



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

# Nature at the heart of Mediterranean press news

**Malaga, Spain, 18 December 2015 (IUCN)** – Fourteen press agencies have convened in Malaga with some of the strongest regional environmental organizations to find an answer to the challenges facing environmental reporting in the Mediterranean. The conclusions of these two days of debate have been echoed in a common voice through the Malaga Declaration published today.

More than 50 participants among which journalists from 15 countries from both shores of the Mediterranean have reached out to their counterparts on the institutional and NGO communication side, to discuss how cooperation can be reinforced towards a better environmental knowledge base and awareness raising activities from a journalistic perspective. This first Mediterranean forum has been organized by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the EFE Agency in collaboration with the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN), and hosted at the Municipal Museum of Cultural Heritage (MUPAM) in Malaga.

The Malaga public statement, endorsed by the participants of the meeting, advocates for the establishment of a partnership to provide mechanisms for cooperation among environmental and scientific information professionals from Mediterranean countries. The creation of a media network to promote better and coordinated scientific and environmental press coverage at Mediterranean level is one of the key objectives identified.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation together with the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies has taken the occasion of this first Forum to analyze the results of the COP 21 in Paris and its implications for the Mediterranean with the Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Teresa Ribera, the Director of the Blue Plan Hugues Ravenel, and the Secretary General of the High Commissariat for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification of Morocco, Abderrahim Houmy. The Forum has provided also a dialogue platform to share different views on the current position of environmental reporting by press agencies, the needs to enhance the quantity and quality of relevant and influencing news, and a look at potential sources of support for cooperation activities and modalities among journalists and environmental institutions.

**Antonio Troya, Director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation**, said *“We expect the Malaga Declaration to be the first step towards the establishment of an effective Mediterranean media partnership for the environment. With the collaboration of AMAN, the professional interest of Mediterranean journalists and the institutional support of key institutions, we can now move forward to roll-out the much needed communication, exchanges and collaborative projects for the benefit of a better informed Mediterranean”*.

It is anticipated that the network will look into capacity building and training activities for the media in preparation for the next COP 22 on Climate Change in Marrakech in November 2016.

**For more information, pictures or to set up interviews, please contact:**

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### Note to Editors:

#### About IUCN

**IUCN**, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,300 government and NGO members and almost 15,000 volunteer experts in some 185 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

Website: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

**The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation** opened in Malaga (Spain) in October 2001 with the core support of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, the regional Government of Junta de Andalucía and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID). The Centre's mission is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN.

Website: [www.iucn.org/mediterranean](http://www.iucn.org/mediterranean) | Facebook: [IUCNMed](https://www.facebook.com/IUCNMed) | Twitter: [@IUCN\\_Med](https://twitter.com/IUCN_Med)