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## **PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

### **Towards integrated land management**

### **Mid-term programme (2002-2004)**

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All Mediterranean countries have now set up networks for protected areas in order to protect unspoilt, representative terrestrial and marine areas. Some of these areas are uninhabited, while others depend on the active involvement of the local population in the immediate or surrounding areas to ensure continuity of their natural value. Both incentives for the conservation of biodiversity and regulations for sustainable use vary in flexibility from one country to another. Many continue to apply a “protectionist approach”, with very centralised legal control over certain territorial areas that provides poor linkage with the local populations, resource users or local economies, despite changes in legislation and attitudes. Often in such centrally controlled situations there may be no links with devolved authorities (i.e. regional governments or equivalent) or conflicts of interest may arise between the different ministries involved (i.e. when new Departments of the Environment are set up). As a result, the need for inter-ministerial co-ordination between the ministries responsible for existing protected areas, such as the Ministries of Agriculture or Forestry must be considered. Land-use policies outside the protected areas themselves, in both coastal and semi-mountain areas, are also acknowledged as factors contributing to unique Mediterranean landscapes.

**The ability to perceive protected areas as an opportunity, rather than a limitation for local development** provides scope for work in the region. Several countries have already gained experience in this area.

The IUCN Mediterranean Office – as an organisation with its members, commissions and presence in national, regional and international organisations as well as relations with donors and funding bodies – is an appropriate body to promote co-operation in conjunction with regional authorities who are responsible for direct management.

The World Parks Congress to be held in Durban (South Africa) in September 2003, WPC 2003, provides impetus for the process that has already been launched. This event will not only act as a showcase for achievements forged in Mediterranean protected areas but will also lend a voice to the experiences and needs of these areas to face the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as provide a reference point for active policies implemented after WPC2003.

The project has been devised in accordance with the following documents that have been endorsed by IUCN members and partners: Guide for the management of protected areas according to IUCN categories, Parks for Life, The Cilento Declaration (1999) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The potential areas for co-operation within the Mediterranean pinpointed by the experts meeting at Cilento have been considered for this purpose:

- Promote training for managers
- Devise legal instruments
- Set up management standards
- Develop tourism based on nature
- The use of protected areas as a means to revitalise rural and local economies.
- Promote the use of micro-reserves.
- The relationship between fisheries and marine PAs
- Enhance management capacities

This involves a long-term strategy comprising knowledge (K), empowerment (E), and governance (G):

1. To ensure that knowledge, information and experience on protected areas is at the disposal of conservation, sustainable use and rehabilitation work. (K)
2. To promote and support IUCN Partners and Commissions in the region in their endeavours in the fields of research, policy, management and conservation of protected areas. (E)
3. To promote Mediterranean policy on conservation and sustainable development in protected areas, both on a global and regional scale, and to support measures for policy implementation. (G).

**Goal:** To ensure that consideration is given to Mediterranean protected areas within all levels of decision-making on sustainable development.

**Objectives:**

1. To renew commitment to Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
2. To launch strategic alliances with sectors relevant to PAs.
3. To link the CBD to PAs in the Mediterranean.
4. To assist in the planning and management of PAs and their integration into all sectors by providing strategic advice to policy makers.
5. To strengthen capacity and effectiveness of PA managers through the provision of guidelines, tools and information.
6. To persuade public and corporate donors, as well as governments, of the importance and added value that economic investment in PAs can generate.

**Products:**

1. Development of a consistent, representative system of Mediterranean PAs that is fully adapted to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. Mediterranean models for alliances and associations within the various sectors involved.
3. Adaptation of protected areas to new needs, to new technical and political premises, as well as to international conventions, in particular CBD, for planning and connectivity.
4. Strengthening of management capabilities of those responsible for PAs.
5. Enhancement of data-bases (at an institutional level, on organisations, experts and geographical data) and information exchange.
6. Setting up 3 or 4 areas for action in line with WPC2003 for PAs in the Mediterranean over the coming years.

**Description:**

The project will entail the following:

- Enhancement of the available data base on members and bodies with interests in PAs throughout the Mediterranean.

Work will be conducted through the Centre for Mediterranean Co-operation to ensure access to information through digital computer systems drawing on data bases set up during the process. Entries are to be identified according to priorities set by participants and to pre-existing criteria applied to WCPA data bases, so that immediate referencing is readily available for any expert, member, body or partner who wishes to access fast, accurate and reliable information.

- Organisation of seminars and panels

Panels, seminars and other meetings will be organised, co-ordinated and monitored as required, according to funding availability, to ensure a smooth work-up to Durban.

The aim is to gather experts at different venues around the Mediterranean, under the sponsorship of various bodies, to focus on four initially selected priority areas, namely: Connectivity (Links with the landscape); Governance (new forms of working together); Training (new skills for the new century) and Gaps in the system (developing representative systems).

- Organisation of a Mediterranean Meeting

A forum on the Mediterranean is to be organised in Murcia (Spain) in February 2003. Over one hundred members and bodies are expected to take part in this meeting that is to be the reference point for Durban in our scope of action.

- Producing material, documentation and know how for WCP2003.

The IUCN is to develop materials and documentation in a variety of printed and digital formats in conjunction with other bodies involved in the process to disseminate the Mediterranean experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on technology and knowledge specifically related to Mediterranean PAs and dissemination of this know-how.

- Enhance the existing organisation and co-ordination between WESCANA, ERO and CMC.

A series of focal points are to be set, together with co-ordinated actions throughout IUCN that will enable implementation of the KRA s and the four-year programme for the Mediterranean eco-region (see table).

<b>KEY RESULT AREA (IUCN quadrennial programme 2001-2004)</b>	<b>PROGRAMME THEME</b>	<b>MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME RESULTS (2002-2004)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective management and restoration of ecosystems</li> </ul>	Biodiversity conservation Biodiversity conservation Sustainable resource use Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effectiveness of PAs at regional level is assessed and improved</li> <li>• Multi-country/transboundary actions for biodiversity conservation are supported</li> <li>• The role of marine PAs in supporting artisanal fisheries is assessed and promoted</li> <li>• Experience on the management of island protected areas is shared</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key institutions, agreements, processes and policies</li> <li>• Equitable sharing of costs and benefits</li> </ul>	Biodiversity Conservation Biodiversity & Prot. Areas Biodiversity Conservation Sustainable resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinement of legal instruments for protected areas is undertaken</li> <li>• Mediterranean inputs to the World Parks Congress (2003) are promoted</li> <li>• Protected areas are used to support and revitalise rural economies.</li> <li>• Experience in integrating conservation and local economies is developed and shared</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of biodiversity and of related social and economic factors</li> </ul>	Biodiversity Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on species and PAs is made available to regional actors</li> </ul>

The programme is to be run in co-ordination with the following regions: WESCANA, Europe; and in conjunction with ERO, CMC and WCPA.

**Partners in the process:**

IUCN-CMC has already set up links with environmental, co-operation and corporate bodies on a local, national, regional and international scale to implement the activities outlined in this document. Among these are town councils, county councils, the Regional Governments in Andalusia, Murcia, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands; the National governments of Spain and Italy; the European Union, the Council of Europe; Barcelona Convention, RAC/SPA, Universities, Spanish International Co-operation Agency (AECI), Europarc, and IUCN Commissions. Contacts will also be made with Scientific Institutes in the Mediterranean Basin, International Co-operation Agencies in Italy and France; national committees in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, Syria, France, Italy and the WESCANA and ERO offices.

**Duration**

The work-up to Durban: 18 months. Overall process: 3 years.

**Budget**

The total budget for activities for the first 18 months amounts to 370,000 Euros.

Activities		March 2002	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002	July 2002	August 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2002	Nov 2002	Dec 2002	Enero 2003	Feb 2003	Marzo/ Sept 2003
Roses, Catalonia (March, 2002) Marine Protected Areas Organised by RAC/SPA and the Regional Government of Catalonia		*												
WCPA monitoring committee meeting. Italy		*	*											
WCPA Europe -Austria (June, 2002) Meeting of European members of the Mediterranean					*									
Palma de Mallorca, June (Protected Marine Areas) <b>PAM</b> and Balearic Islands Regional Government					*									
Andalusia, (September, 2002) Connectivity, links in the landscape Andalusian Regional Government								*						
Catalonia, WCPA-Mediterranean (November, 2002) Governance Barcelona Provincial Council and Regional Government of Catalonia										*				
Murcia (February, 2003) Mediterranean Multi-workshop Meeting Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo													*	
(Other possible events, pending confirmation, in: Italy, Catania,...) <b>Capacity building</b> Gaps in the system								¿*?			¿*?			

Key: Green, work on measures; Blue, monitoring. Event : \*