and to shape and develop the Programme according to the according to the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** which is expected to be adopted end of 2022.

To support this new Nature 2030 agenda, IUCN Members approved the [IUCN Programme 2021–2024](#) which started in 2021. This new Programme is set by five pillars, being **Land, Water, Oceans, Climate and People**.



Source: © IUCN

MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME

In the Mediterranean region, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) has prepared with IUCN Members and numerous partners in the region the [IUCN Mediterranean Strategic Programme 2021–2024](#). The work areas and achievements were defined under the context of the new global [IUCN Programme 2021–2024](#) as well as IUCN-Med's regional [strategic lines](#). IUCN-Med also relies on the efforts and participation of 258 IUCN Member organisations and over 1,327 IUCN Commission experts in the region to identify actions around the region to implement the Programme.

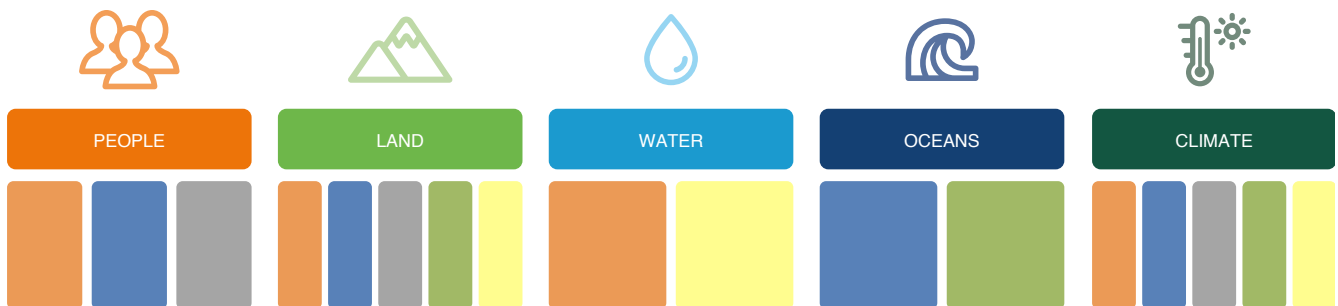
The new IUCN Mediterranean Strategic Programme defines five priority working lines. Two of these working lines are cross-cutting and presented vertically: **Nature-based Solutions and Climate Change**, and **Biodiversity Standards and Indicators**. They aim to improve knowledge and mainstream biodiversity conservation and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into policies, management, spatial planning and sectors, and are therefore permanently linked to the activities carried out by the other working lines, which integrate these two cross-cutting themes in specific areas or sectors of activity such as, among others, coastal and **urban planning, tourism, fisheries and agriculture**.

In the same context, IUCN-Med has developed the [North Africa work programme 2021–2024](#) in collaboration with its Members, following the same working lines in an effort to increase collaboration between Members and increase impact within its programme implementation.



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THE IUCN-MEDITERRANNEAN STRATEGIC PROGRAMME WILL BE CLOSELY LINKED TO AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPACT AREA OBJECTIVES OF THE IUCN PROGRAMME



Mediterranean working lines involved:

- Nature Conservation and Food System
- Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning
- Biodiversity Standards and Indicators
- Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy
- Nature-based Solutions and Climate Change

LAND

TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Contributing to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems through the development of conservation strategies for threatened species, strengthening the protected area network through improved management effectiveness and connectivity, identifying additional KBAs, integrating biodiversity conservation in different sectors (agricultural landscapes, tourism and urban areas).

IUCN-Med is contributing to the global **Programme Area Land** by supporting the safeguarding, restoration and recovery of key terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, while accompanying human societies towards more sustainable production models (including agriculture and aquaculture) and urban lifestyles, reducing the use of plastics, pesticides and fertilisers that harm the land and ocean.

BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE & ACTION

The Mediterranean Basin is the world's second-largest global biodiversity hotspot, with approximately 25% of its species declared threatened according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. To preserve the magnificent biodiversity in the region, IUCN-Med performed biodiversity

assessments and issued several publications, factsheets and other knowledge products to update and improve the understanding of Mediterranean groups of species and ecosystems during 2021.



IUCN report reveals half of raptors breeding in North Africa are threatened with extinction

In November, IUCN released its first [Red List assessment on raptors in Northern Africa](#) reviewing the conservation status for 36 species. The assessment revealed that



© Daniel Buron

one-third of the species with breeding populations in the region are classified as threatened with extinction, with three species already classified as Regionally Extinct.

The report, made possible thanks to the support of **Red Eléctrica de España** and the **MAVA Foundation**, stresses the overall lack of data on raptors throughout the North Africa region, where the population trends of 42% remain unknown. This lack of data affects the distribution, population size and trends, as well as threats that are evaluated in the assessment. It also aims to provide a baseline for developing conservation and monitoring actions of breeding populations and their distribution in order to improve the understanding of their conservation status, in order to determine, protect and manage potential breeding sites and key dispersal areas.

Breeding populations of the Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and the Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), have not been observed for decades in North Africa, whereas the Dark chanting-goshawk (*Melierax metabates*) was declared Regionally Extinct in 2007.

MAJOR THREATS TO RAPTORS IN NORTH AFRICA



**Biological
resource use,
Hunting & trapping
terrestrial animals**



**Pollution-
Agriculture &
forestry effluents**



**Transportation &
service corridors-
Utility and
service lines
(Powerlines, roads
and railroads)**



**Agriculture &
aquaculture
Livestock farming
(Pesticides and
rodenticides,
Poisoning)**



**Human intrusions
and disturbances
(Habitat loss)**

* For more information on the summary of threats, please see [the full assessment](#).

Enhanced cooperation between sectors to conserve the Rüppell's Vulture

The Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and is native to the Sahel region and savannah regions of East Africa. Yet, researchers are recording increasingly regular visits to the Mediterranean and further away from breeding areas. The causes of this displacement are suspected to be a result of the species expansion in distribution due to climate change or a search for more suitable regions to breed and survive.

IUCN-Med implemented several actions in collaboration with key authorities and experts to improve knowledge and reduce the threats for this species. Several recommendations were defined to **increase monitoring efforts on the entire distribution range of the species** through the joint collaboration of experts and organisations in an [International symposium on the Rüppell's Vulture for the Mediterranean Region](#) organised by IUCN-Med with the support of the MAVA Foundation and the Regional Government of Andalusia (Junta de Andalucía) in April 2021.

To continue collecting more data, a team of experts from Spain and Morocco gathered in November 2021 to tag 12 Rüppell's vultures with GPS and satellite transmitters. The tagged vultures took place at the Jbel Moussa Vulture Recovery Centre (CRV) in northern Morocco, near the Strait

of Gibraltar. The data transmitted from the tags is expected to provide new information on the behaviour and ecology of this species, as well as the threats it faces. This fieldwork was made possible thanks to the voluntary participation and support of experts from GREPOM-BirdLife Morocco and CRV (Centre created by the Department of Water and Forests and co-managed in partnership with this association), GREFA (Group for the Rehabilitation of Autonomous Fauna and their Habitat) and the Regional Government of Andalusia.



© Mustapha Gunnouni Dreamstime

Unveiling a new platform of native North African trees and shrubs to halt biodiversity loss and desertification

The Mediterranean Environmental Research Centre in Spain (Centro de Investigaciones Ambientales del Mediterráneo in Spanish) and IUCN-Med revealed a [new open-access platform](#) dedicated to North African Native Trees and Shrubs to help preserve biodiversity and combat erosion and desertification during the celebration of the [Third Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week](#) held in October in Crete, Greece. The platform lists approximately 880 species within ten countries, including trees, shrubs and woody climbing plants in North Africa in zones that run from the Atlantic to the Red Sea and from the Mediterranean to the Sahel. The aim of the platform is to share knowledge on native trees, while addressing emerging threats such as invasive alien species and desertification. This compilation is the result of the collaboration of a network of more than 40 experts from different countries.



Continued efforts to protect the Mediterranean Monk Seal

A second phase to the “Monk seal conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean” project will build upon the activities from the previous term that ended in December 2020. Funded by the Monk Seal Alliance, this new phase takes place in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Lebanon and Israel where experts will monitor the monk seal populations to increase knowledge and reduce threats. The main objective is to increase collaboration between organisations to provide new insights to the monk seal population by sharing methodologies, tools and implementing capacity-building activities to ensure legal and efficient protection of the species and its habitats in the Eastern Mediterranean.



© P. Dendrinis/MOM

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Successful launches for Horizon 2020 projects focusing on soil health and pollination

In June, the Horizon 2020 project [SOILGUARD](#) held its inaugural meeting online, launching the project activities. Twenty-five transdisciplinary project partners from seventeen countries came together to observe the project goals, expectations and results to be achieved during the next four years. IUCN-Med is a member of the project’s partnership and will be responsible for assessing the use of soil biodiversity as a Nature-based Solution (NbS) by means of sustainable soil management practices using the frame of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™.

The objective of SOILGUARD is to stimulate the sustainable use of soil biodiversity in order to protect the multifunctionality of soils and to increase economic, social, and environmental well-being. This will be achieved by collecting strong evidence of the links between soil management, soil biodiversity, soil multifunctionality and human well-being across biogeographical regions.

© Barbara / Unsplash



Ensuring sustainable practices in aquaculture

Aquaculture is a growing sector that is highly dependent on nature. Amidst its recent popularity, increased concerns regarding marine biodiversity protection have arisen. To explore the implementation of environmental practices for responsible fish farming, IUCN and the [Federation of European Aquaculture Producers](#) (FEAP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for fostering collaboration on subjects related to the sustainability of aquaculture and the conservation of marine ecosystems.

The agreement aims to foster sustainable aquaculture practices and explore mitigation actions in aquaculture for vulnerable species, innovative approaches such as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and circular economy, and to identify and promote all types of opportunities and synergies between nature conservation and aquaculture. The MoU will be managed by IUCN-Med and will focus on the region but activities might also be developed in other parts of Europe, including freshwater ecosystems.

Alliance for the Mediterranean nature and culture

In 2021, IUCN-Med joined [The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture](#) (AMNC) as a founding member. The AMNC believes in a Mediterranean region where cultural practices and cultural landscapes contribute effectively to conserving biodiversity and maintaining the wellbeing of communities. Its mission is to recognise, promote and sustain practices that maintain these landscapes, underpinned by the belief that nature and culture are profoundly interconnected and together deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to society.

Some ways of promoting cultural landscapes include promoting the support of traditional producers and advocating for the enhanced environmental, social and economic benefits for biodiversity and the livelihoods of local people. Funded by the MAVA Foundation to implement the M6 action plan on [promoting sustainable land-use practices](#), the project consists of 13 partners who have been working since 2017 to deliver better economic and environmental outcomes for sustainable producers.



Closing the plastic tap in Menorca and Cyprus

Although Cyprus and Menorca account for less than 1% of the total marine plastic leakage caused by Mediterranean countries, the plastic leakage per capita on these islands is surprisingly higher than in most parts of the region. Compared to the regional average of 38 kg per capita a year, Menorca and Cyprus generate 111 and 106 kg of plastic waste, despite having relatively small populations and efficient waste management systems.

This year, two new national reports presented the results of the data analysed in Cyprus and Menorca in 2018 which reviewed the main 'hotspots' of marine plastic leakage for both islands, including the most relevant plastic polymers, applications, industrial sectors, regions and waste management stages. It was found that plastic bags, lids and caps were identified as the highest leaking plastic applications in Cyprus, whereas in Menorca, plastic leakage was predominantly linked to beaches, automotive tires, PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) and LDPE (low-density polyethylene). In both cases, packaging, tourism and fisheries stand as the sectors with the highest contributions to marine plastic leakage.

Action plans to reduce plastic pollution

Later on in the year, local NGOs from Menorca and Cyprus gathered with the private sector and public administrations to discuss the recommendations made by the two national reports on plastic as well as key activities affecting plastic waste generation on the island and develop a collaborative [Action Plan](#) for the islands to implement new interventions. Overall, the stakeholders highlighted the importance of prioritising reuse over recycling, reducing plastic waste at the source and addressing the issue across the entire value chain.

As a result of the meeting, the Action Plan for both islands will include recommendations for the tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors to close the plastic tap throughout the value chain, with a collective framework and a timeline for implementation. Key regional bodies will be equipped with the Action Plan and supported to identify further opportunities to enhance its application.

These national reports also provided guidance for taking local action against plastic pollution. Key recommendations included increasing the density of waste bins in areas prone to leakage, implementing deposit schemes to favour the reuse of plastic objects, decreasing the demand and use of single-use plastics, reducing tyre abrasion and finding solutions to littering in urban areas.

The reports were coordinated by IUCN-Med and the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme (GMPP), in the framework of the '[Plastic Waste-Free Islands Med \(PWFIMed\)](#)' and IUCN's [Close the Plastic Tap programme](#). The reports took place in collaboration with UNEP for methodological support and with technical work covered by EA and Quantis. Efforts to collect data on the field were supported by the Socio-Environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM) and Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI). The activities were funded by the [Fondation Didier et Martine Primat](#).



© Cristian Palmer / Unplash

METHODOLOGY FOR CREATING ACTION PLANS TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

The key steps outlined in the Action Plans for Menorca and Cyprus were made based on the methodological framework of “[National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action](#)” which was created as a guide to allow countries to strategize steps to reduce plastic pollution.

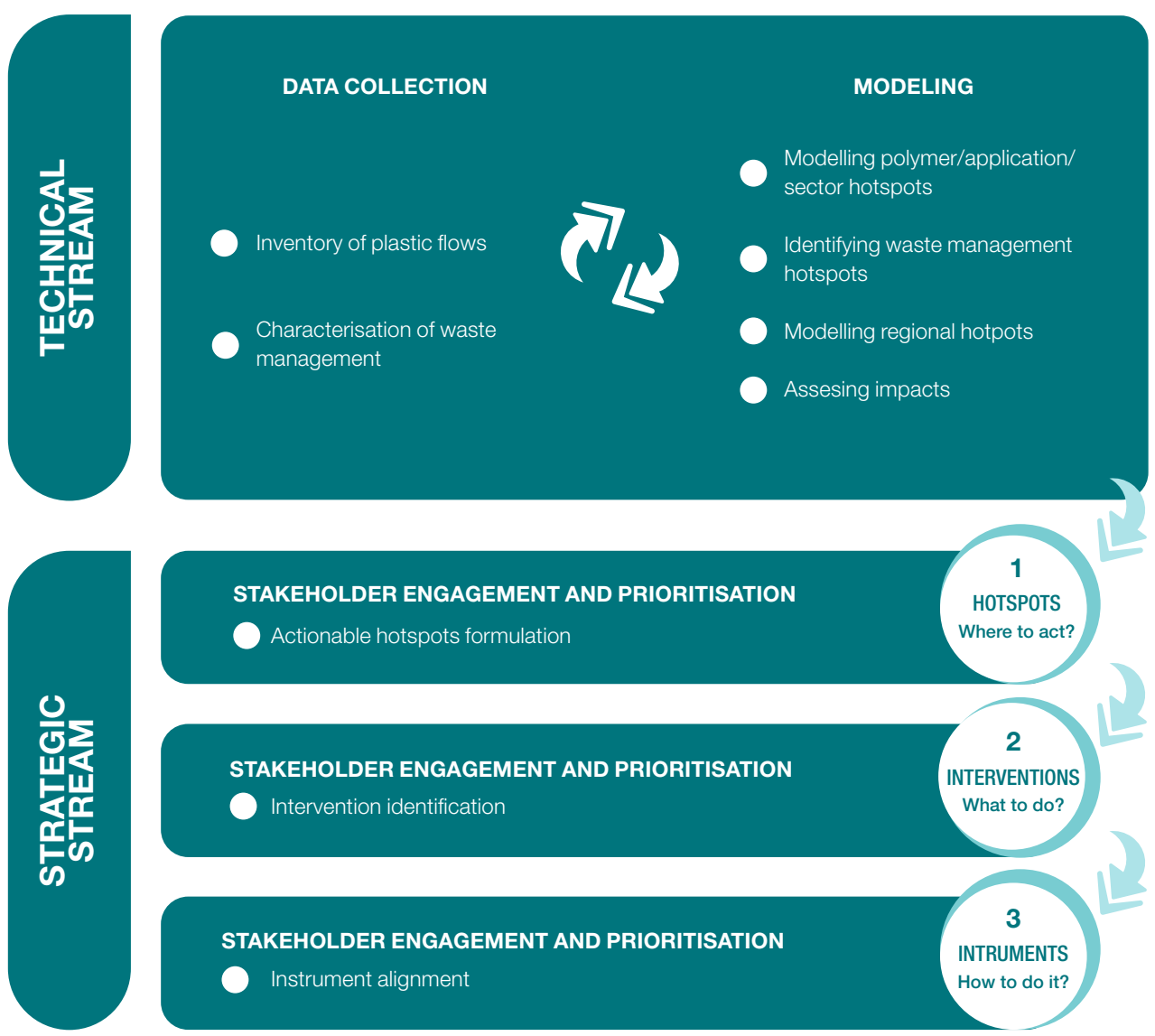
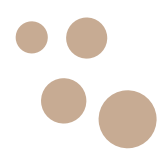


Figure 1: The three key stages of the Guidance (Hotspots/Interventions/Instruments), comprised of nine modules split into technical and strategic streams.



ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE & SPATIAL PLANNING

MEET Network tools featured in World Bank's resources database for nature-based tourism

The [DestiMED Plus project](#) and [MEET Network](#) approach and tools for Ecotourism development in Protected Areas led by IUCN-Med have gained further visibility and have been included in the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Good Practices database](#), adding to the [World Bank e-book on Nature-Based Tourism Tools and Resources Collection](#) and also showcased in [Panorama Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#). Additionally, they have been featured in the [ICO Islands Solutions](#), [Global Footprint Network Overshoot campaign](#), and [WestMED Initiative](#).

IUCN-Med has made a strong effort to give visibility to DestiMED PLUS project and the MEET Network. The Centre has presented them in 28 external events during 2021, including the EU Green Week and the IUCN World Conservation Congress, reaching around 1,500 stakeholders. DestiMED PLUS has also been present in three trade fairs: the World Travel Market London, ATTA Elevate Europe and the ATTA World Summit.

The MEET network, whose Secretariat is led by IUCN-Med, continues to grow in other aspects as well, with new partnerships with [Intrepid Travel](#) and [WWF Travel Italy](#) to

commercialise its ecotourism experiences, with the first experiences sold. The partnership has been featured in major travel media [Skift](#), [Travelweekly](#) or [ABTA Magazine](#) among others. Following the MEET approach, an ecotourism package was created for the first time for Ghar el Melh (Tunisia), increasing the catalogue of MEET experiences. This product was tested by various tour operators, a local cluster of entrepreneurs and key public authorities. Also this year, MEET has started a similar initiative in the salt-pans of the Bahia de Cadiz Natural Park (Spain) creating synergies with the [project MedArtSal](#).

Within the framework of the DestiMED PLUS project, eight ecotourism product tests were carried out in eight Mediterranean protected areas (in [Sardinia](#), [Croatia](#), Albania, [South Aegean](#), Corsica, Crete, Andalusia and Catalonia) covering six different countries and bringing over 30 international experts, including representatives from the EU Directorate General Environment and the InterregMED Community, creating great media traction. During this year, DestiMED PLUS also published its [first report card](#) on the impacts of Covid-19 on ecotourism in Mediterranean protected areas and how the project is supporting these changes.

© Meet Network



New projects for protected areas and sustainable tourism

Looking ahead, IUCN-Med is scaling-up efforts to build partnerships and synergies, and two new projects have started in 2021.

Firstly, IUCN-Med is participating in the [TECH4NATURE Partnership](#), an open partnership with world's leading Information and Communications Technology (ICT) provider Huawei. The partnership will provide guidance on the appropriate use of technology in area-based conservation and directly involve the ICT industry sector in supporting nature conservation. In this context, IUCN-Med will work in

four flagship protected areas in Spain with the support of Huawei's Tech4All.

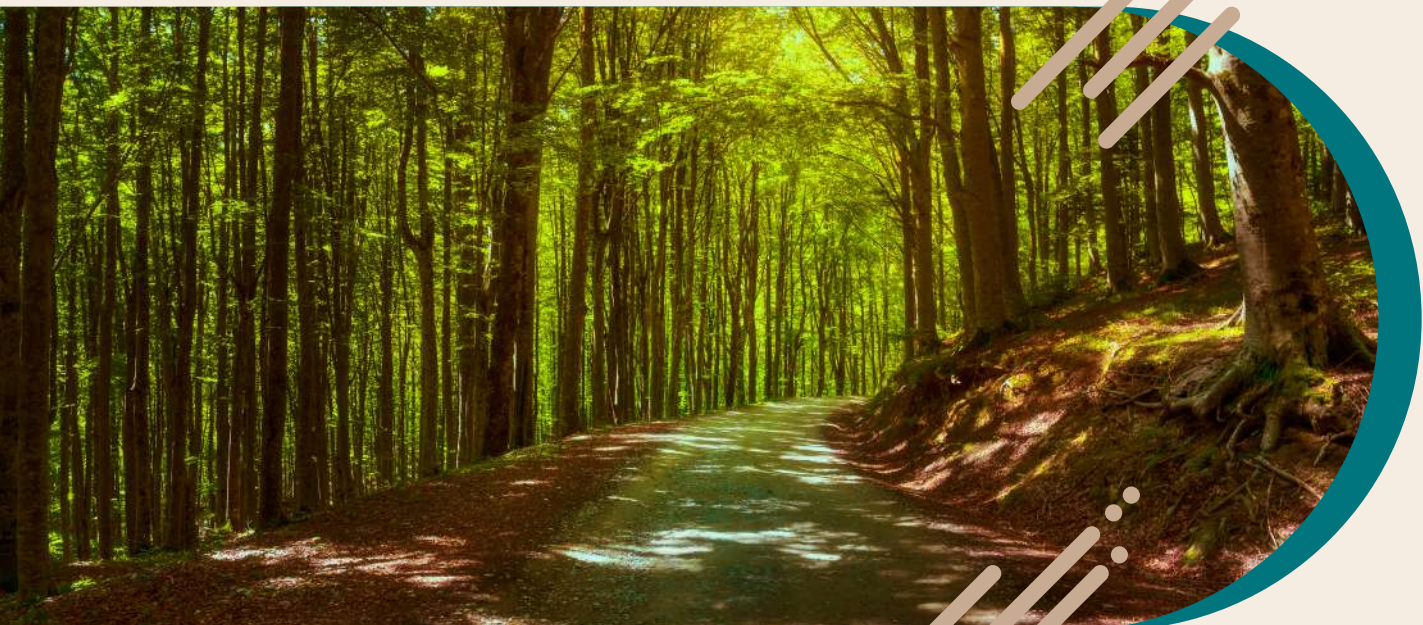
IUCN-Med will also participate in [the project Sustainable Tourism and Protected Areas in a Post-COVID World](#), funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project aims to develop a more crisis resilient and sustainable tourism landscape and in the spirit of "building back better", to improve the ecological and social aspects of tourism in and around protected and conserved areas.

Supporting Mediterranean sites to enter the IUCN Green List

IUCN-Med is responsible for the management of the Green List Programme in **Mediterranean countries**. The [IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#) is a global standard recognising the best-managed sites on the planet, supporting different global and regional targets for biodiversity conservation. It is composed of 17 criteria grouped into four themes: good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes. In 2021, two protected areas in Italy were added to the IUCN Green List; Arcipelago Toscano National Park and Foreste

Casentinesi, Monte Falterona and Campigna National Park, while the Green List status of the country's first National Park, Gran Paradiso, was renewed. Four other sites from France were also added to the [list](#).

In 2020, the Green List Programme was disseminated in Spain through a series of virtual events in collaboration with Europarc Spain, while the Spanish Green List Expert Group of Assessors (EAGL) started the process to re-assess the Doñana and Sierra Nevada National parks.



WATER

TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Identify threats to freshwater ecosystem species as well as mitigation measures and guidelines to help key productive sectors to integrate biodiversity into their activities and investments.

IUCN-Med helps to launch BIOBLITZES to combat invasive alien species (IAS)

In 2021, IUCN-Med organised nine networking activities with volunteers to raise awareness and engage citizens in the management of invasive alien species (IAS) within the framework of the [Life Invasaqua Project](#).



8
Bioblitzes

1 Fishermen competition and raising awareness activities (round-tables, students workshops, documentary projection)



5
Locations

Ebro Delta, Murcia (Segura basin), Almeria (city and river Andarax), Cádiz (marshlands of Trebujena), Seville (temporary lagoon in the Ranillas river)



267
Participants

Total participants registered



5
NGOs involved

Local support of:
Grupo Natura Freixe, ANSE, EcoAlmería, Ecourse, Sociedad Gaditana de Historia Natural



5
Target audiences

General public, NGOs, fishermen, schools, universities, local and regional authorities (Trebujena and Junta de Andalucía)



1
Goal

Raising awareness: EEI impacts and how to act + promotion of EASIN app to register data

Furthermore, in June, during the week event of the [Iberian Week on Invasive Species \(SIEI\)](#), two platforms developed by the [Life Invasaqua project](#) on aquatic invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula were presented: the [IBERMIS Platform](#) coordinated by IUCN-Med and the [IBERIAN INVASOR LIST Platform](#) led by Iberian Society of Ichthyology (SIBIC). Both platforms provide an online information system to visualise the locations of IAS populations that mainly affect freshwater and estuarine ecosystems.

The [IBERMIS Platform](#) specifically works by collecting citizen science observations through the [EASIN app](#), and will visualise the scientific information from the database of the [Iberian Society of Ichthyology](#). The platform also offers resources such as tools, guides, publications, references to regulations, training material and other documents that help to raise awareness and improve knowledge of the problem of aquatic invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula.



© Nick Lubushko Under

Generating knowledge to reduce water consumption in Mediterranean tourism

Regarding water management, IUCN-Med is participating in the Watershift project, funded by the MAVA Foundation, in collaboration with Vertigo Lab and BirdLife International. IUCN-Med is leading the analysis in the tourism sector to support the transformation of the most impacting sectors towards more sustainable practices and virtuous business models regarding water resources and biodiversity within

the Mediterranean. In 2021, the Centre published a [framing study](#) on best practices to reduce water consumption in the tourism sector in the region, specifically focusing on accommodation and golf infrastructures. The full study will evaluate the positive economic, social and environmental impacts of sustainable practices of tourism, as well as their effect on business models.



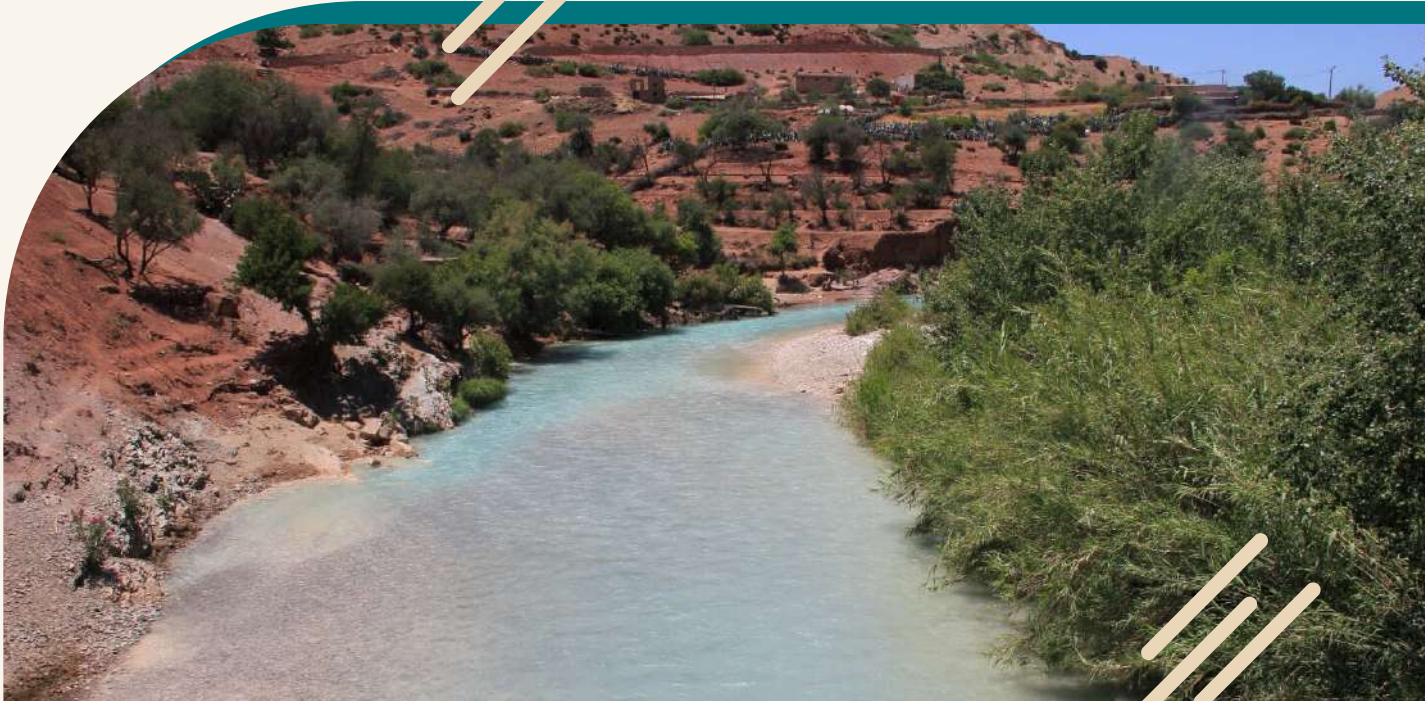
Freshwater expedition team (2019). © Manuel Lopes Lima

Highlighting the Sebou River and the importance of KBAs

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) can significantly contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity in terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems. During the World Rivers Day 2021, IUCN-Med launched an [interactive web story](#) on the Sebou river in Northern Morocco to depict freshwater biodiversity and highlight the importance of KBAs. The story also displayed spatial data on the assessed freshwater biodiversity for the river.

The Sebou river is the largest North African river by volume, covering an area of 40,000 km² that transcends across four regions and 17 provinces in Morocco. As a hotspot for native and threatened species, the area is also of vital socio-economic importance, contributing to agricultural and industrial activities in the country. Being home to nearly 20% of the population, it is essential to the livelihood of over 6.2 million people

© Manuel Lopes Lima



OCEANS

TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Improving the health of the Mediterranean Sea through the reduction of the impact of fisheries on vulnerable marine and coastal ecosystems and species and sustainable management and other human-driven impacts.



© IUCN

Policy & advocacy for sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean: New Fisheries Restricted Area

IUCN-Med welcomed the successful proposal made by DG Mare (Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) of a new Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Essential Fish Habitats **in the Bari Canyon** (Adriatic Sea, Italy) at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) commission meeting in June 2021. The technical proposal for the FRA was initially prepared by IUCN-Med in cooperation with COISPA Bari, ISMAR-CNR and the University of Bari and during its preparation it received the support of the Italian Directorate General of Maritime

Fisheries and Aquaculture. A Fisheries Restricted Area is a geographically defined area in which some specific fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of specific stocks as well as of habitats and ecosystems. Fisheries Restricted Areas, such as the permanent one also established this year at Jabuka/Pomo Pit FRA, are important examples of how both fisheries and the environment can benefit from effective management measures and help to bring sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, from 30 September to 1 October, IUCN-Med organised an online **capacity building workshop** on how to strengthen the role of biodiversity in sustainable fisheries. The workshop targeted regional civil society organisations in order to create capacities and understanding on the different approaches and tools available. 26 representatives from 16 different countries participated in the workshop.



© Pixabay

Identifying mitigation measures to reduce bycatch of Mediterranean marine vulnerable species

In 2021, the [Medbycatch 2](#) project (“Working together to reduce bycatch in the Mediterranean”) continued its work building on the data collected from the project’s first phase and identifying the best mitigation measures to reduce bycatch of marine vulnerable species in the Mediterranean. The project’s geographical scope reaches across five Mediterranean countries, being Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Croatia and Italy. Additionally, France and Spain are involved in policy and advocacy activities. The project is financed by the MAVA Foundation as a part of Action Plans M4 and M5: Reducing fishing impacts and pressures on marine habitats and species. IUCN-Med participates as a partner along with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), ACCOBAMS, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) and WWF Mediterranean.



© Med Bycatch project

Exploring the potential for marine OECMs in the Mediterranean



© Dreamstime

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are measures that help to support area-based conservation efforts that contribute to biodiversity conservation outcomes without meeting all the criteria of protected areas. The concept of OECMs was first introduced in the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In the Mediterranean, exploring the potential for OECMs is particularly important due to its nature as a small, enclosed area as well as the heavy anthropogenic activity that takes place within its borders. There is a need to explore the potential for marine OECMs and their practical implications in order to determine how they could contribute to conservation targets.

On a regional level, IUCN-Med prepared a virtual workshop to explore the potential for marine OECMs in the Mediterranean Sea, in joint organisation with [IUCN WCPA](#), [IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management - Fisheries Expert Group](#), the Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA - UNEP/MAP) and [ACCOBAMS](#), while collaborating with the [General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#) and [FAO](#). The workshop gathered almost 60 participants from marine protected areas agencies, representatives of ministries in charge of the environment, fisheries and other sectors, as well as staff of the relevant international organisations and marine experts.

Developing a vision for Mediterranean islands - Mediterranean Islands Collective Project

IUCN-Med is one of the direct partners of a new project with many regional partners, collaborating to protect nature in the Mediterranean islands. The project 'Mediterranean Islands Collective (MIC) was initiated in April 2021 and will end in October 2022. The collectively designed project aims to deliver biodiversity net conservation gains and prepare a path leading to long-term financial viability. The members of the Mediterranean Islands Collective will develop a joint vision and strategy to ensure a well-governed and coordinated project, which is expected to continue successfully beyond 2022. IUCN-Med's

responsibilities in this project are to facilitate the design of a Strategy and Action Plan to conserve the biodiversity on the Mediterranean islands, to conduct a diagnostic assessment and to carry out consultations with regions. The Action Plan, informed by the strategy, will aim to be implemented after 2022. The Action Plan will cover priority areas of intervention with activities that can be carried out simultaneously across different Mediterranean islands. These joint activities will focus on scaling-up and sharing best practice solutions, networking, capacity-building, advocacy, policy efforts, as well as fundraising.

Mediterranean Posidonia Network

IUCN-Med has been one of the key members of the Mediterranean Posidonia Network (MPN) contributing to both policy and communication efforts towards the MPN Strategy 2030 & Working Programme 2025. The MPN was born after the EU Event celebrated in Athens (Greece) in 2019 named *Anchors Away*. This network aims to bring together different stakeholders such as authorities, scientists, international environmental organisations, professionals, including yachting agents, marinas from the Mediterranean countries to monitor *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and maritime traffic effectively, reinforce Posi-

donia protection in the Mediterranean, develop anchoring and ecological mooring services and raise awareness. IUCN-Med attended the MPN 2021 Technical Workshop that took place in Formentera, Balearic Islands, Spain, between 21–24 September 2021. The objectives of the Technical Workshop 2021 were to organise exchanges on the MPN Roadmap and meet with stakeholders from the Island of Formentera and the Balearic to get feedback on their experience on Posidonia surveillance, eco-mooring and many other strategic measures implemented over more than ten years.





© Ben Davies / Pixabay

Forum of Marine Protected Areas helps establish a roadmap to ensure protection of the Mediterranean Sea

MedPAN, SPA/RAC, WWF, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and their partners organised the 3rd edition of the Forum of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean between the 28th of November and the 1st of December 2021 in Monaco. The objective of the hybrid forum event was to finalise the content of the Post-2020 Roadmap for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. This operational document aims to be a living and

regularly evaluated blueprint that generates the buy-in of all stakeholders needed to be involved in the implementation of its recommendations. The finalisation of the Roadmap will be the start of a wide mobilisation to ensure that 30% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected by 2030. IUCN-Med coordinated the Nature-based Solutions session "Combining conservation and ecological restoration" and presented the "Posidonia Banquettes" initiative.

A decision to tackle sulphur oxides emissions (SO_x) from ships in the Mediterranean

During the Barcelona Convention COP22, the participants reached an important decision to designate the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides, leading to the joint submission of the "Med SO_x ECA" proposal to the 78th Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) of the International Maritime Organization. In addition to the decision on the designation of the **Med SO_x ECA**, COP 22 adopted the **Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the**

Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) a strategic programme with Mediterranean countries to reverse the loss of biodiversity and put the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity on the path to recovery for the benefit of nature and people by 2030. The team of IUCN-Med participated in COP22 with three presentations as part of their work to inform and advise regional conventions: the first one on the update of the Mediterranean Red List of Cetaceans, the second one about the challenges and perspectives of blue tourism in the Mediterranean, and a third one on the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium.

CLIMATE

TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Promote the deployment of NbS across sectors and different types of ecosystems (coastal and marine, urban and agricultural) in a cross-cutting way.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Improving governance and management of Posidonia beach-dune systems with POSBEMED 2

[POSBEMED2](#) continues its activities to improve the status of Posidonia beach-dune systems around the Mediterranean coastline. By catalysing the results of the POSBEMED project, this second phase has been working to develop planning strategies that address key knowledge gaps and provide information that will enhance management decisions on adaptation, policies, planning and promotion in protected areas creating an overall coastal strategy, while simultaneously educating stakeholders and addressing their concerns.

This year, IUCN-Med together with the Conselleria de Medi Ambient i Territori of the Balearic Island Regional Government, organised and led a three-day capacity-building workshop in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The objective of the workshop was to explore opportunities and innovate solutions for nature-based management and marketing of natural Mediterranean beaches with *Posidonia oceanica*. The workshop gathered 65 participants from 11 Mediterranean countries, including destination managers, tourism board members, representatives of municipalities, protected area managers and private concessionaires from Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro and Albania. The participants worked in a dynamic, cross-sectoral environment to explore practical solutions through the sharing of knowledge and experiences.

Furthermore, IUCN-Med, in collaboration with the Conselleria de Medi Ambient i Territori of the Balearic Islands Regional Government and the management

body of Es Trenc-Salobrar de Campos Marine-Terrestrial Natural Park, developed an **Action Framework Plan for the sustainable management of the natural park's Posidonia beach-dune system**. The goal of the Action Plan is to provide a framework and recommendations to enhance nature-based management of the area, which has suffered significant erosion and loss of beach volume in past decades (with an average loss of 13.5 metres from 1956 to 2021), and to help the beach-dune system adapt to new climate change scenarios.

To complement technical work, IUCN-Med produced a series of videos aimed at growing awareness among coastal managers and beach users on the importance of Posidonia banquettes as a key element of resilience for Mediterranean coastal areas in the context of climate change and sea level rise, transforming key conservation messages into impactful stories.

© Mar Otero



Establishing pilot projects for blue carbon offsetting

As a partner in the [Life Blue Natura](#) project, IUCN-Med was in charge of the economic analysis of potential blue carbon projects in the context of voluntary markets and for the promotion of sectoral dialogue for the development of a portfolio of carbon offset projects that contribute to financing the conservation and regeneration of seagrass and coastal wetlands. To this end, IUCN-Med published the [Manual for the creation of blue carbon projects](#) in 2021 to address the growing interest in managing, protecting and restoring blue carbon habitats in the Mediterranean to their full potential as a part of local and global climate change mitigation policies. The manual explains the necessary methodological steps of designing a blue carbon project: from the design of the project on the ground to reporting the project according to diverse standards to obtain carbon credit offsets.

The [Life Blue Natura project](#) concluded with the establishment of two pilot projects for blue carbon offsetting compensation. These blue carbon projects are supported by the new **Andalusian carbon standard for the certification** of blue carbon credits, as well as the legal framework of the Andalusian Climate Change Law.

The pilot projects were presented at the workshop: *“Blue carbon at the heart of a healthy climate”* which led to a public-private dialogue on the voluntary carbon market involving companies, organisations and public entities to discuss the advantages and opportunities presented by carbon offsetting through blue carbon projects. The workshop, organised by IUCN-Med in Málaga, was attended by representatives of public administrations of several regions in Spain (Andalusia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia), as well as research institutions (CSIC Blanes), the Spanish Climate Change Office, the Andalusian Climate Change Office and private companies, including Navantia, Cepsa, Red Eléctrica and Grupo Eulen.

These activities were complemented with a media field visit to raise awareness on the potential role of blue carbon projects to preserve biodiversity, mitigate carbon emissions and to present the two new blue carbon projects for Andalusia.

© Rudmer Zwerver.



CASE STUDIES OF BLUE CARBON OFFSETTING PROJECTS IN ANDALUCIA

Blue carbon offsetting in the Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park

© Gabriel Roca / Unsplash

Type of project: Restoration and conservation of Posidonia oceanica meadows.

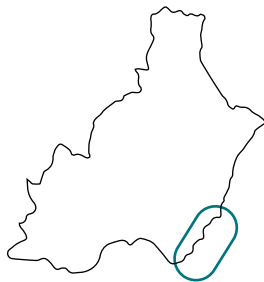
Location: Agua Amarga (Almeria) and Isleta del Moro (Almeria).

Ha. in which it acts: 11 hectares.

Budget: 273,060 euros (VAT excluded).

Carbon offset permanence for the project: 50 years.

Total CO₂ capture: 645 T.



© Juan Carlos Muñoz



Blue carbon offsetting pilot project in tidal marshes of the Bay of Cadiz

Type of project: Restoration of tidal marshes.

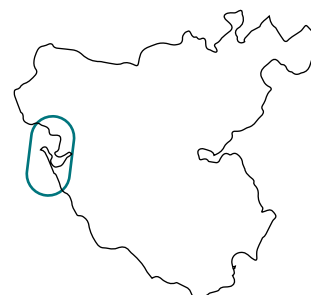
Location: Puerto Real and Puerto de Santa Maria (Cádiz).

Ha. in which it acts: 365 hectares.

Budget: 345,042 euros (VAT excluded).

Carbon offset permanence for the project: 50 years.

Total CO₂ capture: 106,367 T.



Applying adaptive management to protect ecosystem services in natural areas

From the 17th to the 18th of November 2021, the closing event of the [LIFE Adaptamed project](#) held in Málaga brought together policy-makers and experts from public administrations, protected areas, universities, researchers, NGOs and journalists to present and discuss the final results of the project, in addition to creating a forum for the exchange of experiences with other climate change adaptation projects in Spain and other parts of the Mediterranean. Talks were offered in Spanish and English with simultaneous translation and shared through a live-stream on the Facebook page of the project.

The event also included a visit to the newly declared National Park of Sierra de las Nieves, where IUCN aims to apply the learnings of LIFE Adaptamed as a part of a new LIFE project in partnership with the administration of the province of Málaga.

There was a highly significant representation of the spaces of the project, including the directors of the national parks of Sierra Nevada and Cabo de Gata and other protected areas of Andalusia. Ten representatives of Spanish universities, 11 representatives from other projects for climate change adaptation in Spain and the Mediterranean region (including several LIFE projects) completed the audience of the event, which saw more than 90 in-person participants and over 1,600 virtual participants.

In 2021, IUCN-Med co-organised two participatory workshops to raise awareness about the importance of climate change adaptation to protect ecosystem services provided by the protected areas of Sierra Nevada, Doñana and Cabo de Gata. The workshop approach involved multi-stakeholders, including NGOs, families, administration personnel and the general public into sessions that were participatory awareness workshops.



© LIFE Adaptamed

Building capacity for Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean

In May of 2021, IUCN-Med co-organised a technical conference called “Nature-based solutions for connectivity and environmental restoration within the framework of the National Green Infrastructure Strategy” to explore the opportunities that arise thanks to the new European funding framework “European Green Pact” for the post-COVID 19 economic recovery. This conference was organised with the Chair for Nature Conservation, which is linked to the International University of Andalusia (UNIA) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

Following the conference, IUCN-Med launched its first [assessment of IUCN NbS Global Standard in Mediterranean urban areas](#). The report summarises the results of the first assessment of a selection of **18 practices in Mediterranean cities** against the **Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™** in order to assess to what extent these interventions met the standard, and to identify opportunities and challenges for applying the standard in urban areas throughout the Mediterranean region. The assessment was also presented to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

In collaboration with Fundación Conama, IUCN-Med launched the first [Observatory of Nature-Based Solutions in Spain](#). The observatory includes tools that mimic the behaviour of natural ecosystems to solve problems

related to urban or territorial management: adaptation to climate change, water, food security or air quality. The aim of the tools is to help cities implement projects and compile success stories on a national scale, in order to replicate them in other places. The observatory will identify the main specialists in the field, and will compile a baseline of ongoing initiatives and success stories to improve knowledge on the subject.

Also in the Spanish context, IUCN-Med collaborated with the administration of the Málaga province in producing the '[Guide for the implementation of Nature-based Solutions in the province of Malaga](#)' which compiles 15 projects developed or being implemented in different municipalities.

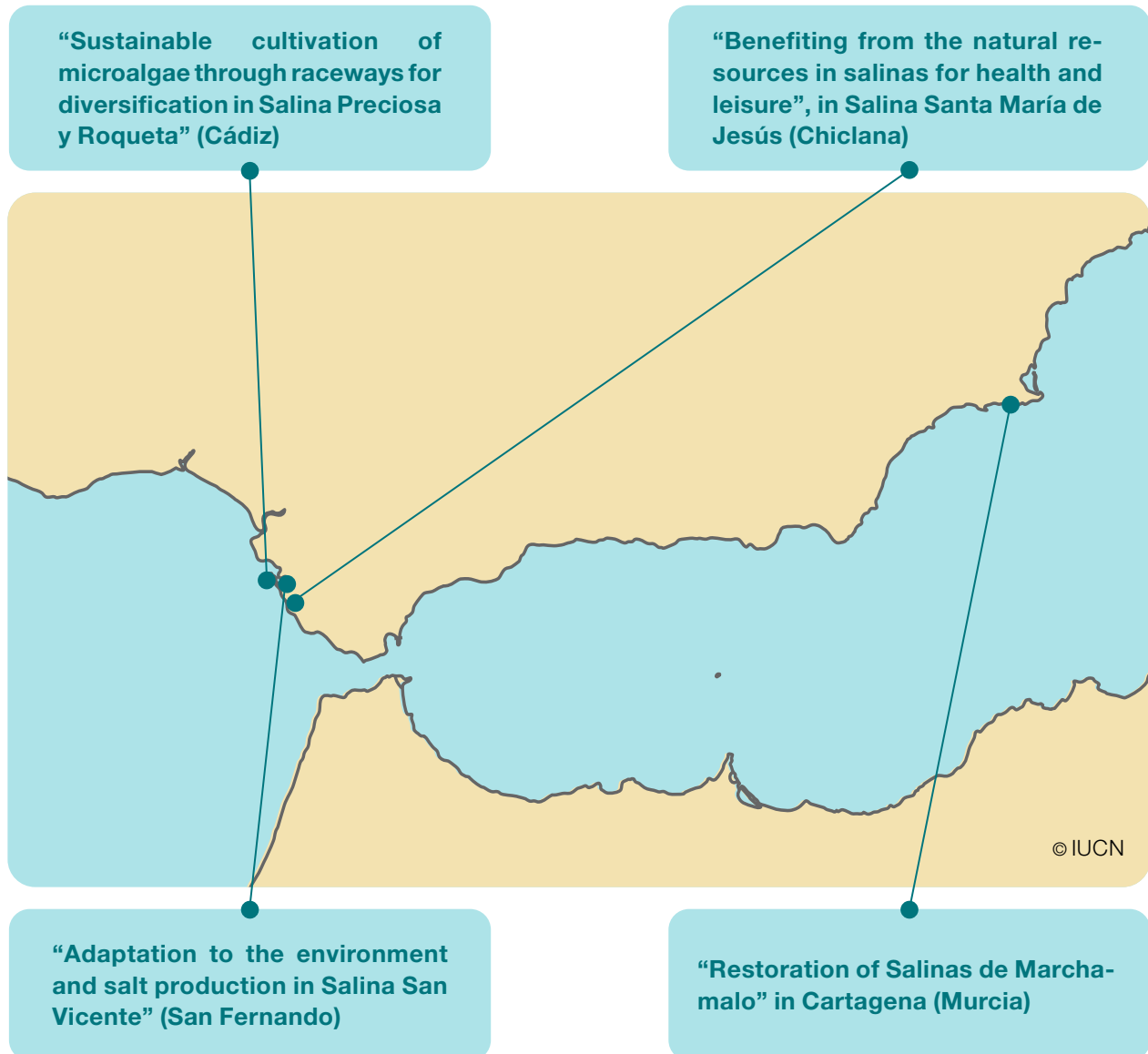
Promoting artisanal salt pans to preserve biodiversity and cultural heritage

In February 2021, the [MedArtSal project](#) issued a sub-grant for €480.000 and called for proposals from salt pan owners and managers in Italy, Spain, Lebanon and Tunisia to increase the sustainability of their salinas. IUCN-Med is coordinating the sub-grant call in Spain and as a result of this, different innovative activities have been selected to be granted, affecting three artisanal salt mines in Cadiz

and one in Murcia, Spain. These activities included diversification of activities, such as sustainable cultivation of microalgae, and using different resources in the salt pans for health and leisure activities, such as cosmetic products and a salt spa. The subgrantees are currently working on the implementation of the selected activities.



MEDARTSAL SUBGRANTED PROJECTS SELECTED IN SPAIN



On the first anniversary of the MedArtSal project launch and coinciding with the International Day of Sustainable Gastronomy 2021, IUCN-Med and the University of Cadiz organised an event in the Bahía de Cádiz Natural Park to present the progress made by the four projects selected. The event, which was attended by Daniel Sánchez Román, local councillor for Land Management in the province of Cádiz, engaged representatives from the salt industry, journalists, as well as private and public stakeholders, in active discussions about enhancing the value of artisanal salt pans.

IUCN-Med also organised a capacity-building workshop with SEO/BirdLife to discuss how to apply a natural capital approach to the artisanal salt sector to preserve cultural and traditional values as well as biodiversity. The workshop is framed in the project *“Integrated management for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands: nature-based solutions and sustainable economic practices,”* funded by MAVA Foundation, and has sought synergies with the MedArtSal project.

PEOPLE

TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Strengthening the sustainability of practices in sectors that are essential to the economies and people's livelihoods in the region.

REGIONAL FOCUS: NORTH AFRICA

Finalisation of IUCN North Africa Programme 2021–2024

In order to complement the new IUCN global Programme **Nature 2030**, IUCN-Med finalised a Mediterranean and [North African Programme for 2021–2024](#) in order to shape and adapt the vision to regional areas. The updated Programme also reaffirms commitments from North African countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya,

Egypt) to contribute to working with governmental, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions. Currently, IUCN has 34 Members in North Africa as well as 211 Commission members providing scientific support and advice to projects and initiatives.





The signing of the agreement between IUCN and the French Development Agency for the implementation of the third phase of the OSCAN PPI (Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa) at the French Pavillion during the IUCN Conservation Congress. Grethel Aguilar, deputy General Director signed on behalf of IUCN. © IUCN

Third phase of PPI-OSCAN secured to continue empowering CSOs in North Africa

The third phase of PPI OSCAN (Small-scale Initiative Programme for CSOs in North Africa) has secured a new donor “Sigrid Rausing Trust” to be joining FFEM and MAVA Foundation for the period 2021–2024. This new phase will provide an opportunity for the historical CSOs

that have already participated in the second phase to scale up their projects, and invite emerging CSOs in the four countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) to submit new proposals.

Impacts and learnings from PPI-OSCAN 2

2021 was a year in which field activities and in-person meetings were gradually recovered, following the restrictions and health measures of each country. The duration of some projects was extended to allow CSOs complete actions that had been disrupted by the pandemic. As the managing organisation, IUCN-Med organised in-person training workshops on finance, strategic planning, Communications and project monitoring in the four countries of the programme.

Moreover, a series of five online seminars organised with the CSOs enabled an active exchange on citizen science, regional networking, ecotourism in wetlands, ecotourism in mountains and on the ecotourism methodology developed by the MEET Network.

The closing year of PPI-OSCAN 2 allowed the completion of the joint capitalisation process with the sister programme in West and Central Africa (PPI), managed by the IUCN French Committee.

The assessment of this second phase of PPI-OSCAN 2 highlighted the effectiveness of the support given to CSOs, and the visible impacts of this support in the four components of the programme, such as: project implementation, capacity building, networking between CSOs and the governments, and dissemination of experiences and learnings.

Specific potential for improvement was identified in the areas of monitoring conservation and organisational impacts delivered, as well as networking between CSOs. Likewise, greater presence of projects working in wetlands, coastal ecosystems and climate change mitigation will be sought in next phases. In all four countries, the public administration has been actively involved, whether in the selection of grantee organisations, during the implementation of projects or by integrating the learnings of certain projects in their own strategies. In Libya, the CSOs have played a notable role in the revision of national regulations related to environmental issues or associations.

SUCCESS STORIES



© Association Foggara d'Aghmoul

Strengthening connectivity of oasis ecosystems in Algeria

The association “Foggara d’Aghmoul” has installed irrigation channels across 2 km to conserve the palm groves and biodiversity in the Oasis d’Ouled Yahia. In this area,

which is recognised as a Ramsar site, decreasing water levels in the Foggara – the main local source of water – are causing episodes of intense drought and soil salinization, leading to an increase in fires in the palm grove.

This situation particularly affects local farmers, who are losing cultivable land and their interest in agriculture. However, these farmers sustain the Oasis’s traditional planting system of several vegetation layers in the area.

To address these challenges, the members of the Foggara association of Aghmoul launched a campaign to plant palm trees. Moreover, the association has dug a well to install irrigation channels, cleaned up the palm grove and pruned the palm trees to encourage bird nesting, as is traditional in the Oasis.

Finally, the development of an ecotourism itinerary, which has already been visited by over 250 people, is contributing to promoting ornithology, valuing the wetland in the area, as well as the local heritage.

Understanding the dispersal pattern of vulnerable birds

Association Marocaine pour la Protection des Rapaces (AMPR) is managing a recovery and rehabilitation centre in the region of Bouznika (Benslimane), where 42 rescued birds of prey have been kept until they could be reintroduced into the wild.

The association has also managed to tag 19 eagles with GPS transmitters, which make it possible to track many of

the species on a daily basis. Preliminary results from their study are shedding light on the dispersal pattern for most immature and erratic raptors. By sharing this information with the Moroccan electricity sector, the association is improving the knowledge of technical specialists, so that dangerous power lines can be identified especially the ones that pose a risk of electrocution to birds, and thus reduce their mortality.



TransCap Programme Supports Civil Society Organisations in the Maghreb

The PPI-OSCAN has a twin project in 2021, the [TransCap programme](#) funded by the [Regional Ministry on Social Affairs and Sports, Government of the Balearic Islands](#) with a full budget of €135.342. The new programme launched a call for projects run by CSOs in specific areas of Morocco and Tunisia. Projects related to biodiversity

conservation and climate change mitigation will be funded for 12 months with a maximum of €10.000. The [TransCap programme](#) will strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacities of CSOs protecting the environment in the provinces of Morocco and Tunisia along the Mediterranean.

OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSCAP PROJECT LOCATIONS FOR 2021–2022



IUCN GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS

Young Mediterranean leaders discuss ecosystem governance for the region at IUCN's first Global Youth Congress

In the Spring of 2021, the first IUCN Global Youth Summit took place. IUCN-Med co-hosted with the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI Marseille), the Mediterranean Youth for Climate Action Network (MedYCA) and other NGOs a side event called "[Empowering Mediterranean Youth to Strengthen the Governance of Ecosystems](#)"

which brought together 120 young participants from the region. Moreover, this webinar provided the opportunity for youth participants to generate discussions and ideas that were integrated into a three-day workshop on ecosystems governance during the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS MEDITERRANEAN SOLUTIONS

After a year of postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IUCN World Conservation Congress finally took place in Marseille from the 4th to the 9th of September 2021.

IUCN-Med participated with 11 other conservation organisations to collectively host the "Mediterranean Solutions" stand, which held a series of events to mobilise action for a nature-based recovery across the region.

The organisations included [ACCOBAMS](#), [Conservatoire du Littoral](#), [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#), [MedPAN](#), [MedWet](#), [The MedFund](#), [Tour du Valat](#), [UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC](#), [UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu](#) and [WWF Mediterranean](#), orchestrated under the financial support of the [MAVA foundation](#).

© IUCN



Six main Mediterranean takeaways from the IUCN Congress:



Commitments of eight Mediterranean governments and 5 NGOs to achieving 10% of marine protected areas (MPAs) under “strong protection” and zero discharge of plastic into the sea within 10 years in the region, under the [PAMEX Initiative](#).



Two new funding initiatives were launched to protect Highly Protected Marine Areas and freshwater ecosystems in the Mediterranean ([DIMFE Initiative](#)) as well as supporting civil society actions in North African countries ([PPI-OSCAN - Phase III](#)).



Three regional councillors from the Mediterranean were elected, Sonia Castañeda (Spain, Fundación Biodiversidad), Imèn Meliane (Tunisia, WCPA) and Maud Lelièvre (France, Les Éco-maires).



IUCN Members approved [Resolution 31 - The implementation of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean basin](#) calling on Mediterranean governments and civil society to implement and actively promote NbS through the creation of networks and green infrastructures.



In an example of transboundary cooperation, Italy, France, Monaco, and Spain committed to developing a proposal to establish a [Particularly Sensitive Sea Area in the North West Mediterranean](#) through the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), to protect large cetaceans and other migratory species, supported by several global, regional and sectoral organisations and institutions, such as ACCOBAMS, UNEP/MAP, IUCN and WWF.



A joint call “[For a plastic-free Mediterranean](#)”: the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region and IUCN signed a joint commitment to multiply actions to reduce plastic pollution, including calls for local projects, establishing an observation system, improving knowledge on best practices in the framework of a Charter of Commitment of Mediterranean regions.



The Mediterranean stand acted as a platform to present the findings and results of different studies by conservation organisations working in the Mediterranean region. These findings showed consensus on the need to act to reverse biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, the 'Mediterranean Solutions' stand received the visits of representatives from several governments, including:

- The Minister for the Environment of Libya, Dr. Ibrahim Al Arabi Munir.
- The State Secretary for the Environment of Spain (Hugo Morán).

- The DG of Environment and Quality of Life in Tunisia (Hédi Chébill).
- The Councillor for the Environment and Land Planning of the Regional Government of the Balearic Islands (Miquel Mir Gual).



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PARTNERSHIPS

Spanish government renews support for IUCN's activities in the Mediterranean

Towards the end of the year, the Spanish third Vice-President of the Government and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Teresa Ribera, and the Director-General of IUCN, Bruno Oberle, signed a Collaboration Protocol to continue promoting the work of IUCN-Med in Spain. As a result, both institutions are

discussing the main terms of a binding agreement, which will provide a framework for the implementation of activities of IUCN-Med, as well as financial support and the official recognition of the Mediterranean office as an international organisation in Spain.

Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic © IUCN



Innovative partnerships: Mediterranean Consortium to protect Biodiversity

During March 2021, IUCN-Med signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with several other partners to mark the launch of an innovative partnership: the **Mediterranean Consortium to protect Biodiversity**. The Consortium aims to support projects that effectively protect and restore Mediterranean biodiversity; identify, implement and promote Nature-based Solutions, and mobilise and support local communities to preserve natural resources and manage their impacts on health and quality of life. IUCN-Med was a cosigner along with the organisations [MedWet \(the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative of Ramsar\)](#), [MedPan \(Mediterranean Protected Areas Network\)](#), [PIM \(Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative\)](#), [Tour du Valat](#), [AIFM \(International Association for Mediterranean Forests\)](#), with the support of [Conservatoire du littoral](#).

The first example of this collaboration will be the submission of a **joint project on Nature-based Solutions in Mediterranean coastal areas**, which will be co-financed by the [French Development Agency \(AFD\)](#) and the [French Facility for Global Environment \(FFEM\)](#). Going forward, the creation of a think-tank under the auspices of the Consortium will allow the development of new field initiatives to promote the integration of sustainable development with concrete conservation actions. An active “red alert” network will inform policy-makers and donors about projects affecting biodiversity in order to find solutions to prevent or mitigate impacts.

Collaboration with the private sector: Agreements with Fundación Cepsa and FEAP

IUCN-Med will collaborate with **Fundación Cepsa** in advising on its environmental projects as well as in the areas of ecological transition and protection of water resources. Through the framework of the agreement, IUCN will advise Fundación Cepsa in the approach and development of projects aimed at nature conservation and sustainable development. The agreement contemplates that IUCN-Med will offer advice to the Cepsa Foundation on the new strategic points of its 2022–2025 work programme, such as the promotion of activities aimed at fostering ecological transition and the protection of water resources.

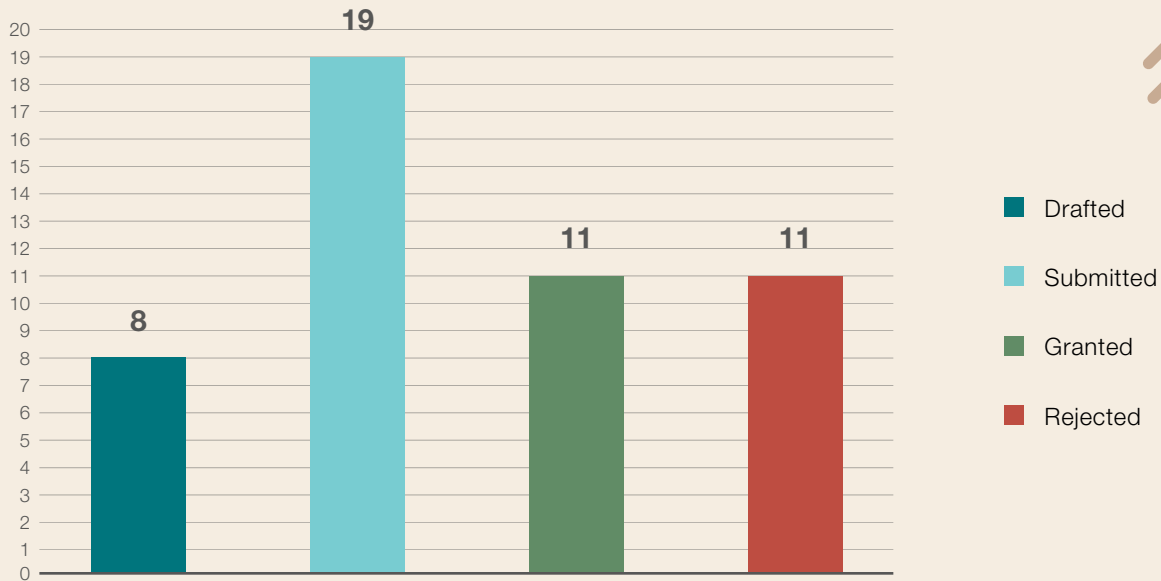
Also, In Rome, the **Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)** and IUCN signed an MoU for fostering collaboration on subjects relative to the sustainability of aquaculture and the conservation of marine ecosystems. This MoU will be managed from IUCN-Med and will focus on the region but activities might also be developed in other parts of Europe, including freshwater ecosystems.

Representants of CEPESA and IUCN-Med during the signature of the agreement. © Fundación Cepsa



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

IUCN-Med has been working on the diversification of donors in the last few years. The team has submitted 41 proposals for projects in 2021 in collaboration with other organisations to different calls and private foundations.



New projects launched in 2021

IUCN-Med begins activities in seven new projects in 2021 with regional partners

Project	EU CALL/ Donors
SOILGUARD	Horizon 2020
SAFEGUARD	Horizon 2020
Mediterranean Monk Seal Conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean	Monk Sea Alliance (MSA)
NbS from marine ecosystems in a post COVID-19 era	Principality of Monaco (Government Fund)
REST-COAST	Horizon 2020
TRANSCAP	Regional government of Balearic Islands
IMPETUS	Horizon 2020
Post-COVID-19 recovery through sustainable tourism	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Tech4Nature	HUAWEI

KEY FIGURES 2021



36

North African
breeding Raptors
Assessed for
the The IUCN
Red List of
Threatened
Species™



2

New
projects
launched



41

Proposals
for projects
submitted for
funds in 2021



11

projects
granted
in 2021



1

story map
published



2

New Green List
candidate sites
attained



14

Workshops



13

New Members,
making a total
of 258 IUCN
Mediterranean
Members by the
end of 2021



6

new cooperation
agreements
signed in 2021



9

press
releases



3

electronic
bulletins
published



6

publications

Social media:



facebook

23,105 followers



twitter

5,854 followers

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

JANUARY

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCEANS | Wed, 20 Jan 2021 | The first meeting of Mediterranean partners to coordinate a response to *Pinna nobilis* crisis.

PEOPLE | Thu, 21 Jan 2021 | Resolutions promoted by IUCN Members in the Mediterranean region.

PEOPLE | Tue, 26 Jan 2021 | Sharing experiences of cooperation with the private sector at the CMS Energy Task Force.

PEOPLE | Wed, 27 Jan 2021 | MEDARTSAL call for proposals - small grants for artisanal salinas in the Mediterranean.

FEBRUARY

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

OCEANS | Thu, 04 Feb 2021 | MedBycatch 2 - Working together to reduce bycatch in the Mediterranean.

OCEANS | Mon, 22 Feb 2021 | Cyprus and Menorca monitor local plastic leakage as a first step to abate plastic pollution.

OCEANS | Tue, 23 Feb 2021 | As UNEA5 kicks off, ground-breaking Plastic Pollution Hotspotting Results Published for Seven Countries in Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean.

MARCH

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

LAND | Mon, 15 Mar 2021 | Six international organizations join forces to create the Mediterranean Consortium to Protect Biodiversity.

LAND | OCEANS | Wed, 17 Mar 2021 | POSBE-MED 2 - Governance and management of Posidonia beach- dune systems across the Mediterranean.

The work of IUCN-Med and its presence in the Mediterranean:

- LAND
- WATER
- CLIMATE
- OCEANS
- PEOPLE

APRIL

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PEOPLE | Mon, 05 Apr 2021 | IUCN welcomes three new Mediterranean Members.

LAND | Tue, 20 Apr 2021 | Ten protected areas in Switzerland, France and Italy enter IUCN Green List.

PEOPLE | Tue, 20 Apr 2021 | Young Mediterranean leaders have their say at the first Global Youth Summit.

MAY

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

CLIMATE | Mon, 03 May 2021 | TECHNICAL CONFERENCE: Nature-based solutions for connectivity and environmental restoration within the framework of the National Green Infrastructure Strategy.

CLIMATE | Mon, 10 May 2021 | First guidelines to design and deploy Blue Carbon projects in Europe and the Mediterranean.

PEOPLE | Wed, 12 May 2021 | New IUCN Open Project Portal to increase transparency and accountability.

PEOPLE | Wed, 19 May 2021 | Launch of the call for projects to support Civil Society Organizations in the Maghreb (TransCap).

WATER | Mon, 31 May 2021 | PLATFORMS: IBERMIS AND EEI-SIBIC. New Tools for Citizen Science in the face of Invasive Alien Species.

JUNE

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LAND | Tue, 08 Jun 2021 | IUCN Green List standard approved for application in Spain.

OCEANS | Thu, 17 Jun 2021 | Exploring the potential for marine OECMs in the Mediterranean.

LAND | Fri, 18 Jun 2021 | MEDARTSAL promotes the recovery of artisanal salt pans to boost the local economy and preserve biodiversity and cultural heritage.

JULY

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PEOPLE | Tue, 06 Jul 2021 | Partnership with In-trepid Travel brings MEET Network's ecotourism experiences to wider markets.

OCEANS | Thu, 15 Jul 2021 | Sign up for our Workshop on Policy & Advocacy for Sustainable Fisheries in the Mediterranean.

OCEANS | Thu, 15 Jul 2021 | Gathering ideas and recommendations from local stakeholders in Menorca to develop an Action Plan for plastic reduction.

PEOPLE | Mon, 19 Jul 2021 | Workshop for young champions for nature and forests at World Conservation Congress.

LAND | Tue, 20 Jul 2021 | Successful Kick-off Meeting for the H2020 SOILGUARD project.



© Sergio Cerrato

AUGUST

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

LAND | Mon, 23 Aug 2021 | Participatory workshops on climate change and protection of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada and Cabo de Gata.

CLIMATE | Tue, 31 Aug 2021 | "Mediterranean Solutions" – an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate nature-based recovery at IUCN Congress.

SEPTEMBER

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

LAND | Sat, 04 Sep 2021 | IUCN launches recommendations to conserve Rüppell's vulture in the Mediterranean.

CLIMATE | Sun, 05 Sep 2021 | Launch of the first assessment of IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™ in Mediterranean urban areas.

CLIMATE | Thu, 09 Sep 2021 | IUCN Congress witnesses key political commitments and new funding initiatives, amid consensus on Mediterranean climate and biodiversity crisis.

PEOPLE | Thu, 09 Sep 2021 | Three regional councillors from the Mediterranean elected at IUCN Congress.



OCTOBER

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

LAND | Wed, 27 Oct 2021 | New platform of native North African trees and shrubs to halt biodiversity loss and desertification.



© Archivio Parco Nazionale Arcipelago Toscano

NOVEMBER

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

WATER | Sat, 06 Nov 2021 | The Sebou river: assessment of a North African treasure.

CLIMATE | Sat, 06 Nov 2021 | SEMINAR: Blue carbon at the heart of a healthy climate.

CLIMATE | Mon, 08 Nov 2021 | The natural capital approach as a tool to highlight the contribution of artisanal salt works to the generation of shared value for nature and society.

LAND | Sun, 14 Nov 2021 | Livestreamed! Protecting ecosystem services through adaptive management – LIFE Adaptamed project closing conference.

WATER | Tue, 16-18 Nov 2021 | Three-day capacity-building workshop for the tourism sector on the nature-based management and marketing of Mediterranean natural beaches with *Posidonia oceanica*.

PEOPLE | Fri, 19 Nov | Spanish government renews support for IUCN's activities in the Mediterranean.

PEOPLE | Fri, 19 Nov 2021 | Canary Islands rejoins the IUCN as a Member.

LAND | Tue, 30 Nov 2021 | Half of raptors breeding in North Africa are threatened with extinction – IUCN report.

DECEMBER

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

LAND | Wed, 01 Dec 2021 | A step further to unravel the mystery of Rüppell's vultures in the Mediterranean.

PEOPLE | Fri, 24 Dec 2021 | Collaboration agreement between Cepsa Foundation and IUCN.

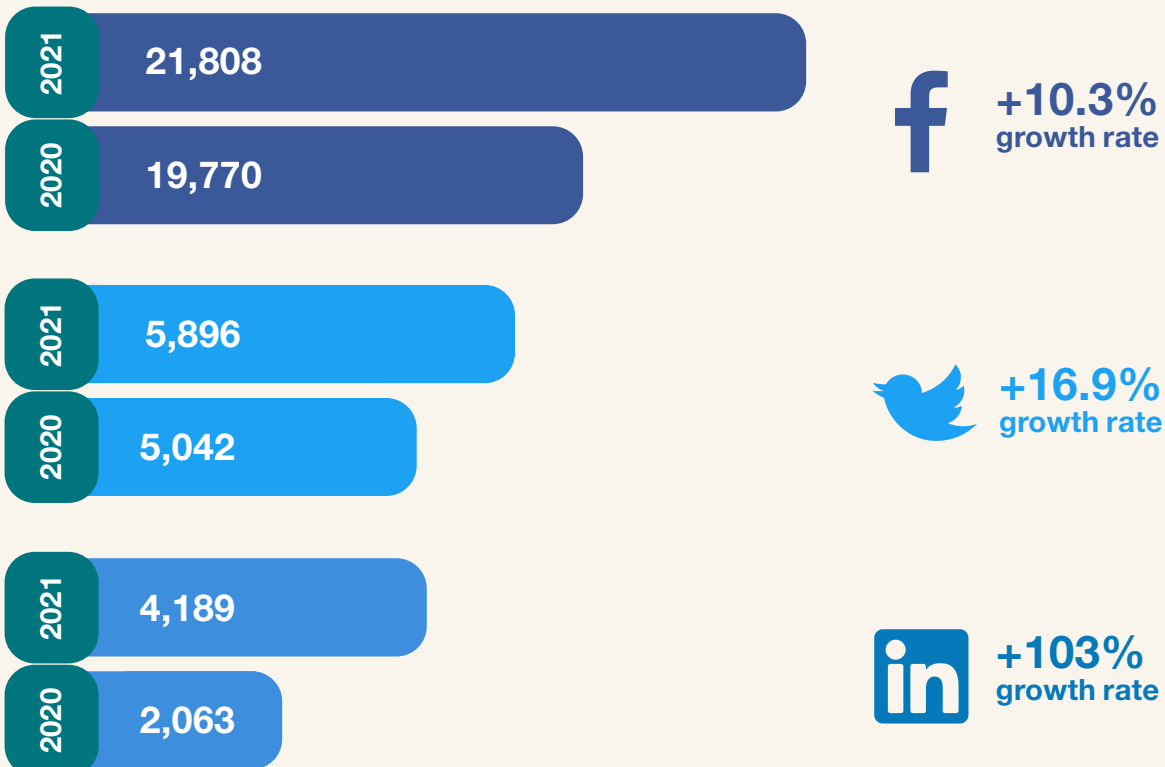
PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2021



Turning the challenges into new opportunities

In 2021, social media helped to create new digital spaces for dialogue, making it possible for the IUCN-Med audience to follow several live-streamed events. Whether during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille or at the closing conferences of two different LIFE projects, conservation experts from the Mediterranean and North African regions got the chance to join events virtually and participate actively asking questions, some of which were answered live.

Within IUCN-Meds social media channels, LinkedIn has been the fastest-growing channel, with a 103% increase in fans (4,189 fans), followed by Twitter which increased by 16.9% (5,896 fans) and Facebook with 10.3% more fans (21,808).

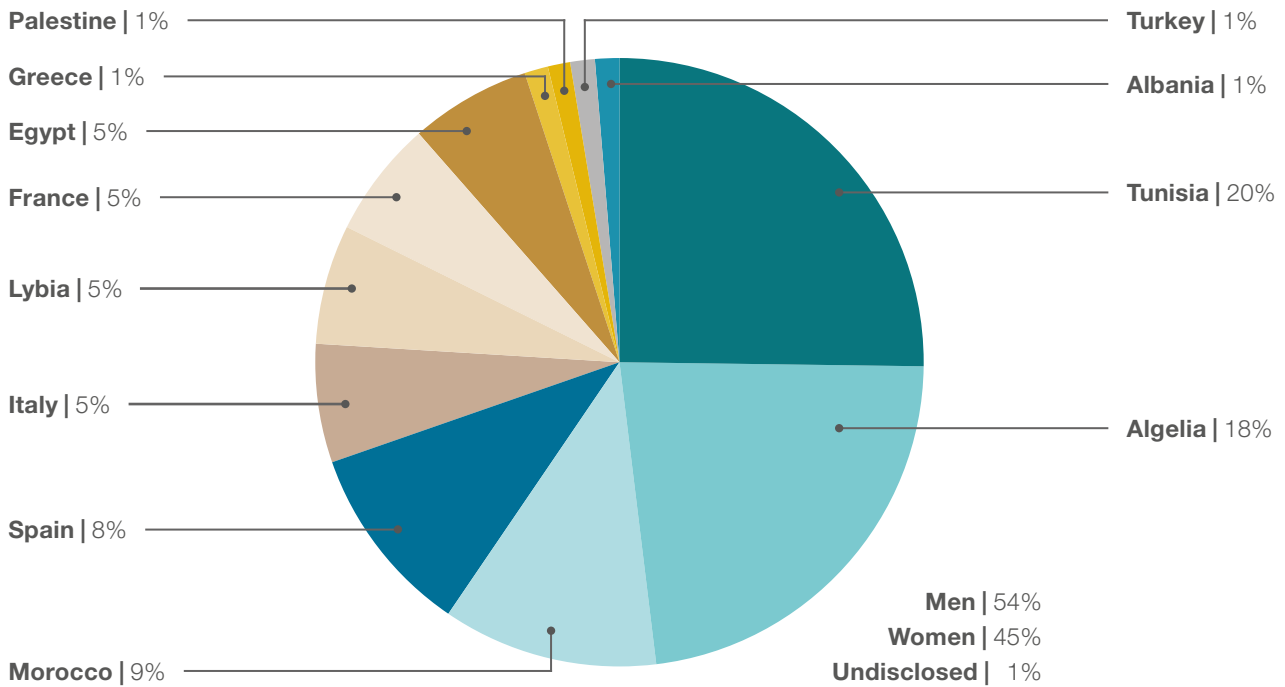


© Maverick Ocean / Unsplash



Distribution by country

57% of the audience on Facebook is located in North Africa, with Tunisia running in first place (20%), closely followed by Algeria (18%), Morocco (9%), Spain (8%), then Libya, Italy, France and Egypt with (5%) each.



As IUCN-Med continues to develop its work with civil society, several calls for grants obtained exceptionally high levels of engagement on social media. This was the case of the call for projects of the TransCap programme, which outperformed all previous records in terms of likes (503), shares (305) and comments (120).

Furthermore, the launch of new partnerships, such as the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium or the Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture and key events, like the Global Youth Summit was received with great excitement by our social media followers.

Storymaps proved to be a highly successful format to share the findings of different biodiversity assessments and Red List assessments. Similarly, videos produced for the POSBEMED 2 project helped to share messages related to climate change mitigation and coastal resilience.



The best performing content:

f CALL FOR PROJECTS - TransCap



174,778
People reached


503
Likes (New record)

305
Shared (New record)

120
Comments (New record)

1,386
Link clicks

t POSBEMED 2 Video - How are Mediterranean beaches affected by storms?



26,243
People reached

78
Likes

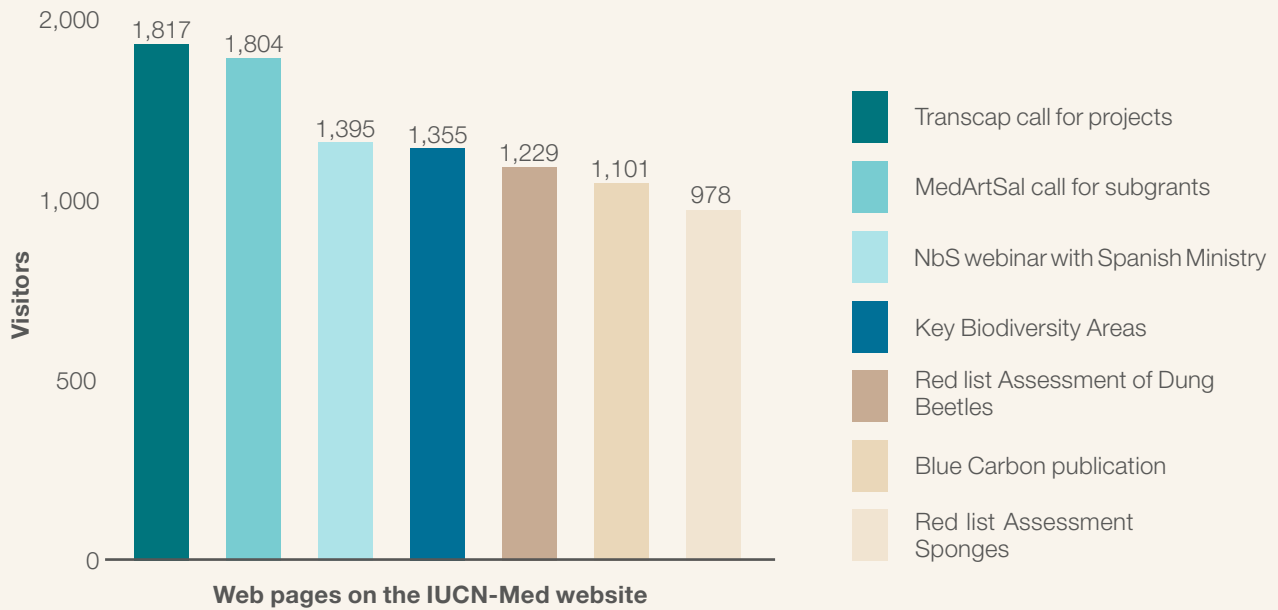
23
Retweets

6,514
Video views

On the IUCN website

Within the Mediterranean region, the IUCN-Med web pages received a total of **67,961 visits between Q1-Q3**, which is an increase of **(+38%)** compared to 2020 (Comparing the Q1-Q3 from 2020 to 2021).

Most popular IUCN-Med web pages

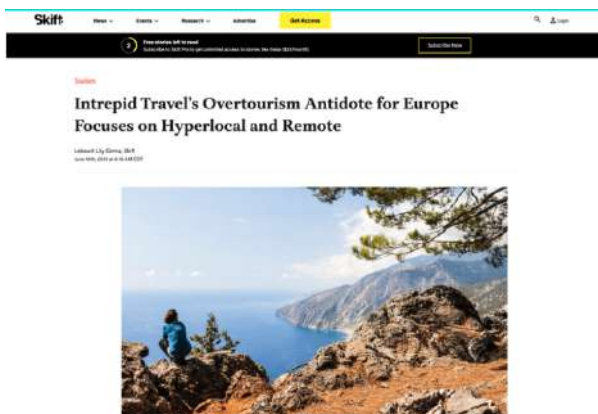


© MEET Network



MULTIMEDIA PRESENCE AROUND THE REGION

MEET Network featured on top travel industry site (Skift):



MEET Network featured on top travel industry site (Skift):

<https://skift.com/2021/06/16/intrepid-travels-overtourism-antidote-for-europe-focuses-on-hyperlocal-and-remote/>

(FranceInfo) Environment: six nature reserves in Haute-Savoie receive the international "Green List" label (Press release by HQ):

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/haute-savoie/environnement-six-reserves-naturelles-de-haute-savoie-decrochent-le-label-liste-verte-international-2070031.html>



Bruno Oberle, director-general of IUCN featured in (El País) urging to halt the destruction of ecosystems biodiversity loss:

<https://elpais.com/clima-y-medio-ambiente/2021-11-26/la-perdida-de-biodiversidad-es-todavia-invisible-para-el-ciudadano-y-esta-en-lo-que-comemos-bebemos-y-respiramos.html>



Greece © Will Truettner / Unsplash

MEDIA TRIPS

LIFE Adaptamed Media Trip

A media trip to the pilot sites in Sierra Nevada National Park and Cabo de Gata y Níjar Natural Park was organised in November 2022. The event allowed journalists from national and local media to learn more about the technical aspects and impacts of the project actions, as well as to interview the directors of the natural parks. The trip was attended by 12 journalists and led to the publication of articles on more than 14 media outlets (EFEverde, El País, El Diario.es, ABC, Diario Ideal Granada, Revista Foresta, La Verdad de Murcia, Granada Hoy, El Diario de Almería, Málaga Hoy, Agencia SINC and two interviews on TV (Movistar and Canal Sur TV).



© IUCN

LIFE Blue Natura Media Trip

Journalists from the scientific, environmental and economic fields were contacted for a day field visit which took place on November 26 in the Bay of Cadiz for the context of the Life Blue Natura project. A general invitation was

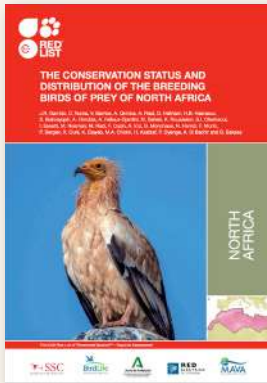
also extended to 5 members of the Spanish Association of Science Communication. In total, 11 journalists confirmed their attendance, mostly national, including one international media (France Press).

PUBLICATIONS



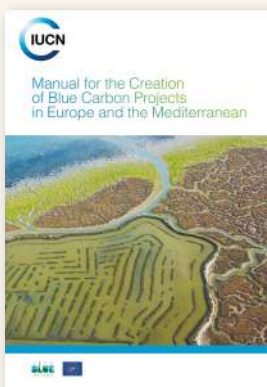
[Feasibility study for the preparation of Blue Carbon offsetting projects in Andalusia, Spain \(2021\)](#)

IUCN-Med has designed a series of actions to prepare and implement carbon projects aiming to conserve and generate Blue Carbon in the framework of the Life Blue Natura project. This work evaluates the feasibility of potential projects that could become part of the Andalusia Emissions Offsetting System (SACE - Sistema Andaluz de Compensación de Emisiones) or voluntary markets, according to the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), in coastal wetlands and *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows.



[The conservation status and distribution of the breeding birds of prey of North Africa](#)

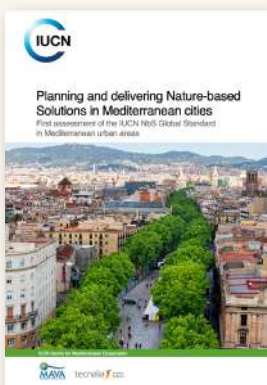
The first IUCN Red List assessment of the conservation status of raptors in North Africa shows that almost half of the species with breeding populations in the region are classified as threatened with extinction. The report also highlights the overall lack of data on raptors throughout the North Africa region, which affects the distribution, population size and trends, as well as threats, with 42% of species having unknown population trends.



[Manual for the Creation of Blue Carbon Projects in Europe and the Mediterranean](#)

In particular, this manual presents all the necessary methodological steps, from the design of a blue carbon project on the ground to reporting according to diverse standards to obtain carbon credit offsets. Furthermore, it includes a selection of the best options in terms of restoration for mitigation, how to optimise efforts to obtain field data and building robust estimates within the boundaries of blue carbon projects. The manual intends to respond to the growing interest in managing, protecting, and restoring these blue carbon habitats to their full potential as a part of local and global climate change mitigation policies.

[Available in English and Spanish.](#)



[Planning and delivering Nature-based Solutions in Mediterranean cities: First assessment of the IUCN NbS Global Standard in Mediterranean urban areas](#)

This report summarises the results of the first assessment of a selection of 18 practices in Mediterranean cities against the IUCN Global Standard. The purpose of the analysis was to assess to what extent these interventions met the standard, and in this way to identify particular opportunities and challenges for applying the standard in urban areas throughout the Mediterranean region.



Technical reports



What impact has COVID-19 had on ecotourism in the Mediterranean?

The DestiMED PLUS Project report card reviews the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector and shifting the focus of tourism for lasting change.

Corporate programmes



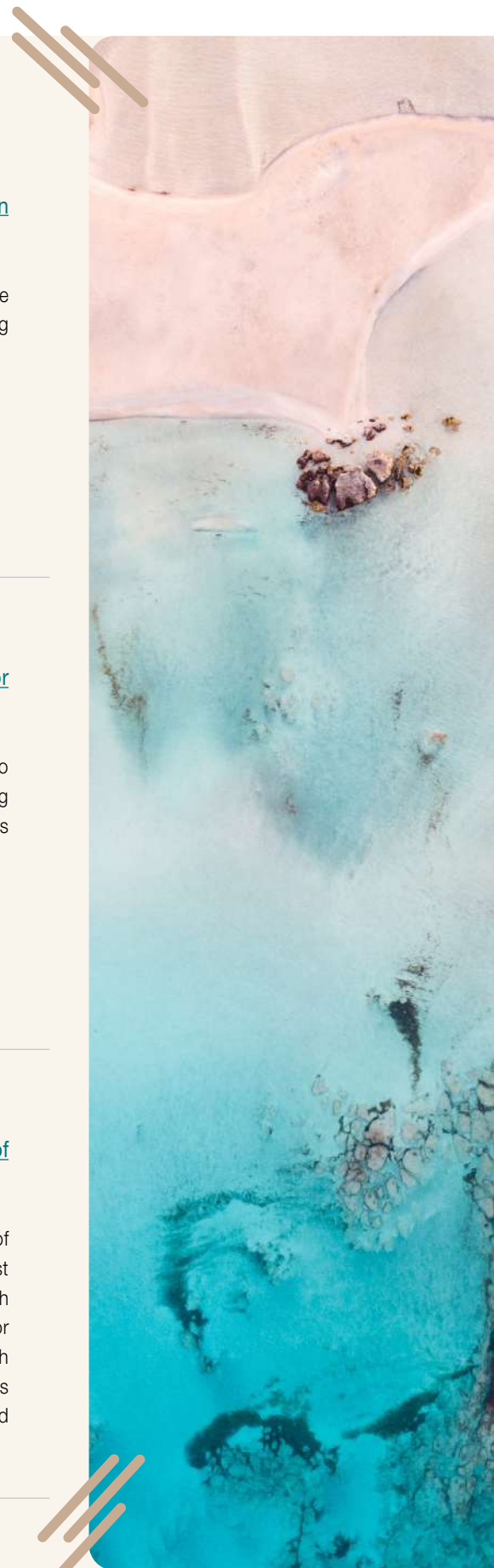
Mediterranean Programme of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation 2021-2024

This document presents how IUCN-Med will contribute to the implementation of this global agenda by addressing the most pressing threats, challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean.



North Africa Programme of the IUCN Centre of Mediterranean Cooperation 2021-2024

This document aims to present the contribution of IUCN-Med to the IUCN global vision to address the most pressing threats, challenges and opportunities in North Africa. IUCN-Med is addressing two interlinked major crises: the biodiversity loss and climate change in its North Africa Programme 2021-2024, in line with the provisions of the related international and regional agreements and the IUCN Global Programme for 2030.



Fact sheets



[Marine Fisheries and Biodiversity](#)



[Biodiversity Knowledge & Action in the Mediterranean](#)



[Plastic Waste Free Islands Factsheet](#)

INTERACTIVE MEDIA

[The Sebou river: assessment of a North African treasure](#)



Les bords du fleuve Sébou (The Banks of the River Sebou) by Eugène Delacroix (Public domain)

VIDEOS

[PPI-OSCAN Trailer](#)



[IUCN CONGRESS - Mediterranean Pavillion](#)



[The clock is ticking. Let's make this moment count for the Mediterranean](#)



[Finding Mediterranean solutions to enhance a nature-based recovery](#)



POSBEMED 2 VIDEOS

[Finding solutions to beach erosion in the Mediterranean - Posidonia oceanica - POSBEMED 2](#)



[How to naturalize the image of Mediterranean beaches? POSBEMED 2](#)



ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

Mediterranean Flash News

Around three times a year ([Spring](#), [Summer](#), [Winter](#)), our newsletter bulletins are published to provide key updates about the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. Each newsletter is made available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Core donors

The work of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation owes its existence to the generosity, trust and credibility provided by a growing number of associates and partners: governments, multilateral and intergovernmental institutions, international conventions, non-governmental organisations, foundations, corporations and individuals. The fundamental support that the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition provides through their agreements with IUCN-Med is crucial for maintaining the Centre's operations. The seven-year agreement with the MAVA Foundation to help cover our operational costs in the Mediterranean has proved vital for IUCN-Med's activities, for which we are extremely grateful.



**Ministry of Ecological Transition
and Demographic Challenge**



**MAVA
Foundation**

Donors

In addition to the core office support for IUCN-Med provided by our main donors, individual projects and activities in 2021 received funding from the following organisations:



**Regional Government of
the Balearic Islands**



**Principality
of Monaco**



**French Facility for Global
Environment (FFEM)**



**MAVA
Foundation**



**Fondation Didier
et Martine Primat**



**Ministry of Ecological Transition
and Demographic Challenge**



**Prince Albert 2 of
Monaco Foundation**



**Red Eléctrica
de España**



Huawei



**European Union (Interreg Med
Programme, LIFE + Programme,
ENI Programme)**

New partnerships

The work of IUCN-Med in partnership with organisations linked to IUCN, including Members, Commissions and other institutions, is reflected in the 6 new cooperation agreements signed in 2021 with the following institutions:



NEW WEBSITE IN DEVELOPMENT

Fondation Didier
et Martine Primat



Alliance for
Mediterranean
Nature & Culture
Many Paths - One Mediterranean

Alliance for the Mediterranean
Nature and Culture



PELAGOS (WWF, Prince Albert II,
MedPan)



Fundación Cepsa

Fundación CEPSA



La Région Provence-
Alpes-Côte d'Azur



FEDERATION OF
EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE
PRODUCERS

Unión Europea (Programas
Interreg Med, Life+ e IEV)

In addition to these formal agreements, IUCN-Med's involvement in projects and initiatives has been based on partnerships with IUCN Commissions and Members, regional government agencies, NGOs and scientific organisations at local, national and regional level.



MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

IUCN is only as strong as the collective power of its membership. We are proud that over the past eight years we have seen significant growth in the number of Members in the region, from 170 in 2010 to 258 by the end of 2021. Membership of our Commissions in the region has also increased considerably. IUCN Members benefit from being part of the world's largest environmental network, working together to address sustainability issues that could never be solved by one organisation working alone.

IUCN Membership in the Mediterranean region (including North Africa)

State Members	11
Government agencies	23
International NGOs	14
National NGOs	191
Affiliates	19
Total	258

Countries with IUCN Members (out of 24) 24

IUCN Membership in North Africa

State Members	4
Government agencies	-
International NGOs	2
National NGOs	32
Affiliates	-
Total	38

Countries with IUCN Members (out of 5) 5

IUCN's six Commissions rely on more than 7,700 international experts, of whom more than 800 are from Mediterranean countries.

IUCN Commission Membership in the Mediterranean region (2021)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	118
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	94
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	56
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	757
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	76
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	226

TOTAL 1,327



IUCN Commission Membership in North Africa (2017–2020)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	24
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	24
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	8
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	40
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	2
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	34
TOTAL	132

NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

France

- MIRACETI
- PANTHERA FRANCE
- Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages et du Patrimoine Naturel
- SystExt
- Association des amis de la forêt de Fontainebleau
- Turtle Sanctuary
- Initiatives pour l'Avenir des Grands Fleuves

Greece

- Organismos Fysikou Perivallontos Kai Klimatikis Allagis (O.FY.PE.KA)

Italy

- We are here Venice

Jordan

- Royal Scientific Society / National Energy Research Centre
- Jordan Outdoor Sports Association

Monaco

- Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature

Spain

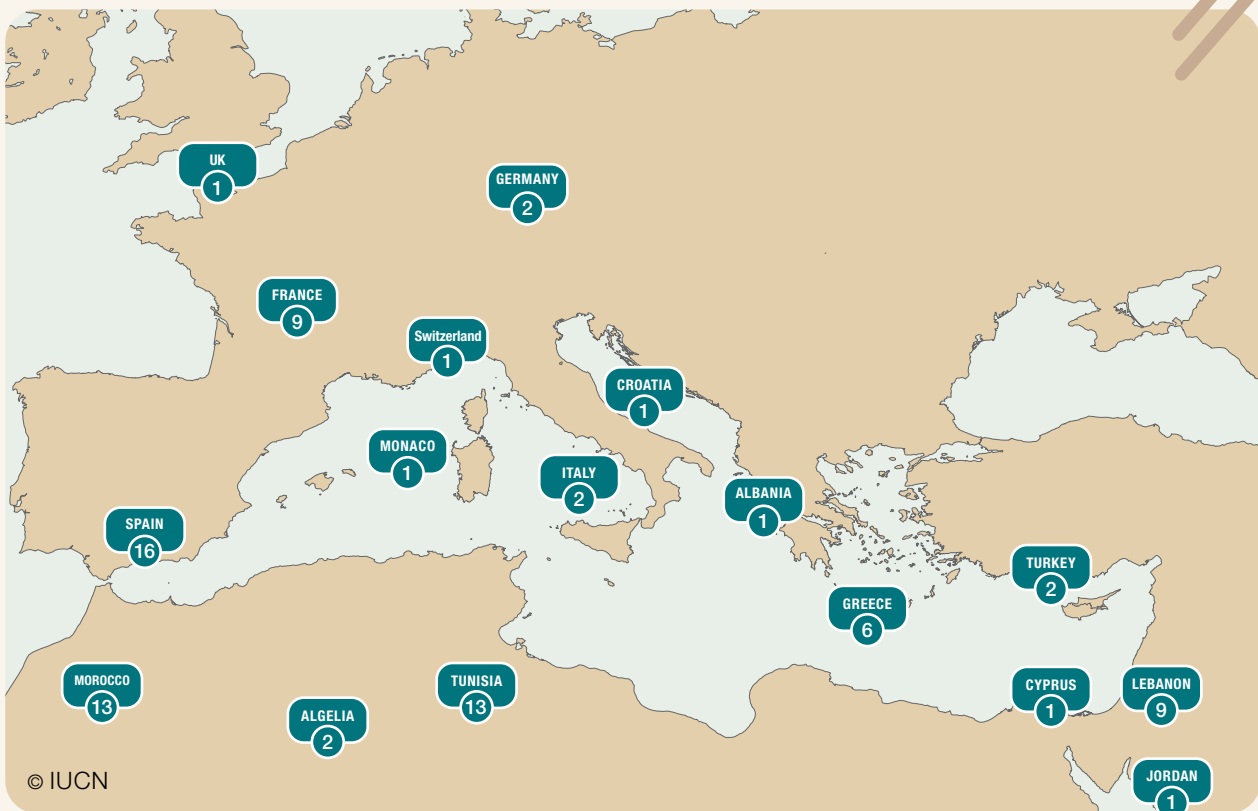
- Fundación Global Nature
- Asociación Desenvolvemiento Rural "Mariñas-Betanzos"

State of Libya

- Libyan Wildlife Trust



INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED WITH MEMBERS



ALBANIA

National Agency of Protected Areas

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project and associated partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2.

ALGERIA

Ministry of Environment

- Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN).
- Support for Green List Programme in North Africa.

CROATIA

Institute for Tourism

- *Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

CYPRUS

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

- *Associated Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2.*

FRANCE

Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network (MedPAN)

- *Member of the MEET Network.*
- *The Med Fund.*
- *Associated Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2 and DestiMED PLUS.*

IUCN French Committee

- *Support to Green List programme in North Africa.*
- *Support for climate change strategy for Protected Areas.*

Coriscan Tourist Agency

- *Associated Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

CPMR - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

- *Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

OFB Office français de la biodiversité

- *Coordinating partner of Mediterranean Posidonia Network.*

PIM Initiative

- *Coordinating partner of Mediterranean Island Collective Project.*

GERMANY

Euronatur

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation.
- Collaboration in the M6 project.

GREECE

Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

- Partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2 project and in the monk seal protection at Eastern Mediterranean.

MedINA

- Collaboration in MAVA M6 Cultural practices initiative.

Hellenic society for the study and protection of the monk seal

- Partner in the monk seal protection at the Eastern Mediterranean.

WWF Greece

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.

Region of Crete

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

Development / Agency of South / Aegean Region -READ S.A.

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

ITALY

Lazio region

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.

WWF Mediterranean office

- Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.



JORDAN

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

- *Support the Identification of KBAs for plants of Jordan (CEPF funded project to RSCN).*

LEBANON

Al Shouf Cedar Society (ASCS)

- *Partner in M6--cultural Landscapes initiative. Support monitoring of biodiversity in ASC.*
- *Involved in MEET Network as Board member and protected area member along with.*

Association for Forest Development and Conservation

- *Support for the development of Red List of Forest Ecosystems of Lebanon and integration into the State of Lebanon Forest.*

Ministry of Environment**Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM)**

- *Support for participation in the Mediterranean Forest Week; MEET member.*

Society for the protection of Nature in Lebanon

- *Partner in M6- Cultural landscapes programme.*
- *Animation of KBA National Coordination Group.*

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

- *Partner in M6.*
- *Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF.*

MONACO

Foundation Albert II

- *Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée (The Med Fund) part of the MSA which is funding the monk seal project.*



MOROCCO

**Department of Water and Forests , Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests**

- *Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2).*
- *Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.*
- *Support for Green List programme in North Africa.*
- *Cooperation for an initiative to tag with satellite transmitters and monitor a group of individuals of a critically endangered species, the Rüppell's vulture.*
- *Work meetings to advance in to development of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7Birds.*

Association Réseau Khénifiss

- *Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2).*

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

- *Partner of The Med Fund.*
- *Participation in preparatory work meetings to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7Birds, organised by IUCN-Med and DEF.*

GREPOM

- *Participation in preparatory work meetings to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan, in the framework of M7Birds, organised by IUCN-Med and DEF.*
- *TransCap 1 (supporting CSOs in the Maghreb).*
- *Cooperation for an initiative to tag with satellite transmitters and monitor a group of individuals of a critically endangered species, Rüppell's vulture.*
- *Indirect partner in Medbycatch project.*

SPAIN

Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenges

- *Involvement in the Advisory Group on Blue Carbon – LIFE Blue Natura.*
- *Support to the Green List initiative in Spain.*

Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia

- *Collaboration in the development of a conservation strategy for birds of prey in Morocco.*
- *Training course on identification and mitigation of the impact of power lines on birds in Tunisia. Technical collaboration in issues related to raptors and energy infrastructure.*
- *Two LIFE projects: LIFE Blue Natura and LIFE AdaptaMED.*
- *Associated partner for the new project on Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas (MedArtSal).*
- *Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

IUCN Spanish National Committee

- *XV IUCN Spanish Member Congress in Castilla-La Mancha.*
- *27º Semana del mar.*

Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia

- *Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

Fundació Universitària Balmes - University of Vic

- *Partner in DestiMED PLUS project.*

Europarc – Spain

- *Support for Green List promotion and coordination in Spain.*

CEIDA

- *Joint monitoring of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) resolution 042 - biodiversity refugee areas.*

SEO Birdlife

- *Partner in M3 project funded by the MAVA Foundation.*

WWF Spain

- *Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by the MAVA Foundation.*

CBD-Habitat (Fundación para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad y su Hábitat)

- *Partner in the Mediterranean monk seal protection in the Eastern Mediterranean.*

SWITZERLAND

Vulture Conservation Foundation

- *Partner in bird priority projects (energy infrastructure, illegal killing of birds, poisoning).*

TUNISIA

Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement (Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment)

- *Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2).*
- *Support for Green List programme in North Africa.*
- *Support the development of Tunisia's Red List of Threatened Species.*

Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (within the Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement)

- Partner on The Med Fund.

Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

- Partner in update of Mediterranean ecosystem profile for CEPF Indirect partner in Medbycatch project.
- Development of the National Coordination Group of KBAs.
- Work together to preliminary analyse and collect data on raptor populations and non-nature mortality due to power lines, establishing cooperation with the national energy company.

Association Notre Grand Bleu

- Partner of The Med Fund.

Association Exploralis

- Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2).

Association de Protection de l'Environnement et Développement Durable de Bizerte

- Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2).

Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de Conservation de la Vie Sauvage

- TransCap 1 (supporting CSOs in the Maghreb).

WWF Tunisia

- M6-Cultural landscapes.
- M3 Ghar el Melh project.

TURKEY

Doga Dernegi

- Indirect partner in Medbycatch project.

WWF Turkey

- Indirect partner in Medbycatch project

UK

Birdlife International

- Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative, M3 wetlands focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.

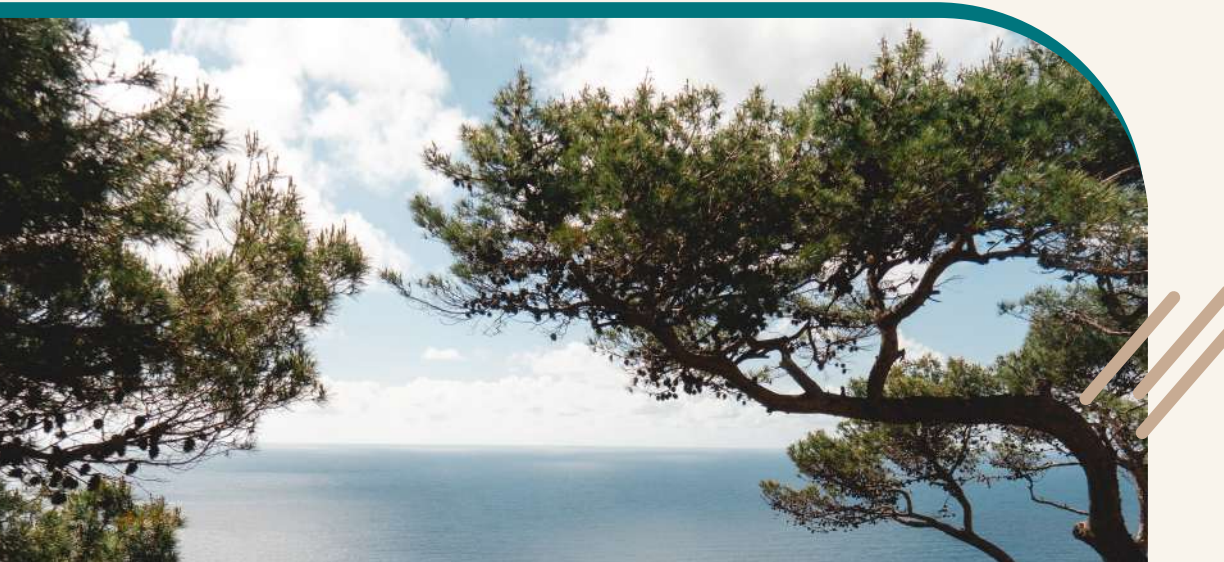
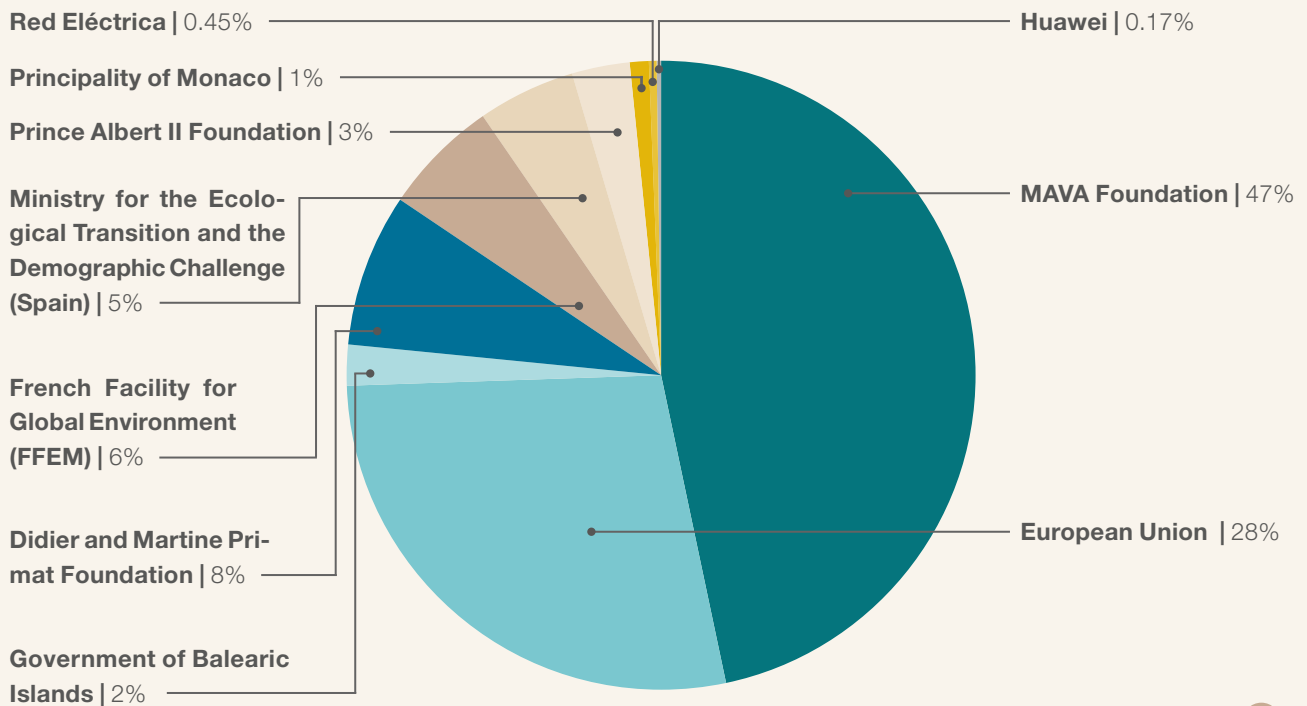
COMMISSIONS

PROJECTS

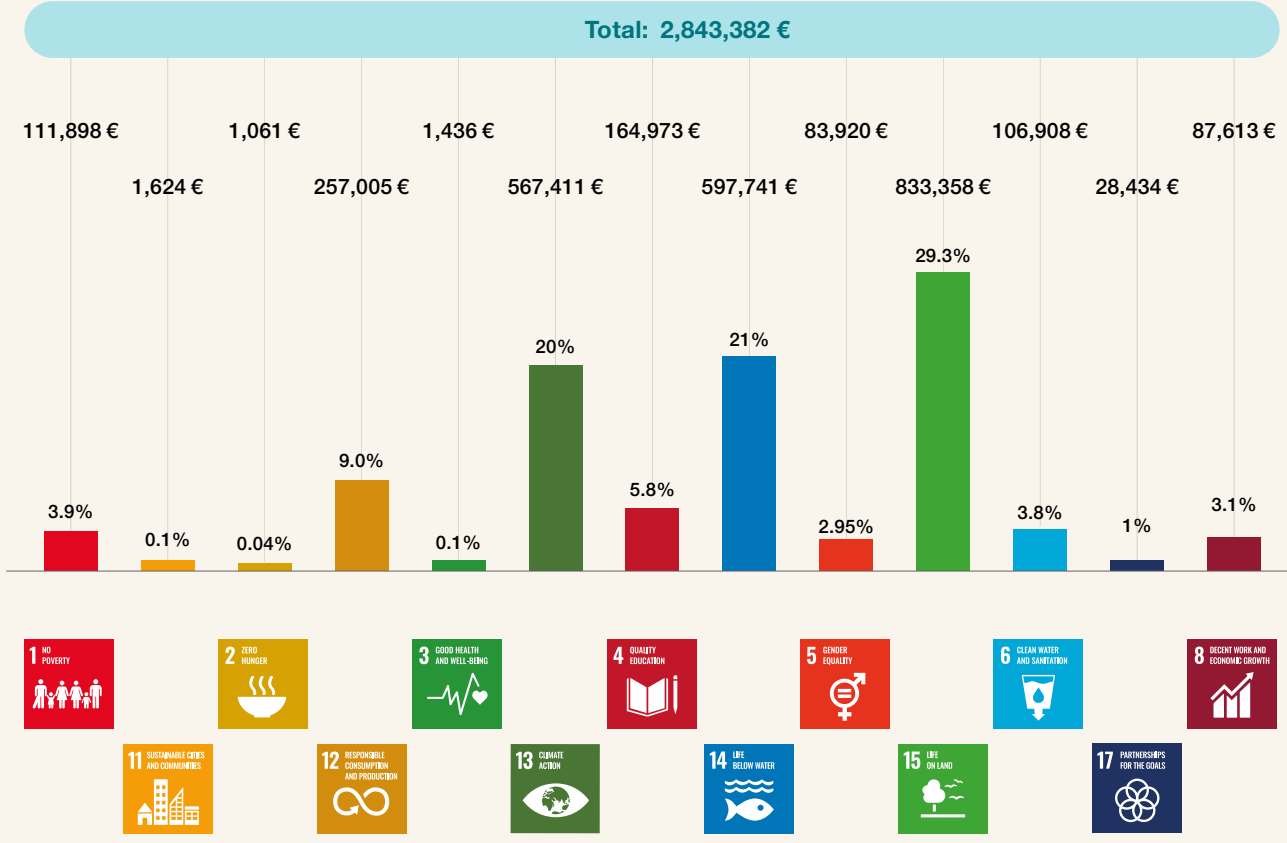
SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019 Conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean region
SSC Vulture Specialist Group	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019: Safe Flyways – reducing energy infrastructure-related bird mortality in the Mediterranean
SSC Mollusc Specialist Group	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019 Support to the RL assessment of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> WAMAN Sebou KBA conservation status assessment
SSC Freshwater plant Specialist Group	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019 WAMAN Sebou and Douro vivo projects KBA conservation status assessment
SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019 WAMAN Sebou and Douro vivo projects KBA conservation status assessment
SSC Sharks Specialist group	MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME (MedBycatch Phase 1 & 2)
SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2015–2019 Coordination of the II Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week (MPCW) Co.edition of the publication Conserving wild plants in the South and east mediterranean
SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group	Training course on EICAT (Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa)
SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group	Planning and development of the participative process with key Moroccan stakeholders to develop the National Strategy for the Conservation of Raptors and Action Plan
World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	Green List - Analysis on Aichi Target 11 progress and potential Other Effective Area-based conservation measures (OECMS) in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries
WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group	MEET Network, DestiMED project, Support for communications working group
WCPA Climate Change Specialist Group	MPA-Adapt project
WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force for KBAs	KBA regional focal point- linkage between global secretariat and national focal points
CEM Red List of Ecosystems	Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) at global level and national processes in Tunisia (training) and Lebanon (support process).
CEM and Society for Ecological Restoration International	Organisation of restoration in drylands training course with IAMZ-CIHEAM
CEM Nature-based Solutions Group	Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean
CEM Fisheries Expert Group	Working group meeting on Fisheries Restricted Areas and OECMs

REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2021 IUCN-Med managed around 20 projects with a budget of approximately EUR 2.843.000. Out of this amount, 47% of this sum came from the MAVA Foundation, 28% from the European Union, 8% from the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, 6% from French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and 5% from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. The rest came from the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Principality of Monaco, Government of Balearic Islands, Red Eléctrica and the global IUCN Programme 2021–2024:



Contributions to the Sustainable Developments Goals



Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

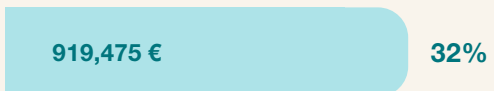
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.



Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.



Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.



Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.






Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.



GENERAL OPERATIONS

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<p>Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge Office Support</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>To finance part of IUCN-Med staff and office costs according to the General Protocol of Understanding, Chapter 4.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Quality and Environmental and Natural Environment.</p>
<p>MAVA Foundation Office and Activity Support</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>To finance part of IUCN-Med staff, office and activity costs according to a joint programme with five main strategic areas and yearly work plans.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation.</p>
<p>IUCN Global Programme Office Support</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>To finance part of IUCN-Med operational costs.</p>	<p>IUCN.</p>

THEMATIC PROJECTS

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<p>LIFE Invasaqua</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>Invasive exotic aquatic species in freshwater and estuarine systems: Awareness and Prevention in the Iberian Peninsula.</p>	<p>EU Life Programme.</p>
<p>MEDARTSAL</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>Sustainable Management model for Mediterranean Artisanal Salinas.</p>	<p>European Programme ENI CBC MED 2014-2020.</p>
<p>Support for conservation in North Africa</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>To provide institutional support for the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation.</p>

PROJECT**OBJECTIVES****MAIN DONORS**

PPI-OSCAN 2
Programme of Small-Scale
Initiatives for Civil Society
Organisations in North
Africa (Phase II)

COMPLETED

To strengthen the capacities
of civil society organisations
through the implementation
of site projects on biodiversity
conservation and management
of natural resources.

MAVA Foundation,
French Facility for Global
Environment (FFEM).

Arab World Heritage
(Morocco–Egypt)

COMPLETED

To support Morocco and
Egypt in the preparation
of nominations of sites for
consideration as World
Heritage Sites.

Arab World
Heritage Centre.

Support the Secretariat
of the CBD on Protected
Areas in MENA region

ONGOING

To assess the achievements of
the five North African countries
plus Lebanon on reaching
Aichi Target 11 and to develop
a survey on “Other Effective
Area-Based Conservation
Measures”.

Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological
Diversity and the Japanese
Biodiversity Fund.

IUCN Green List for Natura
2000

COMPLETED

To coordinate the
Mediterranean European
contribution to the IUCN Green
List of Protected Areas with
effective management plans.

European Union.

LIFE AdaptaMED
Protection of key
ecosystem services by
adaptive management
of climate change in
endangered Mediterranean
socio-ecosystems

COMPLETED

To mitigate the negative
effect of climate change on
key ecosystem services that
representative Mediterranean
Natural Protected Areas
provide for local inhabitants
and their socio-economic
sector in a Mediterranean
wetland (Doñana), a high
mountain range (Sierra
Nevada) and a subdesert
coastal area (Cabo de
Gata), Spain.

European Union.

Enhancing the
conservation of
coastal wetlands

STARTED

To restore damaged habitats,
encourage sustainable water
use and reduce the impacts
of water abstraction, pollution
and coastal development
on wetlands and related
marine habitat.

MAVA Foundation.

THEMATIC PROJECTS

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
DestiMED PLUS ONGOING	<p>DestiMED PLUS is the next step on a journey to promote integrated planning in coastal tourism, where regional policymakers apply holistic policies that link tourism with conservation. They will do so, by jointly developing ecotourism itineraries in Mediterranean Protected Areas (PAs), as a concrete example of ICZM application.</p> <p>The project builds on the success of MEET and DestiMED, and will support nine Mediterranean regions and respective Protected Areas through enhancing cross-sectoral local and regional policies, improving integrated planning strategies, and providing stakeholders with effective training and tools to manage, measure, and promote ecotourism.</p>	EU - Interreg MED, MAVA Foundation.
Post-COVID recovery through sustainable tourism ONGOING	<p>Work with two World Heritage sites and five other protected areas in Peru and Vietnam to increase the resilience of the community-based tourism sector to future disruptions. This will include engaging local communities and indigenous peoples in developing community-based ecotourism action plans, and revising site management plans to include detailed tourism destination and visitor management protocols and guidance.</p>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
POSBEMED2 ONGOING	<p>To implement a local framework for decision making for Posidonia banquettes testing different approaches and tools, increase awareness to build stakeholder support for more nature-oriented management strategies and provide better integration planning tools to be incorporated into management planning and coastal policies.</p>	EU – Interreg MED MAVA Foundation.

PROJECT**OBJECTIVES****MAIN DONORS**

Tech4Nature - Spain
ONGOING

Tech4Nature Spain aims to contribute to better managing nature conservation through technological innovation. This will be done by evaluating the needs and sharing technological and digital knowledge for tourism monitoring and protected area management in four Spanish parks: Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park (Aragon), Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac (Catalonia), Sierra Nevada National Park and Natural Park (Andalusia), and Sierra de Guadarrama National Park (Madrid/Castile and Leon).

Huawei through Global IUCN.

LIFE Blue Natura
COMPLETED

To quantify carbon deposits and sequestration rates of seagrass meadows and marsh habitats in Andalusia in order to evaluate the environmental services provided by these habitats in mitigating climate change; and to explore and encourage existing initiatives to finance projects to conserve and restore blue carbon sink habitats through climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, with special emphasis on carbon emissions trading or carbon markets.



European Union (LIFE), CEPSA.

MedBycatch2
ONGOING

To build on the results and experience gained in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey during Phase 1 (2017-2020) and expand the geographical scope of the project to Croatia and Italy by conducting trials on effective mitigation measures, supporting the development of relevant policies at national and regional level and capacity building to apply measures for the reduction of bycatch of vulnerable marine species.

MAVA Foundation.

THEMATIC PROJECTS

PROJECT 	OBJECTIVES 	MAIN DONORS 
<p>REST-COAST - Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>REST-COAST will help to improve future restoration techniques by focusing on nine pilot sites (coastal ecosystems) under present and future climates that represent the main EU regional seas: Baltic Sea, Black Sea, North Sea, Atlantic Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.</p>	<p>EU (Horizonte Europe).</p>
<p>Mediterranean Islands Collective</p> <p>ONGOING</p>	<p>The overarching goal of this project is to create a successful collaboration, comprising organisations working to protect nature on Mediterranean islands. The collectively designed project aims to deliver biodiversity net conservation gains and prepare a path leading to long-term financial viability.</p>	<p>MAVA Foundation.</p>
<p>IMPETUS - Turning climate commitments into action across Europe</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>The project will help accelerate Europe’s response to climate change while developing innovative measures to increase resilience. Seven regional test-beds – one in every bio-climatic region of Europe – will scale up innovative solutions and support businesses and communities in their transition.</p>	<p>European Union (Horizon 2020).</p>
<p>SOILGUARD- Understanding the effects of soil management and climate change on soil biodiversity and ecosystem services to promote evidence-based conservation strategies</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>SOILGUARD will deliver evidence-based knowledge regarding sustainable soil management benefits for soil biodiversity and its potential to deliver ecosystem services (ES) (across biomes and biogeographical regions) under specific stressors derived from climate change.</p>	<p>European Union (Horizon 2020).</p>
<p>Mediterranean Monk Seal conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean</p> <p>STARTED</p>	<p>Ten organizations sharing results, methodologies, tools and implementing conservation activities to protect the species in the eastern Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Monk Sea Alliance (MSA).</p>

PROJECT



OBJECTIVES



MAIN DONORS



MoU Fundacion Cepsa

1. Strategic advice from IUCN to Fundación Cepsa to promote an ecological transition and refocus its efforts on projects that enhance sustainable development and the protection of nature with special care on water resources.

2. Development of joint projects or actions towards the protection of nature and sustainable development.

Fundacion Cepsa.

Plastic Free Islands in the Mediterranean

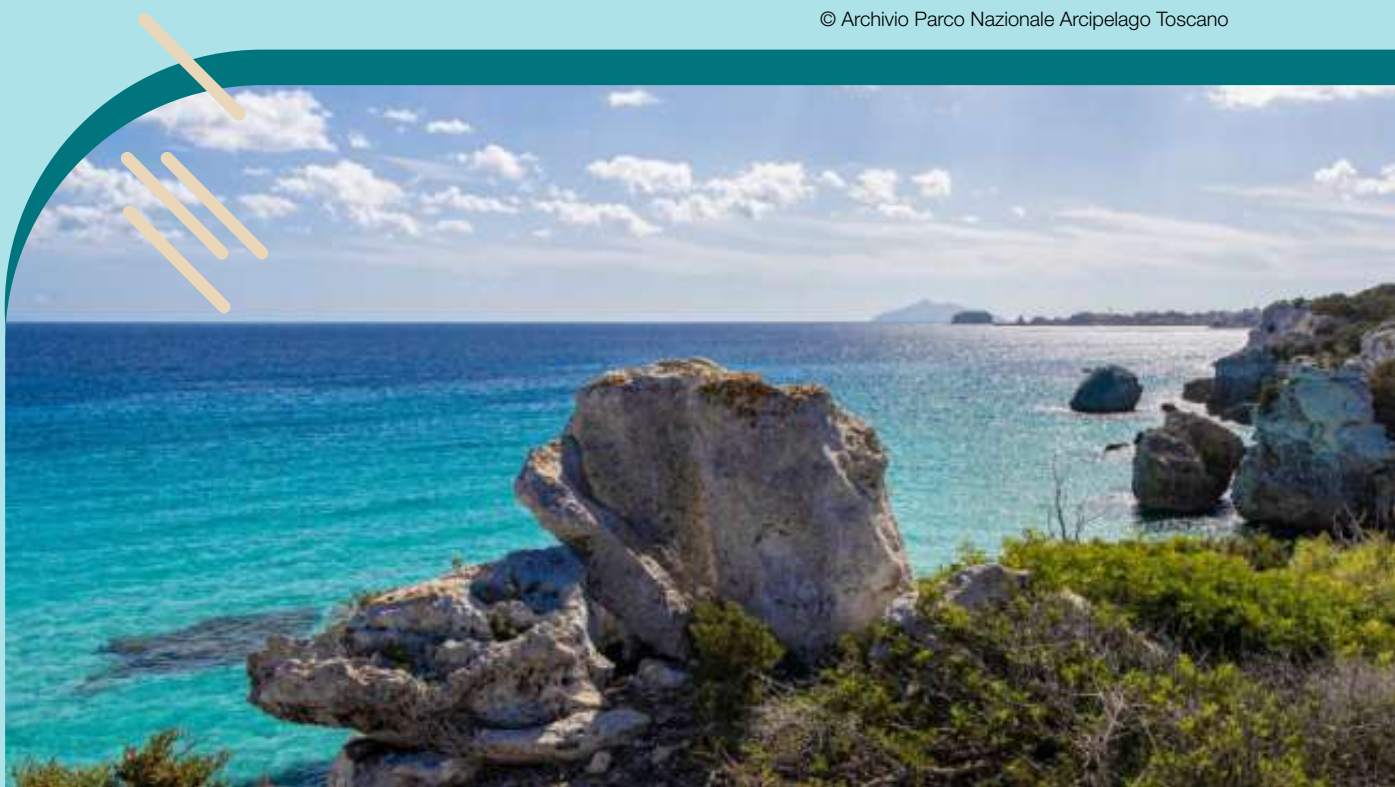
This project seeks to address the little-addressed problem of plastic waste leakage from island.

Primat Foundation.

F2PA BeMed: Closing the Plastic Tap

The objective is to improve the knowledge of the origin of plastic debris and its movement in the Mediterranean Sea. Participate in the elaboration of measures for the prevention, reduction and attenuation of marine plastic pollution.

FPAIL.



2022 PROGRAMME FORECAST

The IUCN-Med portfolio in 2022 is composed of 20 projects, which are being implemented across the Mediterranean Basin. These projects cover all the five Programme areas and will contribute to reaching the 2021–2024 Programme goals. During the year 2022, IUCN-Med will focus on wrapping up finishing projects such as **DESTIMED Plus**, **POSBEMED 2** and **MedArtSal**. Special attention will also be placed on the implementation of current projects such as the **PPI-OSCAN III** and **TransCap** targeting **civil society organisations in North Africa**. Moreover, the activities to

reduce plastic pollution will continue based on the findings and results from the project “Plastic Free Islands in the Mediterranean” which focused on building a community of practices, fostering the network **BeMed** and promoting the call for local projects supported by regional and local governments through the clean-up fund for a “zero plastic waste Mediterranean” in collaboration with the regional government of Région Provence Alpes-Côte d’Azur.

Implementing the new IUCN North Africa and Mediterranean Programme for 2021–2024

Following the recent approval of the locally scoped Mediterranean and North African Programmes, IUCN-Med activities in 2022 will focus on the implementation of the IUCN Programme goals set for 2021–2024 in the context of the region. A key objective of the Secretariat is to increase the recognition and use of **Nature-based Solutions** in key ecosystems as a tool to combat climate change and support resilient development and recovery in collaboration with IUCN Members and partners. In 2022, IUCN-Med will work to implementing effective NbS in North Africa and the Mediterranean by promoting the NbS Standard across different types of ecosystems, supporting discussions between public and private sectors and placing focus on influencing policy to integrate NbS measures into national frameworks such as the NDCs and other climate mitigation plans. The NbS approach will also be implemented into new projects such as **REST-COAST, IMPETUS, SOILGUARD and the NbS Chair of IUCN**.

The Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity established in 2021 with six organisations (IUCN-Med, TdV, AIFM, MedPAN, MedWet and PIM) will define its first joint project to be submitted to key donors in the region. Also, IUCN-Med will continue to actively participate in regional and international political and institutional frameworks (**Barcelona Convention, GFCM, UfM**) and facilitate the development

of important policy and strategic plans for countries to implement global and Mediterranean commitments. This includes the Strategic action programme for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP/BIO) [UNEP CAR/ASP], also as part of its Advisory Group and complemented by a strategic document on MPAs and OECMs. At the fisheries level, we will keep our active participation in many of the GFCM discussion fora (from working groups to policy meetings with the Scientific Advisory Committee and Commission) to implement the new 2030 GFCM Strategy, the new measures of fisheries bycatch on different taxa, and the strategy for addressing fisheries-biodiversity interactions on vulnerable marine ecosystems at the different sub regions.

IUCN-Med will continue efforts to support governments to develop and implement **National Conservation Strategies and Action Plans** that benefit biodiversity and key ecosystems in the Mediterranean. We will continue supporting the implementation of **IUCN Green List Standard** in Italy and Spain and North African countries, in the framework of Protecting the Planet 30x30 initiative. Lastly, IUCN-Med will also continue contribution to developing a national strategy for raptor conservation in Morocco and promoting the network for monitoring raptor population and mortality in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

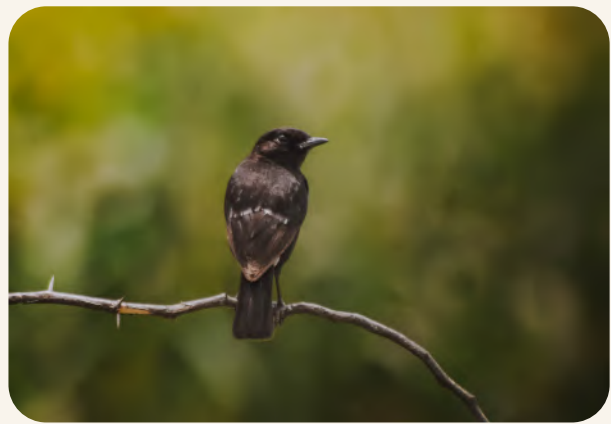
New areas of work, implementing new projects

Furthermore, IUCN-Med is putting new efforts in encouraging practices that maintain sustainable and **biodiverse agricultural landscapes** and in building bridges between urban and rural landscapes through the NbS. Islands will be an important topic, and we will contribute to the elaboration

of an action plan supported by key organisations working to protect nature on **Mediterranean islands**. The collectively designed project for islands aims to deliver biodiversity net conservation gains and prepare a path leading to long-term financial viability.

IUCN-Med's 20th anniversary event

Last but not least, in 2022, IUCN-Med is preparing a double commemorative event that will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Centre and will host a forum for dialogue on the Mediterranean. With the participation of IUCN Members and strategic partners, this forum is intended to launch the message of nature conservation in the Mediterranean in a cross-cutting manner, associating other sectors and other themes in order to generate circles of dialogue and discussion around specific social, economic and environmental issues affecting the Mediterranean region.



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Number of staff by gender and type of contract

Type of contract	2020			2021		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Permanent staff	5	7	12	5	8	12
Temporary staff (incl.interns)	3	8	10	2	5	7
Total staff	8	15	22	7	13	19

The following people also worked with us temporarily in 2021 under cooperation programmes with various universities and research centres in Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean:

INTERNS

Species Programme: ROSSI ORTS Pablo

Communication Programme: SKOCZYLAS Erin

Communication Programme: GARCIA i ROVIRA Anna

Ecosystem Programme: JIMÉNEZ ARCE Juan Antonio

Ecosystem Programme: PRIETO FUSTES Lucía

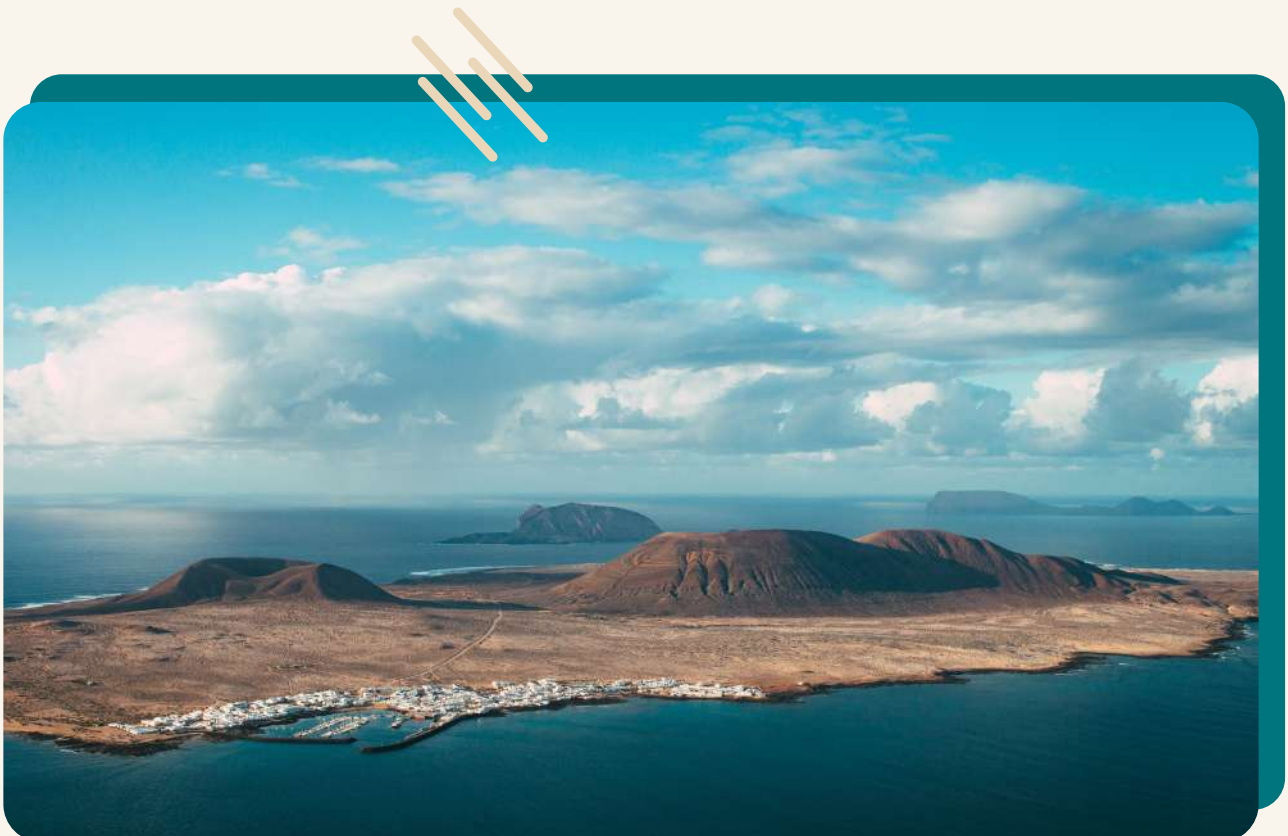
Ecosystem Programme: PÉREZ-JUAN Carmen María

Communication Programme: PINEDA GIL Marta

Marine Programme: DE LA FUENTE CASILDA Lucia

Marine Programme: SCHULER Marthje

Species Programme: GONZALEZ PIÑEIRO David



ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area.

AFD

French Development Agency (Agence française de développement).

AGIR

Association for Integrated Resource Management (Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources), Morocco.

AMNC

The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture.

ATTA

Adventure Travel Trade Association.

BeMed

Beyond Plastic Med initiative.

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity.

CEC

Commission on Education and Communication.

CEESP

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

CEM

IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

CEPF

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

CEPSA

Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A.U.

CIHEAM

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes).

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

CMI

Center for Mediterranean Integration.

CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

CONAMA

National Environmental Congress (Congreso Nacional del Medio Ambiente), Spain.

COP

Conference of Parties.

CRV

Vulture Recovery Centre.

CSIC

Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas).

CSO

Civil Society Organisations.

CSTI

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative.

EAGL

Expert Assessment Group for the Green List.

EICAT

Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa.

ENI

European Neighbourhood Instrument (the financing instrument of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy – ENP).

ES

Ecosystem Services.

EU

European Union.

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

FEAP

Federation of European Aquaculture Producers.

FFEM

French Global Environment Facility (Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial).

FRA

Fisheries Restricted Area.

GFCM

FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

GMPP

IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme.

GREFA

Group for the Rehabilitation of Autonomous Fauna and their Habitat.

GREPOM

Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (BirdLife Partner, Morocco).

HCMR

Hellenic Center for Marine Research.

IAMZ

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza).

IAS

Invasive Alien Species.

IMO

International Maritime Organisation.

INVASAQUA

Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of Freshwater and Estuarine Systems.

IUCN

International Union for Conservation of Nature.

IUCN-Med

Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

KBA

Key Biodiversity Area.

LIFE

EU Financial Instrument for the Environment (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement).

LDPE

Low Density Polyethylene

MedPAN

Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean.

MedWet

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative.

MEDASSET

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles.

MedYCA

Mediterranean Youth for Climate Action Network.

MEET

Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism.

MITERD

Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica).

MoU

Memorandum of Understanding.

MPA

Marine Protected Area.

MPCW

Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week.

MPN

Mediterranean Posidonia Network.

NbS

Nature-based Solution(s).

NDCs

Nationally Determined Contributions (to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement).

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation.

OECD

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure.

OBSAM

Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca, Spain.

PA

Protected Area.

PET

Polyethylene Terephthalate.

POSBEMED

Sustainable management of Posidonia beach-dune systems in the Mediterranean region.

PPI-OSCAN

Programme of Small-Scale Initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (Programme de Petites Initiatives pour les Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique du Nord).

RAC/SPA

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas.

RLE

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems.

SDGs

UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SEO

Sociedad Española de Ornitología (BirdLife Partner, Spain).

SER

Society for Ecological Restoration.

SIBIC

Iberian Society of Ichthyology.

SIEI

Iberian Week on Invasive Species.

SSC

IUCN Species Survival Commission.

SSF

Small-Scale Fisheries.

TAPAS

WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group.

UN

United Nations.

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP/MAP

United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan.

UNIA

International University of Andalusia.

WCC

IUCN World Conservation Congress.

WCEL

IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.

WCPA

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature / World Wildlife Fund.







- A reliable scientific voice in a complex socio-economic scenario to which many different actors bring a wide range of abilities and skills.
- A strong advisory body seeking solutions to the major environmental challenges in the region.
- An organisation that focuses on innovation by designing new alternatives for sustainable development, combining traditional knowledge with new technologies.



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