

XII INTERNATIONAL NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM

State of Nature Conservation in Spain

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Buenas días, Al primer quiero agradecer al Sr Juan Antonio Presidente del comité UICN de España y a todos los miembros y Udes para invitarnos a sus foro y darnos la oportunidad de participar a los debates y discusiones sobre la protección del medio ambiente y los recursos naturales para el desarrollo sostenible sin embargo los impactos son los mismos al sur como al norte del mar. I am invited as a regional councilor for Africa but let me explain my relationship with IUCN and particularly within our sub region south mediterranean.

a) Involvement with IUCN :

I start with IUCN 30 years ago as commission member (SSC,WCPA) but my country has joined IUCN in early 1957 . Then my NGO (ASMAPE) became a member in 1996 with SOMADE and SPANA and later many others NGOs (up to now there are 10 members). At the beginning Foreign Affairs Ministry was the focal point until 2008 when the Ministry of Environment became the focal point and lately it was transferred to the HCEF (Forest department of the actual Government). In 1998 Member from N.africa proposed a motion to the GA in Montreal asking the DG to establish an office for N Africa and develop a programme for the members. WESCANA programme was created covering West Asia,Central Asia and N.Africa .This programme was not satisfying the needs of the members and during the WCC2000 held in Amman, members asked the DG to implement the resolution voted in Montreal. The DG replied to the members needs and 2 offices were opened in the mediterranean basin. West one based in Malaga and the East one in Amman . The West Bureau was established in Malaga following the courtesy of the Regional Government of Andalucía (La Junta) to host the office in El Parque industrial of Malaga with the support of the National Government . A coordinator of the N.Africa programme was recruited to develop the programme under the auspice of the Director of the office.

b) National committee of IUCN :

National committee was created in 1998 gathering all members including 4 departments (Foreign Affairs, Agriculture & Fisheries ,Environment, Forest and six NGOs) . An agreement was signed to allow members to work together in a platform for exchanging information, coordinating action, discussing issues related to IUCN Affairs (election,GA, motions),converging opinions and developing common activities as an internal rule. The committee has President,General Secretary and Treasurer and participate to the BD National Committee and to other activities related to the conservation,education and public awareness.However the achievements are important when we look way back .

c) Action in the Council :

I am a Regional councillor, elected during the WCC 2008 held in Barcelona and reelected in 2012 during the WCC held in Jeju. During these periods I supported the office to develop its human capacity and financial support for the programme. Participated to the interviews of many candidates who submitted their candidature to work in the office. Increased the number of members from 3 to 20 plus now. Invited many experts to join one of the six IUCN commissions.

But things are not so perfect : The needs are huge but the available is insufficient. There is no links between members of both sides of the mediterranea. Still there is no cooperation North- South and the gap is more wide than what we can imagine.

I call from here in front of you (15% of all IUCN members) to take the lead and inovate action to establish a bridge over the Mediterranean sea to develop projects to implemente with your colleagues on the other side aiming the conservation and sustainable development .The strategic issues are conservation and sustainable development in stable area including security and equity.

The challenges we face are comun but we need to work together to win over the nature conservation and climate issues that could hit both sides of the sea .The topics/field of cooperation could include :

- RBIM (1st Transcontinental reserve between two continents : Europe- Africa)
- Alboran sea.
- Sahelo-saharian fauna(Antilopes, Gazelles, monk seal ...)
- Birds migration over Gibraltar strait and "feria de aves" as ecotourism initiative
- Marine mammals crossing the strait between the Altantic ocean and the mediterranea basin at the risk of death or injuries by one of the 600 boats navigating daily.
- Climate change and desertification .
- Massive Tourism impact on the seashore and coastline.
- BD (conservation reduction of its dépletion), PA management and well being of local people.
- Implementation SDGs+ CBD Aichi targets + Nagoya protocole.
- Red lists (species and ecosystems)+Green list of PA.

I am leaving the council with great satisfaction of the job done after all the above achievements and will stay active within IUCN community through my NGO. My egyptian colleague Imad Adly , candidate for regional councilor (7candidates for 4 position in Africa) will take the lead and continue the job ,he needs your support to be elected.

Muchas gracias y buen foro con exitos

- WESCANA : West Asia Central Asia and North Africa.
- HCEF : Haut Commissariat chargé des Eaux et Forêts.
- ASMAPE : Association Marocaine pour la Protection de l'Environnement.
- SOMADE : Société Marocaine pour le Droit de l'Environnement.
- SPANNA : Société de la Protection des Animaux et de la Nature.