

## Malaga Declaration

Mediterranean environmental journalists and communicators along with representatives of the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN), convened in Malaga on 18 December, 2015 on the occasion of the First Meeting of Environmental Journalists from Mediterranean News Agencies called by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation,

### ACKNOWLEDGING:

- ☐ That the Mediterranean is a biodiversity hotspot and that the preservation of its rich natural, cultural and linguistic heritage is at the foundations of human wellbeing and the socioeconomic development of its peoples;
- ☐ That the countries of the Mediterranean region have historically suffered serious environmental challenges that have exacerbated in recent years especially due to climate change, with evident and worrisome social and economic implications for society;
- ☐ The pressing importance of disseminating sufficient environmental and scientific information via the mass media and social networks to form and educate public opinion and decision makers in the region;
- ☐ The existence of a growing need to produce high quality journalistic information about science and the environment with a view to helping improve the general public's understanding of environmental challenges as well as their solutions;
- ☐ The difficulties that news media face to report environmental threats in the region with a coverage that is both suitable and proportionate to their real relevance for the region, as this information is nowadays often limited, superficial or incomplete;
- ☐ That the environmental information produced is usually fragmented and rather focused on isolated events in a local or national context, and not on the Mediterranean region as a whole;

Therefore wish to publicly

### DECLARE:

- ☐ That they consider necessary the establishment of a partnership to provide mechanisms for cooperation among environmental and scientific information professionals from Mediterranean countries;

- ☐ That the following stand out among the potential objectives of the aforesaid Mediterranean partnership:
  - To augment the amount of information about environmental challenges in the region;
  - To improve information quality through access to reliable and diverse data sources and experts so that relevant information can be properly placed in context;
  - To enhance a comprehensive overview of the issues addressed beyond their local effects, by sharing data and information with other members of the alliance; and
  - To increase the dissemination of that information so that it can reach a wider audience in the Mediterranean, and beyond.
- ☐ That to implement that partnership they propose the creation of a network to promote activities towards the achievement of these objectives above, namely:
  - Specialised seminars, workshops and meetings to focus on topics of common interest, gather experts on the subject and supply useful in-depth information within the scope of environmental journalism in the region;
  - To create relevant databases and contact lists to facilitate access to sources by members of the partnership and network;
  - To foster cooperation among its members to jointly project a comprehensive overview of the challenges and achieve a wider dissemination of their work, also by undertaking coordinated reporting;
  - To facilitate access to community and international aid for projects associated to the environmental press media and the members' activities;
  - To develop new proposals for coordinated actions to foster the production and dissemination of news and the professionalism of environmental journalism in the Mediterranean.

And in accordance with the above, they hereby sign this Declaration in Malaga on 18 December, 2015.