



IUCN 2022–2023

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

biennial report 2022–2023

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 Malaga.

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Together, Members and partners, we have forged meaningful connections, implemented impactful projects, and catalysed positive change at the grassroots level. The success of our endeavours is testimonial of the collaborative spirit at the core of our network.

Maher Mahjoub
IUCN-Med Director



MESSAGE FROM IUCN-MED DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

As we come together to weave the narrative of our collective journey spanning 2022 and 2023, I am honoured to share my reflections as Director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. This period has been a profound chapter for me, both personally and professionally, as we have steered our conservation efforts through the dynamic and diverse Mediterranean region.

In April 2023, I embraced the role of Director, and since then, I have witnessed the unfolding of a narrative shaped by the commitment of individuals and organisations devoted to preserving our planet's biodiversity. The Mediterranean, with its captivating landscapes and resilient communities, has served as the canvas for our endeavours. It is within this intricate tapestry that I find my favourite aspects of the region, from its azure shores to the mountainous terrain, encapsulating the essence of conservation and sustainable living.

In 2022, we celebrated a significant milestone – the 20th anniversary of IUCN-Med. This commemoration, a testimony of two decades of dedicated conservation efforts, serves as a foundation for the strides we continue to make in the Mediterranean. The festivities were not just a reflection on our past achievements but a call to action for the future.

Looking beyond our regional sphere, we are acutely aware of the global commitments shaping the landscape of conservation. The Global Biodiversity Framework underscores the urgency of our work. The implications of these commitments reverberate in the Mediterranean, challenging us to align our strategies with the broader global agenda.

In the Mediterranean, engaging 258 IUCN Members, we are optimising the Secretariat's structure to increase its capacity to deliver on the Nature 2030 Programme and better serve its constituency. Together with the European Regional Offices in Bonn and Brussels, and the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Belgrade, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation makes up the Regional Service Hub for Europe, Central Asia, and North Africa (EUCANA), a collaborative

arrangement between the three offices aimed at enhancing programmatic development and ensuring high standards in corporate functions as well as improving the programmatic coordination.

This two-year report encapsulates the achievements and challenges of not just one, but two impactful years. The period has seen significant transformations, including the appointment of Dr. Grethel Aguilar as the new Director-General for IUCN in October 2023. Dr. Aguilar's leadership injects renewed vigour into our shared mission, further empowering our commitment to conservation in the Mediterranean.

I would like to highlight and thank Antonio Troya for his valuable role as IUCN-Med Director over the past years, consolidating the work of IUCN at Mediterranean level. Many of the projects and initiatives herewith reported showcase the successful implementation of our regional common vision for a Mediterranean that respects and values nature.

Crucially, as you browse this report, it is vital to acknowledge the indispensable role played by our Members and partners on the ground. Their dedication has been instrumental in reaching conservation goals in the Mediterranean. Together, we have forged meaningful connections, implemented impactful projects, and catalysed positive change at the grassroots level. The success of our efforts is testimonial of the collaborative spirit at the core of our network.

Thank you for the crucial role that each of you plays in a shared success that goes beyond the pages of this report. Together, we will continue navigating the complex currents of conservation, driven by our common dedication to a sustainable and resilient Mediterranean.

Maher Mahjoub

IUCN-Med Director

IUCN 75th anniversary & IUCN-Med 20th anniversary

IUCN celebrated its 75 years in 2023. Established in 1948, IUCN initially focused on assessing human impact on nature and pioneered tools like environmental impact assessments. IUCN's efforts in the 1960s and 70s were crucial in species protection, culminating in the IUCN Red List. It influenced major environmental conventions and defined 'sustainable development'. In the 2000s, IUCN developed a business engagement strategy and championed Nature-based Solutions. Now the largest environmental network with over 1,400 Members and 16,000 experts, IUCN continues to advance Nature-based Solutions to support key international agreements.

In 2022, IUCN-Med celebrated its 20th anniversary in Málaga with a week-long programme of events that promoted dialogue between institutions, Members, associations, and productive, technological and financial sectors at the international level to promote the role conservation and biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Over the week, more than 300 experts in Mediterranean nature conservation from over 20 countries discussed the challenges faced by the region and how to establish strategic alliances to help design projects and initiatives with greater impact on the territory and the transformation of society.

@ IUCN-Med





WORK PROGRAMME AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

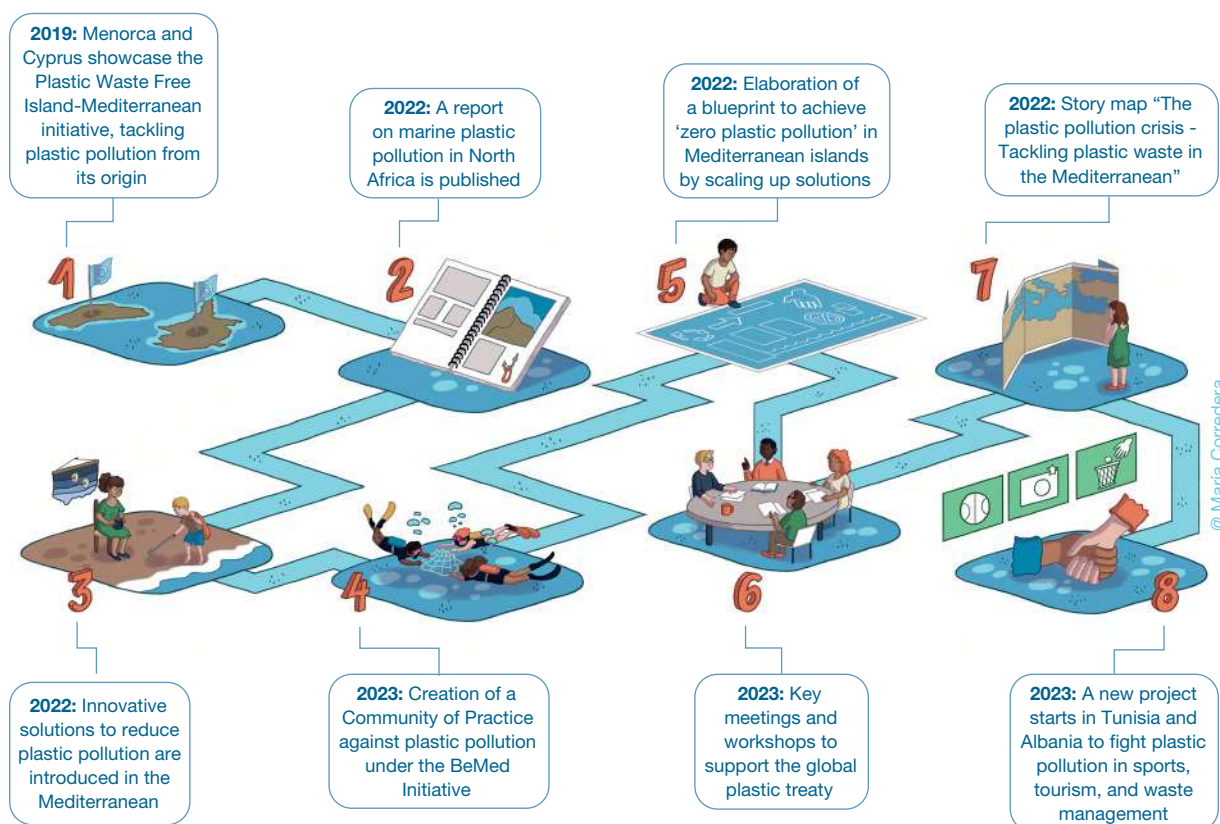


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MARINE BIODIVERSITY & BLUE ECONOMY

From pioneering blue carbon projects in the Mediterranean to international cooperation for marine conservation and plastic pollution assessments, IUCN-Med has been enhancing marine biodiversity and fostering blue economy over these past two years. These initiatives, encompassing a range of collaborative projects and events, meetings, trainings and workshops are integral in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable economic growth in the Mediterranean.

TACKLING PLASTIC AT THE SOURCE



Plastic Pollution: Impact on the Mediterranean and Global Solutions

The Mediterranean Sea is a major hotspot for plastic pollution, with 80% of marine plastic debris originating from land sources and 20% from ocean-based sources like fishing and shipping. Microplastics, a significant portion of this pollution, often end up in agricultural fields as part of sewage sludge used as fertilizer, potentially persisting for over 100 years. Over the years, IUCN-Med has participated in several initiatives aimed at reducing plastic waste around the Mediterranean region and launched an [interactive web story](#) summarizing its efforts in the region.

Addressing this issue in the Mediterranean requires understanding of plastic pollution across its entire lifecycle, from design to disposal. Interventions need collaboration across multiple sectors and stakeholders. The [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) and IUCN have developed guidelines to identify and prioritise action on plastic pollution hotspots. Initiatives like [Beyond Plastic Med](#) (BeMed), the [Plastic Waste-Free Islands Mediterranean](#) and the [BeMed closing the plastic tap](#) projects aim to reduce plastic waste from its origin, promote circular economy and increase the knowledge of plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.

Advancing Marine Ecosystem Restoration and Protection in the Mediterranean

Blue Carbon Projects in Andalusia

In early 2022, the [Life Blue Natura](#) project had culminated in establishing two pilot projects for blue carbon compensation in Andalusia, Spain. Supported by the Andalusian carbon standard and the legal framework of the Andalusian Climate Change Law, these projects allow private companies to [offset carbon emissions](#) through conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems. This initiative marks a first in the European context, with IUCN-Med playing a key role in its development and creating a [Manual for the Creation of Blue Carbon Projects in Europe and the Mediterranean](#).

Mediterranean Preservation Efforts through knowledge transfer

Representatives from the Tunisian Ministry and the Balearic Islands Government met in June 2023 to exchange insights on marine conservation management. This collaboration, part of the [TransCap Programme](#) funded by the Balearic Islands and coordinated by IUCN-Med, offered the Tunisian delegation a chance to learn from the Balearic Islands' environmental management programmes, including visits to Cabrera National Park and the Albufera Ramsar site.



Protecting Nature on Mediterranean Islands Event

In September 2022, in Málaga, under the [Mediterranean Islands Collective Project \(MIC\)](#), a first strategy and action plan for Mediterranean islands was presented. This event focused on addressing invasive species, protecting endemic fauna and flora, and integrating biodiversity into the islands' economy and social priorities.

Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in the Mediterranean: An IUCN-Med Initiative

International Bycatch Event

In 2022, IUCN-Med, in collaboration with [BirdLife Europe & Central Asia](#), [ACCOBAMS](#), [FAO-GFCM](#), [MEDASSET](#), [UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC](#) and [WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative](#), organised the International Bycatch Meeting, which was held as a hybrid event taking place in Malaga, Spain, as well as online. Approximately 150 in-person and online participants from 23 countries and across 5 continents, including interested experts and stakeholders, scientists, managers, conservation organisations and representatives of the fisheries sector, took part in the three-day event that aimed to encourage a constructive dialogue across a broad range of actors on reducing and mitigating the bycatch of vulnerable marine species. The event also

provided an opportunity to share key findings regarding bycatch monitoring and mitigation approaches as well as communication activities developed within the context of the “[Medbycatch](#)” project.

The Alboran Sea Meeting: Dialogue and Collaboration

In February 2022, the Alboran Sea Sub-regional Meeting in Malaga brought together conservation organisations from both sides of the Mediterranean. The focus was on exchanging the latest data and innovative practices for conserving marine biodiversity and promoting sustainable fishing in the region, as well as links with the fishing sector and management of marine protected areas, highlighting the Alboran Sea's ecological significance.

Enhancing Knowledge of Marine Biodiversity and Addressing Threats in the Mediterranean

Monk Seal Conservation Efforts

In a unified approach to protect the Mediterranean Monk Seal in the eastern Mediterranean, ten organisations are collaborating to monitor populations, mitigate threats, and share vital information. This multi-faceted initiative includes monitoring the monk seal populations in the

In a unified approach to protect the Mediterranean Monk Seal in the eastern Mediterranean, ten organisations are collaborating to monitor populations, mitigate threats, and share vital information.

Eastern Mediterranean, assessing human disturbances in their habitats, and cleaning crucial monk seal caves. Additionally, the project focuses on updating the legal framework for better protection and management of the species and its habitats. Complementing these efforts are awareness, capacity-building, and training activities to disseminate knowledge and foster collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring the monk seal's survival and well-being. In February 2023, the [Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation](#) and partners organised the first [Monk Seal Alliance \(MSA\) forum](#) in Athens. IUCN-Med and other Mediterranean stakeholders collaborated on conservation plans and data sharing, underscoring a collective approach to protect this mythic Mediterranean species.

Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean

The “Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean” project, funded by the Principality of Monaco, aims to promote the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. In 2022–2023, two key evaluations were carried out analysing the natural carbon sinks of both *Posidonia oceanica* meadows as well as coastal wetlands in Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia. Furthermore, the project sought to elaborate collaboration plans between

relevant stakeholders for NbS and blue carbon finance mechanisms in the Mediterranean as well as finalise project activities while carving a path for future action plans.

Deep-sea Atlas of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea

In 2022, IUCN-Med and the [Hellenic Centre for Marine Research](#) published the first [Deep-sea Atlas of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea](#). This comprehensive work compiles knowledge about the region's deepest waters, focusing on biodiversity and main threats. It covers five sub-regions and is based on contributions from over 48 experts. The Atlas aims to support spatial and natural resource planning efforts, contributing to the sustainable development of the blue economy.

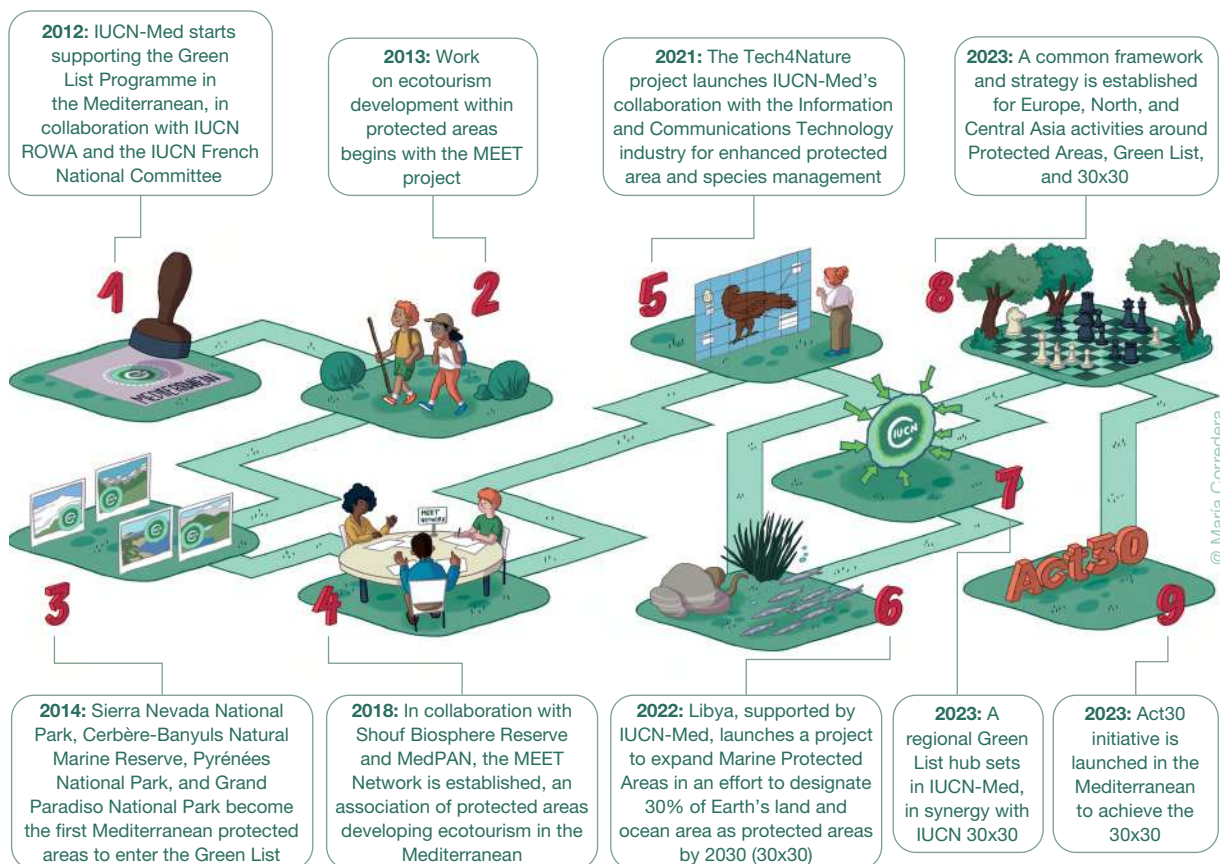
MedMIS Mobile Phone Application Revamp

The [MedMIS initiative](#) aims to establish a common framework for the Mediterranean MPAs to tackle marine invasive species. The online information system, developed initially in 2013, has undergone several updates and is available for both [IOS](#) and [Android](#). It allows various observers, including amateurs and professionals, to receive information on invasive species and record potential invasive species sightings, thereby supporting conservation efforts in protected areas.

ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE & SPATIAL PLANNING

IUCN-Med is advancing conservation efforts in the Mediterranean through multiple projects aimed at expanding marine protected areas, promoting sustainable tourism, and enhancing management practices in protected areas. These initiatives support the global 30x30 goal to conserve 30% of the planet's oceans, promote sustainable tourism, and utilise the Green List Standard for effective area management. Efforts also focus on restoring coastal ecosystems and safeguarding biodiversity, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

GREEN STANDARDS AND RESILIENCE



Expanding Protected and Conserved Areas in the Mediterranean: Advancing Towards 30x30 Initiative

In 2022, the [Libyan Ministry of the Environment](#), with the support of IUCN-Med, [SPA/RAC](#), and [WWF](#), launched a project to expand the country's marine protected areas (MPAs) in a collaborative effort to preserve Mediterranean biodiversity and sustain its marine heritage for the future.

The initiative, launched in Tripoli, was a significant first step towards fulfilling the global 30x30 goal, aiming to conserve 30% of the planet's oceans. With a commitment to creating 30 new MPAs and effectively managing them, Libya is contributing to this global effort in the Mediterranean region. The involvement of civil society, from local authorities to gender stakeholders, highlights the project's inclusive approach, ensuring that conservation benefits and involves all society.

This effort towards achieving the 30x30 target set in the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) was consolidated during the meeting of the parties of the Barcelona Convention (COP23), where IUCN-Med launched the [Act30 initiative](#) in the Mediterranean. This forward-thinking initiative aims to lead inclusive conservation action, striving for a minimum of 30% conservation to ensure fair and effective

environmental protection globally. Future developments will take place under the activities of the Green List initiative, and within the science-policy working group on area-based conservation that IUCN-Med is organising under the Dialogue4Nature governance [project](#).

Promoting Sustainable Tourism: A Decade-Long Journey in the Mediterranean

Since 2013, IUCN-Med has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable tourism actions across Mediterranean protected areas. The journey began with the MEET project, sowing the seeds for developing ecotourism itineraries within and around protected areas. This initiative evolved into [DestiMED](#) in 2016, focusing on harmonising quality and sustainability standards, and introducing monitoring methods tested in 13 protected areas.

These foundational projects paved the way for the establishment in 2018 of the MEET Network, an association serving as a Destination Management Organisation for Ecotourism in the Mediterranean. MEET's approach integrates the conservation sector and the tourism industry to craft carefully curated tourism offerings that seamlessly blend nature and culture, support local economies, and preserve the environment.

By 2019, with the commencement of the [DestiMED Plus project](#), the MEET Network transi-





tioned into advocating for enhanced integration between regional tourism and conservation policies. Simultaneously, efforts were made to support the capacities of ecotourism stakeholders at local, regional, and Mediterranean scales. These efforts reached a milestone in 2021 with the commercial partnership signed with the tour operator and B-Corp [Intrepid Travel](#), bringing MEET Network's eco-tourism experiences to a broader audience, and affirming the network's role in international travel. This culminated in 2023 with the launch of MEET's first standalone trip [in Albania](#) offered by Intrepid.

In response to impacts of COVID-19 on the sector, sustainable tourism efforts were amplified in 2022 through the '[COVID-19 tourism recovery for IUCN Green List protected and conserved areas](#)' project. This initiative supported community livelihoods through COVID-19 tourism response measures. The momentum carried into 2023 with the launch of the [Blue](#)

[Tourism Initiative](#). This dedicated effort aims to establish sustainable blue tourism practices post-COVID-19 and identify levers for a sustainable recovery in three key regions: the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Western Indian Ocean. At the Mediterranean level, innovative tourism initiatives, guided by sustainable planning, are unfolding in Morocco, Tunisia, and Lebanon.

Drawing on a decade of experience in ecotourism within protected areas, IUCN-Med capitalised on its knowledge by launching four free online courses in 2023, developed in collaboration with [IUCN Academy](#). These courses cover the essentials of ecotourism, encompassing topics such as building partnerships, product development, guiding and interpretation, and marketing strategies.

Optimising Management and Enhancing Impact in Protected and Conserved Areas

IUCN-Med has been at the forefront of implementing the [IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#) as a valuable tool for assessing the management effectiveness of protected and conserved areas in the Mediterranean. The journey has involved continuous support and capacity-building of Protected and Conserved Areas, collaborating with the Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) in Spain, Italy, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

Coastal regions, known for their productivity, biodiversity, and cultural significance, are facing escalating risks and progressive degradation, exacerbated by climate change.

In a significant development in 2022, the global partnership with the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) for the Green List is supporting its implementation and expansion in six priority regions, including the Mediterranean. These initiatives aim to assist parties and stakeholders of the Barcelona Convention in implementing the Green List, reinforcing commitments of existing countries, and engaging new countries in the process.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance management in protected and conserved areas, the [Tech4Nature](#) project, spanning from 2021 to 2023, provided support for conservation success through technological solutions in protected and conserved areas, in line with Green List objectives. In Spain, this initiative implemented an experimental monitoring architecture, examining the impact of tourism flows on the conservation status of the Bonelli's Eagle in [Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Natural Park](#). The project's second phase is set to commence in 2024, showcasing a continued commitment to leveraging technology for improved conservation outcomes.

Safeguarding Coastal Ecosystems: Restoration for Enhanced Resilience

IUCN-Med's initiatives, from enhancing coastal restoration to valorising Mediterranean salinas through the MedArtSal project, exemplify a unified strategy towards sustainable coastal management. These efforts not only address climate change and biodiversity conservation but also integrate economic and cultural preservation, showcasing a holistic approach to Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean region.

Coastal regions, known for their productivity, biodiversity, and cultural significance, are facing escalating risks and progressive degradation, exacerbated by climate change. In response, the [REST-COAST](#) project is dedi-

cated to enhancing coastal restoration practices through hands-on projects in 9 pilot sites. These initiatives aim to reduce risks and promote biodiversity gains in vulnerable coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands and seagrass beds.

IUCN-Med has supported the journey towards transformative governance in restoration upscaling, while also considering the current policy framework. To this end, during this biennium, IUCN-Med has carried out several actions to propose governance Roadmaps and Recommendations for each Pilot Site based on different tools. This included a self-assessment based on nine governance criteria specifically created for the project, a SWOT analysis, as well as a series of three workshops focused on governance. IUCN-Med used the results of the assessment, in combination with the NbS Global Standard visualisation methodology, to showcase on a case-by-case basis the most and the least favourable governance status.

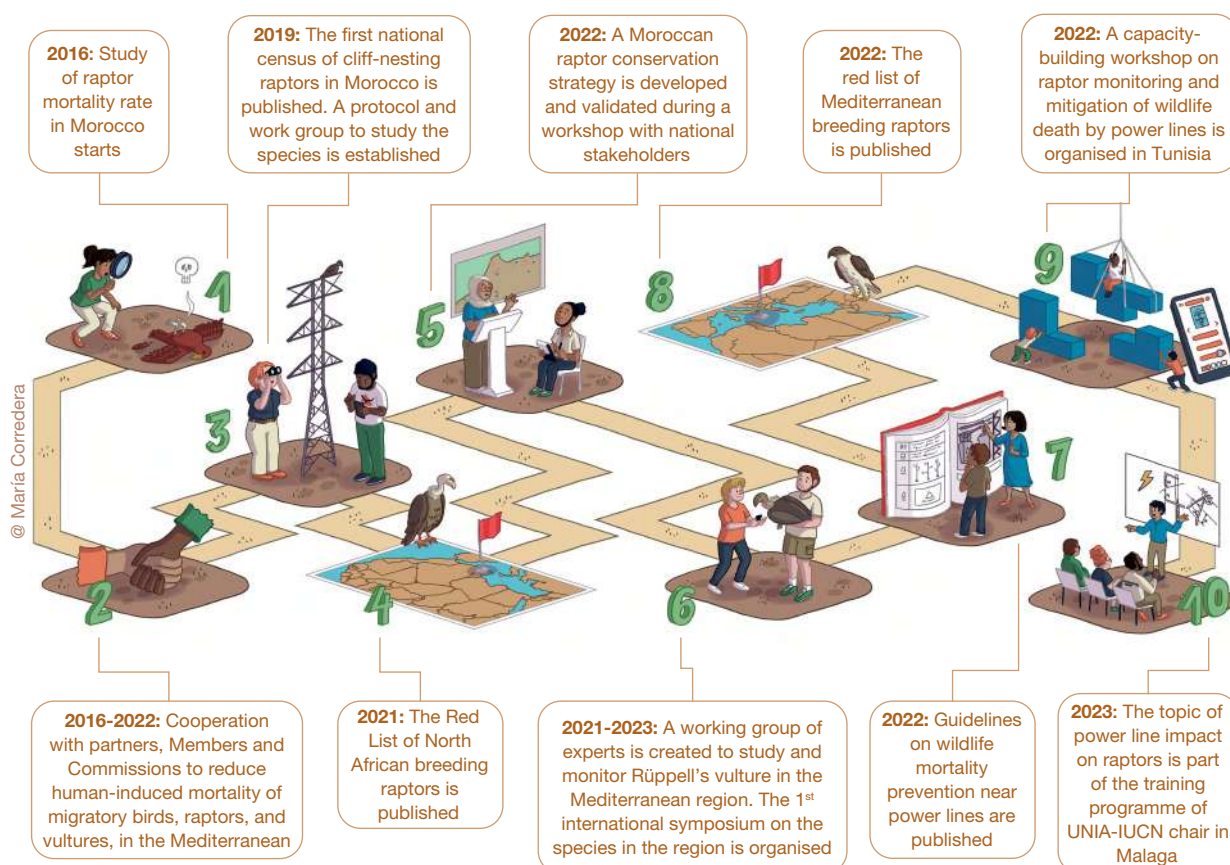
Simultaneously, Mediterranean salinas, important ecosystems from a cultural, culinary, economic, and biodiversity point of view, face threats due to the decline of artisanal salt production. The [MedArtSal](#) project, implemented by IUCN-Med together with 7 partners from 4 Mediterranean countries, addresses this challenge by developing and testing a sustainable model for the territorial valorisation of 15 artisanal salinas in Italy, Lebanon, Spain, and Tunisia. This innovative approach considers economic, environmental and governance factors, preserving both environmental values and ancient cultural traditions.

As a solution to ensure viability, the project proposes diversifying business activities beyond salt production. Pilot actions, ranging from algae cultivation to cosmetics production, ecotourism development using the [MEET Model](#), and the promotion of local heritage, have uncovered new opportunities to rejuvenate these vital coastal sites.

BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION

With its rich biodiversity and high levels of anthropogenic change, the Mediterranean region is a key hotspot for species, and a priority for conservation. Implementing effective strategies to combat biodiversity loss necessitates collaboration among various sectors, including governments, private entities, educational institutions, and civil society Members. The IUCN Mediterranean Biodiversity Knowledge and Action Programme working line includes promoting knowledge of species status, planning their conservation, building conservation capacity, and influencing economic sectors to ensure that biodiversity is well managed in their practices.

POWER AND BIRD SPECIES CONSERVATION



Protecting Mediterranean Raptors: From Morocco to Tunisia, A Journey of Conservation and Collaboration

The conservation efforts for migratory raptors in the Mediterranean started seven years ago. At the time, a major focus was placed on Morocco, where a hotspot for raptor mortality due to electrocution in North Africa was identified. This discovery prompted IUCN-Med action, promoting collaboration between Spanish and Moroccan experts and authorities to mitigate this threat.

Later, these efforts expanded into a comprehensive program surveying diurnal cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco, with the collaboration of various Moroccan and Spanish environmental organisations, highlighting a growing concern for the survival of Mediterranean raptors and vultures. Threats such as poisoning, poaching, food scarcity, and especially fatal interactions with human-made structures were identified as pressing issues that required immediate attention. A national field study documented breeding sites and inspected hundreds of kilometres of power lines, uncovering alarming mortality rates due to electrocution. This work highlighted the importance of Morocco as a crucial habitat for raptors and emphasised the need for concerted conservation measures for species like the Bearded vulture and the Egyptian vulture.

In 2022, IUCN-Med organised a workshop in Tunisia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the association *Les Amis des Oiseaux* (AAO/BirdLife) to tackle bird electrocution issues in the region. This collaborative workshop brought together environmental authorities, conservationists, the power company, and specialists to strategise on reducing the harmful impacts of power lines on birds of prey. Establishing a working group on Mediterranean raptors and national monitoring committees was a significant milestone, reflecting a unified approach to conserving these vital species. In the same year, IUCN-Med further enhanced its awareness-raising and capacity-building outreach by offering a free online course high-

lighting the importance of understanding and mitigating power lines' dangers to wildlife. The development of a new improved version of the [e-faunalert app](#) showcased an innovative approach, allowing for efficient data collection on incidents involving birds, thereby fostering a more bird-conscious infrastructure development. This practical toolkit was complemented by the publication in English of the Guidelines for preventing and mitigating wildlife mortality associated with electricity distribution networks: [Wildlife and power lines](#).

A network to support the study and conservation of the Rüppell's vulture

Vultures play a crucial role in ecosystems by disposing of dead animals and organic waste, which helps prevent disease spread and pathogen transmission to humans and other species. Despite their importance, vulture populations, including the Critically Endangered Rüppell's (*Gyps rueppelli*) vulture from the Sahel and southern regions, are suffering large declines in many areas, particularly in Africa. To understand the recent northward dispersal movements of this species, share data, and plan potential conservation actions, IUCN-Med has coordinated a network of experts over the past few years. Experts of this network, with the support of IUCN-Med and the Moroccan Department of Waters and Forests, tagged 12 Rüppell's vultures in 2021 and 5 in 2023 for tracking. One of those tagged vultures was later detected in Guinea-Bissau, having travelled over 3,500 kilometres.

In 2022 and 2023 multiple meetings and workshops have been held by the working group on Rüppell's vulture in the Mediterranean region to discuss the monitoring and research plan for the conservation of the species in the region, one of them in the framework of the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group meeting.

The increasing number of sightings of individuals of this species in our region suggest the Mediterranean may be becoming a refuge for

these vultures. The causes of this displacement in their distribution areas could be due to the search for more suitable regions to breed and survive. This highlights the need for more data and scientific monitoring to understand these changes and address the threats facing vultures.

Red List Developments in 2022 and 2023

Mediterranean Red List of breeding raptors

The [Conservation Status of Breeding Raptors in the Mediterranean](#) report, a collaborative effort by IUCN-Med, [BirdLife International](#), and the IUCN Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Programme, provides a comprehensive overview of the regional conservation status of breeding raptors. It aims to establish a baseline status for these birds, highlighting species of greatest concern and facilitating the development of research, conservation, and management priorities in the Mediterranean region.

The conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

This report featuring the latest IUCN Red List assessments (2018–2022) offers an updated overview of Mediterranean cetaceans' status, improving upon the initial 2012 review with enhanced regional monitoring. Among the 24 cetacean species recorded in the Mediterranean Sea, 10 are considered residents. This [second regional assessment](#) provides a clearer picture of these cetacean subpopulations, underscoring the urgent need for increased conservation efforts to reverse their decline.

The LIFE INVASAQUA project: Collaborative Efforts to Combat Invasive Alien Species

The [LIFE INVASAQUA](#) project, launched in 2017 and concluded in 2023, addressed the challenges posed by invasive alien species (IAS) on freshwater systems and estuaries in the Iberian Peninsula, emphasising the importance of public awareness and stakeholder engagement in

combating this threat to preserve aquatic ecosystems.

During 2022 and 2023, IUCN-Med has continued working on the citizen science campaign to collect data on IAS, with the organisation of 5 BioBlitz events or competitions engaging the public, schools or the angling community. INVASAQUA tools and materials have been promoted in these events, mainly the Iberian module of the [app](#) “Invasive Alien Species in Europe/EASIN”, the [guide to identify IAS](#) and the Iberian Mis [platform](#), facilitating the reporting and identification of IAS in freshwater ecosystems.

These activities were designed to empower key stakeholders and the public with the knowledge to identify and detect invasive species effectively. This approach heightened engagement and expanded the database of reported observations. In total, over the course of the project, around 20 citizen science activities and other public events to collect data on IAS or raise awareness were co-organised, together with +10 partner organisations, with >440 direct participants and about 300 indirect participants.

Moreover, a workshop at the 2022 Iberian Congress on IAS moved forward with the implementation of the [Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa \(EICAT\)](#) standard by applying the standard to 11 aquatic invasive alien species that pose a threat in the Iberian Peninsula, further contributing to the project's robust framework for environmental survey and response. In addition, thanks to the project, this standard has been translated into [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).

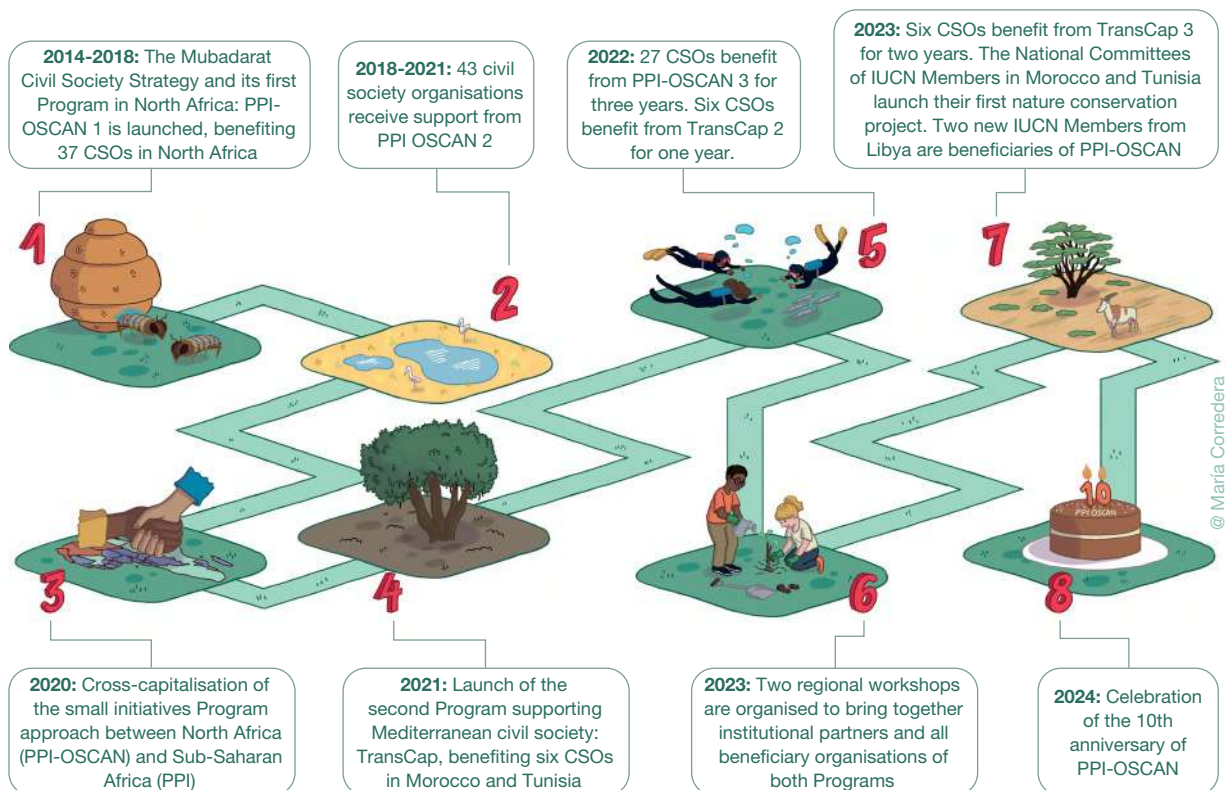
In 2023, IUCN-Med organised a conference in Malaga for the exchange of solutions to fight IAS, which gathered representatives of 7 universities, 4 state agencies, 1 protected area, and 18 LIFE projects. Another meeting was organised in Brussels in which the key results of the project and the potential for transfer and replication of the project materials were presented to transnational project representatives and to national and EU authorities.

REGIONAL FOCUS

NORTH AFRICAN SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY

In the last two years, the Mubadarat strategy has significantly empowered North African civil society organisations (CSOs) in conservation, through programmes like PPI-OSCAN and TransCap. These efforts have fostered regional collaboration, enhanced CSO capabilities in climate and biodiversity challenges, and emphasized sustainable practices and gender equity. Workshops, international collaborations, and recognitions highlight the strategic role of CSOs in conservation, highlighting Mubadarat's impact on capacity-building and environmental conservation in North Africa.

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY IN NORTH AFRICA



Mubadarat: A Strategy Empowering North African CSOs and Creating Long-Lasting Impacts in the Mediterranean Region

[Mubadarat](#) – so named from the Arabic word for ‘initiative’ – is the IUCN-Med strategy to support civil society organisations (CSOs) for nature conservation in North Africa. It has been a catalyst for environmental action and advocacy in the Mediterranean since the inception of its first program in 2014, the [Small Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa \(PPI-OSCAN\)](#). Inspired by the successes in sub-Saharan Africa, PPI-OSCAN has embraced a similar approach, empowering civil society organisations in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The Mubadarat Strategy has been aligned with national priorities and endorsed by the local authorities.

Enhancing Civil Society Capabilities in North Africa

The story of Mubadarat’s recent years is one of growth and impact.

In 2021, the programme PPI-OSCAN entered its third phase, building on the momentum of previous successes. This phase was marked by the

selection of 11 historical associations to continue their vital work in biodiversity conservation, capacity-building, and advocacy. It continued to support the growth of emerging associations, selecting 17 new projects set to commence towards the end of the year. This initiative showed the program’s commitment to nurturing the next wave of environmental conservation organisations.

The same year, Mubadarat initiated a second programme to support its role as a facilitator of CSO initiatives, the [TransCap programme](#). Complementary to the PPI-OSCAN, it offers new opportunities for mature CSOs and cooperatives along the Mediterranean coast of Morocco and Tunisia. The programme prioritises projects to improve local livelihoods and gender equity through sustainable resource management and resilience to climate change.

During this transformative year, both programs concentrated on enhancing the capabilities of North African CSOs to tackle climate change challenges and preserve biodiversity.

Position the CSOs as Key Actors of Change Within their Local Areas

As we moved into 2023, Mubadarat strengthened the influence of its civil society partners within the national agenda of nature conservation.



@ Yaprak Arda

The PPI-OSCAN programme celebrated new partnerships at a regional workshop. This gathering of 27 North African environmental organisations and national institutional partners was a testament to the power of cooperation and collective action. The same year, TransCap organisations and representatives from the Tunisian Ministry of Environment were received by the Balearic Islands Government to present their management of Mediterranean marine areas. Governments and civil society organisations could share their conservation practices and identify synergies for future collaboration.

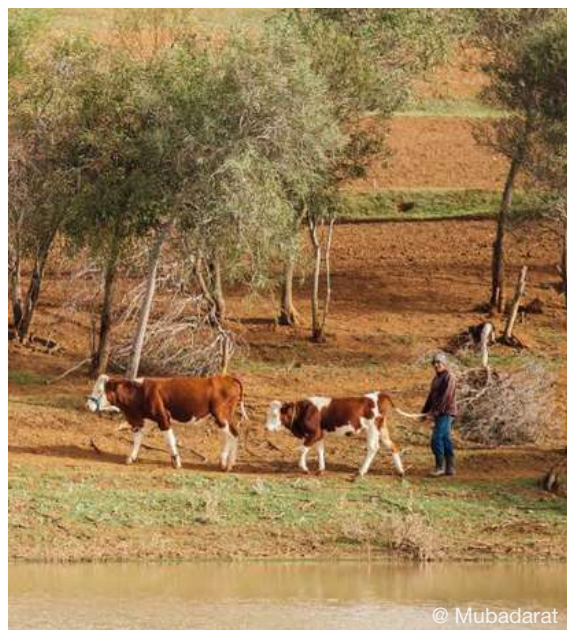
Besides being recognised by national institutions, the organisations from the two programmes gained the attention of international agencies and foundations. In 2023, a Tunisian organisation won the GEF Assembly Challenge Programme for her agroforestry actions implemented within the TransCap 1 and PPI-OSCAN 3.

The enhanced visibility offered to Mubadarat partners is even more crucial considering that numerous projects are implemented by young graduates aspiring to grow in the environment sector. This year, nine organisations secured their first funding through PPI-OSCAN 3 and 2 through TransCap3. Among the 49 ongoing projects under the umbrella of two programmes, over 50% are coordinated by young people under the age of 35.

Networking Strategies to enhance collaboration between North African CSOs

Mubadarat is offering a place for its CSOs partners to collaborate and create a regional community of nature conservationists.

Within each programme, initiatives arose between organisations addressing similar environmental objectives at national and regional scales. This year, two Moroccan PPI-OSCAN organisations established a partnership agreement to join their efforts in the conservation and tracking of raptors at a national scale.



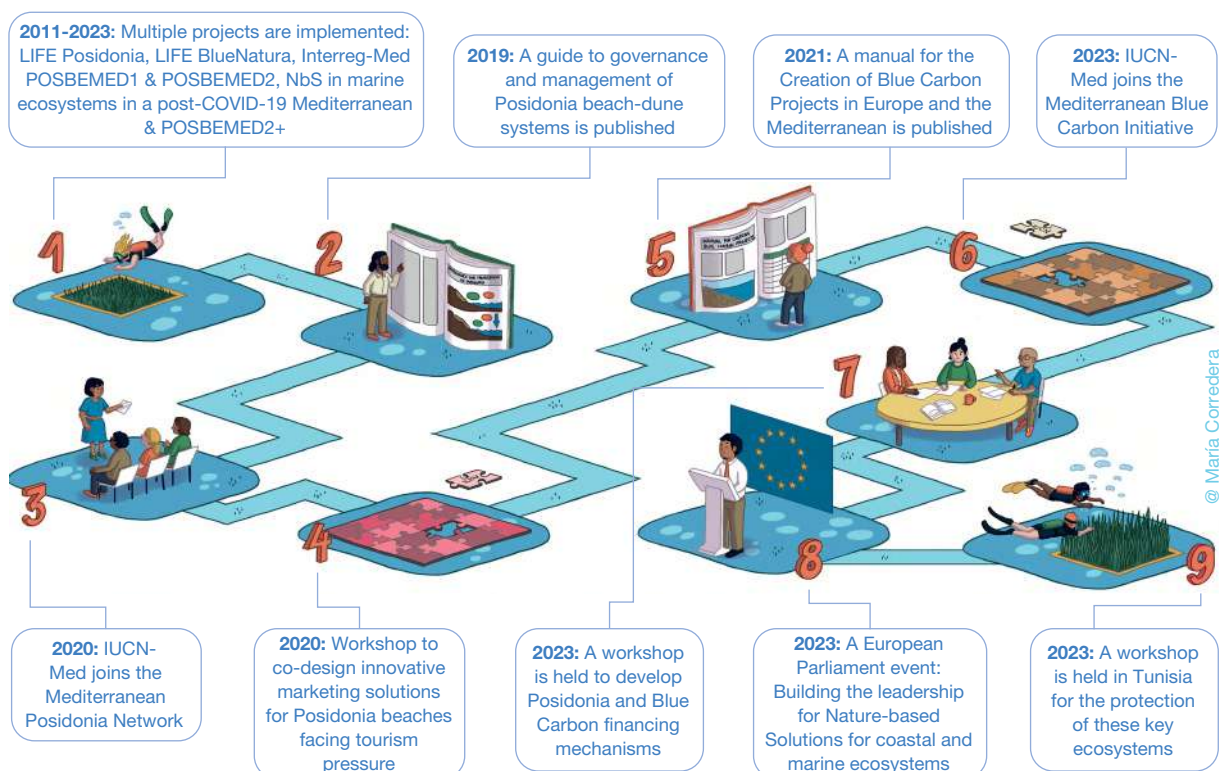
Organisations from PPI-OSCAN and TransCap programmes have exhibited a sense of ownership towards Mubadarat, actively engaging in collaborative initiatives for nature conservation. Notably, five organisations joined forces to demonstrate their work during the World Environment Day, two organisations trained international students during a lizard conservation camp, and one Moroccan PPI-OSCAN organisation collaborated with a Tunisian TransCap counterpart to formulate a project proposal dedicated to advancing the conservation efforts of *Posidonia* in the Mediterranean. Two Libyan CSOs beneficiary of the PPI-OSCAN3 became Member of the IUCN.

These events showcased the Mubadarat Strategy's dedication to fostering a supportive network for CSOs and served as a hub for exchanging new methodologies and insights, enhancing initiatives in biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of ecosystems, safeguarding species, and encouraging income opportunities through conservation activities.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the last two years, IUCN-Med has dedicated efforts to employing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience, focusing on the conservation of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows essential for carbon capture and biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Projects such as [Governance and management of Posidonia beach-dune systems across the Mediterranean \(POSBEMED2\)](#), [Strengthening ecosystem resilience in the Mediterranean \(RESCOM\)](#) and MEDCONNECTA (Advancing the design of green corridors in southeastern Spain) highlight the integration of Nature-based Solutions in combating climate change by enhancing ecosystem resilience. Through webinars, workshops and collaborations like the Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture, IUCN-Med promotes NbS as key to sustainable regional environmental management.

POSIDONIA – A MEDITERRANEAN TREASURE UNDER THREAT



A Decade of Posidonia Conservation in the Mediterranean for Coastal Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

For over 10 years, the IUCN-Med has initiated multiple projects to preserve *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, a seagrass endemic to the Mediterranean. Many studies on Posidonia have reported its capacity to capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to be over three times that of terrestrial forests, making it a vital ally in combating climate change in the Mediterranean.

Throughout the years, several IUCN-Med projects have had Posidonia preservation at their core. In 2022, IUCN-Med finalised the Inter-reg-Med project [Governance and management of Posidonia beach-dune systems across the Mediterranean \(POSBEMED2\)](#) and in 2023, continued to leverage the momentum built with the project POSBEMED+. While POSBEMED2 aimed to address the challenges Mediterranean Posidonia beaches currently face by promoting nature-based management solutions and supporting planning strategies that acknowledge Posidonia beach-dune environments as a key natural asset, POSBEMED+ focused on increasing community engagement of Mediterranean stakeholders towards long-term commitments promoting the sustainable management of Posidonia beaches, including those with tourism pressure.

For decades, the vacation dream associated with sandy Mediterranean beaches often led to the removal of natural beach vegetation like those of Posidonia banquettes. However, the tide has turned, and now the indispensable role of Posidonia in preserving biodiversity, protecting coastlines against erosion and extreme weather events, and maintaining good water quality is recognised on a growing scale.

In June 2023 and as part of the Posbemed+ project, IUCN-Med, in partnership with Blue Flag/FEE and the [Mediterranean Posidonia Network](#), organised an online webinar showcasing innovative solutions to preserve Posidonia while simultaneously working to meet the demands and interests of beachgoers and tourism stakeholders. Through real-life case studies and the unveiling of a comprehensive toolkit, the webinar, which was attended by over 300 interested experts including coastal managers, public administration representatives, tourism operators, hotel/resort managers as well as academics, offered an array of practical examples of how different actors from across the Mediterranean are finding solutions to preserving Posidonia in areas with tourism pressure.

Also in June 2023, IUCN-Med organised two key events in Brussels, Belgium. The first, held at the IUCN European Regional Office (IUCN EURO), focused on discussing the implementation of NbS in blue carbon ecosystems and blue finance mechanisms. The second, hosted at the European Parliament and chaired by

The role of Posidonia in preserving biodiversity, protecting coastlines against erosion and extreme weather events, and maintaining good water quality is recognized on a growing scale

MEP Catherine Chabaud, brought together representatives from the European Commission, IUCN and public institutions, and aimed to facilitate discussions on effective strategies, policies and actions to push for blue carbon projects in the Mediterranean.

In November 2023, IUCN-Med, in collaboration with the Tunisian Taxonomy Association (ATUTAX), held a two-day workshop in Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia that aimed to bring together various stakeholders to discuss the integration and enhancement of NbS for blue carbon ecosystems in the Mediterranean. The event, which brought together a diverse group of participants including representatives from regional government bodies, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations focused on identifying and addressing challenges while exploring opportunities for the sustainable management and conservation of these key ecosystems.

RESCOM: Fostering Resilience in Mediterranean Ecosystems Through Nature-based Solutions

The [RESCOM](#) Project aims to strengthen the social and environmental resilience of vulnerable marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean through Nature-based Solutions. The project seeks to conserve, restore, and enhance the ecological functions of diverse

biomes, including seas, coastlines, forests, islands, and wetlands. The project engages stakeholders and communities through awareness raising, training, and technical support, with actions implemented in six pilot countries (Albania, Italy, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, and Türkiye). Spanning four years, the project is led by the [Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity](#) (MCB), a coalition of influential organisations working to protect biodiversity in the Mediterranean region, including the [International Association of Mediterranean Forests](#), IUCN-Med, [MedWet](#), [MedPAN](#), [PIM Initiative](#), and [Tour du Valat Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Conservatoire du Littoral](#).

Advancing the design of green corridors in southeastern Spain through MEDCONNECTA

In 2022, IUCN-Med in partnership with the [Experimental Station of Arid Zones \(CSIC\)](#) launched [MEDCONNECTA](#), a research project aimed at enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem functionality in Southeast Spain by mapping potential green infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions areas.

In 2023, The MEDCONNECTA team participated in workshops focused on ecological restoration and transport paths, part of the [LIFE LynxConnect](#) and Safe-Crossing projects, highlighting global habitat de-fragmentation initiatives. This forum, organised by the [Spanish Ministry for](#)



[Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge](#) (MITERD) and the Junta de Andalucía, offered a prime opportunity for discussing green infrastructure and biodiversity integration into transport infrastructure planning. It showcased de-fragmentation efforts across various countries, emphasising the importance of ecological connectivity and green infrastructure in Spain's national strategy for ecological restoration.

Financed by Fundación Biodiversidad, under MITERD, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), MEDCONNECTA focuses on creating a coherent green infrastructure in arid regions of Andalusia, Murcia, and Valencia. It aligns with national and EU ecosystem restoration frameworks, intending to guide conservation and restoration actions based on the [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#)TM over three years.

Workshop on NbS - Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture

In 2022, IUCN-Med and other founding members of the [Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture](#) (AMNC) held a workshop in Mersin, Türkiye. The workshop aimed to develop a framework for assessing the environmental benefits of Mediterranean cultural landscapes in countries like France, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Türkiye.

Supported by the MAVA Foundation, the AMNC initiative emphasizes the integration of cultural practices with biodiversity conservation and human well-being, leveraging the Mediterranean's rich history of cultural landscapes. Since 2017, the 13 project partners have worked together towards enhancing the sustainability of local producers, with IUCN-Med joining as a founding member last year.

Regional briefing webinars on Nature-based Solutions for IUCN Members

In 2022, ahead of the UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) and the CBD COP15 in Montreal (Canada), IUCN-Med organised regional webinars to deepen understanding among its Members about Nature-based Solutions. These sessions aimed to clarify NbS concepts, applications, and policy integration, addressing hesitations and promoting widespread adoption.

Participants included government and NGO representatives, offering a platform to share national experiences in NbS implementation. The initiative, supported by IUCN regional offices, provided multilingual translation to enhance engagement, aiming to foster consistent policy approaches and practical NbS application worldwide.

Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean Workshop

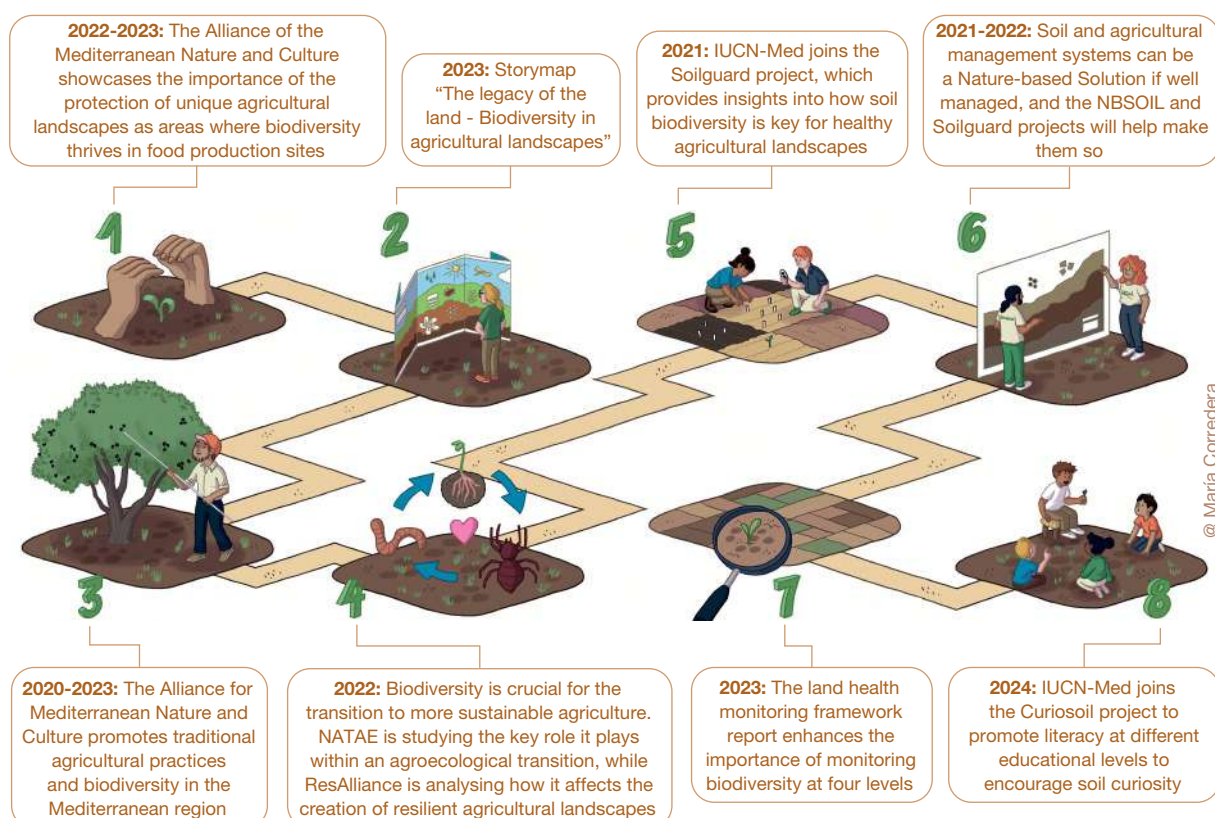
In 2023, IUCN-Med in collaboration with the Malaga City Council ([Ayuntamiento de Malaga](#)) held a knowledge-sharing workshop about Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean. This workshop focused on sharing and discussing Nature-based Solutions for environmental sustainability for cities and climate change adaptation across the Mediterranean.

The workshop aimed to showcase NbS experiences, foster scientific exchange, and explore collaborative opportunities. Additionally, the event discussed organising the first International Mediterranean Congress on NbS in Málaga in 2025.

NATURE CONSERVATION & FOOD SYSTEMS

Agriculture is a high contributor to climate change and biodiversity loss, but it can also be one of the solutions if well managed. This is why, over the last two years, IUCN-Med has expanded its projects to encompass sustainable land management and agricultural practices across the Mediterranean. This expansion has introduced seven new projects promoting practices that enhance biodiversity in agri-food systems by connecting nature conservation with food production, with a focus on soil health. IUCN-Med will keep supporting sustainable management practices and understanding the limitations and benefits of an agroecological transition, while enhancing capacity-building and facilitating knowledge transfer. NbS are also a key priority for the agriculture sector and several initiatives are promoting the implementation of NbS in agri-food systems and developing recommendations to align farming practices with the IUCN Global Standard for NbS. IUCN-Med will keep contributing to the [Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture](#), to raise awareness and advocate about traditional practices and cultural landscapes that sustain both biodiversity and local livelihoods.

SUPPORTING SOIL AND PEOPLE FOR BETTER AGRICULTURE



Alliances and literacy to upscale knowledge and solutions

1. **Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture**: IUCN is a membership Union that supports the cultural landscapes of the Mediterranean area, unique areas where biodiversity and agriculture cohabit sustainably. This is done by building awareness and knowledge, advocating for their protection and the practices that maintain them and researching about biodiversity, climate change, local practices and their interlink.
2. **ResAlliance**: will gather and assess knowledge, needs, gaps, barriers, solutions, and good practices to achieve resilient landscapes, with special emphasis on measures against hazards caused by climate change. With the creation of a Mediterranean thematic network on landscape resilience (“LandNet”), it will facilitate information and knowledge flow and increase the awareness, understanding and capacity of farmers and foresters on landscape resilience in Mediterranean countries.

Soil and its biodiversity as key elements to protect our agricultural systems

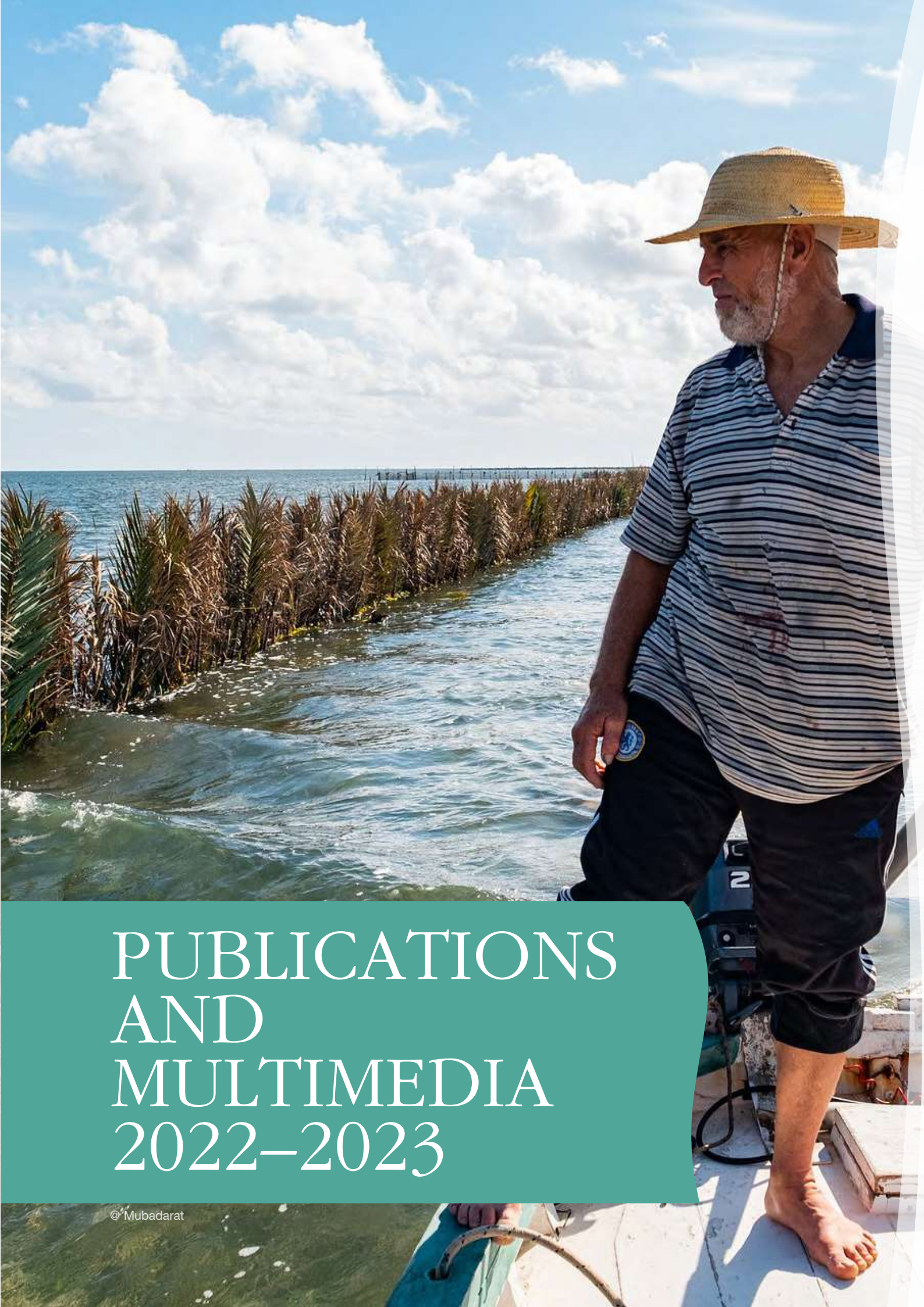
3. **CURIOSOIL**: will work on improving soil literacy in society and embed soil health in schools and educational curricula, understanding how to trigger soil curiosity and create connections between people and soil.
4. **SOILGUARD**: will deliver evidence-based knowledge regarding sustainable soil management benefits for soil biodiversity and its potential to deliver ecosystem services under specific stressors derived from climate change. It will also develop guidelines to better integrate sustainable soil management practices within the Nature-based Solutions framework.
5. **NBSOIL**: aims to create and test a learning pathway for existing and aspiring soil

advisors. Providing the tools to implement a holistic vision of soil health through Nature-based Solutions and to collaborate effectively across different temporal and spatial scales.

Practices and measures to create more resilient agricultural landscapes

6. **NATAE**: will develop a methodology to foster agro-ecological transitions in North Africa (NA), to increase the global sustainability of agriculture and the local resilience of territories. It will also facilitate networking through the setting-up of a durable Mediterranean network and community of knowledge for agroecology.
7. **FARCLIMATE**: will address the difficult challenges of developing and scaling up climate resilient measures in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries economic sectors, making them available and understandable to all, while paying special attention to the social, political, and economic barriers that are commonly faced. Nature-based Solutions will be the guiding thread in FARCLIMATE innovative actions.



A photograph of a man with a grey beard and a straw hat, wearing a striped polo shirt and dark shorts, standing barefoot on the deck of a boat. He is looking out over a body of water with a dense line of reeds in the distance. The sky is blue with white clouds. A teal banner is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

PUBLICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA 2022–2023

Publications



Analysis of knowledge on cultural landscapes at the Mediterranean level



Manual of invasive alien species in the Eastern Mediterranean



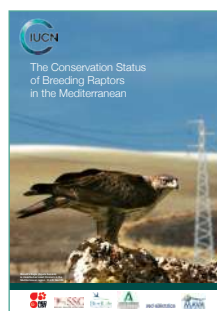
The conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea



Deep-sea Atlas of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea: State-of-the-art knowledge for better protection



Wildlife and power lines: guidelines for preventing and mitigating wildlife mortality associated with electricity distribution networks



The Conservation Status of Breeding Raptors in the Mediterranean



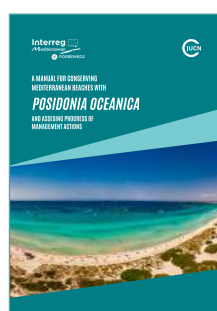
Blueprint: an approach to scale up solutions to achieve “zero plastic pollution” in the Mediterranean islands



Turismo y crisis climática en la Costa del Sol - Diagnóstico preliminar y propuestas de acción



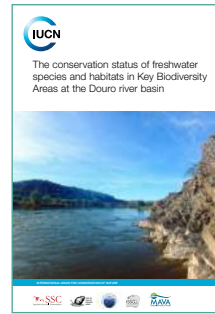
Plastic Waste Free Islands in the Mediterranean



A manual for conserving Mediterranean beaches with Posidonia oceanica and assessing progress of management actions



Ecological Footprint and tourism: Development and sustainability monitoring of ecotourism packages in Mediterranean Protected Areas



Reconnecting Iberian Rivers project



Living islands, for a sustainable Mediterranean: Biodiversity (re)connecting nature and resilient communities



Aperçu sur la pollution marine par les déchets plastiques dans les pays de l'Afrique du nord



Innovative Technology and Digital Solutions for Fair and Effective Area-Based Conservation

Webstories

The Plastic Pollution Crisis



The Iberian Golden River



Videos



[TransCap - Renforcement de la société civile pour la conservation en Afrique du Nord](#)



[TransCap 2 programme](#)



[Achieving Mediterranean! the 20th Anniversary of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation](#)



[How can we reduce the main threats to Mediterranean sea turtles?](#)



[Conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean](#)



[MedArtSal Project Partners celebrate Mediterranean Day](#)



[Would you like to apply the Nature-based Solutions approach to projects in your city?](#)



[The Cultural Landscapes Conference organised by the Alliance for Mediterranean Natura & Culture](#)



[PPI-OSCAN celebrates World Environment Day](#)



Looking forward Our plan for 2024

IUCN-Med is currently going through a transformative phase with its new four-year programme. This year, we will be supporting key regional conservation events and forums in Africa and Europe. We are also excited about the 2025 World Congress in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, we plan to strengthen our presence in North Africa, with a focus on Nature-based Solutions and tackling vital environmental issues such as water scarcity. The agriculture and food systems department is rapidly growing and will bring forth new projects and opportunities in 2024 to foster deeper collaboration with our Members.



NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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, multi-lateral 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.

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 years we have seen significant growth in the number of Members in the region, from 170 in 2010 to 263 by the end of 2023. Membership of our Commissions in the region has also in-

creased 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	12
Subnational Governments	9
Government agencies	22
International NGOs	15
National NGOs	187
Affiliates	18
TOTAL	263
Countries with IUCN Members	24

IUCN Membership in North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia)

State Members	4
Government agencies	–
International NGOs	2
National NGOs	30
Affiliates	–
TOTAL	36
Countries with IUCN Members	24

IUCN's seven Commissions rely on more than 16,000 international experts, more than 1,600 of whom are from Mediterranean countries.

IUCN Commission Membership in the Mediterranean region (2023)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	161
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	151
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	102
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	1,018
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	136
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	309
IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)	30
TOTAL	1,907

IUCN Commission Membership in North Africa (2023)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	34
Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)	32
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)	17
Species Survival Commission (SSC)	53
World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)	4
World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA)	49
IUCN Climate Crisis Commission	5
TOTAL	194

NEW IUCN MEMBERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (2022–2023)

Albania

- [Urban Research Institute](#)

Egypt

- [The Society of Writers on Environment and Development](#)

France

- [Bioparc Conservation](#)
- [Centre d'études et d'expertise sur les risques, l'environnement, la mobilité et l'aménagement](#)
- [City of Fontainebleau](#)
- [City of Paris](#)
- [Département des Bouches-du-Rhône](#)
- [Good Planet Foundation](#)
- [Institut océanographique Paul Ricard](#)
- [Planète Urgence](#)
- [Play for Nature](#)

Jordan

- [Arab Women Water Energy Environment Network Association](#)
- [WADI for Sustainable Ecosystem Development](#)

Lebanon

- [National Council for Scientific Research](#)

Spain

- [Alive Foundation](#)
- [Consejería de Transición Ecológica, Lucha contra el Cambio Climático y Planificación Territorial, Gobierno de Canarias](#)
- [Dirección General de Medio Natural y Evaluación Ambiental, Consejería de Agricultura, Generalitat Valenciana](#)
- [Fundación para la investigación en etología y biodiversidad](#)
- [Red Cambera](#)
- [Sociedad Española para la Conservación y Estudio de Mamíferos](#)
- [Universidad Católica Santa Teresa de Jesús de Ávila](#)

State of Libya

- [Edama for Nature Conservation](#)

Tunisia

- [Association de Continuité de Générations](#)

INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED WITH MEMBERS

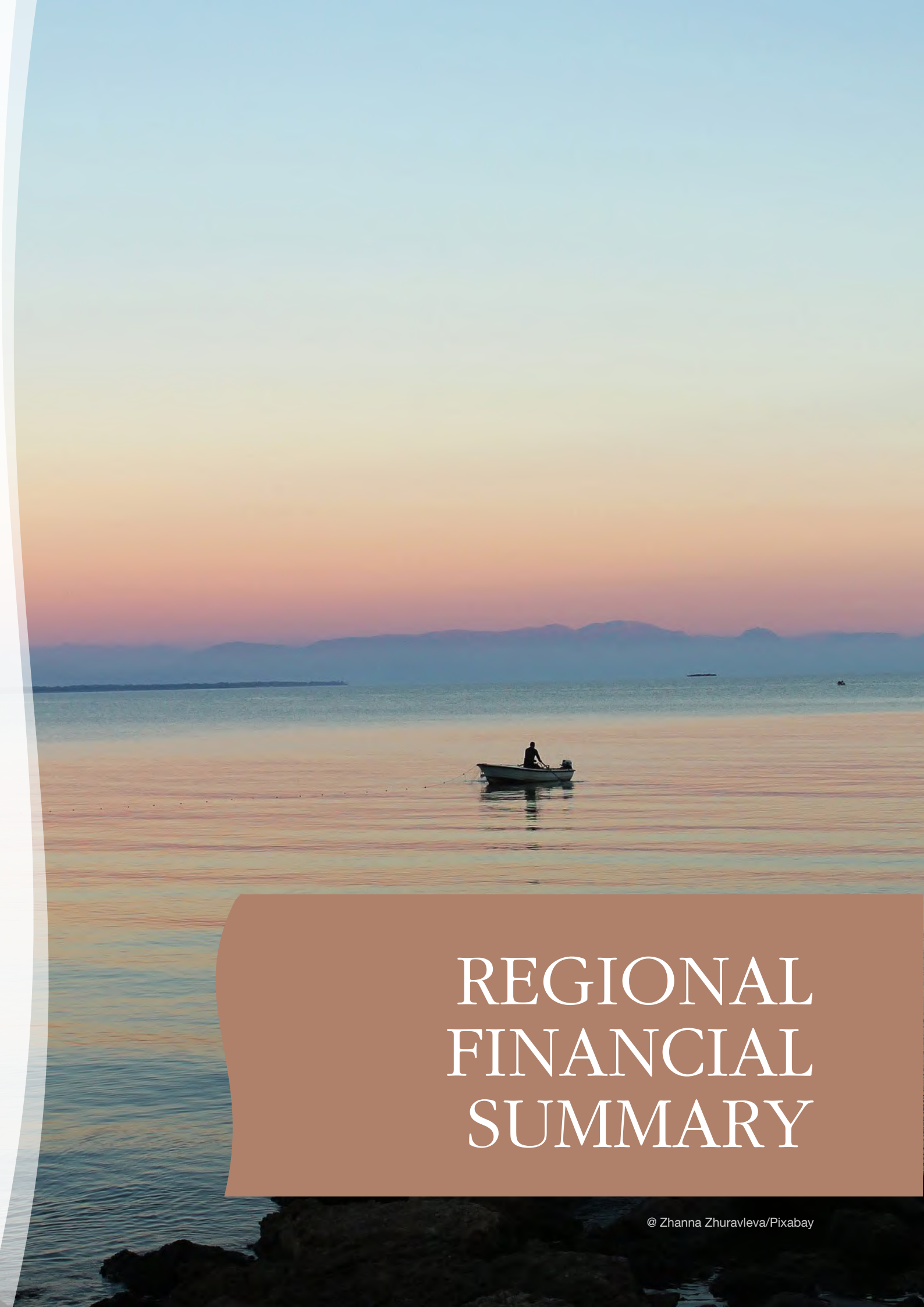
COUNTRY	PROJECT
ALBANIA	
National Agency of Protected Areas (Albania)	■ Partner in DestiMED PLUS project and associated partner in Interreg MED POSBEMED2
ALGERIA	
Ministry of Environment	■ Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN) ■ Support for Green 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
Corsican Tourist Agency	■ 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 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)

COUNTRY	PROJECT
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
WWF North Africa – Morocco office	■ WAMAN Sebou 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

COUNTRY	PROJECT
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 ■ 27° Semana del mar
Department of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia	■ Partner in DestiMED PLUS project
Fundació Universit�ria 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 MAVA
WWF Spain	■ Partner in the Safe Flyways initiative focused on bird threats (energy infrastructure, illegal killing and taking, poisoning) funded by MAVA Foundation.
CBD-Habitat (Fundaci�n para la Conservaci�n de la Biodiversidad y su H�bitat)	■ Partner in the monk seal protection in Eastern Mediterranean
SWITZERLAND	
Vulture Conservation Foundation	■ Partner in bird priority projects (energy infrastructure, illegal killing of birds, poisoning)
TUNISIA	
Minist�re des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement	■ 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'Am�nagement du Littoral (within the Minist�re 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 D�veloppement Durable de Bizerte	■ Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa (PPI-OSCAN2)
Association Nationale de D�veloppement 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

COUNTRY	PROJECT
TÜRKİYE	
Doğa Derneği	■ Indirect partner in Medbycatch project
WWF Türkiye	■ Indirect partner in Medbycatch project
UNITED KINGDOM	
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 experts (Vulture Specialist Group)	■ MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2020–2022: Safe Flyways – reducing energy infrastructure-related bird mortality in the Mediterranean
SSC experts (Mollusc Specialist Group)	■ MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2020–2022 ■ WAMAN Sebou ■ KBA conservation status assessment
SSC experts (Freshwater plant Specialist Group)	■ MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2020–2022 ■ KBA conservation status assessment
SSC experts (Freshwater Conservation Committee)	■ MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2020–2022 ■ KBA conservation status assessment
SSC experts (Sharks Specialist group) Members	■ MAVA-IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME (MedBycatch Phase 1 & 2)
SSC experts (Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group)	■ MAVA–IUCN-Med JOINT PROGRAMME 2020–2022 ■ logistic support for the the IV Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week (MPCW) Co.edition of the publication Conserving wild plants in the South and east mediterranean
SSC experts (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
WCPA–TAPAS	■ MEET Network, DestiMED project, Support for communications working group
WCPA-Climate change	■ MPA-Adapt project
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/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	■ Best examples of Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean
CEM Fisheries Expert Group	■ Working group meeting on Fisheries Restricted Areas and OECMs



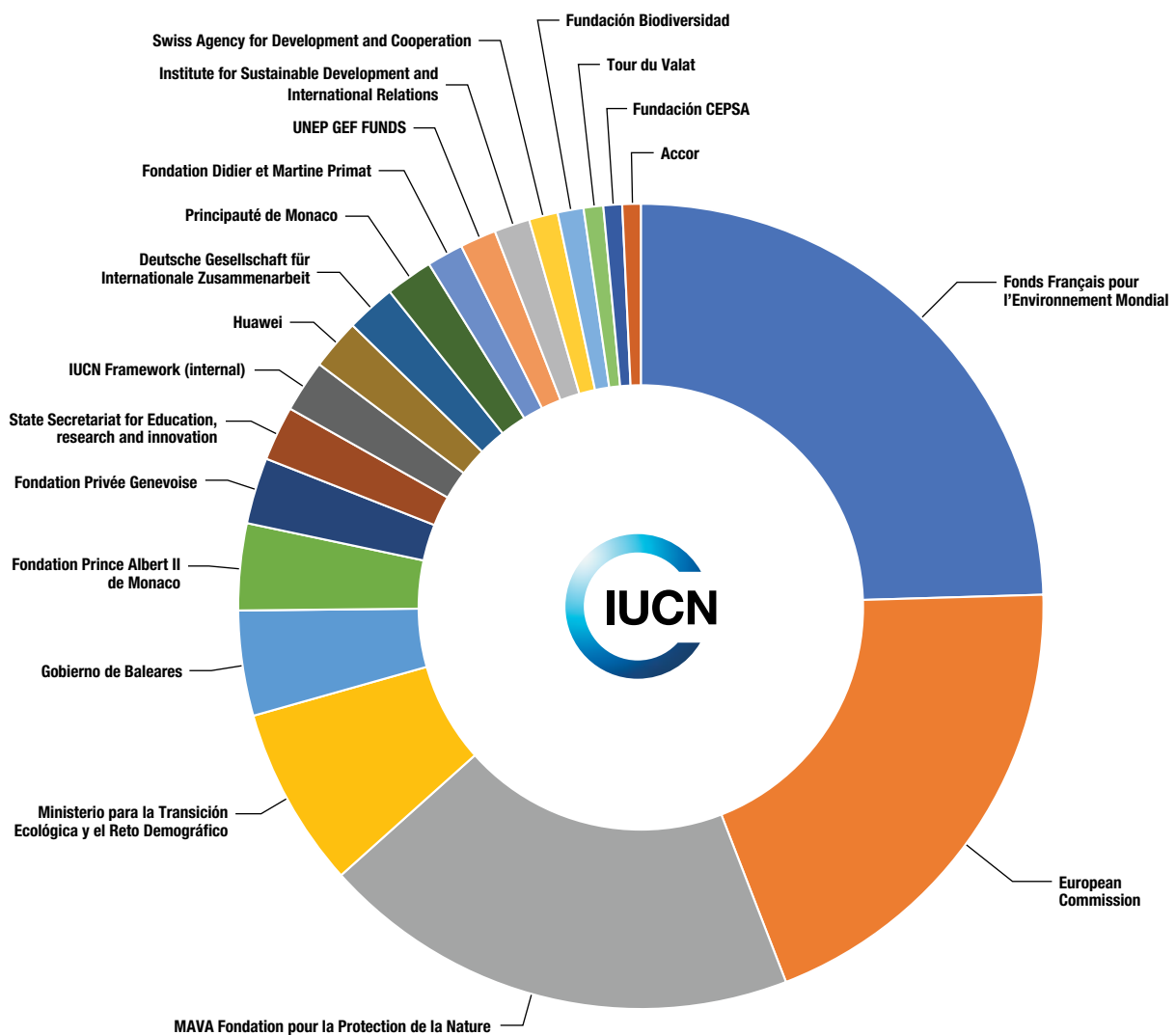
REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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In 2022 and 2023 IUCN-Med managed more than 50 projects with a total budget of approximately 7,093.553 EUR for the two years (EUR 3,819.484 for 2022 and EUR 3,274.069 for 2023). 24% of this sum came from the Fonds Français pour Environnement Mondial (FFEM), 19% from the European Commission, 19% from the MAVA Foundation, and 5% from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition. The rest came from the Prince Albert Foundation, the Gobierno de Baleares, and IUCN Global Programmes.

2022–2023 main donors



IUCN-Med projects 2022–2023

Project	Donors
<u>IUCN-Med MAVA Joint Programme</u>	■ MAVA Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature
<u>Accelerating the global transition to sustainable agriculture</u>	■ Ikea Foundation
Agreement FAO Algeria-IUCN Med to provide technical support for sustainable management of areas of interest for aromatic and medicinal plants	■ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<u>Algeria MPA support through IUCN Green List standards and capacity development</u>	■ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<u>Blue Tourism Covid</u>	■ Institute for Sustainable Development and International relations
<u>Blue4All</u>	■ European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Switzerland)
<u>BRIDGE 5: Building River Dialogue and Governance - phase 5</u>	■ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<u>CircHive: Developing & piloting biodiversity footprinting & natural capital accounting via a 'beehive' of sectoral hubs, for sustainable transition to a circular EU bioeconomy</u>	■ European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Switzerland)
<u>Coastal Ecosystem Resilience - CER: Enhancing Socio-Ecological Climate Change Resilience of Marine and Coastal Systems in Lebanon</u>	■ Royal Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon
<u>Collaboration agreement with CEPESA</u>	■ Fundación CEPESA
<u>COVID-19 tourism recovery for IUCN Green List protected and conserved areas</u>	■ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<u>DestiMED PLUS: Supporting Sustainable Tourism in the West Mediterranean and Beyond</u>	■ European Commission
EuroMediterranean meeting; Nature-based solutions; local proposals, global methodologies	■ Ayuntamiento de Málaga
FPA2BEMED	■ Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco
FRAMEWORK, Mediterranean Cooperation Centre	■ IUCN Framework (internal)
Go4MED Nature: Institutional Dialogue Partnership for Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage	■ European Commission
<u>Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in the United Arab Emirates</u>	■ Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
IMPETUS: Dynamic information management approach for the implementation of climate resilient adaptation packages in European regions	■ European Commission
Implementation of IUCN Red List activities	■ Red Eléctrica de España, S.A.U.
<u>INVASAQUA: Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of freshwater and estuarine habitats in the Iberian Peninsula</u>	■ European Commission
Key Biodiversity Areas Regional Focal Point agreement for Europe, North Africa	■ BirdLife International
<u>LifeWatch Eric: Ecosystem Services Advisory Board</u>	■ European Commission
Management support and expansion of marine protected areas in the State of Libya	■ UNEP GEF FUNDS
<u>Measuring impact - Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture</u>	■ MAVA Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature

Project	Donors
<u>MedArtSal</u> : Sustainable management model for Mediterranean salinas	■ European Commission DG Development
<u>MEDCONNECTA</u> : Design of green corridors for the development of Nature-based Solutions	■ Fundación Biodiversidad
<u>Mediterranean Islands Collective</u> ; collaboration to protect Mediterranean biodiversity in islands	■ MAVA Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature
<u>Monk seal protection at Eastern Mediterranean</u>	■ Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco
<u>NATAE</u> : Fostering agroecology transition in North Africa through multi-actor, evaluation, and networking	■ European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Switzerland)
<u>Nature based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean</u>	■ Principauté de Monaco
<u>NBSOIL</u> : Nature Based Solutions for Soil Management	■ European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Switzerland)
<u>Plastic Free Islands in the Mediterranean</u>	■ Fondation Didier et Martine Primat
<u>POSBEMED 2</u> : Governance and management of Posidonia beach- dune systems across the Mediterranean	■ European Commission
<u>POSBEMED+</u> : Supporting the implementation of the Joint Charter of Commitment for Mediterranean beaches and seagrass meadows	■ Accor
<u>PPI-OSCAN 2 and 3</u> : Support programme for Civil Society Small Initiatives in North Africa	■ Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
<u>ResAlliance</u> : Landscape resilience knowledge alliance for agriculture and forestry in the Mediterranean basin	■ European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Switzerland)
<u>REST-COAST</u> : Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity	■ European Commission; DG Research and Innovation
<u>Safeguard</u> : Safeguarding European wild pollinators	■ European Commission; DG Research and Innovation
<u>Soilguard</u> : Sustainable soil management to unleash soil biodiversity potential and increase environmental, economic and social well-being	■ European Commission
Support to biodiversity priorities in France	■ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development (France)
Operational and activity support	■ Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (Spain)
Support to the Mediterranean office activities	■ Fondation Privée Genevoise
Support to the Mediterranean office in Malaga	■ Ayuntamiento de Málaga
Supporting Civil Society Organisations in the Maghreb (TRANSCAP 1, 2 and 3)	■ Gobierno de Baleares
Supporting the co-coordination of the <u>Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands</u>	■ Tour du Valat (France)
<u>TECH4NATURE</u> : supporting better conservation outcomes in protected and conserved areas	■ Huawei
<u>The 30x30 Challenge</u>	■ IUCN Framework (internal)
<u>Together for the Med</u>	■ MAVA Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature

THE IUCN-MED TEAM

2022-2023

Permanent Staff

Alba	Muñoz Berbel	Human Resources Officer
Alberto	Martín	Nature Conservation and Food Systems Project Officer
Andrés	Alcántara	Liaison and Institutional Officer
Antonio	Troya	Mediterranean Office Director
Arantxa	Cendoya	Membership Focal Point- Executive Assistant
Arnau	Teixidor Costa	Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning Programme Manager
Carla	Danelutti	Regional Programme Coordinator
Catherine	Numa Valdez	Mediterranean Biodiversity Knowledge and Action Programme Manager
Darío	Pollicino	Nature Conservation and Food Systems Assistant
Emmi	Lindqvist	Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Assistant
Helena	Clavero Sousa	Mediterranean Biodiversity Knowledge and Action Officer
Helene	Willem	North Africa Programme Assistant
Houda	EL Alaoui	North Africa Programme Officer
Lourdes	Lázaro Marín	Corporate Department Coordinator
Lucía	Prieto Fustes	Ecosystem Programme Assistant
Maher	Mahjoub	Mediterranean Office Director
Maria del Mar	Otero Villanueva	Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Programme Manager
Marina	Huertas García	Mediterranean Programme Assistant
Mercedes	Muñoz Cañas	Nature Conservation and Food Systems Programme Manager & Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Programme Manager
Miriam	Puga Ruiz	Finance and Administration Assistant
Mohamed	Karmass Ameggarou	Finance and HR Manager
Noelia	Garzon Serrano	Grants Finance Officer
Pilar	Marín Cabeza	Marine and Coastal Project Officer
Santiago	Suarez O'Solan	Communication and Digital Media Support
Talia	Riche	Marketing Communications assistant
Wouter	Plouvier	Mediterranean Programme Assistant
Yaprak	Arda	Project Marine Officer

Out-Posted Staff

Alberto	Arroyo Schnell	Head of Programme and Policy European Regional Office - EU Policy
Anastasia	Ototschin	Finance Officer
Donall	McLoughlin	Commissions Finance Administrator
Gabriela Inés	Hidalgo Moscoso	IUCN Scholarly Communications Librarian
Joseline	Díaz	Programme Administrator & Global Programmes Operations Unit
Nestor	Soler Del Toro	Programme Finance Manager

Interns

Abir	Samih	North Africa Programme Intern
Amelia	Agranovich	Marine Programme Intern
Belkis	Kaddouri	Species Intern
Marie-Alizée	Kuhn	Blue Tourism Initiative Research and Communication Intern
Marina	Prieto Marquez	Communications Intern
Marta	Pineda Gil	IUCN's Chair on Nature Conservation Research Intern
Oussema	Fersi	North Africa Programme Intern
Rafael	Flores del Río	Communications Intern
Rebecca	Penrose	North Africa Programme Intern

ACRONYMS

AMNC	The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture
BeMed	Beyond Plastic Med initiative
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCC	IUCN Climate Crisis Commission
CEM	IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management
CEPSA	Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A.U.
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
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EAGL	Expert Assessment Group for the Green List
EICAT	Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa
ES	Ecosystem Services
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFEM	French Global Environment Facility (Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial)
GREPOM	Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (BirdLife Partner, Morocco)
HCMR	Hellenic Center for Marine Research
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
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)
MAW	Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands
MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean
MedWet	The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MEET	Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NbS	Nature-based Solution(s)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PA	Protected Area
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
SDGs	UN Sustainable Development Goals
SSC	IUCN Species Survival Commission
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 socioeconomic scenario to which many different actors bring a wide range of abilities and skills.

A **strong advisory body** seeking solutions to 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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INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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