

Experts analyse the impact of shipping activities on biodiversity in the Mediterranean

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IUCN-Med has organised a workshop in Istanbul (Turkey) from 22-24 September 2007 to analyze the impact of shipping activities on biodiversity in the Mediterranean. More than 30 participants including technical specialists, researchers and Mediterranean partner organisations together with maritime industry representatives have discussed recommendations concerning:

1. the biodiversity conservation priorities within the Mediterranean insofar as they are at risk from the impacts of shipping;
2. measures to promote compliance with and enforcement of existing protective measures applicable in the Mediterranean region and the standards adopted within the Barcelona Convention legal framework; and
3. further protective measures (e.g., international legal measures) that could usefully be employed to protect the conservation priorities concerned.

This workshop is a key initiative framed following a recommendation at the IUCN Congress held in Bangkok in 2004, thank to the the Italian Government which provided funding to IUCN-Med to undertake a *Risks from Maritime Traffic to Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea* project, with a particular focus on the protection of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

For more information, please contact: francois.simard@iucn.org