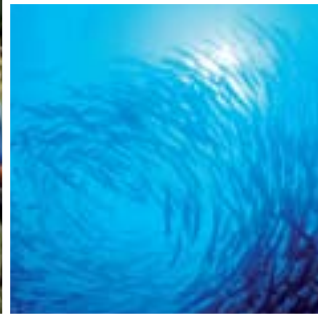
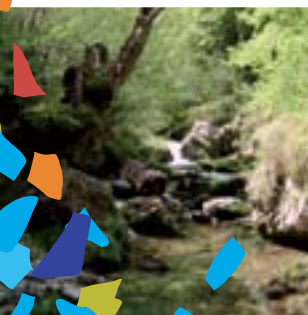


A Diverse and Sustainable Europe





Editorial

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 64 Boulevard Louis Schmidt, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
 europe@iucn.org – www.iucn.org/europe

- Editor in Chief:** Tamás Marghescu
- Managing Editor:** Wiebke Herding
- Language Editor:** Tiina Rajamets
- Translation:** Nathalie Ghyoot
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Europe and its natural resources are certainly diverse. But is Europe sustainable? Far from it. Yet – without sustainability there is no future for Europe, or for the rest of the world. Europe has a tremendous negative environmental footprint on other parts of the globe. We need a change in attitude: Instead of systematically using up our natural resources, we need to conserve them. Instead of overexploiting our ecosystem services, we need to invest in the very infrastructure that enables them: Protected Areas.

How to best develop systems that value these services and give a price to nature is just one of the topics of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 5–14 October). Hundreds of workshops, events and debates will give you the opportunity to share cutting-edge knowledge on climate change and biodiversity, develop strategies to reach the 2010 biodiversity target, start looking for the direction we should take after 2010 and much more. Meet passionate conservationists from Central Asia, Caucasus, Russia, the Green Belt, the Mediterranean, Scandinavia and the entire world. Witness the prelude to the congress, when tall ships, research vessels and environmental boats, moved by the power of wind, sail along the coastline of Barcelona in a parade to raise awareness on marine and coastal conservation.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is a giant market place for brilliant ideas to save this planet, but it is also a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs to debate and agree on the vision on how we need to move forward. It is here where you can also determine the future of IUCN as a global union of members. We here in the pan-European region are committed to making IUCN work for you, our members and partners, by providing you with the information you need to do your work well, by representing the interests of nature in international and European policy fora and by bringing people and organizations together to move biodiversity conservation forward. When IUCN celebrates its 60th birthday, IUCN in Pan-Europe takes a critical look at its state and debates with its members the need for IUCN to return to its roots and become a true union of its constituency, including members, individual experts in its Commissions and the many partners.

All of you that are coming from different parts of the world to meet in Barcelona – a warm welcome to Europe and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Barcelona.

Tamás Marghescu
 IUCN Regional Director for Pan-Europe



IUCN
 World
 Conservation
 Congress
 Barcelona 2008

IUCN
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Jean-Louis Borloo © IUCN/Wiebke Herding



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Welcome to the IUCN World Conservation Congress!



By *Jean-Louis Borloo*, French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development and Planning

Europeans want a diverse and a sustainable Europe. The European Union is clearly diverse with its 23 official languages and three alphabets, its geography that links polar climates to the Mediterranean, and with its overseas entities sprinkled as far as the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. The future will show whether the EU is also sustainable, and now is the best moment to create this future! In the not too distant past, Europe's industrial and urban expansion was not necessarily a model of sustainability. But the last decades have seen a radical shift in the attitudes of European society: Without letting go of its goal to share prosperity, it has tied this intrinsically to that of a protected environment, as I had the chance to report to

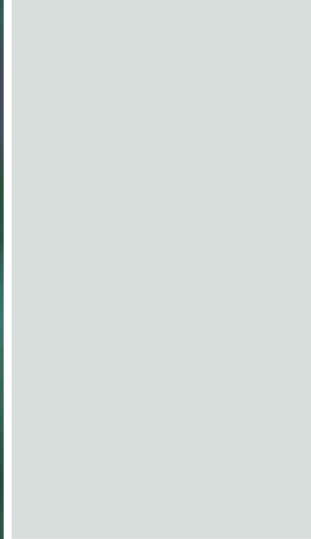
The Natura 2000 network is one of Europe's most spectacular successes in nature conservation.

IUCN's conference "The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss" last July on Reunion Island.

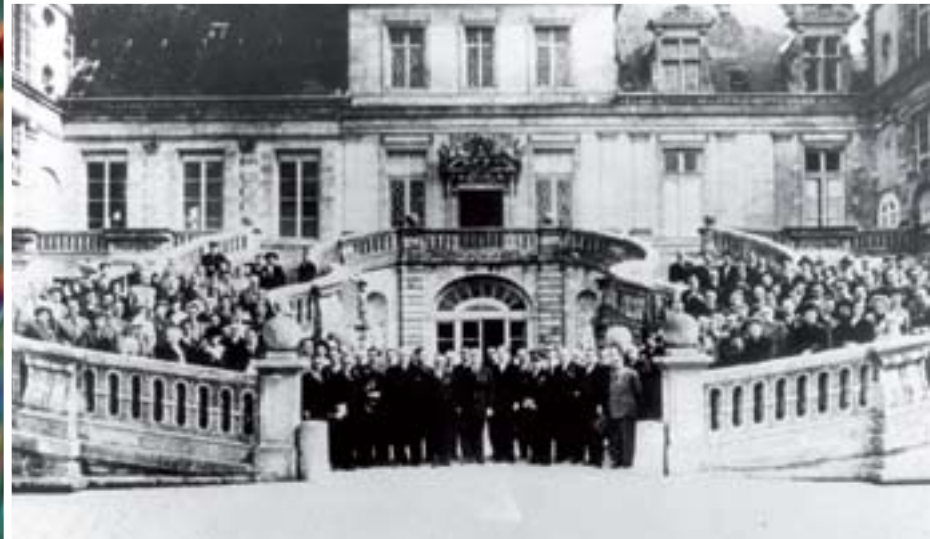
Until today, one of the most spectacular successes of European nature conservation is indisputably the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, designated to conserve biological diversity and to value Europe's natural heritage in a coherent manner. It is just as exemplary in the way it was established as in its success: Based on principles and clear objectives agreed at the European level, each country has adapted the process and the means of



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The World Conservation Union was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France © IUCN/Inez Forbes

implementation to its context, its geography, its culture and its nature.

The influence of the European Union reaches much further and touches all aspects of the environment. This year, the work programme of the French Presidency is very ambitious and marked by the upcoming deadlines to relaunch the Kyoto protocol – the international conferences in Poznan and Copenhagen. In terms of energy and climate change, we are working on several fundamental proposals like the revision of the directive on the European Emissions Trading Scheme, the framework directive on renewable energy, and the directive on car emissions. In terms of pollution, the directive on integrated pollution prevention and control being revised, and a soil directive is under discussion. When it comes to nature, the general direction of the fight against deforestation will be discussed this autumn, together with ways to fight invasive alien species and a mid-term review of the biodiversity action plan. In the field of water, a Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference will attempt to develop a strategy to manage this increasingly rare resource.

Sixty years after its creation in Fontainebleau, IUCN is still very dynamic, and I thank you all for this!

The European Union has made these advances to improve its own environment, but also to move on concrete and credible foundations in the international processes to improve the global environment. For this, it can always rely on IUCN as a driving force and provider of expertise on nature conservation on the global scale.

I wish all participants in the IUCN World Conservation Congress fruitful exchanges, deep debates, ambitious and realistic decisions. I thank, in the name of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Kingdom of Spain, the Government of Catalonia and the City of Barcelona for their initiative to welcome the jamboree of the World Conservation Forum and the animated debates of the IUCN Members' Assembly. I count on IUCN and its members to bring forward ideas and action plans for all parties, especially governments. Sixty years after its creation in Fontainebleau, IUCN is still very dynamic, and I thank you all for this!



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Commissioner Dimas © Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland

A new climate for change

By Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for the Environment

In recent years we have seen a public and a political recognition of the need to take urgent action to combat climate change. Research such as the Stern Review has made it clear that this is not only an environmental challenge but is also an enormous threat our well-being, our security and our prosperity.

The other great environmental threat that the planet faces is the loss of biodiversity. The global rate of extinction is at least 100 times the natural rate, and one in eight of all bird species, one quarter of all mammals and one third of all amphibians are endangered. Scientists are not exaggerating when they refer to the 6th great planetary extinction.

Climate change will have many devastating effects on the quality of our lives. Extreme weather event will worsen. Human health will suffer as a result of heatwaves, droughts and the spread of tropical diseases. There will be severe impacts on agriculture and increased water shortages could affect between 2 and 3 billion people. Rising seas will threaten the homes and livelihoods of many people.

Climate change is having a devastating impact on nature.

But climate change is also having a devastating impact on nature. Temperatures are rising faster than ecosystems can adapt or species can evolve. We can already see the results in increased extinction, migration and behavioural changes. Take the example of coral reefs – which are home to over 25 per cent of all marine life. Coral takes many decades to develop and can only tolerate a narrow temperature range. Rapid rises in sea temperature could lead to the death of coral by bleaching – and the loss of entire ecosystems.

Climate change is potentially the most important driver of species loss. At the same time, the loss of biodiversity makes climate change worse. Deforestation is responsible for approximately 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. And the depletion of ecosys-

tems means that the impact of climate change is magnified. For example, the loss of wetlands surrounding New Orleans made the impact of Hurricane Katrina much worse.

The EU has been able to take global leadership on climate change – and probably the best single measure we could take to protect biodiversity is to successfully lead the global fight against climate change. But it is also important to take specific measures to protect nature – and at the recent meeting of the Convention of Biodiversity in Bonn, EU Member States worked very successfully together and helped deliver what turned out to be a positive outcome.

With these two environmental priorities it is important to look for the win-win opportunities. This is why a focus for the European Commission over the coming year will be tackling deforestation. Protecting forests will safeguard biodiversity hotspots and will help mitigate climate change. We have therefore developed proposals to prevent illegal timber being sold on the EU market and will shortly publish a policy document on the possibility of providing compensation for avoided deforestation.

There are also a number of lessons to be learned for biodiversity from the way that policy makers approached climate change. The first is that when the economic case for action is understood then it is easier to find agreement on decisive actions. This is the reason why Germany and the Commission have launched a major study on *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*: The initial findings are that under a business as usual scenario the loss of biodiversity could be costing us the equivalent of 7% of global GDP by 2050.

A second lesson is that communicating the message is essential. Here the work of the IUCN – and in particular its Countdown 2010 Initiative is an excellent example that needs to be built upon. Public opinion is the way to ensure that the protection of biodiversity rises to the top of the political agenda in the same way the climate change has done. And once this happens we will have a real chance of meeting the 2010 biodiversity target.



Jacqueline McGlade
© European Environment Agency

Healthy environments – healthy people: Broadening our vision to face future challenges

By Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

Throughout recorded history, it has been shown that environmental pollution and loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity have many direct and indirect social and economic impacts. The rise of environmentally related disorders in humans, the collapse of fisheries, the reduction of pollination by bees, the loss of endemic species in the face of introductions from other regions are all examples where the health of humans has been shown to be intricately tied up with the health of surrounding animals and plants. Worldwide, significant legislation has been put in place to protect and support humans and wildlife. Yet our insistence on over-exploiting ecosystems and exposing ourselves and ecosystems alike to an enormous battery of chemicals and inappropriate levels of extraction still persists.

To counteract this, several steps need to be taken. In 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment underlined that thinking about ecosystem services needed to be brought into the production sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, and business more generally, through the introduction of an ecosystem approach. To achieve this, there needs to be more focus on the complex correlation between biodiversity and society.

First, we need to raise public awareness. Today, policy makers are more familiar than members of the public with the term “ecosystem services”. People mostly associate environmental issues with pollution and traditional conservation efforts focused on species such as pandas, whales or tigers. But healthy ecosystems mean much more than that. They are the backbone of our energy and food production systems, and hence society. To sustain what we have, we must reach a level of awareness where people think about the impact of their day-to-day decisions on the environment and be the driving force behind political processes to secure a healthy future for the planet’s ecosystems.

Second, we need up-to-date information. Policy makers and the public alike need the most up-to-date and relevant information possible. Thanks to information technology and communities of people working on these issues, this is increasingly becoming a reality. We still need, however, a similar speed when it comes to providing authoritative, objective assessments of emerging issues.

Healthy ecosystems are the backbone of our society



© Peter Lengyel

A new type of process must be established with proper input and engagement by businesses, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and citizens. When faced with urgent problems, we must be able to decide and act quickly albeit in a precautionary way, when necessary.

Finally, our vision needs to be global. For example, EU countries are used to working with well-established and advanced policy instruments, reporting and monitoring schemes. But the European Union does not cover the entirety of Europe’s continent and nor do processes affecting the EU only arise from within its own borders. We must share our knowledge and capacity universally, in order to address truly the continent’s environmental challenges. The European Environment Agency (EEA) with its membership extending beyond the EU promotes a pan-European perspective but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to connect these activities globally.

Despite these major challenges, we have reason to be cautiously optimistic. The awareness at the highest policy levels about the importance of healthy ecosystems for human society has never been greater. More and more people want to know and understand the reality of the costs of using the earth’s natural capital and the consequences of policies on the resilience and sustainability of ecosystems.

There are also many concrete initiatives already launched. The EEA has embarked on EURECA, an ecosystem assessment for Europe in 2012, which will study in detail a number of ecosystem services. Governments at the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to establish an intergovernmental body for biodiversity and ecosystem services similar to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change. And around the world as part of the Global Environmental Observation initiatives, scientists and citizens are pooling their knowledge about how the planet is changing on a daily basis.

These are all very welcome developments and will be needed to address what are probably the two biggest environmental challenges to society, climate change and biodiversity loss. It is also important that they are now **both** at the top of the political agenda.



Fuente de Piedra, Málaga © IUCN/Margarita Astrálaga



Margarita Astrálaga © IUCN-Med

Water and climate change in the Mediterranean

By **Margarita Astrálaga**, Director, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med)

Climate change impacts the entire Mediterranean region in a number of significant ways. Scientists and citizens alike can provide examples of how this phenomenon affects their daily lives: weather conditions are more erratic and extreme; floods and droughts have become more common; glaciers are melting; and the amount of snow in ski resorts is scarcer every year.

Since 1900, the temperature in Europe has risen by an average of 0.95°C. The temperature rise has been especially intense in the northeast of Russia and the Iberian Peninsula. In the mountain areas of Andalusia in Spain, temperatures will have increased by 6–7°C by 2100.¹

The number of days per year with temperatures higher than 25°C has risen. Droughts last longer and are more frequent, and more often followed by torrential rainfall and floods. Rainfall in southern Europe over the last 100 years was 20% less than in previous periods, and according to predictions, this trend will continue.

In a region defined by the sea, the scarcity of water is the main restriction on life in the Mediterranean region. Predictions on water use in the region show that current and future demands are incompatible with the amount of water available.

Unfortunately, too much effort goes into the search for additional freshwater sources, instead of into water-saving policies to change consumption patterns or developing integral management strategies for water. Despite the high risks, we continue extracting water from aquifers to ever deeper levels. In addition, much agriculture uses copious amounts of pesticides and nitrates which then make their way into the ground water.

Desalinating water – another technique we resort to increasingly – uses a lot of energy, and accordingly increases greenhouse gas emissions. Spain is currently the first country in the world to use

desalinated water for agricultural purposes. The reuse of water is at a very low level in European Mediterranean countries; Spain and Cyprus are the only countries to sufficiently promote the use of recycled water for the irrigation of agricultural areas, gardens, golf courses, etc.

In the last 50 years, water demand has doubled in the Mediterranean countries and, astonishingly, 65% of water is used in the agricultural sector. Moreover, in most countries of the European Mediterranean region, tourism is the major economic activity, generating a significant increase in water demand every year.

Modern policies of integrated water management are essential to ensure future water and food security in the Mediterranean. These include, among other things, saving and reusing water, recharging aquifers, protecting and restoring wetlands, controlling pollution, and charging consumers the real cost of the resource. Such policies would lead to investments in water conservation, rational water management and the necessary adaptations to climate change being made. Furthermore, the capacity of the region's ecosystems to provide, maintain and regulate water resources must be enhanced through good forestry management, and initiatives to improve and conserve the quality of soil in agricultural systems.

The scarcity of water is the main restriction on life in the Mediterranean region.

Within IUCN's 2009–2012 programme, in addition to biodiversity conservation, which is the IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre's main focus, work is being done to promote adaptation to climate change, the use of clean energies, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the development of appropriate new legislation and policies throughout the Mediterranean basin.

www.iucn.org/mediterranean

¹ EEA. (2004). Impacts of climate change in Europe: An indicator-based assessment. eea.europa.eu

Environmental challenges in Central Asia

By Roman Jashenko, Tethys Scientific Society, Kazakhstan

The unique biodiversity of Central Asia is the key to understanding the evolutionary processes of the whole Eurasian continent. The region's biodiversity is very rich – there are many endemic species, genera and even some families of animals and plants, especially in the mountain areas. Central Asia is an extremely large region of varied geography, including high passes and mountains, vast deserts, and especially treeless, grassy steppes.

Its five countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) are home to over 50 million people. While Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Soviet Republics, Kazakhstan has a comparatively strong economy in the region. Much of the land of Central Asia is too dry or too rugged for farming.

Common environmental challenges for Central Asia

- Water: loss of water resources, water pollution and poor management of transboundary rivers;
- Biodiversity: loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation;
- Land: land degradation through salinization, flooding and pollution;
- Air: air pollution;
- Waste: poor waste management.

IUCN in Central Asia

The oldest IUCN member of the region (Turkmenistan Society for Conservation of Nature) hosted the IUCN General Assembly in 1978, but programmatically, IUCN has been active in Central Asia since 1994. The long-term vision of IUCN in Central Asia is *to secure sustainable livelihoods in a healthy environment*. Both internationally and in the Central Asian region, IUCN has an unparalleled network of scientific, legal and policy experts in a wide range of topics relating to conservation and sustainable development. IUCN can play an important role identifying and cultivating capacity in the Central Asian republics for conservation and sustainable development. IUCN's main thematic priority from the Union's Global Programme for 2009–2012 for Central Asia is *Conserving the diversity of life*, followed by *Changing the climate forecast*. Achieving results under the first priority will be done through *protected areas, red-listing, world heritage designation, environmental legislation and ecological*

education. Work under the second priority will be concentrated on the *impacts of climate change in Aral Sea basin*.

Conserving the diversity of life

Less than 10% of the region's area has been set aside as protected areas. The IUCN World Parks Congress in 2003 revealed that up-to-date information on protected areas in Central Asia is very limited and that many of the protected areas lack any effective management. The last IUCN project on protected areas to be implemented in Central Asia assessed the current management and status of just one IUCN protected area category, Strict Nature Reserves, and developed a regional network of protected area specialists. The results have been published at www.iucnca.net, and should be developed further.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is a tool for monitoring biological diversity. Reliable information on the status of biodiversity supports the work of conservation agencies, development assistance agencies, scientists, land-use planners, policy makers and others. The Central Asian Red List initiative should include the following objectives:

- 1 to assess, in the long term, the status of all species in selected taxonomic groups;
- 2 to establish a baseline from which to monitor the status of species;
- 3 to provide a regional and global context for the establishment of conservation priorities at the local level; and
- 4 to monitor, on a continuing basis, the status of a representative selection of species (as biodiversity indicators) that cover all the major ecosystems of the Central Asian region.

Changing the climate forecast

Climate change has had a huge impact on the Aral Sea over the last 40 years. Desertification and chemical pollution have created many ecological problems for the area's biodiversity, its local communities and their livelihoods. Using its scientific expertise, IUCN will have a major role to play in influencing policies, developing scenarios and getting the best information about natural processes through ecological monitoring systems. IUCN is well placed to be a valuable partner in Central Asia as the governments and people of the region continue to move towards a path of rational utilization of the region's natural wealth and biodiversity.



EU overseas entities key players on climate change and biodiversity issues

By *Jean-Philippe Palasi*, IUCN Programme Coordinator for EU Overseas Entities

In July 2008 IUCN co-organized the first ever environmental conference of all 28 EU overseas entities on Reunion Island. This official event of the French presidency of the European Union proved to be a major step in the recognition of their major ecological importance, allowing them to join forces with the EU to protect their biodiversity, economies and ways of life.

The EU's overseas entities came together at a meeting in Reunion Island, calling for action on climate change to help preserve nature. With mounting pressure on the environment and people's livelihoods better management and research is needed to identify the threats posed by climate change, allowing for appropriate adaptation measures in EU overseas entities.

"IUCN is fully aware of the exceptional importance of biodiversity in EU overseas entities when compared with continental Europe, and their particular vulnerability to climate change," said IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre. "Whether in Reunion, Greenland or Tahiti, biodiversity is one of the main assets for the well-being of the populations and the economic development of these territories".

Considering the high degree of plant, bird and animal species found nowhere other than within these entities, specific climate-change scenarios must be developed for each, supported by regional modelling which should build on EU-backed research programmes.

EU overseas entities are facing not only the threat of climate change impacts but also other, often interrelated, environmental factors such as invasive alien species, illegal fishing, overexploitation of resources, pollution and habitat destruction. Now combined with climate change, these threats put at risk the economies and the unique cultures of the EU overseas entities.

Results from the conference on Reunion Island are online at www.reunion2008.eu

Taking into account the socio-economic consequences and risks of these threats, the EU must provide tools and finances to guarantee environmental security for the residents of these territories. "The representation of EU overseas entities in relevant international and regional fora must be improved" added Julia Marton-Lefèvre. "And then we must improve access to global, EU and regional financing mechanisms".

Many of the EU overseas entities – like Reunion Island itself – have ambitious and exciting plans for renewable energies. All concerned EU member states (France, UK, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal) and the EU itself should realize that having such a network of 28 overseas entities spread across the world's oceans provides a unique opportunity for environmental action in key parts of the world.

"This meeting has been a wonderful opportunity for representatives from across the world who had often never met to work together and agree on a set of concrete proposals" said Julia Marton-Lefèvre. "Much of what can be done to reduce the impacts of climate change on EU overseas entities can be scaled up for application in mainland Europe. What we need now from the EU is research, investment and action".

The "Message from Reunion Island" includes detailed proposals prepared in 11 workshops and adopted by the conference. It can be consulted on www.reunion2008.eu.

The 28 overseas entities of the European Union include seven Outermost Regions (fully part of the EU): Azores, Canary Islands, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Madeira, Martinique, Reunion Island; and 21 associated Overseas Countries and Territories: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory (BAT), British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF), Greenland, Mayotte, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension Island, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wallis and Futuna.



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Germany to expand wildcat habitat



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Shared steps towards a sustainable environment:
Corporate partnerships in Europe

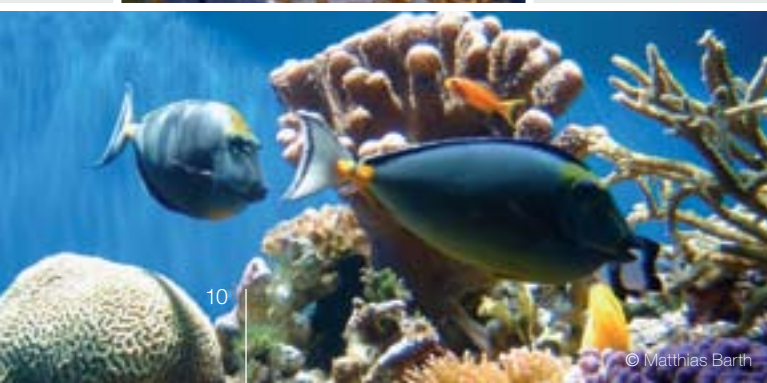


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Monaco: a centre for oceanography



© CSM



Germany to expand wildcat habitat

By Mark Hörstermann, BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany

The threatened European wildcat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) is the flagship species for a new campaign by Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND; Berlin) to raise public awareness and attract support for one of the largest conservation projects in central Europe. The plan is to create a network of forested or shrub-covered paths, stretching 20 000km, connecting natural areas and national parks in Germany, and thereby allowing currently isolated populations of animals to roam freely amongst habitats. The corridors are a requirement of Germany's 2002 Federal Nature Conservation Act, and BUND is working to provide support to individual German states to meet that goal. According to the Act, "the network of interlinked biotopes is designed to safeguard, on a lasting basis, native fauna and flora species and their habitats, and to preserve, restore, and develop functioning ecological interrelationships". The goal is to complete the project within 15–20 years. The pilot project, to be completed in 2009, is a 20km corridor connecting Hainich National Park and the Thuringian Forest in eastern Germany. The first 20 000 trees were planted there in late 2007 and may require up to five years to mature before the pathway is usable. Though the plan focuses on the wildcat, which could face extinction without a large territory and diverse habitat, wildlife biologists hope other creatures will benefit as well. Mark Hörstermann, spokesperson for the BUND wildcat project, hopes to see "the 50m-wide primeval forest paths become natural roadways for many species with similar biological needs, including badgers, ground beetles, bats, tree frogs, pine martens and butterflies". But the project still faces obstacles. Conservationists need to gain the support of farmers and landowners to secure the land necessary to complete the project. Also, whether the animals will actually use the pathways remains uncertain. Still, Hörstermann warns, "If the network fails to materialize, that is, if the country's flora and fauna remain limited to nature reserves, between 60% and 70% of all native species will be threatened. We must connect their habitats once again; only then do they stand a chance of surviving".

IUCN could be an important partner especially in the second stage of the project – the international link. Germany's neighbouring countries with similar habitats such as France, Czech Republic, Austria and others could join the network which one day may reach from Spain to the Balkans – the natural range of the European wildcat.

www.bund.net/wildkatze



Shared steps towards a sustainable environment: Corporate partnerships in Europe

By **Kay O'Regan**, Corporate Partnerships Manager,
Earthwatch Institute (Europe)

As part of its global scientific research programme, international environmental charity Earthwatch co-ordinates and supports projects in ten European countries, reflecting four themes: climate change, sustainable resource management, oceans and sustainable cultures.

Corporate employees and local community members can participate in these projects. Several corporate partners also contribute directly to research and learning programmes in the field. Syngenta, for example, supports initiatives exploring the enhancement of biodiversity across farmed landscapes in Europe.

Ultimately, Earthwatch seeks to alter the “organizational DNA” of companies to deliver real change that can help achieve a sustainable environment. Working as one of Rio Tinto’s global biodiversity partners, Earthwatch has supported the development and implementation of their strategy to achieve a “net positive contribution” to biodiversity in their operations.

Underpinning this approach, Earthwatch Corporate Environmental Responsibility Group (CEREG) provides a unique platform for 23, mostly European-based, partner companies to share best practice and explore issues relating to business and the environment within and across sectors.

Earthwatch seeks partners with complementary goals, who are willing to work with us to find creative solutions to address many of today’s environmental challenges. However, despite 18 years’ experience, the establishment and maintenance of such partnerships is often challenging.

Earthwatch projects are often carried out in partnership with IUCN members, but more could be done to maximize the exchange and application of research findings through collective networks. IUCN and its members are also actively developing new relationships across sectors and attempting to understand how to engage stakeholders successfully in this work. Earthwatch has a wealth of expertise to offer, not least in delivering innovative, field-based experiential learning programmes. Together, new opportunities for collaborative partnerships and programmes could be explored, for which Earthwatch welcomes dialogue with IUCN and its members.

Monaco: a centre for oceanography

By **Michel Boisson**, Secretary General,
Monaco Scientific Center

Scientific research in Monaco has been a tradition for more than a century. It was initiated by Prince Albert I, born 150 years ago. He explained his involvement and passion for science in these terms:

“I thought that the most captivating study for a worker with an independent spirit and a love of modern science, would be a study marking the origin and tracing the living force and its progress through the ages of our planet ...”.

It was this same curiosity, this same desire to contribute to an understanding of the great questions about nature, its diversity and its evolution, and the same inclination for discovery, that motivated H.R.H. Prince Rainier III, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, to create the Monaco Scientific Center (Centre Scientifique de Monaco or CSM).

Speaking on November 16th 1959 during the opening of the First Scientific Conference of the International Agency for Atomic Energy on the Elimination of Radioactive Waste, H.R.H. Prince Rainier announced the setting up of new laboratories and declared: *“In this way, the Principality can continue to contribute to its essential object of peace, health and prosperity for the whole world”.*

Created in this context, the CSM was given the mission of developing research on the conservation and protection of marine life, in cooperation with international and governmental organizations. It took charge of the meteorological observatory created by Prince Albert and developed laboratories for neurobiology and marine pollution studies.

The CSM made valuable contributions to the evaluation of: Mediterranean deep-water residence time; the transfer of organisms and matter in Mediterranean straits; coastal water circulation; and to modelling the effect of excessive natural and artificial elements on natural cycles.

Since 1990, the CSM’s research has focused on the mechanisms of marine symbiosis and biomineralization in coral and related organisms. It explores the diversity (ecological, biological and biomedical) of these ecosystems and their functioning from the molecular level to that of ecosystems, in normal conditions and when under environmental stress.

The CSM has naturally become a member of the IUCN. Indeed, the CSM and IUCN share the same objectives of understanding and peace between people through respect for, and the protection of, life. IUCN has created the foundation for an international chain of friendship between researchers and citizens.



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New strategies for the development of ecotourism in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

By **John Samad Smaranda**, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is internationally recognized for its bird populations, both in terms of sheer numbers and of rare species. Its mosaic of habitats is the richest in Romania and supports a wide variety of interesting communities of plants and animals (so far numbering over 5,380 species), including many species that are important at national, regional or even global levels. The diversity of bird species is very high (331 bird species), and so is the diversity of fish (about 86 species presently, including several types of sturgeon). Through its originality, richness in species and natural spectacular landscape, including the cultural landscapes, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a unique tourism area in the world, designated a World Heritage Site in 1991 as well as a Ramsar and Natura 2000 site.

Tourism in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a fast developing activity and it is expected to continue to increase. Various public institutions and several private-sector tourism organizations are active in the reserve, with a complex division of responsibilities. This has led to uncontrolled tourism, with a heavy impact on nature, disorganized development of tourist infrastructure, and the loss of cultural identity and traditions. To solve all these problems, local authorities (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, Tulcea County Council, local communities), various NGOs and consultants are working together to understand the tourists' expectations and motivations in visiting this protected area, and to develop strategies for different types of tourism.

Development of the potential for sustainable tourism in a Natura 2000 wetland area: the Danube Delta case was a project completed in June 2008 for the development of a strategy for sustainable tourism in the Danube Delta, in collaboration with Tulcea County Council and the Kenniscentrum company from Belgium.

In their endeavour to promote tourism in spectacular areas, International Friends of Nature has designated Danube Delta as *Landscape of the Year 2007–2009* as an accolade to one of the most impressive natural environments in Europe. The main focus of this project is to encourage sustainable regional development by implementing sustainable tourism strategies, initiating a dialogue and encouraging networking between decision makers and the local population – also and in particular across borders.

WWF leads another project to promote sustainable ecotourism activities together with local partners. The project *“Danube Delta – a natural gateway to Europe; Ecology and economy in harmony”* develops a detailed tourism strategy for the entire Delta. This includes a tourism zoning plan, assessment of projects and economic potentials, business opportunities, aspects of sustainability, and codes of conduct. The zoning plan for tourism in the Danube Delta and model sites is helping local authorities to carry out nature conservation activities while still providing the recreational opportunities that local communities wish for and adapting management activities to natural settings in different places within different time intervals.

Though not directly related to tourism, the government's spatial planning document for the entire delta could be an important tool for ecotourism development in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The purpose of this project is to design guidelines for the development of new buildings in order to maintain the local architecture, and for tourism development. This project will be finalized by the end of 2008, and will be officially approved by the Government of Tulcea County Council.

www.ddbra.ro

IUCN must return powers to its membership

Alistair Gammell of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK) will be leaving his post as chairman of the IUCN Council Governance Committee in October. We spoke to him about his experience as an IUCN Councillor.

What would you call the main achievements of the membership and governance work of the Council recently?

We have prepared two resolutions for the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona which will both have large impacts for IUCN. The first one will revise the statutory regions. If it is passed, it will give more votes to the South, and it will reunite Europe, in recognition of the fact that the division between East Europe and West Europe is history – a fact that the Secretariat has acknowledged in practice for a long time.

IUCN's network of members and experts can really move things.

The second resolution would return more of IUCN's powers to its membership.

We want to ensure that IUCN does not operate like a consultancy, running projects on its own employing very competent staff, because that is something that other people can do as well. What makes IUCN special is its network of members and experts which exists in every culture and in every corner of the world. If you harness this huge amount of expertise, IUCN can really move things.

Europe has worked with members and partners in new ways with Countdown 2010. What's your take on that?

Countdown 2010 is quite a dramatic change in approach, and both interesting and successful. If IUCN had not brought up the 2010 biodiversity target, it would have been much easier for governments to forget about it. But the way Countdown 2010 went about it – setting up a steering committee and engaging hundreds of partner organizations – is much more the way IUCN should be working in the future.

Of course, this process isn't easy. It takes time to listen to members, to reconcile different opinions and to encourage engagement. But this is where IUCN needs to go. If you just have a consultancy, then it's your own business.

What could IUCN's European members achieve if they were working together more effectively?

IUCN has incredibly powerful members, for example the governments of the world, of Europe or the European Union, but also its NGOs. Taken together, they can achieve a lot: they can influence many governments, they have many contacts, they can get people to volunteer for nature. If you wanted information about anything in nature conservation – the status of a certain butterfly species for example, there's probably an IUCN member or a commission member who can give you the answer. He will do that better than any database, because he has the context, the up-to-date knowledge.

It is both a curse and blessing to have government and non-government members in IUCN. If IUCN puts too much pressure on governments, they won't like it. But if it puts no pressure

on them, members will be disappointed. No one wants to be a member of an organization that has no influence. Governments need to understand that it is IUCN's job to try to represent nature.

What do you think about the new IUCN Programme?

I'm most pleased about the fact that the new IUCN programme centres around biodiversity. It says: this is what we're here for, to keep species and biodiversity on this earth. Of course we have to address the causes of unsustainability, but we must always go back to the fact that this is about species on earth.

IUCN's vision is "A just world that values and conserves nature". Are we getting closer to this goal?

I certainly don't think the world is moving closer to that, even though nearly everybody in the world supports such a target. This statement describes an ideal which is worth striving for, but is it too distant, is it out of our reach?

What do you see as the main obstacles to this vision?

Human greed and selfishness. I'm not immune from that: I like to go on holidays, I like to have a car, and so do all my friends, and so do all the poor people in the world, and I don't blame them for that. The fact is that we all aspire to have a higher standard of living – there are a few exceptions. It's difficult to criticize, but the total effect is disastrous.



Faces for IUCN's future

IUCN members will elect a new council at the IUCN Members' Assembly in October. Along with a President, Treasurer and three representatives from each of the Union's eight regions, the Council includes the Chairs of the six Commissions. The Council functions in a similar way to a Board of Directors, meeting once or twice a year to direct IUCN strategy, approve finances and oversee Programme implementation. All elected candidates will serve their Council term from the close of the Congress until the close of the following Congress. We present the candidates from West Europe, and East Europe, North and Central Asia.

West Europe



Hans de longh (Netherlands)

Head, *International Co-operation, Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Leiden*

Dr de longh was Chairman of the Netherlands Committee for IUCN during 1990–2000 and is a member of the Species Survival Commission. Since 1998 he has been the acting Deputy Director of the Tropenbos Research Programme, a collaborative research partnership with the universities in Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Philippines, Cameroon and Ghana.



Christophe Lefebvre (France)

President of the *Conseil National de la protection de la nature, France*

Mr Lefebvre has 25 years' experience in the conservation of the French coastline. He is one of the founders of the EUROSITE Network and he was the Secretary of the network for ten years. He was President of the French Committee for IUCN from 1998–2005. In his capacity as an expert on coastal areas, he has visited more than 80 countries.



Marina von Weissenberg (Finland)

Senior adviser, *Ministry of the Environment, Finland*

"We need measurable targets for more rapid progress towards sustainability"

Marina von Weissenberg has been Chair of the Finnish National IUCN Committee since 2002 and before that the Secretary of the National IUCN Working Group (1996–2001). She has experience of implementing policies with regard to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through being the Secretary of the National Commission for Biological Diversity in Finland since 1996.

East Europe, North and Central Asia



Amirkhan Amirkhanov (Russia)

Acting Director, *Department of the State Environmental Policy in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation*

"IUCN can help to facilitate public involvement in decision-making processes"

Dr Amirkhanov was director of the largest conservation investment project in Russia, "Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Federation" (1996–2003). This project developed the first National Report, the National Strategy and the Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Federation. Currently Dr Amirkhanov is a National Director of the project "Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Part of Altai-Sayan Ecoregion". He was an IUCN Councillor from 1994–2000

East Europe, North and Central Asia



Vilmos Kizsel (Hungary)

President of the *Board of Trustees, CEO of the Göncöl Foundation*

Mr Kizsel is Chair of the Hungarian National Committee of the IUCN. He has served on the boards of different national and international NGOs since 1974, and has experience in state administration. He was Chair of the National Council on Environment of Hungary from 2004–2006.



Jasminka Milosevic (Serbia)

Director of the *Environmental Department in the consulting, engineering and design company FIDECO doo, Belgrade, Serbia*

Ms Jasminka Milosevic has more than 15 years' extensive experience in the evaluation and designation of protected areas (PAs), development of national PA systems, planning in PAs, sustainable management of PAs, development of transborder cooperation and facilitation in establishing transboundary PAs, and financing of PAs.



Kalev Sepp (Estonia)

Professor of *Landscape Management and Nature Conservation at the Estonian University of Life Sciences*

“IUCN is playing a fundamental role in shaping diverse and sustainable futures in the entire world”

Kalev Sepp has extensive international experience in the nature conservation policy and management scene. He is currently a Regional Councillor (2004_2008) and serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN CEM). Prof. Kalev Sepp's research and publications focus on evaluating human impact on agricultural landscapes and environmental management.



Ivan Vološčuk (Slovakia)

Professor of *Forest Ecology at Technical University Zvolen, Slovakia*

Mr Vološčuk has long and extensive experience in evaluation, monitoring, research, management and development of national and international protected areas. He is chair of the Slovak Association of National Parks and Protected Areas and the Slovak National Committee for IUCN, and was an IUCN Councillor from 2000–2004.

Presidential candidates

IUCN's members will be able to choose one out of three very experienced conservation professionals to lead their organization for the next four years:

Purificació Canals (Spain)



Ashok Khosla (India)




Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Costa Rica)



Your guide to the IUCN World Conservation Congress

It is the world's largest and most important conservation event. More than 8,000 of the world's leading decision makers in sustainable development: from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia. Together in one place for 10 days: to debate, share, network, learn, commit, vote and decide. The objective: ideas, action and solutions for a diverse and sustainable world. Barcelona, 5–14 October 2008. If you haven't registered yet – you can still join the Congress: www.iucn.org/congress

The Congress will start with the colourful boat parade, Sailing to Barcelona. The four-day World Conservation Forum, run by IUCN members and partners, will develop cutting-edge ideas, thinking and practice in hundreds of workshops, debates and sessions. The Forum leads into the four-day IUCN Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs.

	9.30 - 12.00	12.00 - 14.30	14.30 - 17.00	17.00 - 19.30	19.30 - end
Sat 4th		 Sailing to Barcelona! <i>Together to protect our oceans</i>			20.30 Sailing to Barcelona: Welcome Ceremony at the Maritime Museum
Sun 5th		12.00 Sailing to Barcelona: Departure of the boats from Port Vell	14:00 Sailing to Barcelona: Welcoming the boats at the Congress Centrum	17:00 Opening Ceremony of the World Conservation Congress	18:30 Host Country Reception and Concert
Mon 6th	09:30 Opening of the World Conservation Forum, and of the Thematic Streams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Climate for Change • Healthy Environments – Healthy People • Safeguarding the Diversity of Life 		14:30 Workshop sessions		20:30 Side events and regional meetings
Tues 7th	9:30 Workshop sessions		14:30 Workshop sessions		20:30 Side events and regional meetings
Wed 8th	9:30 Workshop sessions		14:30 Workshop sessions		20:30 Side events and regional meetings
Thur 9th	9:30 Workshop sessions		14:30 Workshop sessions	16:30 Closing of the World Conservation Forum	20:30 Official Pan-European Members' Meeting
Fri 10th	09:30 Sitting of the 2008 World Conservation Congress (Reports)				
Sat 11th	09:30 Sitting of the 2008 World Conservation Congress (Elections)				
Sun 12th	Delegate Excursion Day				
Mon 13th	09:30 Sitting of the 2008 World Conservation Congress (Resolutions)				
Tue 14th	09:30 Sitting of the 2008 World Conservation Congress (Programme)		14:00 Closing Ceremony of the 2008 World Conservation Congress		

All times are tentative. If not otherwise indicated, events are taking place in the Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB).

For more information about Sailing to Barcelona, please visit www.iucn.org/congress/sailing

The detailed programme of the World Conservation Forum is at www.iucn.org/congress



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Barcelona 2008

A sustainable congress?

8,000 or so IUCN members and affiliates are travelling from around the world to gather for ten days at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. Though much will be gained from meeting together in one place, IUCN recognizes that the travel, consumption and waste generation linked to the Congress have implications for the local and global environment.

Mainly at stake are:

- the global climate through the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated through the travel, consumption, and waste generation resulting from the Congress;
- biodiversity, due to links with the food and other products we consume – from fish to wine corks!
- the sustainability of local water supplies, as well as our paper sources.

Also at stake are the time, money and energy of all participants and people involved. IUCN has thus put together a “Guide to a Sustainable Congress” that aims to help minimize the adverse impact of participation in the Congress, individually and collectively, by providing delegates with a number of smart options that are relevant at different stages of the Congress. The guidelines include tips on how best to plan your trip, from choosing how to get to Barcelona and where to stay, to packing your bags. They also take into account water-use issues, species that invade suitcases and then new habitats, options for eating out responsibly, and some local cultural considerations.

Download the Guide to a Sustainable Congress at www.iucn.org/congress

The sound of three seas

Music – just like nature conservation – can be a powerful force for peace and friendship. Originally founded as The Black Sea Chamber Orchestra in 1992, the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra has since grown to represent as many as 23 flags at once on stage. Its musicians contribute the cultural heritage of the Black Sea, the Caspian and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The orchestra is famous for its repertoire and the variety of local instruments blending in a classical orchestral set-up, such as ‘Oud’ from Syria, ‘Kaval’ from Bulgaria, ‘Domra’ from Russia, ‘Kilkobuz’ from Kazakhstan, ‘Kemancha’ from Azerbaijan, ‘Tar’ from Iran, ‘Buzuki’ from Greece and ‘Kanun’ from Turkey. The Tekfen Philharmonic not only stages multicultural programmes but contributes to world music by commissioning new works by contemporary composers.

By bringing together the best musicians from an area where differences, conflicts, national and international turmoil

are part of everyday life, Tekfen Philharmonic is setting a pioneering example for the sake of peace, of music’s universal appeal as well as many other humanistic values. Soloists who join the orchestra from Eurasia and the Middle East with their authentic instruments add flavour to western classical music while helping peoples of different cultures embrace their common bonds.

The orchestra will accompany the Opening Ceremony of the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, and give a full concert for all Congress participants on October 5.

**Sunday, 5 October, 20:30:
Concert of the Tekfen
Philharmonic Orchestra**



Europe at the World Conservation Forum

	Monday, October 6	Tuesday, October 7
9.30 - 11.00		276 – Is still worth fighting to conserve the biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin? (WWF Italy), CCIB 120 1536 – Communicating biodiversity: what works, what doesn't (IUCN Global Communication Unit), CCIB 121
11.30 - 13.00		1548 – The EU and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter climate change and biodiversity loss – Reunion 2008 conference follow-up (IUCN), CCIB 115 1550 – Managing ecosystems for poverty reduction in Africa – Implementing the Message from Paris (IUCN), CCIB 124
14.30 - 16.00	188 – The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and related approaches: From concepts to action (EBCD – European Bureau for Conservation and Development), CCIB 129 103 – Inspiring business to become Leaders for Nature (IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands), CCIB 130 2605 – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (IUCN), CCIB 211	1263 – Beyond 2010: Visioning a renewed global biodiversity framework integrating protected areas, climate change and livelihoods (IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas), CCIB 117 2507 – Finding innovative solutions for the world's largest rivers to balance ecology and inland waterway transport (MAVA Foundation – WWF International, Danube-Carpathian Programme), CCIB 133 602 – Sustaining our future: Shaping the role of youth in Europe (European Students' Forum AEGEE), CCIB 114/4
16.30 - 18.00	16:05–16:32 730 – Film: The European Green Belt, stimulus for transboundary cooperation for nature and sustainable development (BfN), CCIB 450	903 – Country networks for better environmental information and governance (European Environment Agency – EEA), CCIB 128 213 – Sustainable development of aquaculture: From guidelines to codes of conduct (EBCD), CCIB 127 1607 – Local 2010 Action for Biodiversity: The ignored solution? (IUCN), CCIB AUD
18.30 - 20.00	326 – Establishing Ecological Networks: from the Alps to the Carpathians and beyond (BfN), CCIB 120 774 – Local and regional government authorities – key partners for biodiversity! (Fédération des Parcs naturels régionaux de France – FPNRF), CCIB 128	235 – Faith in the future: Partnering with the world's major social networks and landowners – the religions (A Rocha International), CCIB 121 1514 – A common language for the "Mountain of Tongues" – building partnerships for conservation in the Caucasus (IUCN Regional Office for Europe), CCIB 134
20.30 - 21.30	1098 – Saving the Mediterranean Biome. Local Leaders, Global Connections (The Nature Conservancy), CCIB 211	

Listed above is a selection of workshops and knowledge cafés organized by European IUCN Members and the IUCN Secretariat during the World Conservation Forum. The list is by no means

exhaustive and is intended to provide an indication of the programme during the Forum. For the detailed programme, please refer to www.iucn.org/congress or the congress documentation on site.

Europe at the IUCN Members' Assembly

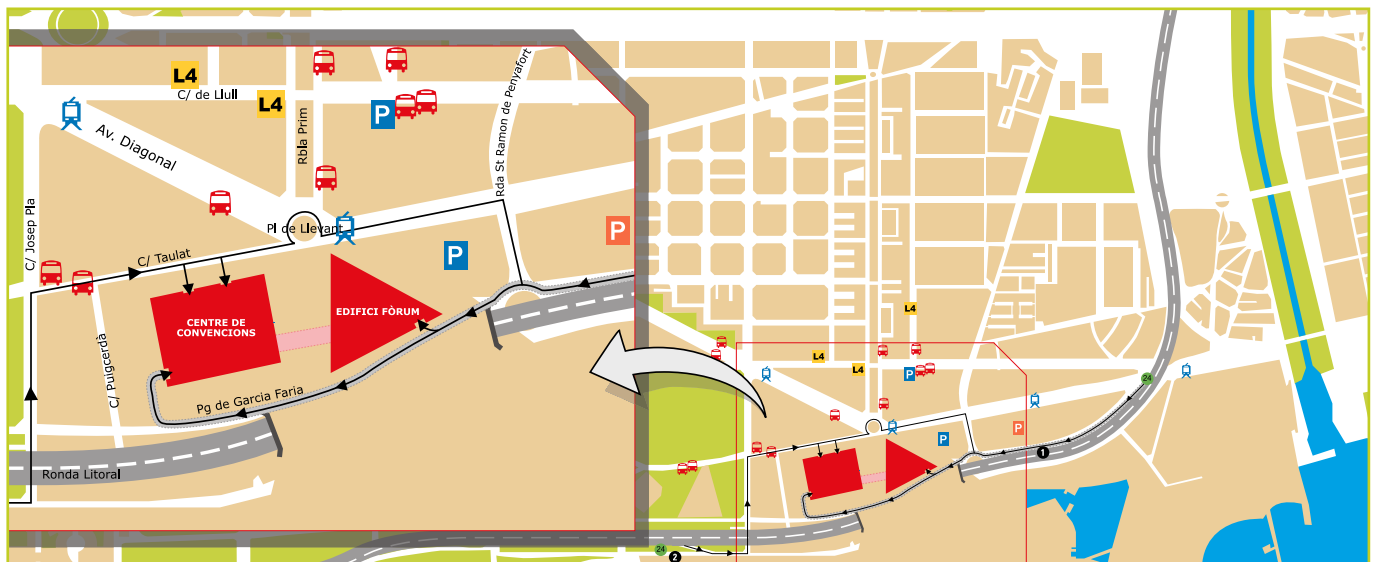
The Members' Assembly, the main governing body of IUCN, brings together IUCN's member organizations to debate and establish environmental policy. More than 100 resolutions and recommendations are expected to be adopted by this unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs, including:

1. CGR4.MOT010 Changing IUCN's Statutory Regions
2. CGR4.MOT025 Eradication of the use of poisoned bait as a method for controlling predators in the European Union
3. CGR4.MOT032 Trust building for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in line with the *European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity*
4. CGR4.MOT033 An effective European Plan of Action for Sharks
5. CGR4.MOT056 Increasing the pace and scale of conservation in the Mediterranean Biome
6. CGR4.MOT083 The European Green Belt Initiative
7. CGR4.MOT084 Strengthening the Natura 2000 Network



	Wednesday, October 8	Thursday, October 9
9.30 - 11.00	411 – Meeting the 2010 biodiversity target! A contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of life on Earth (IUCN), CCIB PB	115 – Building common ground for EU shark conservation (Pew Charitable Trusts), CCIB 129 415 – A vision for nature in 2010 - and beyond (IUCN), CCIB 211
11.30 - 13.00	352 – Can we safeguard global biodiversity? Progress to date and ways to strengthen implementation of CBD Targets for Protected Areas (Conservation International), CCIB 129 544 – Take a chance for nature: Innovative funding models at work (Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union), CCIB 131 1169 – Transboundary conservation: Achieving the 2010 Target in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (The Nature Conservancy), CCIB 114/13	184 – Too small to be TRUE? Grants that make a difference! (Comité français de l’UICN), CCIB 120 815 – Partnerships for plant conservation – linking ex-situ and in-situ conservation in Europe (Plantlife International and Botanic Gardens Conservation International), CCIB 132 350 – Climat, développement et développement durable (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie), CCIB 130
14.30 - 16.00	707 – Management, planning and design of the European landscape (European Foundation for Landscape Architecture), CCIB 125 486 – Small grants – big changes: The case for investment in small grant schemes for financial support to projects in developing countries! (Both ENDS), CCIB 131 490 – The Natura 2000 ecological network: European solution to universal challenges? (European Habitats Forum – EHF), CCIB 133 551 – Steppe Conservation Strategy implementation in Eurasia (Biodiversity Conservation Center), CCIB 114/12 3005 – Conservation problems – and solutions – for biological diversity in European Islands (Council of Europe), CCIB 114/14	319 – World Heritage as a contribution to the 2010 target (BfN), CCIB 133
16.30 - 18.00	74 – Join us to enjoy, support and preserve Europe’s wilderness beyond conservation (PAN Parks Foundation), CCIB 120 514 – For environmental health and wealth: Conservation through use of biodiversity (European Sustainable Use Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC), CCIB 129	
18.30 - 20.00		Regional Members’ Meeting Pan-Europe, CCIB PB

The Congress Centre is reached by taking Metro Line 4 alighting at Maresme-Forum; public buses 7, 36, 41, 43 and 141; and the Trambesós tramway alighting at Forum.



**“We strongly believe that our
commitment in local actions,
will necessarily achieve a global
reaction. We call it Glocalization”**

Carlos Carreiras

Head of Cascais Natura

Cascais Natura Environmental Agency

Cascais Natura it's a Municipal Environmental Agency from Portugal created in January 2007 to promote research and projects for the preservation of Cascais natural heritage, as well as to improve the quality of the environment in the county.

It is also the agency's goal to stimulate awareness and knowledge about the environmental problems and the idea of sustainability.

Partnership with public institutions, research centers and companies is essential to the development of the **Cascais Natura's** projects. Also important in its design is the engagement of citizens in actions for the conservation and monitoring of the areas under intervention.

Along with its projects, **Cascais Natura** works closely with the municipality in defining the Municipal Ecological Structure, of major importance for environmental quality in the area.



www.cascaisnatura.org