

Evaluation Abstract

Title, author and date of the evaluation report:

North Africa Biodiversity Programme, Phase III: Internal Review, prepared by Meg Gawler, June 2003

Name of project, programme or organizational unit:

North Africa Biodiversity Programme, Phase III

Objectives of the project, programme or mandate of the organizational unit:

1. To promote the conservation of endangered and economically useful plants in North Africa, with special reference to medicinal and economically useful plants.
2. To promote indigenous knowledge and the equitable participation of people in the management and conservation of endangered and economically useful plants in North Africa.

IUCN area of specialisation: Biodiversity

Geographical area: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, WESCANA Region

Project or programme duration, length of existence of organisational unit:

November 2001 – October 2004

Overall budget of the project, programme or organizational unit: CHF 1,910,000

Donor(s): Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Objectives of the evaluation:

The internal review aimed to examine the: (1) project design; (2) expectations and perceptions of IUCN, partners, SDC; (3) feasibility of continuing the project for the remainder of Phase III – including capacity of the implementers, opportunities for refocusing the project, and synergies with the IUCN Mediterranean Programme; (4) management from IUCN Headquarters; (5) factors supporting effective delivery, and (6) provide recommendations to guide the remainder of Phase III.

Type of evaluation: Mid-Term Project Evaluation; Internal

Period covered by the evaluation: November 2001 – April 2003

Commissioned by: IUCN and SDC

Audience: IUCN and SDC

Evaluation team: External

Methodology used:

The evaluation methodology included scoping interviews, document review, site visits to the implementing organisations and the project areas, in-depth interviews, group discussions, and a debriefing and feedback session at IUCN Headquarters. The review mission visited all five countries over a period of 24 days, and met with a total of 116 respondents from different respondent groups (project team, IUCN staff, national and regional partners and IUCN Members, Swiss embassies and SDC, and project beneficiaries).

Questions of the evaluation:

- The project in Tunisia is operating according to a different workplan than the one in the agreed project document. In relation to the activity framework of the project document – i.e., the project’s contractual obligations – to date no progress has yet been made in Tunisia with respect to medicinal plants in Phase III. The observations made by the review from a brief visit to the project site of Phase II call into question whether there were lasting results from Phase II in Tunisia

1. The North Africa Biodiversity Programme should be continued,