Priorities and opportunities for the North Africa, Middle East and West Asia Region

Imèn Meliane
Regional Vice-Chair NAMEWA
• 16 Countries
• > 1500 Protected Areas
• 5 countries with over 10% of their surface under Protected Areas Marine – Most are still less than 1% (Except Jordan)
• Higher ambitions in many NBSAPs (some targeting 2030)

*Issues with Numbers*
Qualitative elements of Target 11

- Ecological Representation (Marine)
- Connectivity
- Areas of importance for Biodiversity
- Areas of importance for Ecosystem Services
- Management effectiveness
- Governance and Equity
Opportunities & Priorities – Regional Publication

- Advances in Target 11 and success stories from the Arab region
- Opportunity to harmonise data and resolve issues with WDPA (under-reporting)
- Opportunity to include and reflect on OECMs in the region (Hima system, fisheries reserves)
- Highlight areas of importance for Ecosystem Services and synergies with other MEAs and SDGs
- Share experiences and inspirations, and promote a healthy competition
Opportunities & Priorities – IUCN Green List

- IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

- 2 sub-regional evaluations (MEWA, NA)

- 13 candidate Sites in MEWA: Egypt 2, Jordan 4, Lebanon 1, Palestine 2, UAE 4,

- 7 candidate sites in North Africa: Algeria 2, Morocco 2, Tunisia 3
Opportunities & Priorities – IUCN Green List

- Strengthening engagement with national PA agencies
- Scaling up the GL as a tool to enhance management effectiveness in the region (not target certification) How to apply it to the national PA system
- Improving governance system, and better integration of aspects related to ecosystem services and socio-economics
Opportunities & Priorities – IUCN Green List

- Creating learning opportunities and building capacities in the region
- Enabling improved cooperation and partnerships between civil society, governments and international organisations
- Francophone Network of PA: Mentoring and experience pairing sites is starting discussion on connectivity
Opportunities & Priorities – Communicating beyond our constituency

• Strong communication and social media campaign with a focus on importance and role of protected areas (#Our_Parks_are_Our_Future; #مستقبلنا محمياتنا)

• Video series “Protected Areas: Sanctuaries for Biodiversity, Engines of development”

• Linking beyond the obvious: migration/rural exodus, terrorism

• New collaboration w TV channel (investigative journalism)
In last decade, over 250 initiative in southern Med on capacity building for PAs – not much impact

Capacity building needs assessment and Targeted strategy for professional capacity development for North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) done in 2018


Implementation of strategy (donors)
Mobilising alliances

- WCPA network
- Governments and PA agencies
- 2nd Regional Biodiversity Forum for West Asia—May 2018, Abu Dhabi
- North Africa: WWF Med Programme, UNEP SPA RAC (Green List, Governance and Mgt Effectiveness)
- IUCN members (Regional Conservation Fora in mid 2019, Target 11 day)
Thank you