



International Union for the Conservation of Nature

IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016



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List of Acronyms

ACCOBAMS:	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
GFCM:	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
IUCN:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUCN-Med:	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
KBAs:	Key Biodiversity Areas
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
UNCCD:	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF Med-PO:	Mediterranean Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature

Foreword

This document presents the IUCN Programme in North Africa for the period 2013-2016. It was prepared by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga (IUCN-Med) in the light of the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016 guidelines and the recommendations issued from the IUCN North Africa Members Forum held from 5 to 7 October 2011 in Rabat, Morocco. This programme was prepared taking also into account the activities and programmes developed by other international organisations with the view of promoting synergies and complementarities.

It is intended to be implemented as part of the IUCN's Mediterranean Programme 2013-2016 by the IUCN-Med Centre in close collaboration with IUCN Members and with the national partners. Collaboration with relevant international organisations will also be sought (Secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and GFCM, WWF Med-PO, etc.).

The IUCN North Africa programme involves the following five countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

Introduction

For more than 60 years, IUCN has led the development of conservation knowledge, and brought together governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses and community organizations to help the world make better decisions in the field of conservation and development. With its unique convening power and scientific credibility, the Union will always be in front of the stage to help the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing challenges in conservation and development.

IUCN's assets include its Members, its networks of experts organized through six Commissions, and its highly motivated and competent staff within its world-wide secretariat. To achieve the changes necessary for a more sustainable world, IUCN recognizes it must apply these assets more effectively to deliver results at a scale and level of influence far greater than ever before. The way in which an organization uses its assets to deliver added value through its products and services is called a value proposition. IUCN's value proposition includes the following:

- IUCN provides credible, trusted knowledge;
- IUCN convenes and builds partnerships for action ;
- IUCN has a global-to-local and local-to-global reach ;
- IUCN influences standards and practices.

These four features of IUCN's value proposition make IUCN distinct from others in the conservation and sustainable development arena. They enable the Union to demonstrate leadership and ensure it has strategic influence at many levels.

IUCN's business model builds on the Union's strengths and aims to focus our fund-raising, package our deliverables, and account for our results around fifth business lines whose mid-term priorities will be as follows:

1. Delivering IUCN knowledge products: The scope is to develop and disseminate selected world-class knowledge products, for which IUCN already is well recognized – or will become so when we deliver new and emerging knowledge products.
2. Providing results on the ground: The scope is to focus our attention in selected priority programmes on the actual impact on the ground in the form of biodiversity conservation and the use of nature-based solutions to address the big development challenges of climate change, food security, green growth, etc.
3. Strengthening Environmental Governance: The scope is to develop capacity and execute functions for biodiversity and sustainable development, making use of the existing opportunities in public and private payments for governance functions and services (knowledge, capacity-building, management, project agency, and independent certification and verification). This needs particularly careful business development, with feasibility studies and pilots.
4. Developing and Applying Policies for Nature: This is IUCN's core mandate, for which Members and donors contribute. There is scope for adding new Members.
5. In accordance with its global vision and business model, IUCN develops every four years a programme of work in consultation with Members, scientists from the Commissions and IUCN staff. Currently IUCN is implementing the programme adopted by the Members at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona (October, 2008). A new programme covering the period 2013-2016 will be adopted at the next World Conservation Congress.

IUCN's Global Programme for 2013-2016

The development of the IUCN Programme 2013–2016 builds on the work achieved in the current 2009–2012 period and key international processes such as the agreement on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the current efforts to reach, by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Building on IUCN's Vision, a just world that values and conserves nature, the IUCN Programme 2013–2016 sets out what IUCN intends to accomplish over the next four-year period. The Programme is organized around three Core Programme Areas, all of which leverage the IUCN Value Proposition as a means of delivering results (see Fig 1, below).

The two Programme Areas *Valuing and conserving nature* and *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use* represent the heartland of IUCN's work. These are essential for biodiversity conservation and for influencing the economic, social and political processes that determine biodiversity loss, ecosystem management, nature-based livelihoods, and rights and responsibilities for nature. Under *Valuing and conserving nature*, IUCN will develop and use its world-class knowledge on biodiversity, and its associated tools and planning standards, to influence policy and action on the ground. Under *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use*, IUCN will consolidate its experience from working with people and institutions, addressing how public and private decisions on nature and ecosystems affect biodiversity and livelihoods. This will lead to a set of principles, standards and tools for nature-related rights, responsibilities, governance and equity.

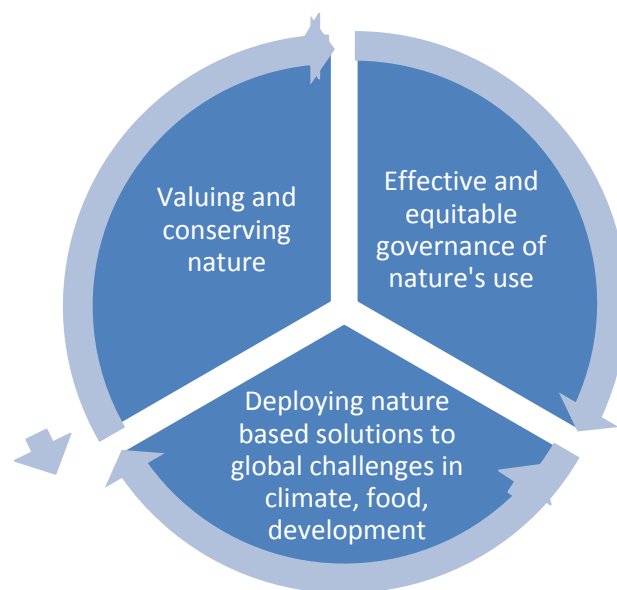


Fig 1: IUCN's Programme framework 2013-16

The third Programme Area – *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development* – concerns the application of IUCN's knowledge to sustainable development, empowerment and poverty reduction. Resilient nature is fundamental to societal and economic resilience. The Programme focuses on nature based-solutions as IUCN's particular strength, not because nature provides the only solutions, but because this specialization allows IUCN, in partnerships with others, to address a wide range of global development challenges. Nature-based solutions offer multiple benefits simultaneously and therefore efficiently. This Programme Area focuses initially on nature-based solutions to climate change (including disaster risk reduction), food security, and economic and social development, but will over the course of the four-year Programme explore opportunities to broaden this approach to sectors such as health and access to energy.

Figure 1 shows IUCN's integrated work on nature, from the deep knowledge of biodiversity, through equitable governance of nature's use, to the practical solutions for people and nature, and again to valuing and conserving nature. The knowledge -> policy -> action link is found within each of the three Programme Areas. Through their Regional Programmes 2013-16, IUCN's nine Regions will adapt and apply the Programme framework in accordance with the region-specific needs and work environments as well as the views expressed by Members and Commission members at the Regional Consultation Fora undertaken in 2011.

The Programme framework shows both continuity and change relative to the 2009-12 Programme. The continuity is the focus on nature conservation and natural resources – IUCN is not a broad environment and development organization. The change in relation to the current Programme consists of:

- More emphasis on *valuing* nature services in the first Programme Area, addressing direct financial, broader economic and other intangible values.
- Compiling and profiling IUCN's work on *decision-making, management and governance* of nature's use and natural resources in a central Programme Area.
- Consolidating IUCN's work on *nature-based solutions* to global challenges, allowing IUCN to offer standards and methodologies for nature-based approaches eventually in many sectors.

IUCN in North Africa

Following a recommendation from its Members in North Africa, IUCN started in 2009 a specific programme for the region whose aim is to achieve the objectives of the IUCN's Global Programme, taking into account the specific needs of North Africa. The implementation of the IUCN's Programme for North Africa is coordinated by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation located in the city of Malaga in Spain. Currently, IUCN has 17 Members in North Africa, as follows (note that Libya has not yet IUCN Members):

ALGERIA (03)

- Association Ecologique Boumerdes
- Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
- Mouvement Ecologique Algérien

EGYPT (03)

- Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
- El Maktab El Arabi Lei Shabab Wal Biah
- Tree Lovers Association

MOROCCO(05)

- Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature
- Association Ribat Al Fath
- Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification
- Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature
- Association de gestion Intégrée des Ressources

TUNISIA (06)

- Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"
- Association Nationale du Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage (ANDDCVS)
- Association tunisienne pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement
- Fédération Nationale des Associations des Chasseurs et des Associations de Chasse Spécialisées.
- Ministère de l'Environnement
- Union nationale de la femme tunisienne

The long term goal of IUCN in North Africa is to preserve biodiversity components and restore degraded ecosystems. The development of knowledge and skills to achieve this goal is one of the constants and strengthens of IUCN.

Insight on previous IUCN programmes in North Africa

1994 – 2008

IUCN started developing a programme for North Africa in 1994, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resources management, and training for local communities –especially women and youth–for the conservation of biodiversity. It included also the development of a platform to exchange experiences and information.

The last period of this Programme 2004-2008 has been developed in the 5 countries, and allowed to develop a very important work related to: conservation and valorisation of medicinal and aromatic plant species; and environmental education with local populations.

2008 – 2012

After the development of the IUCN North Africa Programme in 2008, several activities were implemented by Members according to their mission and areas of competence. The subjects addressed by North Africa Members were: biodiversity conservation, fight against pollution and desertification, public awareness and environmental education.

In addition to these activities, The countries of the region were involved in several projects carried out by IUCN-Med, such as those related to Alboran Sea, MedRAS, governance of the High Sea in the Mediterranean, Ecotourism and Protected Areas, etc.

However, despite the rate of implementation of activities under the programme, it does not yet have a strong ownership and recognition from IUCN Members in North Africa. This perception was justified by the following main reasons:

- Low involvement of Members during the phases of design and development of the programme.
- Lack of information on the procedures and approach to be followed for the implement the programme.
- Activities within the programme are mainly targeting governmental institutions. Those involving civil society are limited and do not contribute to strengthen national actions.
- Lack of information in the programme on the role and responsibilities of Members and the Secretariat for its implementation.

Therefore, the new phase of the IUCN Programme 2013-2016 in North Africa, was developed taking into account these issues, it will be implemented through appropriate mechanisms to achieve the desired objectives, in particular by enhancing the involvement of Members.

During 2013-2016, IUCN will pursue its action in North Africa through a new programme prepared on the basis of an analysis of the situation in the region and taking into account the orientations and priorities of the IUCN's Global Programme. The North Africa Programme of IUCN should also take into account the new economic, social and political contexts emerging in North Africa, that require new models of governance of natural resources to optimize conservation actions and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Situation Analysis

General context

The five countries of North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) cover a total area of 5.275 million sq. km. and occupy the whole Mediterranean coast of Africa that extends for about 5,200 kilometres. Their total population is estimated to be in 2012 at about 156 millions residents and it is expected to reach 184 millions by 2025¹.

These countries, while presenting a large degree of diversity in their environment, they share many similarities and they face similar problems and challenges regarding the use and conservation of their natural resources. They also have to face economic development imperatives and have to ensure food self-sufficiency for their populations.

Most of the population is concentrated in the coastal zones with an increasing exodus from rural areas to the cities. Indeed, much of the territory of the North African countries is subject to an arid or semi-arid climate, with particularly fragile ecological conditions and a prevalence of the problems linked to desertification and the advance of the desert on oases and the region's other ecosystems. This has a negative impact on the livelihood and standard of living of the population in these areas and constitutes one of the main reasons for the population movements towards coastal zone cities.

The economic situation in the five North African countries differs considerably from country to country, especially as regards GDP and GDP per head. However, alleviating poverty and improving the standard of living in terms of income, education, and health are among the main priorities for the five countries. GDP per head varies according to country from EU\$ 1,694 to EU\$ 5,527, and the average poverty rate of the North African population is estimated at 19.5%. According to World Bank data, poverty has continued to decline in the past four years in North Africa, but the five countries are faced with major mid- to long-term socioeconomic challenges; their development efforts suffer from the pressure of desertification, a decline in soil quality, overexploitation of natural resources (overgrazing, overfishing, etc.) and the increasing scarcity and quality degradation of water resources. These difficulties will be worsened by the effects of climate change, whose first impacts are already being felt in the region.

While constituting a major worry for all the North African countries, environmental issues are sometimes seen as secondary priorities by governments and decision-makers, because of the prevalence of poverty and other concerns (unemployment, low school attendance, and poor access to drinking water and to the health system).

The recent political developments in the area are expected to have an impact on the governance systems in the region including on the national policies related to natural resources. Through its North Africa Programme and its other activities, IUCN has the potential to influence the expected policy changes with the view of encouraging sustainable and equitable uses of natural resources in the region. In this context, both IUCN Members and IUCN-Med could play a significant role.

Status of biodiversity and natural resources

The North African territory contains great marine and terrestrial biological diversity linked to its great geomorphological variability and the diversity of fauna and flora species therein. The region's ecosystems and landscapes are also very diverse. Much of this territory has for centuries been subject to the increasing human use of resources, particularly in the coastal areas.

¹ Source : Blue Plan

Like the rest of the Mediterranean, North Africa is a hot spot of endemism, both for fauna and for flora. Moreover, many species considered as threatened at international level, or disappeared in other parts of the planet, are still present in the countries of North Africa, such as the Yelkouan Shearwater or some shark species.

Although many types of ecosystems exist in the region, a large part of the area of the countries of North Africa is made of arid or sub-arid zones with large portions of desert. The arid conditions to which much of North Africa is subject accentuate the vulnerability of the region's species and ecosystems, despite the great degree of adaptation to aridity shown by many animal and plant species. The region's ecosystems could be grouped into the following main categories:

- arid and sub-arid ecosystems (including Saharan ecosystems) ;
- Steppe ecosystems;
- Forest ecosystems;
- Wetland ecosystems; and
- Marine ecosystems

The **arid and sub-arid ecosystems** exist in the five countries, they are located mainly in the southern part of the region, but they also exist in some of its Mediterranean coastal zones. Although their natural productivity is relatively low, the arid and sub-arid zones of the region are home to a wide diversity, fauna and flora with a high degree of vulnerability and they are particularly sensitive to human impacts. **Steppe ecosystems**, while being widely spread in the region, they exist mainly in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia where they form in many zones a transition between non-arid and arid environments. **Forest ecosystems** are present in all the North African countries, apart from Egypt. In Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, the mountain and/or forest areas cover appreciable areas of the territory and are the site of diversified human activities, with great dependence on natural resources and often relatively low standards of living and little development of basic infrastructure. The big part of the **wetlands** of North Africa are made of artificial environments created by damming during the last fifty years, however there are natural wetlands, many of them are of international importance and provide a significant social and economic role at local and national level. As in many other regions, North Africa wetlands are subjected to great pressures, most of which are caused by human activities that take place either in the wetlands themselves or on their catchment basins. The **marine ecosystems** constitute a significant component of the biodiversity of North Africa countries. All these countries have a façade that opens onto the Mediterranean Sea, furthermore, Morocco and Egypt, as well as their Mediterranean coastal fringe, have a coastal fringe on the Atlantic (for Morocco, 2500 km.) and on the Red Sea (for Egypt, 1500 km.).

In addition to the common and widely spread ecosystems, other types of ecosystems exist in North Africa (oases, mangroves, caves, etc.); they constitute hot spots of biodiversity although they have a limited coverage in terms of surface area.

For decades, while providing services that greatly contribute to the economic and social well-being of the populations, ecosystems in North Africa were subject to overexploitation and to other forms of irrational uses and management of natural resources. As a result, the status of ecosystems in the region is often reported as critical by specialists and national organisations. However, apart from some exceptions, it is difficult to carry out assessments of ecosystem status in the region because of the lack of reliable data, of local expertise and of standard classification and methodology. IUCN has the potential to help the countries of the region filling this gap, using its strong experience in the Red List of Species. Through this Programme, the countries of North Africa could contribute to the works planned under the IUCN's global Programme 2013-2016 to elaborate a classification system for threatened ecosystems with the view of establishing the Red List of Ecosystems. They need however to be assisted in strengthening their national capacities in assessing the status of species and ecosystems.

The economy of the North African countries is greatly dependent on natural resources, and most of the active population is employed in activities that are linked to the primary sector, such as agriculture and stock-raising. For a long time the Agriculture sector has been neglected in the development programmes of certain countries in the region, although this sector could drive growth and development. Agriculture in the countries of North Africa is not very productive and has weak competitiveness in world trade. Rural people do not have easy access to loans and cannot handle natural hazards, including those resulting from climate change.

Certain forms of use of natural resources have led to overexploitation, as is the case for water resources and some stocks of living marine resources. The sustainability of such use can only be guaranteed through approaches that enable the trend of decline to be reversed.

For some environments, pressure on natural resources springs at least partly from the **loss of certain traditional practices**. Many of these practices have proved to be efficient tools for the sustainable use of resources. They are particularly adapted to the natural conditions in North Africa. This is a traditional heritage that should be preserved.

Climate change, though not alone responsible for the problems facing North Africa's ecosystems and populations, constitutes a particularly serious threat. It is true that the extent of the impact of climate change will vary according to type of ecosystem and area, but the available forecasts indicate that a great stain will be put on the ecosystems and economies of the countries. It is thus imperative that measures for adaptation to this phenomenon be put in place.

According to the official notifications to the CBD, the **Protected areas** coverage varies in the five countries of North Africa from 0,16% to 24% of the country's total surface area (Libya: 0.16%, Tunisia: 2.5%, Morocco: 3.5%, Egypt: 14.9% and Algeria: 24%). At many occasions, the IUCN members in North Africa expressed a clear need for assessing the representativeness and coherence of the national systems of protected areas in their respective countries. They also expressed the need for improving the management of the existing protected areas through providing further opportunities of training for the managers and for the staff of the national authorities in charge of protected area planning.

Although they have different planning and management approaches for protected areas, the countries of North Africa developed their protected area system with a little involvement of local population in the planning processes and also in the elaboration and implementation of the management measures. In addition to the development of the protected areas, the conservation planning approach in the region should include the identification of **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)** using the criteria being elaborated at global level. By contributing to the global initiative on KBA identification, the North African countries will take a step toward achieving target 11 of the CBD strategic plan.

Regarding **water resources** the main issues are the scarcity of resources, the irregularity of water supply from year to year, and the fact that the zones where water is more available do not necessarily coincide with the zones where there is the greatest demand for water. Satisfying the water requirements of the various users is becoming increasingly difficult, with the constantly growing demand for water and scarcity of water resources. The management of water resources is one of the biggest challenges facing these countries in the next few years. They must therefore do more to promote the integrated management of their water resources in order to make the most of them, without however, compromising the ecosystems balance. Promoting traditional water management techniques could also help achieving such objectives.

Promoting natural resource conservation and sustainable use is among the orientations declared by the political authorities of the five countries of North Africa. However, despite the existence of substantial institutional and legal frameworks, the use of modern technical tools for planning is still weak in these countries, in particular as regards the use of **spatial planning techniques and processes** in elaborating management measures. Also, the **ecosystem values** are not considered and taken into account by policies

and national accounting systems. The non-availability of skilled staff and the lack of awareness about the added value of such consideration are the main hindrances and there is an urgent need for these countries to enhance their capacities in these aspects.

The North African countries and the Multilateral Agreements of relevance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

The five North African countries have signed the main world environmental conventions. At regional level, they are members of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and they are all Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, although they have not all signed the thematic protocols of this Convention.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is of particular importance for the five countries. They have developed actions to implement it at national level and they participate in its main meetings and regularly provide their national reports (except Libya). Following the adoption in Nagoya of the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for biodiversity by the COP 10 of the CBD, the North African countries should take appropriate measures to achieve the targets set for the Strategic Plan. To this end each country should establish a national planning system/committee to (i) prepare a roadmap for achieving the targets by 2020 and (ii) regularly monitor the progress made and propose corrective measures where necessary. In this context IUCN, through its Members and the IUCN-Med should provide assistance to the national authorities in establishing such a system and also to strengthen the national legal frameworks in accordance with the provisions of the International Conventions of relevance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The contribution of the countries of North Africa to the List of World heritage sites is still very low regarding the natural heritage, since only three natural sites from the region (including one mixed site) are included in the List. Considering that the region has a great number of sites of particular natural interest and whose preservation could be ensured and strengthened through their inscription on the WH List, there is a clear need to assist the countries in preparing the required documentation for proposing these sites to UNESCO for inscription as WH properties. Considering also the worrying status of the World Heritage Sites in North Africa, there is a need for action to maintain the outstanding universal values of these sites.

Biosphere reserves are areas declared by the countries and recognized under UNESCO's MaB² Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. In North Africa there are currently 15 biosphere reserves (6 in Algeria, 2 in Egypt, 3 in Morocco and 4 in Tunisia) that were created for their majority in existing protected areas. These biosphere reserves are facing many challenges, including the low ownership of the MaB programme provisions at national level, in addition to issues related to the development and implementation of specific management plans to this category of areas. It is therefore necessary to pay more attention to these areas by providing them with appropriate systems of governance and management, to be able to fully play their role of conservation, development and scientific research for which they were created.

² MAB: Man and Biosphere.

Results of the IUCN's North Africa Programme 2013-2016

The IUCN's North Africa Programme is made of 3 Programme Areas and it aims to achieve the following results taking into account the situation analysis and the outcomes of the North Africa Members Forum held in October 2011 in Rabat, Morocco.

Core Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature in North Africa

Result 1.1: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to extended representativeness and improved management of protected areas in North Africa

Result 1.2: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to a better conservation of species and ecosystems in North Africa

Result 1.3: The objectives and targets set by relevant international conventions achieved in North Africa

Core Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable governance of nature's use in North Africa

Result 2.1: Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management in North Africa deliver rights-based and equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits

Core Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development

Result 3.1: Local Knowledge and traditional agriculture and livestock farming systems valued and used in adaptation to global changes, food security and development

Result 3.2: The economic value of ecosystems and biodiversity services evaluated and contributing to provide alternatives to the practices that negatively impact natural systems and the livelihoods of people who depend on them.

Result 3.3: Green economy policies and actions are enhanced through stronger integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management in North Africa.

Core Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature in North Africa

Result 1.1: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to extended representativeness and improved management of protected areas in North Africa

Protected Areas have proved to be effective tools for the conservation of nature, provided they form, for one region (or one country), a network of areas that are representative of the ecological features of the region or country. Most of the protected areas in North Africa were created on an opportunistic way without ecological planning, since they were created to preserve individual sites, but not within the framework of a national or regional strategy that aimed to ensure conservation for a full range of ecosystems with their biotic and habitat diversity. The IUCN North Africa programme will support the relevant authorities and the IUCN members in North Africa to improve the representativeness of national networks of protected areas. In this context, IUCN-Med will collaborate with the members to organise at country level consultation workshops to assess the representativeness of the national networks of protected areas and to propose measures to improve it, using the credible and trusted knowledge IUCN has developed and taking into account the ecological, social and economic specificities of North Africa. The assessment criteria and methodology will be elaborated during two regional workshops to be organised by IUCN-Med.

To be effective, protected areas should be planned and managed in a way that allows achieving their objectives. In North Africa, there is an evident need for strengthening the national capacities in planning and management of protected area. As part of this Programme, the IUCN-Med will organise a series of high level regional training courses targeting high level officers in the governmental institutions in charge of economic and land use planning. These trainings should highlight the role that protected areas could play in supporting the economic and social development and should demonstrate that conservation of sites has the potential to be a driver for economic development.

Under this Programme Area, the IUCN's North Africa Programme will provide also assistance to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) inside and outside protected areas. In this context, a working group made of experts will be formed to elaborate criteria to identify KBAs in North Africa, using the criteria developed by IUCN at global level and adapting them, as appropriate, to the context of the region. The criteria will be then applied to identify KBAs in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, through a consultation approach involving scientists, conservation practitioners, governmental agencies and IUCN Members.

Result 1.2: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to a better conservation of species and ecosystems in North Africa

The Red List of Threatened Species of IUCN is the most comprehensive source of information on species in the world, but it is more than just a register of names and associated threat categories. The real power and utility of The IUCN Red List is in what lies beneath: a rich, expert-driven compendium of information on species' ecological requirements, geographic distributions and threats that provide the knowledge on what the challenges to nature are, where they are operating, and how to combat them. The region of North Africa should benefit more from this tool and initiate the implementation of national Red Lists of threatened species. In this context IUCN-Med is committed to support this process, particularly through training of experts for the development of Red Lists in the various countries of North Africa and providing related documentation and guidelines. In close consultation with the members, the IUCN-Med shall also facilitate the establishment and functioning of national working groups for the elaboration of Red List of Threatened Species.

Besides and in order to ensure the survival of threatened species, design and implementation of strategies for species conservation becomes essential. Species Conservation Strategies are useful tools to focus on the conservation status of species and their habitats, and define conservation priorities. A Species Conservation Strategy allows the ecological knowledge gained about a species to be collated and conservation actions listed in a clear manner. They synthesise data and information, and translate them into appropriate conservation recommendations. They are designed to assist decision makers responsible for allocating resources and authorizing activities. For this reason IUCN-Med will promote the sharing of know-how and experience for the preparation of Species Conservation Strategies and for the implementation of appropriate conservation measures for threatened species in North African countries, in collaboration with IUCN Sub-Committee for Species Conservation Planning.

In parallel to the work on Red Lists of Threatened Species in North Africa countries, IUCN-Med will promote the contribution of scientists from the region to the works of IUCN on the elaboration of a classification system for threatened ecosystems (Red List of ecosystems). To this end, it will support the participation of North African scientists in workshops and working groups convened on the subject at global and Mediterranean levels. Furthermore, once a first set of classification criteria will be available, IUCN-Med will organise a workshop to undertake an assessment of the status of ecosystems in North Africa. Works on Red List of species and on Red List of ecosystems will be conducted in close collaboration with IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and with the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM).

Result 1.3: The objectives and targets set by relevant international conventions achieved in North Africa

The five North African countries have adopted the main international environmental conventions. IUCN-Med, through its North Africa Programme should support the implementation of these Conventions' provisions at the national level. Particular attention should be paid to the achievement of Aichi Targets within the framework of CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In this context IUCN-Med shall assist the relevant national authorities in conducting assessments of the situation in their countries regarding the 20 Aichi Targets. Furthermore, considering that the Strategic Plan of CBD provides a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets, IUCN-Med shall support the organisation of meetings at national level aimed at adapting the Aichi targets to the national contexts in North Africa and to propose a roadmap to help countries achieve these targets. The workshops will be convened by the relevant national authorities, and/or the IUCN members, while the role of IUCN-Med will be to assist in the elaboration of working documents and facilitation, through experts, of the meetings. IUCN-Med will also benefit from partnerships it has with relevant international organisations (Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, Secretariat of ACCOBAMS, Secretariat of GFCM, WWF etc.), encouraging them to provide their expertise and advice.

The achievement of the CBD Aichi targets in the countries of North Africa, will contribute also in achieving the objectives of regional Conventions and agreements such as the Barcelona Convention, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, as well as the objectives of other global Conventions such as UNFCCC and UNCCD.

Within the framework of this Core Programme Area, a particular attention will be given also to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. On the North African level only three natural sites, including one mixed site (natural and cultural) have been designated until now under this Convention. IUCN-Med will take steps to revitalize the implementation of the Convention, in partnership with IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, UNESCO World Heritage Center, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and IUCN Regional Office for West Asia. In this context, assistance shall be provided to the countries in elaborating nomination files for a selected set of sites with the view to initiate the process of proposing them as candidate sites for the World Heritage List. The IUCN members in the five countries could play, jointly or individually, a central role in this process and collaborate closely with IUCN –Med to mobilise stakeholders and gain support from them.

Sites already registered will also receive support and assistance on regulatory and technical aspects, in order to conserve the outstanding universal values that justified their inscription. Opportunities for twinning between World Heritage Sites in North Africa and the Mediterranean region will be explored by IUCN-Med to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experiences among managers of these sites.

Core Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable governance of nature's use in North Africa

Result 2.1: Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management in North Africa deliver rights-based and equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits

Supporting good governance of natural resources in North Africa will be a basic goal of the activities to be developed under this programme. In this context, considering that civil society has the potential to play a central role in good governance, effort will be made to assist new civil society organizations (CSOs) in building their capacities in different fields related mainly to natural resources governance, community participation and financial viability. As a first phase, pilot actions with CSOs will be undertaken regarding protected areas management in collaboration with national governments.

In North Africa, as in other regions, decisions on land use changes caused often negative impacts on biodiversity and on users and local communities that depend on natural resources for their survival. Under this programme, IUCN-Med will establish actions to improve the relationship between land use and natural resources conservation, including strengthening the knowledge on spatial planning tools. The objective here

is to help the countries of North Africa build their capacities in conducting spatial planning processes using the best available technical tools and within an approach based on consultation among stockholders to regulate the use of space by human activities while ensuring conservation of nature.

The IUCN North Africa Programme will include training activities on spatial planning and the application of the concept on pilot areas. The activities to undertake in the pilot areas will aim to demonstrate the added value that spatial planning could provide to development planning processes in making space and resources efficiently and sustainably used. Considering the increasing competition for the use of marine space in some countries of the region (tourism, aquaculture, fishing, etc.), at least one of the pilot areas will be a marine space.

Core Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development

Result 3.1: Local Knowledge and traditional Agriculture systems valued and used in adaptation to global changes, food security and development

Certain forms of natural resource uses in North Africa led to overexploitation situations; this is the case, for example, in water resources and in some stocks of marine living resources. Sustainability of such resource uses could be ensured only if the decline trends are reversed through improved management approaches and through the use of appropriate exploitation techniques, making, where possible, a better use of the traditional knowledge of local populations. In many cases the decline in resources arisen from the loss of traditional practices that proved to be sustainable and adapted to the natural context of North Africa.

Under the IUCN's North Africa Programme an inventory of traditional agriculture and water catchment systems and practices will be undertaken and made available. Furthermore, the use of traditional systems and practices of particular interest will be promoted through demonstration actions on pilot areas. Regarding the actions intended to cope with climate change, the use of local and traditional knowledge and the outcomes of scientific researches in the restoration of functioning ecosystems and preservation of ecosystem services will be also promoted through the implementation of pilot actions and valuing related traditional practices.

In many rural areas of North Africa, women have the potential to play a central role in enhancing the sustainability of agriculture and of other forms of natural resources exploitation. While mainstreaming gender considerations should be a cross-cutting element of the IUCN's North Africa Programme, the involvement of women in implementing the activities under this Programme Area should be particularly encouraged. At many occasions, rural woman in North Africa proved her willingness to engage in traditional nature-based practices. She has also the capacity to influence children and inculcate them with the importance of conserving traditional nature-based practices for their role in the sustainability of human activities and also for their value as cultural heritage.

Result 3.2: The economic value of ecosystems and biodiversity evaluated and contributes in providing alternatives to the practices that negatively impact natural systems and the livelihoods of people who depend on them.

Target 2 of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 stresses the need to incorporate the values of ecosystems into national accounting systems and in planning process, as well as in national and local development policies. To achieve this target, the countries of North Africa need to strengthen their capacities in assessing the contribution of ecosystem services and biodiversity towards economic activities and human welfare. This also includes capacity building in assessing the cost of biodiversity loss and the costs-benefits analysis for the actions needed to reduce it. Under this Core Programme Area, the IUCN-Med will organise a series of workshops targeting decision makers, scientists, NGOs and private sector actors with the aim of fostering understanding and awareness of ecosystem values with special focus on forests,

wetlands and arid lands. Pilot actions will be also undertaken as demonstration for the application of methodologies and approaches for assessing the ecosystem values.

Result 3.3: Green economy policies and actions are enhanced through stronger integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management in North Africa.

Several economic sectors such as tourism, industry and agriculture, while having a great social and economic importance in North Africa, they generate significant negative impacts on biodiversity and threaten the livelihoods of people who depend on natural resources. These negative impacts could be mitigated through innovative practices and production processes as well as through changes in consumption patterns. As part of its North Africa Programme, IUCN has the potential to contribute in promoting the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management. To this end, guidelines should be prepared and made available to governmental organisations and for the actors of private sector. The dissemination of the guidelines should be supported by an awareness raising campaign.

Modalities for the implementation of the Programme

Achieving the results of this Programme will be through influencing national and regional policies related to natural resources conservation and ecosystem management, while mobilizing the three IUCN pillars (Members, Commissions and Secretariat) to achieve these purposes as part of the IUCN "One Programme" approach. In general, the intervention methodology of IUCN in North Africa includes the following:

- Promoting and encouraging adhesion of new IUCN Members to strengthen IUCN regional representation.
- Supporting and strengthening the capacity of IUCN Members in North Africa and the creation and functioning of national committees in each country, so they can fully play their role in influencing national and regional policies in relation with nature conservation.
- Communicating and providing technical and scientific information for Members and partners and its adaptation to region and country level specificities.
- Assisting in setting proper conservation actions through pilot projects including new approaches and conservation models for further strategies to be developed and implemented.

The implementation of the Programme will be coordinated by the IUCN-Med Centre assisted by a Steering Committee made of 4 to 5 people selected among the representatives of the North Africa Members and experts that are members of the IUCN's Commissions. Furthermore, the relevant regional organisations will be invited to nominate representatives in the Steering Committee. The composition of the Steering Committee as well as the detailed work plan for the implementation of the Programme will be agreed during an inception seminar to be held during the 3 first months of the Programme duration with the participation of all the IUCN's members from North Africa. The steering committee will regularly review the progress in the programme implementation and where necessary will provide guidance on how to overcome the difficulties encountered. It will be therefore the main monitoring body of the programme. The monitoring and evaluation process of the programme should also include a midterm evaluation to be conducted by the end of the second year of the programme implementation (2014) and a final evaluation. The results and recommendation of the evaluations will be circulated to IUCN members in the region.

Human and financial resources needed to implement the programme

The proper and efficient implementation of this Programme requires the involvement of IUCN's Members in North Africa and the coordination of the IUCN-Med Centre. The day-to-day management and implementation of the Programme activities will be done by a team made of the Programme Coordinator and 3 Programme officers. The Programme coordinator will work on full-time basis while the Programme officers will intervene on part-time.

The Programme Coordinator will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Programme including: (i) contact s with Members, (ii) contacts with relevant national authorities, (iii) Secretariat of the Steering Committee, (iv) coordinating and supporting the Programme officers, (v) elaborating technical and financial reports.

Each Programme officers will be responsible for the activities under one of the three Core Programme Areas. He/She will be responsible for (i) planning the activities in accordance with the work plan set by the Steering Committee (ii) preparing the working documents and the reports of the workshops held as part of the Core Programme Area, (iii) Monitor the Pilot and/or demonstration activities.

The financial resources needed for the implementation of the Programme are evaluated as follows:

	Estimated cost (x1,000 euros)
Programme coordination	1,200
Core Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature in North Africa	1,210
Core Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable governance of nature's use in North Africa	700
Core Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development	1,665
Total	4,775

Core Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature in North Africa

Result 1.1: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to extended representativeness and improved management of protected areas in North Africa	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Workshops to assess the representativeness of the national networks of protected	100
Regional workshops for the elaboration of standards representativeness assessment criteria and methodology	70
Trainings on protected areas planning and management	150
Working group and workshops on KBAs	150
Sub-total	470

Result 1.2: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to a better conservation of species and ecosystems in North Africa	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Training of experts for the development of red lists	75
Facilitation of the establishment and functioning of national working groups for the elaboration of Red List of Threatened Species.	50
Red List of threatened ecosystems	320
Sub-total	445

Result 1.3: The objectives and targets set by relevant international conventions achieved in North Africa	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Assistance to national authorities in conducting assessments of the situation in their countries regarding the 20 Aichi Targets	45
Workshops at national level aimed at adapting the Aichi targets to the national contexts in North Africa and to propose a roadmap to help countries achieve these targets.	75
Assistance to countries on Natural WH sites	100
Assistance in twining WH Sites	75
Sub-total	295

Core Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable governance of nature's use in North Africa

Result 2.1: Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management in North Africa deliver rights-based and equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Training activities on spatial planning	200
Pilot actions on (i) spatial planning, (ii) new legal frameworks to allow equitable governance of natural resources and (iii) capacity building of civil society in natural resources governance, community participation and financial viability	500
Sub-total	700

Core Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development

Result 3.1: Local Knowledge and traditional Agriculture systems valued and used in adaptation to global changes, food security and development	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
inventory of traditional agriculture, fishing and water catchment systems and practices	75
Pilot/demonstration actions to promote the use of traditional systems and practices of particular interest, including nature based solutions for ecosystem and habitat restoration.	600
Sub-total	675

Result 3.2: The economic value of ecosystems and biodiversity evaluated and contributes in providing alternatives to the practices that negatively impact natural systems and the livelihoods of people who depend on them.	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Workshops on ecosystem values with special focus on forests, wetlands and arid lands	180
Pilot/demonstration actions for the application of methodologies and approaches for assessing the ecosystem values	300
Pilot/demonstration actions for promoting ecotourism as alternative to practices having negative impacts on ecosystems	400
Sub-total	880

Result 3.3: Green economy policies and actions are enhanced through stronger integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management in North Africa	
Activity	Cost (x1000 euros)
Guidelines on the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management in North Africa	60
Awareness raising campaign	50
Sub-total	110

ANNEXE

IUCN North Africa Programme 2013-2016 Logical Framework

Core Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature in North Africa

Result 1.1: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to extended representativeness and improved management of protected areas in North Africa		Main assumption Full involvement of relevant national authorities, local stakeholders and IUCN Members in the proposed processes at national level	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and scientific assistance - National and regional workshops - Trainings in protected area management 	Gaps in representativeness of national networks of protected areas identified and filled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representativeness of national networks of protected areas evaluated at least in 3 countries - National programmes implemented to improve representativeness at least in two countries 	
	Improved national capacity in Protected area planning and management	Protected area managers from North Africa trained and their skills in planning and management strengthened	The designation of participants to trainings made according to appropriate criteria Key participants in charge of protected areas attend the trainings.
	Important Biodiversity Areas in North Africa countries identified through wide consultation processes	At least Three countries count with National/Regional lists of Important Biodiversity Areas elaborated through participatory processes	Existing information made available

Result 1.2: Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to a better conservation of species and ecosystems in North Africa		<u>Main assumption</u> Willingness of the relevant national authorities to use red lists of species and ecosystems in their policy making processes	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training through national and regional workshops - Working groups - Dissemination of guidelines and other documents 	Improve national capacity in red listing processes	Scientists from national administrations, universities, research institutions and specialised NGOs involved in red listing process	The designation of participants to trainings made according to appropriate criteria
	Development of criteria for red listing of ecosystems in North Africa	A first set of threatened ecosystems identified and evaluated	
Result 1.3: The objectives and targets set by relevant international conventions achieved in North Africa		<u>Main assumption</u> The relevant national authorities adhere to the proposed activities	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal assistance to improve national legal frameworks in accordance with the provisions of the International Conventions - National meetings to elaborate strategies aimed at achieving Aichi targets - Assistance to existing natural WH for self-evaluation and updating of their management plans - Technical assistance to and facilitation of national processes for preparing files for proposing new natural WH sites 	Better implementation at national level of the provisions of relevant Conventions	Improved legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources	Willingness of the relevant national authorities to improve the existing legal framework
	Improved capacity of countries to achieve the Aichi targets	Tangible progress towards achieving the Aichi targets	
	Existing North African World Heritage (WH) natural sites maintain their values	Existing WH natural sites supported in maintaining their values	
	New North African natural sites proposed to the WH List	Countries supported in preparing WH nomination files proposals	Willingness of national authorities to propose nomination files to the WH List

Core Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable governance of nature’s use in North Africa

<p><u>Result 2.1:</u> Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management in North Africa deliver rights-based and equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits</p>		<p>Main assumption Full involvement of members in identifying the pilot actions and in establishing bonds of cooperation with relevant national and local authorities</p>	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and scientific assistance - National and regional Trainings workshops - Pilot actions 	<p>Improve national capacities to use spatial planning in the management of natural resource uses</p>	<p>The authorities in charge of natural resource management have skilled staff and appropriate technical tools to apply spatial planning</p>	<p>Pilot actions identified and implemented within the framework of a participatory approach that involves the stakeholders</p>
	<p>Improve the involvement of women in activities based on sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	<p>Women involved in the pilot actions</p>	
	<p>Improve the capacities of IUCN members and relevant CSO on natural resources governance, community participation and financial viability</p>	<p>All IUCN members and at least 20 CSOs have followed the capacity building programme</p>	

Core Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development

Result 3.1: Local Knowledge and traditional Agriculture systems valued and used in adaptation to global changes, food security and development		Main assumption Willingness of the national authorities in charge of economic planning to promote local and traditional knowledge.	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and scientific assistance - Working groups - networking - Pilot action 	Traditional Agriculture and water catching systems inventoried and promoted	Timely elaboration of the inventory and implementation of the pilot action	
	Pilot actions undertaken for ecosystem functioning restoration	Dunes and oasis ecosystems in North Africa have been subject of pilot actions to restore their functionalities	
Result 3.2: The economic value of ecosystems and biodiversity evaluated and contributes in providing alternatives to the practices that negatively impact natural systems and the livelihoods of people who depend on them .		Main assumption Standard evaluation methodology adopted and made available in the involved countries	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and scientific assistance - Pilot action - Workshops 	The decision makers, NGOs and private sector aware of the economic value of ecosystems (forests, wetlands and arid lands)	Economic value of ecosystems taken into account and the proposed alternatives used at appropriate scale	The pilot action identified within a transparent and participatory process
Result 3.3: Green economy policies and actions are enhanced through stronger integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management in North Africa.		Main assumption Willingness of the national authorities and actors of the private sector to adhere to the approach.	
Approach (means)	Targets	Indicators	Assumptions (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines - Awareness raising campaign 	The decision makers and actors of the private sector aware of the need of integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timely elaboration of the guidelines – Decision makers and actors of the private sector aware of the importance of integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services in risk management 	Support from the members in identifying key actors of the private sector