

Event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Date: Tuesday 7th September

Time: 09:30-10:30

Venue: Mediterranean Solutions Stand, Exhibition Hall 3, Room A28

Day Theme: Financing Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean (Coordinated by Fondation MAVA)

Event title: Financing Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean: the response from institutional bilateral and multilateral donors

- **Why attend**

Funding for conservation in the Mediterranean includes substantial contributions by governments – which is in the end tax-payers money. How much this represents? Is this enough and does it fairly translate international commitments? Does it reflect real priorities? This session will offer the opportunity to learn and discuss these critical questions

- **Brief description**

Governmental funding for conservation in the Mediterranean comes from diverse sources. Governments invest in their own countries, following national policies and obligations, at national, subnational and local levels. Bilateral funding from OECD countries (individually or collectively) is provided to Mediterranean partner countries. Multilaterals (such as GEF and GCF) provide funding to eligible countries. Overall, governmental funding plays a key role in conservation in the region, and will continue to do so given the commitments from international agreements and national policies. However, many gaps exist, given the threats coming from unsustainable development policies and governance weaknesses. Post-covid economic recovery funding has the potential to be highly impactful on conservation if not properly framed. This panel of speakers from bilateral and multilateral institutions will discuss the trends, challenges, and options for strengthening this critical part of conservation funding

- **Format and speakers (total 60 min)**

- Welcome and introduction to the day and the session: Ms Paule Gros, MAVA Foundation (5 min)
- Panel:
 - o Introduction: Moderator (5 min)
 - o Panellists (10 min each, or 2 rounds of 5 min)
 - o Ms Constance Corbier-Barthaux, Head of Biodiversity and Small-Scale Initiatives Programme, French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM)
 - o French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), France
 - o Ms Elena Pita, Director of Fundación Biodiversidad, Spain
 - o Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, Italy/Spain (remotely)
- Exchange with the audience (15 min)
- Conclusions and closure: Moderator (5 min)

- **Speakers**

Ms Paule Gros, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Director, Mediterranean Basin, MAVA Foundation



Ms Paule Gros is responsible for implementing MAVA's strategy for the Mediterranean and overseeing all projects and partner relations in the region. Together with the other Programme Directors and the Director General, she also jointly manages MAVA's overall project portfolio, including its global projects. Paule joined MAVA in 2009 and has a doctoral degree in Conservation Biology from the University of California, Davis, awarded for her work on wild cheetah populations in East Africa. Before joining MAVA, she conducted mammal and bird conservation research projects in the Mediterranean, California and Nicaragua. She has also delivered ethno-biological work with the Mayangna people of the Nicaraguan rainforest.

Ms Constance Corbier-Barthaux, Head of Biodiversity and Small-Scale Initiatives Programme, French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM)



Ms Constance Corbier-Barthaux, an Agronomist, first worked in various development cooperation organizations including FAO, then as a project manager for International Affairs at the French Ministry of the Environment. In 2000, she joined AFD as a project manager, and in 2014 she joined the Secretariat of the French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM) as project manager for conservation and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, and capacity building initiatives for civil society (PPI, program of small initiatives).

Ms Elena Pita, Director of Fundación Biodiversidad, Spain



Ms Elena Pita is an agronomical engineer and Master of Sciences from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (IAMM), with a long international career and extensive experience in biodiversity conservation and climate change. She has worked in more than 30 countries, and for entities such as the UN Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; the European Commission; and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean



Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni is an Italian diplomat, professor and writer who has focused for the past 25 years on the societal, geo-strategic and economic impacts of environmental degradation, as well as on topics related to environmental protection, human cohesion, peace and security. Until August 2019, he was the Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface at the Italian Development Cooperation, heading Italian delegations on lands, water and oceans and joining negotiations on climate and biodiversity. Since September 2019 he is Senior Deputy Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, in charge of the Energy and Climate Action portfolio.