



**Forum of IUCN North Africa Members**  
**« Partnership for Nature: global Changes and North Africa »**  
**Rabat – Morocco, 5-7 octobre 2011**

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**Information note on the Forum**

**Introduction**

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature is an intergovernmental organization whose primary mission is to help the world find pragmatic solutions to environmental challenges and the most pressing development. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, nongovernmental organizations, UN agencies, businesses and local communities to jointly develop and implement policies, laws and best practices.

IUCN is the world's largest network of environmental protection - a Democratic Union which brings together more than 87 states, 117 government agencies and 919 NGOs, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

It is based on a secretariat over 1000 professionals in 60 offices and hundreds of partners from public and private sector and NGOs around the world. The IUCN headquarters are in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland.

In the Mediterranean, IUCN is represented by the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation created in 2001 in Malaga, Spain. The number of Members of IUCN in the Mediterranean is currently 182 Members including 16 in the North Africa region.

IUCN works in the framework of a programme that provides guidelines for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluating the conservation activities undertaken by the commissions and the secretariat with and on behalf of Members of the IUCN. It is discussed and approved by member organizations every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

**Context**

The World Conservation Congress of IUCN is the largest and most diverse global meetings dedicated to the conservation of nature. Held every four years, Congress intended to improve the management methods of the natural environment from the perspective of human, economic and social development. The next Congress will take place in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 15 September 2012.

As part of the preparation of its Members for effective participation in the next Congress, and to promote their contributions to the next quadrennial IUCN Programme 2013-2016, IUCN has planned ten fora of its Members in its various statutory regions, between May and October 2011. the Forum of IUCN Members in North Africa is among these fora, it will be held in Rabat, Morocco from 5 to 7 October 2011.

**Current status and justification**

Experience has showed that IUCN Members in North Africa, which currently number is 16, as well as experts from the region affiliated to the six thematic Commissions of IUCN (Protected Areas, Ecosystem Management, Species, Environmental Law, Education and Communication and Social Policy, Economic

and Environmental), even if they take part in the validation workshops, have rarely had the opportunity to participate in all preparation stages of the four-year IUCN programme. This has led to weak ownership of the programme from Members after its validation (considering it rather the Secretariat programme).

However, the preparation of the 2013-2016 programme should be done in a participatory manner taking into consideration the concerns of all stakeholders in charge of conservation of nature in North Africa. This is especially true now as IUCN is supporting the "One Programme" approach, which implies the involvement of IUCN constituents (Secretariat, Members and Committees) in the design, implementation and achievement of results of the four-year IUCN programme.

Furthermore, it was also noted that Members of IUCN in North Africa haven't take advantage so far from the opportunities offered by the World Conservation Congress held every four years, particularly in terms of formulation and presentation of motions taking into account the priorities and conservation issues in North Africa.

Thus, in order to submit to the next World Conservation Congress a four-year programme taking into consideration IUCN Members and conservation community priorities and concerns in North Africa, on the one hand, and prepare its Members to participate more actively in the working Congress sessions, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, in collaboration with the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD), is planning to organize the first IUCN North Africa Members Forum under the theme "Partnership for Nature: global Changes and North Africa." The Kingdom of Morocco will be hosting this event that will take place in Rabat from October 5 to 7, 2011.

### **Forum Objectives**

The main objective of the Forum is to better prepare Members, Commissions experts and partners of IUCN in North Africa to play a full role in influencing the international agenda of environmental conservation and sustainable development. Specifically, the Forum aims to:

- Define, in a concerted manner, the axes and priority areas of intervention of IUCN constituents for the period 2013-2016, taking into consideration the specific context of the region, lessons and experiences learned by the various stakeholders, and key processes and future international events (CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020, Rio +20, World Conservation Congress);
- Assisting Members and partners of IUCN in North Africa to agree on an approach to take into consideration concerns and specificities of the region during at international events related to environment in general and at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju in September 2012 in particular.
- Communicate the mission, the niche and assets of IUCN to the key nature conservation players in the region, in order to consolidate the IUCN Members in North Africa and bring more national contributions to the regional scope of IUCN.

### **Expected results**

- The four-year programme of IUCN in North Africa 2013-2016 is enriched and includes priorities and recommendations of Members, Members of the Commissions and the network of partners in the region.
- IUCN North Africa Members are better prepared to elaborate specific motions to be submitted for adoption at the World Congress of Nature.
- IUCN North Africa Members fully exercise their voting rights at the World Conservation Congress, participate in discussions and present well prepared candidates for the election of the various governing bodies of the IUCN (IUCN President, Councillors, Commission Chairs, etc.).

## Working sessions

The Forum, which will last three days, is mainly divided into three parts:

1. The first day will be dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the draft of the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016, main areas of work and national and regional priorities to be included in the North Africa programme, and the way forward for its implementation.
2. The second day will be devoted to the presentation of the IUCN World conservation Congress. The presentations will address aspects of the motions submitted by Members, accreditation and voting, the election of Members of the IUCN Council and the proposed amendments to the governance of IUCN.
3. A third day dedicated to raising the profile of the IUCN in North Africa and in the Mediterranean.

## Participants

The Forum will bring together about 70 people from North Africa and the Mediterranean, representing:

- Governments, NGOs and other Government Members of IUCN;
- Members of the IUCN Commissions and the IUCN Regional Councillors;
- The Staff of the IUCN Secretariat (at global and regional levels);
- Foundations and international, regional and national institutions partners of IUCN.

## Overview of IUCN Members in North Africa

In North Africa, 16 organizations have joined IUCN as Members. They are divided into the following countries (Libya has not yet 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 (04)

- 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

### 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'Agriculture et de l'Environnement
- Union nationale de la femme tunisienne