



DiversEarth

2016

End Of Year Report



Overview

2016 -

What a year it has been for DiversEarth!
What follows are some key highlights and achievements from the year gone by and a brief look at what's to come next...

This year saw our first team meeting with our new Board, and new President, **David Pritchett**. We also have had, for the first time, an intern, **Lucie Du Pasquier**, working with us on some specific projects. The core team has been working full out, particularly in the last 6 months with one major event after another calling for our full attention. There have been some remarkable times this year that have strengthened our energy and our resolve to work differently and on the issues we truly care about.

Now we find the time to take stock of what happened this year and how best to use the great bits to go forwards with the people who inspire us, for the people who inspire us. We hope you enjoy our end of year report!

Liza, Sandra & Divya (DE Core team)

With special thanks to
The Mava Foundation



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DiversEarth

2016

Highlights



IUCN's World Conservation Congress, Hawai'i

One of our main achievements this year – and the event that required months of full-on preparatory work – was our participation at IUCN's quadrennial **World Conservation Congress** in Hawaii.

DiversEarth was asked by IUCN to lead on one of the Congress's key themes – the Spirituality and Conservation Journey, along with IUCN's Nigel Crawhall (CEESP Chair of the Specialist Group on Religion, Spirituality, Environmental conservation and Climate justice (ReSpECC) of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy). Our aim for this Journey was to take participants (around 10'000) through another dimension of nature conservation and sustainability entirely; a journey that would get to the real roots of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss; and one that would challenge us all as human beings on this earth.

Spirituality and Conservation Journey Programme

Get ready to be inspired...



IUCN and DiversEarth invite you on a very special journey...

One that will take you through another dimension of nature conservation and sustainability entirely; one that will get to the real roots of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss; one that will challenge you as a human being on this earth.

© Image by Alexander Belokurov / Imagenature.com

The Journey was made up of over twenty diverse events (workshops, roundtables, knowledge cafés and social events) culminating in the incredibly inspiring and memorable High Level Session on Spirituality and Conservation with faith leaders from across the world.



The Journey was made up of over twenty diverse events (workshops, roundtables, knowledge cafés and social events) and culminated in the incredibly inspiring, memorable and much awaited High Level Session on Spirituality and Conservation with faith leaders from across the world.

The final line-up for the groundbreaking dialogue was as follows: Rabbi Sergio Bergman, Minister of the Environment, Argentina; His Eminence, Imam Professor Dr K.H. Muhammad Sirajuddin Syamsuddin, Indonesia; Reverend Peter Harris, Anglican Minister, co-founder of the global nature conservation organisation A Rocha; Father Robert Stark from the Catholic Diocese of Hawaii Office for Social Ministry and Robert Agres Jr. from Island Systems, representing Cardinal Turkson and His Holy Father Pope Francis's seminal *Laudato Si'*; Mrs Masami Saionji of the World Peace Prayer Society; and Dr Pualani Kanahele, Hula Master, Spiritual Leader, Hawaii.



The session was moderated by Sally Ranney (IUCN Patron of Nature).

It is also worth mentioning that in the run up to the event, we were in discussions with a plethora of amazing faith leaders including His Excellency, Cardinal Peter Turkson of the Holy See, Vatican (candidate for the next papacy); His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje; Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; HH Acharya Lokesh (Jain priest); H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji. DiversEarth sees the possibility of engaging with many of these faith leaders for concrete action in the future.

In addition to this, we led successful knowledge cafes full of spirit on: Experiences in Spirituality and Conservation and On The Move: Mobile Pastoralism in the Mediterranean - Retro-innovation for a sustainable future. We also moderated a workshop on cultural practices in the Mediterranean with IUCN's Gonzalo Oviedo and contributed to the Nature-Culture Journey in various ways. We also participated in a moving session organised by our friends at the Interreligious Network for Climate and Ecology (ICE) and the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) at the East-West Center, Honolulu.

If this all wasn't enough, we probably had the best space in the center for our travelling photography exhibition, On the Move.

In Hawaii we met with many old friends and made many new and inspiring contacts. It was hard work, but definitely worth the effort!



"Think about the experiences you've had when you've walked in nature. What are the first phrases that come to you when you walk through this sacred forest, land, or pass by a tree? Peace, freedom, connection, change, beauty, there are whole auras of feelings generally associated with a sense of calmness, of silence. Then I ask myself the question what is that silence, WHO is that silence?"

Ed Barrow from IUCN on connecting with nature, at our "Experiences on Spirituality and Conservation" cafe.

On the Move 2016

DiversEarth has been working with the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture since 2012, and amongst many other things, has been coordinating its unique photography exhibition: **On The Move**.

On the Move celebrates the lives and hardships of mobile pastoralists across the Mediterranean, and their inextricable links with their surrounding lands and waters. In 2016 there have been three On the Move exhibitions in **Ankara**, **Honolulu** and **Marrakesh**.



Turkey

In July, the exhibition visited the prestigious **CerModern Museum** in Ankara, Turkey, where the **Gok Family** - the nomadic family featured in renowned photographer Baris Koca's pictures - were presented with the occasion to see these beautiful photos first hand and be celebrated by all present.

This heart warming opening highlighted the critical fact that many pastoralists in the Mediterranean feel undervalued, unworthy and unimportant. It's our aim that through celebrations such as On The Move we can start to change perceptions not just for societies but for the pastoralists themselves, and help them realise the very valuable contributions they make towards biodiversity protection, Mediterranean Cultural heritage, and micro economies, just by the way they live their lives.

Thank you, Yolda Initiative, for a great exhibition.





Hawaii

We had the perfect exhibition space at the **World Conservation Congress** for On the Move – a space that was very visible yet not lost in the midst of other booths. The aim of bringing the exhibition to Hawaii was to raise awareness amongst the conservation community of the vital importance of this practice for biodiversity. The exhibition center was also open to the Honolulu public, and it was wonderful to engage with such a wide variety of visitors.

The On the Move space was also used for our knowledge cafes and during our session on mobile pastoralism, we were delighted to welcome nomads from Kenya, Central Asia, Mongolia and Altai Sayan, who were inspired by the images of their Mediterranean counterparts.

This exhibition also saw the first showing of One Square Meter.



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

Morocco

Finally, in October, On the Move was taken to the **UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Marrakesh**. Here our aim was to raise awareness amongst the international Climate Change community about mobile pastoralism and its importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To date, we can say that On the Move has touched tens of thousands of people. A great outreach success.



One Square Meter

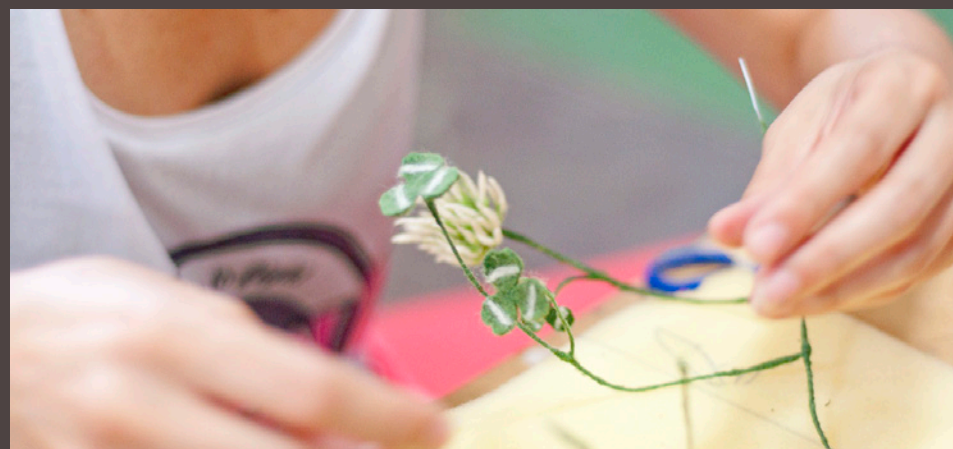
One Square meter, made by three very talented Spanish ladies, is a needle-felt sculpture made from Merino sheep wool highlighting the very tangible link between **mobile pastoralism and biodiversity**.

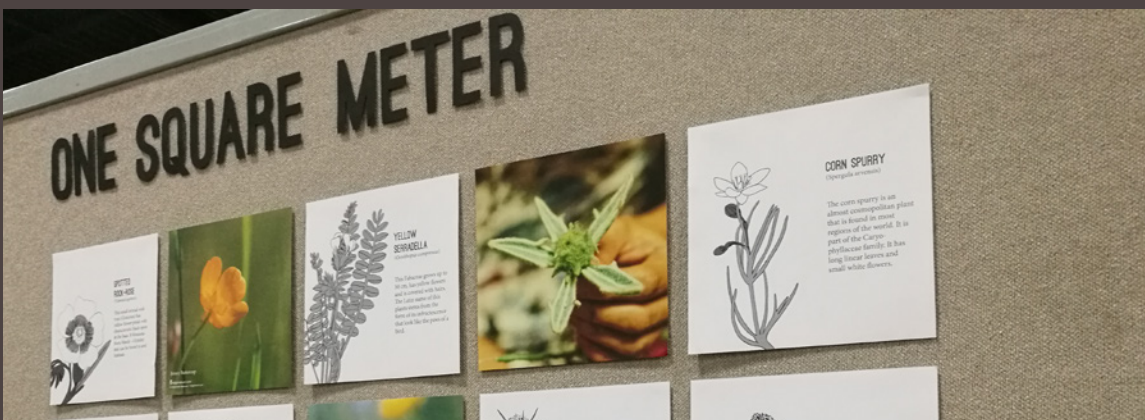
Did you know that one square meter of land where mobile pastoralism occurs can house up to **40 different species** of plants?

The idea was born from the energy between DiversEarth and Trashumancia y Naturaleza, our Spanish partners... and realised with great skill, hard work and modesty.

It was shown for the first time in the On the Move exhibition at the World Conservation Congress and recently it made a guest appearance at WWF Spain's workshop "Dehesa Viva". Participants can't get enough of it and we are currently thinking of ways in which to expand this wonderful project in the future, linking it also to the development of rural economies.

Thank you to our friends at Trashumancia y Naturaleza, Spain - it is so inspiring working with you!





Europarc, Vallée de Joux

As a local organisation it was a lovely change of pace to take part in **Europarc's** Conference in the Vallée de Joux - our own back garden!

This international conference took place in the beautiful setting of the Parc du Jura Vaudois, and the core DiversEarth team (Divya, Sandra, Liza), plus our intern, Lucie du Pasquier, volunteered to help the organising team as well as have a DiversEarth stand on one of the evenings.

Equipped with our pop up banners and a few On The Move photos, we had the occasion to engage with park managers on the subject of mobile pastoralism and biodiversity, to raise awareness regarding this issue with the local park inhabitants, and to have an inspired and delightful exchange on spirituality and environment with Professor Dominique Bourg - French philosopher and author of "Crise écologique, crise des valeurs - défi pour l'anthropologie et la spiritualité" (environmental crisis, crisis of values - a challenge for anthropology and spirituality).

We made some precious contacts from around Europe on the subject of mobile pastoralism and we hope to engage further with Professor Bourg in his work at the University of Lausanne on Spirituality and the Environment.



1st Mediterranean Plants Week, Montenegro

October saw the very first **Mediterranean Plants Week** in Ulcinj, Montenegro, organised by IUCN, Global Diversity Foundation, Green Home, Plantlife and the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture.

The theme was Building a Regional Network to conserve plants and cultural diversity.

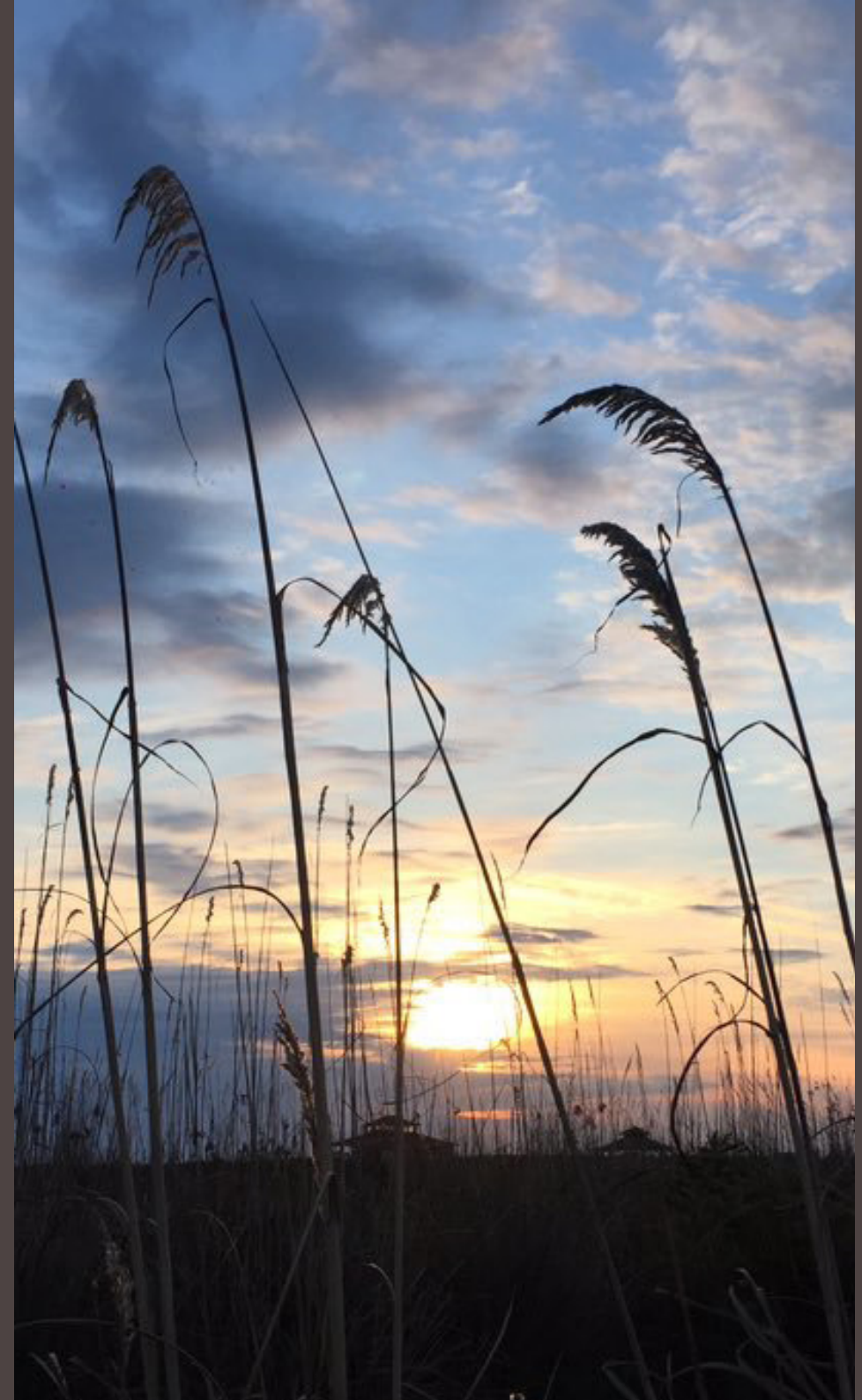
Some highlights for us included many presentations of plant specialists that touched upon the importance of religious groups and areas; a workshop on Pastoral Management and Plant Conservation led by Jabier Ruiz of CEM-IUCN and EFNCP; and the session we moderated along with Global Diversity Foundation that included 8 engaging Pecha Kucha style presentations in which questions such as “can we duplicate the Agdal / Hima concept?”, “how do you resolve conflicts between shepherds and / or other local people?”, “what are the attitudes of governments in different Mediterranean countries towards communal areas?” arose.



In addition, Diversearth's Liza and Sandra led a participatory session on Sacred Sites and Sacred Species where we introduced the theme of spirituality and its links with nature.

After a short moment of silence, reflecting on how nature makes us feel – the following words / phrases were evoked by participants: Simplicity – Free – Like I can fly – In awe – Calm – Relax – Home – Questioning – No worries – Myself – Happy – Excited – Welcome – God – Peace – Serenity – Majesty – Liberté – Joy – Awesome – Mixed feelings – Healing – More sensitive – Reflective – Relief – Different – Grand champ de vision – Linked to God

There was a general consensus amongst participants (mostly plant specialists) that religions, beliefs and spirituality have a major role to play in plant conservation in this region and that as a community we should be doing much more to engage with the theme. Of particular note was the enthusiasm of North African colleagues who felt that their region in particular would benefit from further research and action in the field.



Engaging Geneva's Youth for Nature and Culture at Step Into Action

Step Into Action took place at Palexpo, Geneva on the 14th and 15th of November. Organised by an NGO called Euforia (www.euforia.org), Step Into Action rolled out in major Swiss cities (Basel, Zürich, Geneva and Bern next year) to engage young people interested in getting involved in charitable actions.



This year, 1200 students from a wide variety of schools attended workshops on themes around sustainable development (migration, human rights, economy, environment, social sciences) and met with a range of local and international NGOs – DiversEarth being one out of the 22 organisations represented.

The practical action we offered is to spend a day on Winter Transhumance with a Swiss shepherd family and we are very excited to be taking 15 students to the Canton de Bern on the 7th January 2017. The experience of this day as a mobile pastoralist will, we are certain, touch the lives of the students and let us take another small step towards a [#ValuesShift](#).

We thank our great intern, [Lucie Du Pasquier](#), for all her hard work and motivation on this project!



United Nations Forum on Climate Change - CoP 22, Marrakesh

In addition to presenting On The Move, DiversEarth as part of the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture and with Global Diversity Foundation, hosted a side event and discussion on how **cultural practices** can be used as a tool for **climate change adaptation** and **mitigation**, and to create stronger, more resilient communities and economies.

Some emerging themes/questions from the discussions included:

- issues around engaging youth and keeping practices alive from generation to generation
- raising awareness for the practices so the practitioners themselves realize their importance, worth and vital role they play in protecting biodiversity
- issues around supporting communities that do want to continue their way of life

Have you ever considered using Cultural Practices as a tool for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation?

Join us for the Mediterranean Consortium For Nature And Culture side event as we explore how cultural practices are being used in our project sites to create stronger, more sustainable and resilient communities and economies.

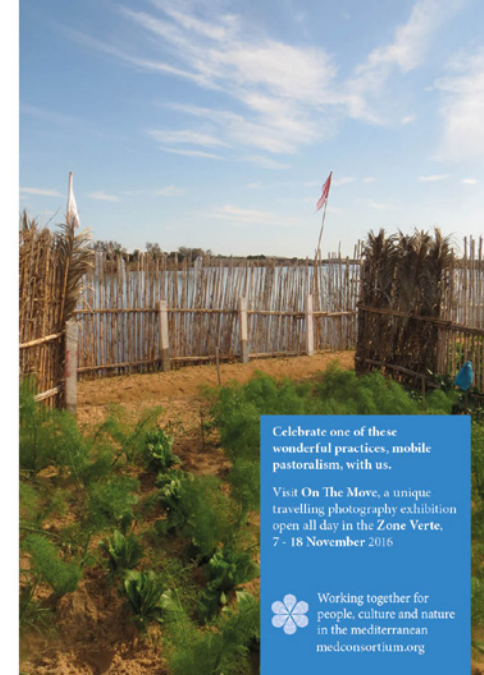
When: Wednesday 9th November 2016

Where: Salle 5

Time: 17:00 - 18:30



Image: Traditional Agriculture in Ghar El Melh, Tunisia.



Celebrate one of these wonderful practices, mobile pastoralism, with us.

Visit On The Move, a unique travelling photography exhibition open all day in the Zone Verte, 7 - 18 November 2016

Working together for people, culture and nature in the mediterranean medconsortium.org



Participants attentively engaging with presentations on how cultural practices can be used as a tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Marabout

Thanks to a small grant from the Ford Motor Company Foundation, and along with our friends at WWF-North Africa, we have been able to start a small project on **Tunisian Marabouts** and their strong links to biodiversity conservation.

We have started, with the help of Tunisian plant experts, to look in detail at the plant diversity / integrity / primitiveness of two Marabout sites: Sidi Ali el Mekki in Ghar el Melh and Sidi Ibrahim in Cap Negro. In addition, Sana Mzoughi, our project lead, is developing plans to organise a cultural activity in the Marabout of Ghar el Melh, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture. We believe there is huge potential for expanding such a project, not just in Tunisia, but also in the whole North African region.

Thank you, Sana and all friends at WWF-North Africa!



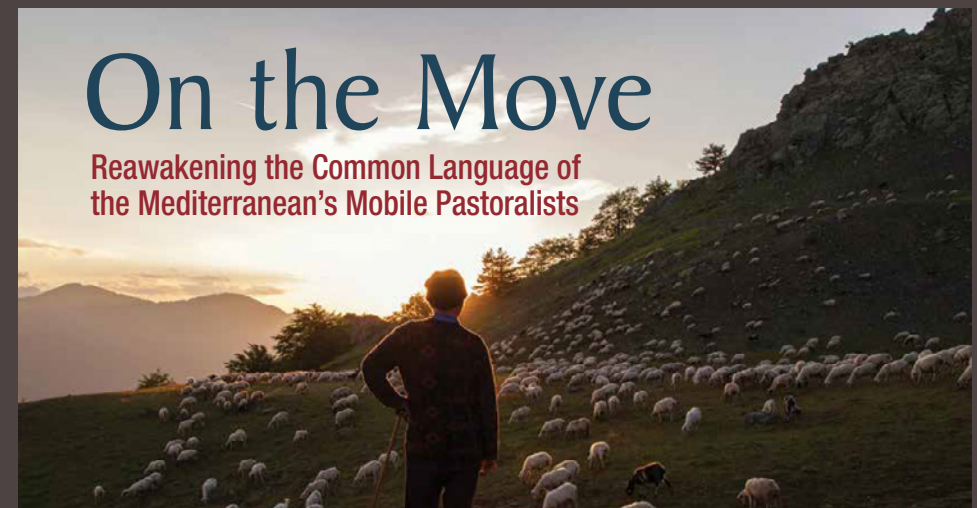
Terralingua – Langscape article

“Mobile and nomadic pastoralists the world over share the same common language – the language of the landscape, of the changing seasons, of the plants, of their animals. A common ability to read the land and be part of it - maintaining and enriching its diversity. They also share many of the same obstacles and the very same pressures that threaten nature also threaten their ways of life.” (Liza Zogib, 2016)

It was such a wonderful opportunity to be able to bring the messages of On The Move to even wider audiences through our contribution to Terralingua's great Langscape Magazine, Volume 5, Issue 1: Voices of the Earth, Part 1.

“On the Move - reawakening the common language of the Mediterranean's mobile pastoralists” draws attention to how little the voice of the mobile pastoralist is heard in the cacophony of modern existence, intensive agriculture and general discord with the natural world.

We had a very positive experience with Terralingua and would be keen to be more regular contributors to the Langscape Magazine in the future.



Asian Sacred Natural Sites – Bhutan book chapter

“ Today in Bhutan people continue to undertake spiritual retreat in remote places, often for long periods of time and sometimes for life. Modern accounts of people in long-term retreat achieving incredible relationships with even the most dangerous of wild animals are still told and it is common for devoted practitioners to undertake regular periods of retreat in the forests and caves of Bhutan. Around monasteries and hermitages, wildlife find safe refuge, as it is considered unmeritorious to do them harm. The **interconnectedness of all life** illustrates how all creatures are recognised for their intrinsic worth and life is considered as sacred in Buddhism.” (Zogib et al, 2016)

This year also saw the launch of an Earthscan publication edited by Bas Verschuuren and Naoya Furuta entitled Asian Sacred Natural Sites: Philosophy and practice in protected areas and conservation. Along with a wonderful team of friends, Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi, Tshewang Gyalpo, Sangay Dendhup, Riamsara Kuyakanon, Kelzang Wanchuk, Lopen Namgay Tenzin and Ngawang Gyeltshen, we authored a chapter for the book: ' Sacred Mandala: protecting Bhutan's Sacred Natural Sites'. The chapter contains an overview of what is required now for the sacred places of Bhutan – actions that DiversEarth is keen to develop in the course of the new year.



Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture - Coordination

The coordination of this ongoing project, supporting **Cultural Practices around the Mediterranean Basin**, takes up a substantial amount of our time and energy.

With one more year of the project to go, 2017 will see us pulling together the work of the Consortium and finalising the major project outputs. www.medconsortium.org



MEDITERRANEAN
Consortium for Nature & Culture

We have joined forces to support the cultural practices that benefit nature in the Mediterranean Basin.



Our first Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture meeting this year took place in Tunisia (in January), providing an opportunity to visit to Ghar El Mehl - the Tunisian project site where traditional agricultural practices and Marabouts are present.

WithDE

As if all of the previous wasn't enough, we have also provided some consultancy help to WWF International, through our consultancy, **WithDE**.

WithDE, still in its infancy, offers speciality consultancy services to conservation organizations, governments, sacred sites custodians, protected area managers, religious organizations, philanthropic foundations, and others, to help deliver culturally appropriate conservation and protect some of the most special places on earth. Offering our big energy and a wide variety of skill sets, WithDE hopes to help make a bigger difference for nature, culture and spirit by helping out in the projects of other organisations.

CAMPA: Climate Adaptation Methodology for Protected Areas

Earlier this year we had our first WithDE project: DE's Liza Zogib was involved over a few years in helping develop and finalise the **methodology** with a team of WWF experts from Colombia, Madagascar and the Philippines, along with Equilibrium Consultants and coordinated by **Alexander Belokurov**, WWF International and DE founding member. WithDE was brought in to edit the methodology, help typeset and design the French version of the methodology and create promotional material for getting this very useful tool out there - including a lessons learnt report, postcards, business cards and social media shares.



Protected Areas - you don't have to wait until your site deteriorates. Take active steps now to minimize the detrimental impacts of climate change.

#CAMPA
www.panda.org/campa



Photo © Alexander Belokurov

Climate change poses serious threats to many coastal and marine systems, including those being managed as protected areas. Let us work together.

#CAMPA
www.panda.org/campa



Photo © Alexander Belokurov



How is your marine protected area adapting to sea level rise?

#CAMPA

Climate Adaptation Methodology for Protected Areas
www.panda.org/campa

Helping keep protected areas and coastal communities safe in a changing climate



Join us. Help protect coastal communities in and around marine protected areas.

#CAMPA
www.panda.org/campa



Photo © Gustavo Castellanos / WWF Colombia

If you are ready to make your Coastal and Marine Protected Area climate smart, download the new CAMPA methodology at panda.org/campa

#CAMPA
www.panda.org/campa



Photo © Alexander Belokurov

Examples of Social Media shares and postcards created to promote CAMPA online and at events.



DiversEarth

2017 Projects



Looking To The Future

Early in 2017, the DiversEarth core team will meet to set new **priorities** and re-group our energy on the selected lines of focus for the coming years.

The time is ripe for phasing out certain activities and developing new ones based on work undertaken and new partnerships forged during 2016. The following are some projections for next year.

New MAVA strategy – Cultural Landscapes / Coastal and Island Wetlands

The MAVA Foundation, currently our major donors, are themselves phasing out and entering their last 6 years of funding.

DiversEarth was invited to take part in two thematic strategies: one on **Coastal and Island Wetlands** and the other on **Cultural Landscapes**. While we will not play a major part in either of these strategies, we will potentially be involved in:

1. An international campaign on raising awareness for Coastal and Island Wetlands (with a cultural element of the campaign)
2. Making the case for key cultural practices across the Mediterranean Basin (Mobile pastoralism and Sacred Sites)
3. Communications and outreach for the Cultural Landscapes strategy (this will be led by the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture and therefore DiversEarth will lead on this until the end of the current Consortium project)

Assisi Awards for Faith-Based Conservation

Liza has been approached by the **Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group** of the Society for Conservation Biology to be part of a **high-level panel** consisting of 3-5 individuals from different cultural and disciplinary backgrounds (biology, theology/ethics, policy & implementation) to independently review and assess nominations for the first Assisi Award for Faith-Based Conservation. She has accepted to sit on this panel as the 'policy & implementation representative'. The first award will be presented at the upcoming International Congress of Conservation Biology in 2017.

Global project on Mobile Pastoralism

Based on work in the Mediterranean Region with the Consortium on Mobile Pastoralism – and given that we have all been completely touched by this practice and its practitioners, we are currently developing a **global project** to continue work at Mediterranean level and introduce two other regions: **Central Asia** and the **Himalayas**. We would like to bring our energy to help the world's mobile pastoralists with an international push including many partners with whom we are already engaging.

Sacred Sites portfolio

In 2017 we really hope to develop our sacred sites portfolio in a substantial way – with Marabout in **North Africa**, and with our sacred sites project in **Bhutan**, that still requires funding support.

In Bhutan our key counterpart, Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi, has announced his entry into lifelong forest retreat. We therefore must establish strong contacts with other spiritual leadership and will look to our friends at Deer Park Institute for help with this.

World Peace Prayer Society and Peace Pals Art Exhibition

One of the spiritual leaders we worked with at the World Conservation Congress was the wonderful **Mrs Masami Saionji** of the **World Peace Prayer Society**. Mrs Saionji, her husband and assistant, Fumi Johns, made a great impression on us and we hoped to collaborate with them in the future. We have now been approached by them to help with a project to organise the annual Peace Pals Art Exhibition and Awards program inviting youth ages 5-16 from around the world to submit artwork. 2017 marks their 20th anniversary and they would like to have a 'conservation/nature/environment' theme and potentially have the award ceremony and a Peace Pals art exhibition in Switzerland. We are very excited to help them out.

This year the exhibition was at the United Nations in New York sponsored by the Japan Mission in celebration of their 60th anniversary at the UN. Significantly, the theme of the exhibition we decided to display was - Love to Hiroshima Love to Nagasaki - which was the 2015 theme to honor the 70th anniversary of the atomic bomb.

ICE – Eco-temples initiative and INEB

With a new push for our sacred sites agenda in the new year, we would like to engage more sincerely with friends at the [Interreligious network for Climate and Ecology](#) and with the International Network of Engaged Buddhists.

Switzerland

Developing a presence in [Switzerland](#) will remain a priority. One of the first actions we will do next year on 7th January is to engage the students from Step Into Action in support of Switzerland's mobile pastoralists.

We also plan to organise a fundraising event in the Canton de Vaud to fund some activities on Mobile Pastoralism (e.g. Children's book of nomadic wisdom).

FEDEVACO

Linked to the above actions in Switzerland, we hope to make our proposal next year to join [FEDEVACO](#), the Vaud assistance to development organisations. We believe that we are ready now to join, which would hopefully give us some small grants (from communal funds) for specific actions in the field.

The team at DiversEarth has really proved itself this year, undertaking such major challenges and we are very excited about future prospects.

We want to thank our **families**, our **Board**, our **friends** everywhere and our **colleagues**, and **donors** without whom none of this would be possible.

Happy New Year!

