

**IUCN – The World Conservation Union
West & Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA) Regional Office**

1st IUCN Councillors and West Asia Regional Committee Meeting



**January 21st, 2008
Amman – Jordan
Le Vendome Hotel**

Overview:

The first Councilors & West Asia Regional Committee

Lastly, Dr. Odeh concluded his presentation with the basis for success and the way forward.

Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz thanked Dr. Odeh for his valuable presentation. He talked about the meeting agenda and the issues to be discussed in the meeting. Then, He opened the door for discussions.

Discussions:

- Having 25 members and having one of the largest na

- **Lebanon:** Post War Effects, Destruction, Oil Spills, Forest Fires, HIMA, Cross Cutting Issues.
- **Palestine:** Land Use - Abuse, Integrate Conservation with Waqf, Environmental Awareness and Education.
- **Iran:** Rangelands and Natural Resources Management, Management by all Stakeholders, Species Conservation, Water, Aridity and Desertification.
- **Syria:** Biodiversity Loss, Deforestation, Groundwater Depletion and Pollution, Surface Water Degradation.
- **Pakistan :** Water, Climate change, Coastal & Marine Environment
- **Saudi Arabia :**
 - **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:** There is two reasons to not prepare a presentation:
 - The time was not sufficient.**
 - There was a proposal to delete this item from the agenda.**
- **Jordan:** Renewable Energy, Water Conservation, Integrated Ecosystem Management.

Second Item:

Adaption of the by-Laws:

- **Mr. Javed Jabbar :**
 - A hard copy of the By-Laws should be distributed to all members as some have not received it before.
 - Support of regional office is required.
 - Adopt the present version upon reviewing it after 4:30 pm.
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz: Suggested to:**
 - Add the few points of Asian law to current in hand
 - Increase the quorum to 50%
- **Mr. Ali Darwish:**
 - Two thirds of West Asia members should vote on the by-laws, so, we are not in a position to adopt.
 - 50+1 quorum will affect the decision making, as it'll end up getting 25% of total membership.
- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - Regional office is no longer WESCANA
 - We should set up a clear mechanism for the By-laws adoption process.
 - We should make sure that every member has received a copy of the By-laws in a sufficient time (minimum: 2 weeks) to comment.
 - Comments should be circulated to all, and the final version should be circulated to all again and make sure that all received it.
 - Comments on the final version should be received during one week.

- **Mr. Talal Al Azmi :**
 - No need for waiting 2 weeks, let us do it now, let us go ahead.
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - Who against Mohammad's proposal?
 - No one
- **Mr. Taqi Farvar:**
 - The by-Laws have been approved in Tehran Meeting, minor changes have been requested to be done by a small committee, that's why only those changes have to be approved and no need to go through it again.
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - According to Tehran minutes we should go through the process.
- **Mr. Taqi Farvar:**
 - **We can finalize the by-laws now; we approved it in Tehran.**
- **Mr. Javid Jabbar:**
 - Formal adoption is needed for the by-laws
- **Mr. Said Damhoureyeh:**
 - We work a lot on the By-Laws and circulated it many times. I agree with **Mr. Taqi**
- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem: I suggest the following methodology for West Asia Regional Committee by-Laws amendment:**
 - Approve an interim by-laws with some amendments today
 - Circulate the original By-Laws and the proposed amendments to all members (by courier, fax and e-mail) in the region and confirm receipt within one week to be done by secretariat.
 - Notify members that they have at least 21 days from the date of posting to comment on the proposed amendments of the by-laws.
 - All comments should be directed to the chair of committee who should circulate them among the executive officers of the committee and prepare the final draft within seven days of receipt comments
 - The amended by-laws will be circulated to all members of the WARC with a request to respond with approval within seven days. No response implies approval by members.
 - After the approval of the regional committee the amended version of the by-laws will be circulated to all IUCN members in the West Asia region (by all correspondence methods)
 - The final version of the by-laws should be sent to the council for recognition.

All Participants approved this methodology to adopt the By-laws.

Third Item:

World Conservation Congress – Barcelona 2008

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - Fund raising should be made to enable all IUCN members to attend the Congress, to avoid region split that will be discussed in the Global Meeting.
 - Members will not be able to vote if 2007 dues have not been paid.

- **Mr. Asaad Serhal:**
 - How can we present the region?

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - Saudi Arabia usually contributes in the Congress, they are thinking seriously about this matter, encouraging to carry the idea by leading NCWCD fund, it's up to the committee to decide if they want to represent the region, youth is the best topic.

- **Mr. Imad Al-Atrash:**
 - A presentation on war and its impact in the conflict areas will be good to be presented in the congress in cooperation with IUCN.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - We need a person to coordinate all suggested activities.

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - We need to link with commissions that are having action plans meets our ideas.

- **Mr. Asaad Serhal:**
 - Young generation will be represented.
 - Countries are welcomed to take the lead.
 - Jazeera TV is able to cover the media.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:** Assigned **Mr. Asaad Serhal** to be the focal point to coordinate this issue with those who are interested and later on others can assist when required.

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:** seconded this nomination.

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - There are other ways of participation: Commissions are individual and it is highly recommended to be part of it.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - I encourage all members to participate in commission's meetings; it is crucially important to attend the commission's meetings.
 - **Mr. Asaad Serhal** is the focal point for activities in Barcelona; he may organize with the regional office.

- **Mr. Asaad Serhal:**
 - I agree and will coordinate with **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem**.

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - We must coordinate our work concerning workshops.

- **Mr. Imad Al-Atrash:**
 - I will be the coordinator for workshops.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - **Mr. Imad Al-Atrash is the focal point for workshops.**

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:**
 - Our own priorities should be:
 - The election of president, treasurer, councilors
 - Our regional councilors
 - **Dr. Abdulaziz Abuzinada** is convinced to elect him self for president.
 - Councilors can be changed, but at least have one old having enough experience.
 - We as a committee should Agree on 3 candidates:
 - Mr. Ali Darwish** will run again and we will support him.
 - Mr. Javid Jabbar** is still.
 - Our candidates may be **Mr. Abdel Aziz Almuhanha** from Saudi Arabia and **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz** from Jordan.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - National committee decided that I should run.

- **Mrs. Meena Kadhimi:**
 - Regional balance is very important.

- **Mr. Asaad Serhal:**
 - We must look at the qualifications of the person.

Final Discussions:

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:** Recommended finishing the by-Laws discussion first.
- **Mr. Taqi Farvar:**
 - Region committee officially exists, the only think is to amend the by-laws and simply prepare the proposed changes and send it out.
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - We are going through the process that has been adopted this morning.
- **Mr. Imad Al-Atrash:**
 - Can Palestine be considered as a member or affiliated.
- **Mr. Taqi Farvar:**
 - Statutes of IUCN say: entity of not state members has to be a member of UN or any of its institutions.
- **Mr. Ali Darwish:**
 - Palestine is a member in ESCOWA, which enable us to request considering it a member.
 - A legal problem remains, IUCN can be considered as one of UN agencies and carry all the benefits, I'm seeking all kind of adoptions, but Palestine is a full member in West Asia Committee.
- **Mrs. Aban:**
 - I suggest going to **Renald Karkar** the IUCN ambassador and asking for his opinion and getting in touch directly in March in the councilor meeting.
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - We consider Palestine as a part of the region and member in IUCN.
 - **Resolution: Mr. Ali, Mr. Taqi and Mr.ioAn**
- **Mr. Ali Darwish**
 -

**The chairman is given the mandate to do this vote
The motion was approved mostly.**

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz:**
 - To develop any thing; it will be done according to the By-Laws**Agreed by almost.**

- **Mr. Taqi Farvar:**
 - **Motion:** Suggestion of registering the committee as an entity; suggestion to drop Middle East in regional office description.**Approved by all**

- **Mr. Ali Darwish:**
 - **Motion:** Committee arranges a working group consists of **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem, Mr. Ali Darwish, Mr. Imad Al-Atrash** and **Mrs. Meena Kadhimi** to come up with draft guidelines for the By-Laws of regional committee within 30 days of this date.

- **The motion is seconded**

- **Mr. Mohammad Sulayem:** Secretariat should do the following up.

- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz**ahia Mr. M ~~at~~ MII bdra By-L M

Annex

List of Participants

- **Mr. Javed Jabbar** – IUCN Deputy President and Regional Councilor for West Asia
- **Mr. Faris Al Juneidi** – Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment – Jordan
- **Dr. Odeh Al Jayyousi** – IUCN WESCANA Regional Director
- **Mr. Mohammad Shahbaz** – Head of West Asia Regional Committee.
- **Mr. Taqi Farvar** – Regional Councilor for West Asia
- **Dr. Ali Darwish** – Regional Councilor for West Asia
- **Dr. Talal Al Azmi** – Regional Councilor for West Asia
- **Mr. Said Damhoureyeh** – Jordan National Committee
- **Mr. Assad Serhal** - Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon - SPNL
- **Dr. Mohammad Sulayem** – The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development & Vice Chair of West Asia Regional Committee – Saudi Arabia
- **Ms. Rima Ras** – Jordan National Committee
- **Mr. Mohamed Abdel Fataah Yousef** – RSCN
- **Mr. Imad Al-Atrash** – Director of Palestinian Wild Life Society
- **Mr. Shahid Khan** - Chairman, Pakistan National Committee
- **Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji** – Regional Director of IUCN Asia
- **Mrs. Meena Kadhimi** - Bahrain Women Association
- **Ms. Fatima Haj Mousa** – General Commission for Environment Affairs – Syria
- **Mrs. Inas Obeidat** – IUCN WESCANA
- **Mrs. Rania Faouri** – IUCN WESCANA
- **Mrs. Ola mallah** – IUCN WESCANA
- **Mr. Khaldoun Al-Omari**– IUCN WESCANA
- **Ms. Luma Al-Kurdi** – IUCN WESCANA