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Europeans want a diverse and a sustainable Europe. The European Union is clearly diverse with its 23 official languages and three alphabets, its geography that links polar climates to the Mediterranean, and with its overseas entities sprinkled as far as the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. The future will show whether the EU is also sustainable, and now is the best moment to create this future! In the not too distant past, Europe's industrial and urban expansion was not necessarily a model of sustainability. But the last decades have seen a radical shift in the attitudes of European society: Without letting go of its goal to share prosperity, it has tied this intrinsically to that of a protected environment, as I had the chance to report to

IUCN's conference "The European Union and its Overseas E816(s)-15(t)-16(a)-1

In recent years we have seen a public and a political recognition of

Healthy environments – healthy people: Broadening our vision to face future challenges

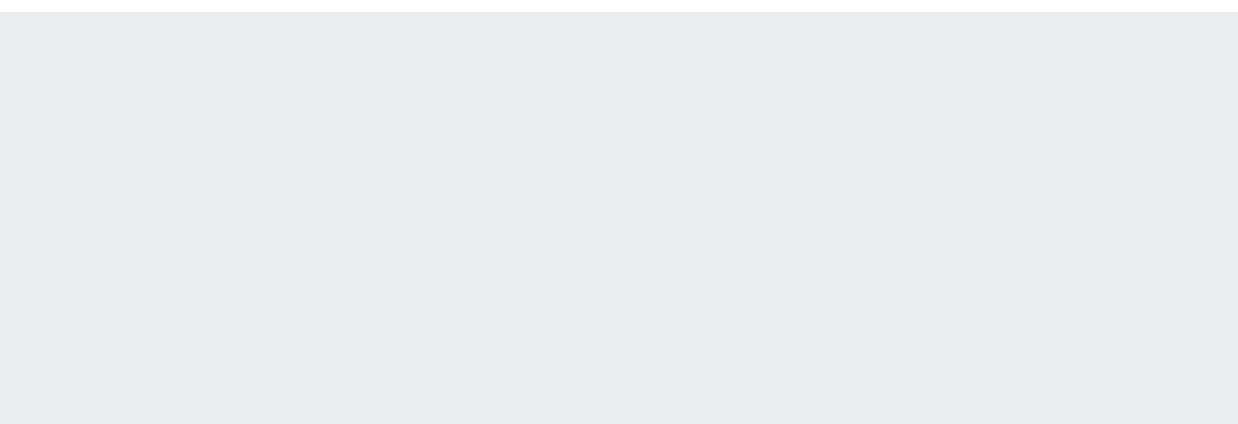
B, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, E , D ,
E , E , A

Throughout recorded history, it has been shown that environmental pollution and loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity have many direct and indirect social and economic impacts. The rise

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Climate change impacts the entire Mediterranean region in a number of significant ways. Scientists and citizens alike can provide examples of how this phenomenon affects their daily lives: weather conditions are more erratic and extreme; floods and droughts have become more common; glaciers are melting; and the

The unique biodiversity of Central Asia is the key to understanding the evolutionary processes of the whole Eurasian continent. The



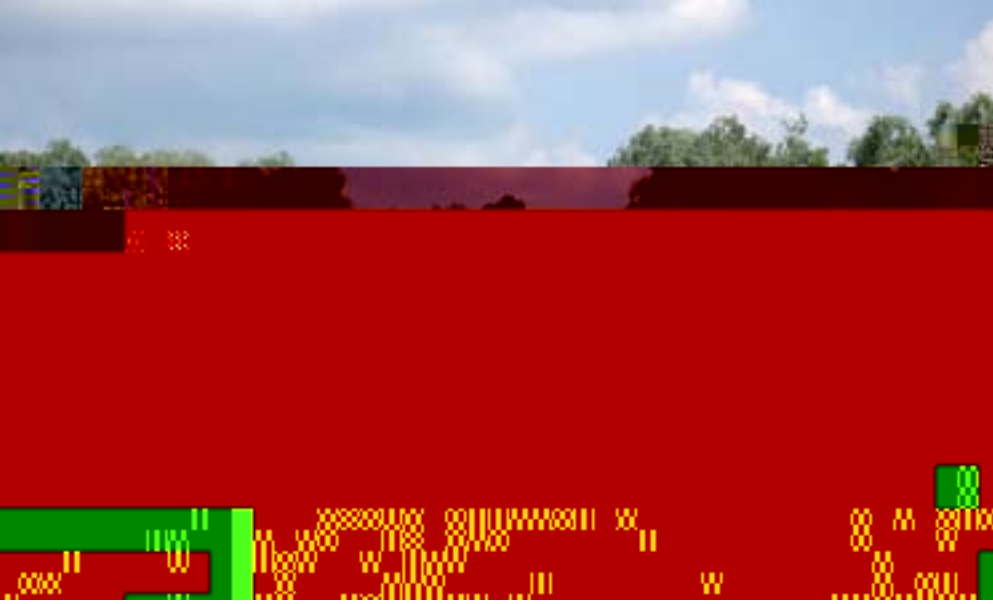


The threatened European wildcat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) is the flagship species for a new campaign by Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND; Berlin) to raise public awareness and attract support for one of the largest conservation projects in central Europe. The plan is to create a network of forested or shrub-

Scientific research in Monaco has been a tradition for more than a century. It was initiated by Prince Albert I, born 150 years ago. He explained his involvement and passion for science in these terms:

"I thought that the most captivating study for a worker with an independent spirit and a love of modern science, would be a study marking the origin and tracing the living force and its progress through the ages of our planet ...".

It was this same curiosity, this same desire to contribute to an understanding of the great questions about nature, its diversity and its evolution, and the same inclination for discovery, that motivated H.R.H. Prince Rainier III, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, to create the Monaco Scientific Center (Centre Scientifique de Monaco or CSM).



The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is internationally recognized for its bird populations, both in terms of sheer numbers and of rare species. Its mosaic of habitats is the richest in Romania and supports a wide variety of interesting communities of plants and animals (so far numbering over 5,380 species), including many species that are important at national, regional or even global levels. The diversity of bird species is very high (331 bird species), and so is the diversity of fish (about 86 species presently, including several types of sturgeon). Through its originality, richness in species and natural spectacular landscape, including the cultural landscapes, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a unique tourism area in the world, designated a World Heritage Site in 1991 as well as a Ramsar and Natura 2000 site.

Tourism in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a fast developing activity and it is expected to continue to increase. Various public institutions and several private-sector tourism organizations are active in the reserve, with a complex division of responsibilities. This has led to uncontrolled tourism, with a heavy impact on nature, disorganized development of tourist infrastructure, and the loss of cultural identity and traditions. To solve all these problems, local authorities (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, Tulcea County Council, local communities), various NGOs and consultants are working together to understand the tourists' expectations and motivations in visiting this protected area, and to develop strategies for different types of tourism.

Development of the potential for sustainable tourism in a Natura 2000 wetland area: the Danube Delta case was a project completed in June 2008 for the development of a strategy for sustainable tourism in the Danube Delta, in collaboration with Tulcea County Council and the Kenniscentrum company from Belgium.

In their endeavour to promote tourism in spectacular areas, International Friends of Nature has designated Danube Delta as *Landscape of the Year 2007–2009* as an accolade to one of the most impressive natural environments in Europe. The main focus of this project is to encourage sustainable regional development by implementing sustainable tourism strategies, initiating a dialogue and encouraging networking between decision makers and the local population – also and in particular across borders.

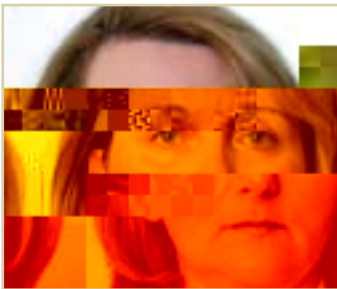
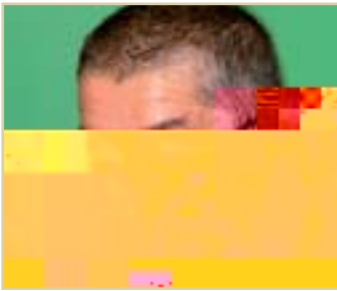
WWF leads another project to promote sustainable ecotourism activities together with local partners. The project *“Danube Delta – a natural gateway to Europe; Ecology and economy in harmony”* develops a detailed tourism strategy for the entire



Faces for IUCN's future

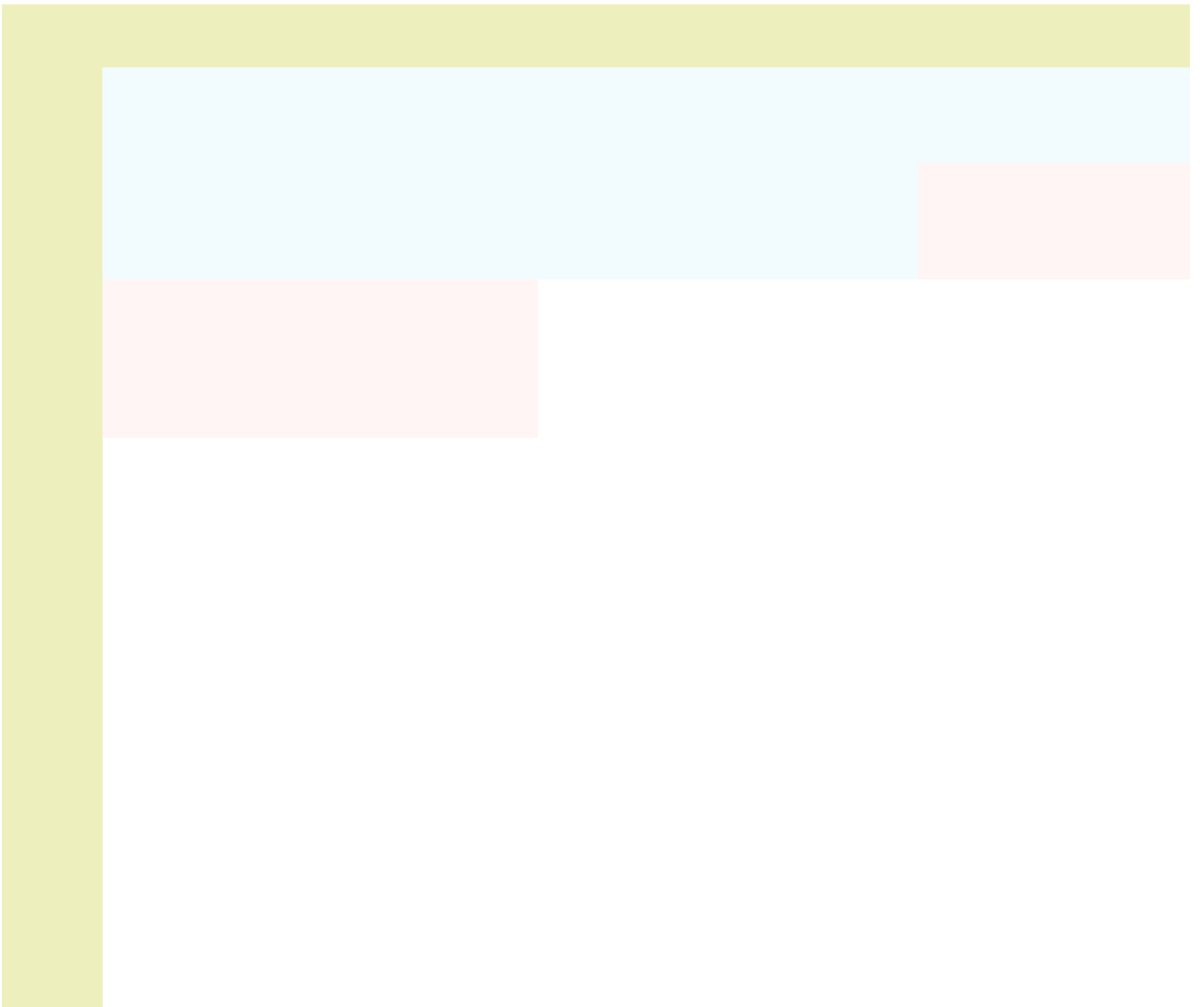
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Key Messages

IUCN's members will be able to choose one out of three very experienced conservation professionals to lead their organization for the next four years:



The sound of three seas

Music – just like nature conservation – can be a powerful force for peace and friendship. Originally founded as The Black Sea Chamber Orchestra in 1992, the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra has since grown to represent as many as 23 flags at once on stage. Its musicians contribute the cultural heritage of the Black Sea, the Caspian and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The orchestra is famous for its repertoire and the variety of local instruments blending in a classical orchestral set-up, such as 'Oud' from Syria, 'Kaval' from Bulgaria, 'Domra' from Russia, 'Kilkobuz' from Kazakhstan, 'Kemancha' from Azerbaijan, 'Tar' from Iran, 'Buzuki' from Greece and 'Kanun' from Turkey. The Tekfen Philharmonic not only stages multicultural programmes but contributes to world music by commissioning new works by local and international composers. The orchestra nurtures the environment of young musicians through its education and outreach programmes. The Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra is a member of the International Chamber Music Association (ICMA) and the International Music Council (IMC).

Europe at the World Conservation Forum

Listed above is a selection of workshops and knowledge cafés organized by European IUCN Members and the IUCN Secretariat during the World Conservation Forum. The list is by no means

exhaustive and is intended to provide an indication of the programme during the Forum. For the detailed programme, please refer to www.iucn.org/congress or the congress documentation on site.

