



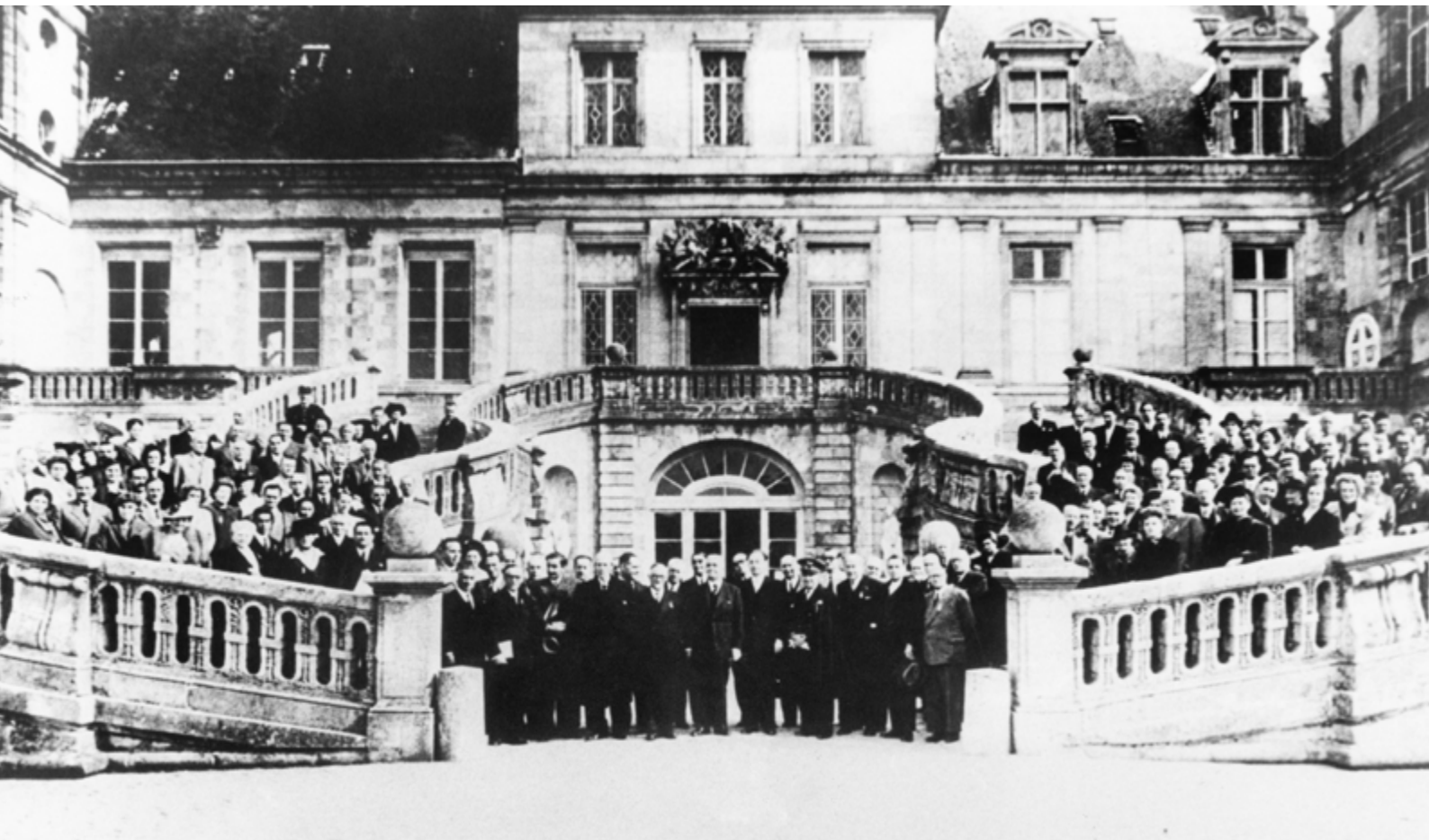
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR  
CONSERVATION OF NATURE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



Top: IUCN Members and partners at the 70th anniversary celebration in Fontainebleau, France

Bottom: IUCN government and civil society members at the organisation's founding conference in Fontainebleau, France 1948





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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

2018 marked a significant milestone for IUCN as we celebrated our 70th anniversary around the world. While we take pride in seven decades of achievements, this year also allowed us to acknowledge that our ideas are still young, vibrant, and continue to shape international conservation – which is critical to tackle the environmental challenges facing the globe.



Left. IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng speaks at the Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation in Bonn, Germany. Right. IUCN Director General Inger Andersen speaks at the signing ceremony of the agreement between France and IUCN to jointly organise the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 in Marseille, France.

This was another momentous year for global conservation with a host of challenges confronting the natural and human world: species loss and extinction, resource over-exploitation, and climate change that becomes more alarming by the day. For instance, 2018 proved to be the fourth hottest year in recorded history, showing how IUCN's voice is ever more needed on the international stage.

Throughout the past 12 months a combination of actors from government, the scientific community, civil society and the private sector have come together to tackle these issues head-on.

Setting the tone for IUCN this year was a historic occasion: our 70th anniversary. Since our founding, one autumn day in 1948 in the French town of Fontainebleau, we have shaped international conservation, and in 2018 we celebrated our achievements around the globe.

Yet, we have done much more than rest on our laurels. 2018 made clear that seven decades of experience have given us both the authority and the insight to propel us to the forefront of environmental thought, which we will use to help solve the hugely complex problems facing the world.

This report shows the Union's continued and active contributions to conservation, highlighting our success stories and the promise of many more to come.

IUCN will return to the country of its founding to hold the next World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France. And, as we shift gears to prepare for an event that is to set the global conservation agenda, we will also begin the development of our 2021–2024 Programme. As we prepare for this, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their continued support, engagement and leadership. It is only through them that we can shape conservation outcomes for the better and strengthen our worldwide influence. It is only through them that we are the global voice for nature.

Zhang Xinsheng

Inger Andersen



Bilateral meeting between IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng and Costa Rican Minister of Environment and Energy Dr Edgar Gutiérrez in San José, Costa Rica



IUCN Director General Inger Andersen and Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie meet during a break at the Annual General Meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

IUCN's seven decades of experience have given us both the authority and the insight to propel us to the forefront of environmental thought, which we will use to help solve the hugely complex problems facing the world.

# OVERVIEW OF IUCN

**IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations.**

It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network.

It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of 14,500 experts.

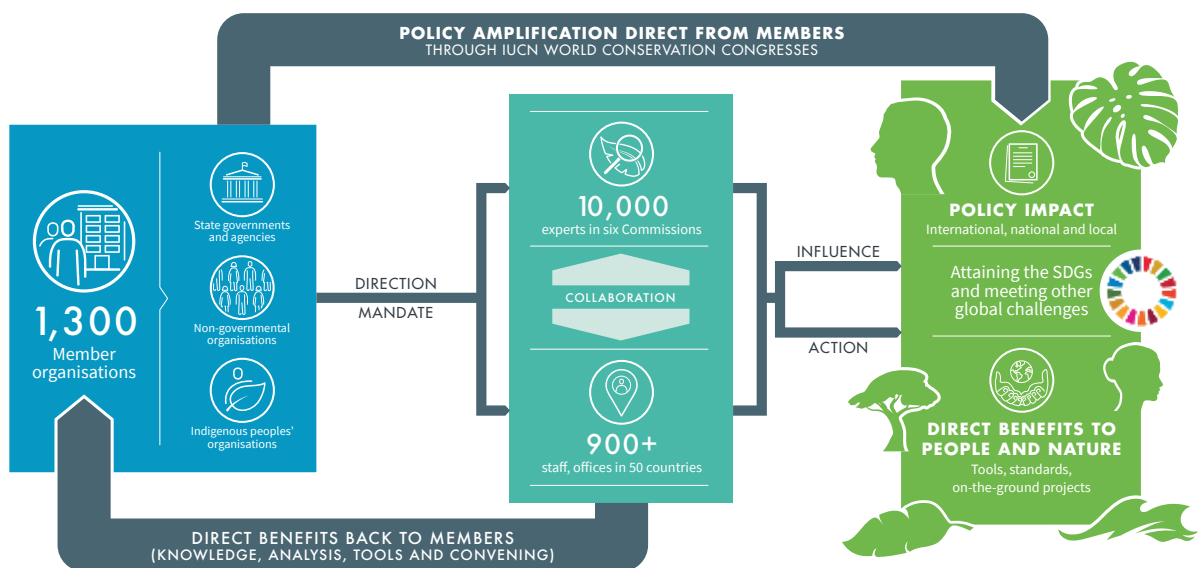
IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Its experts are organised into six Commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. IUCN

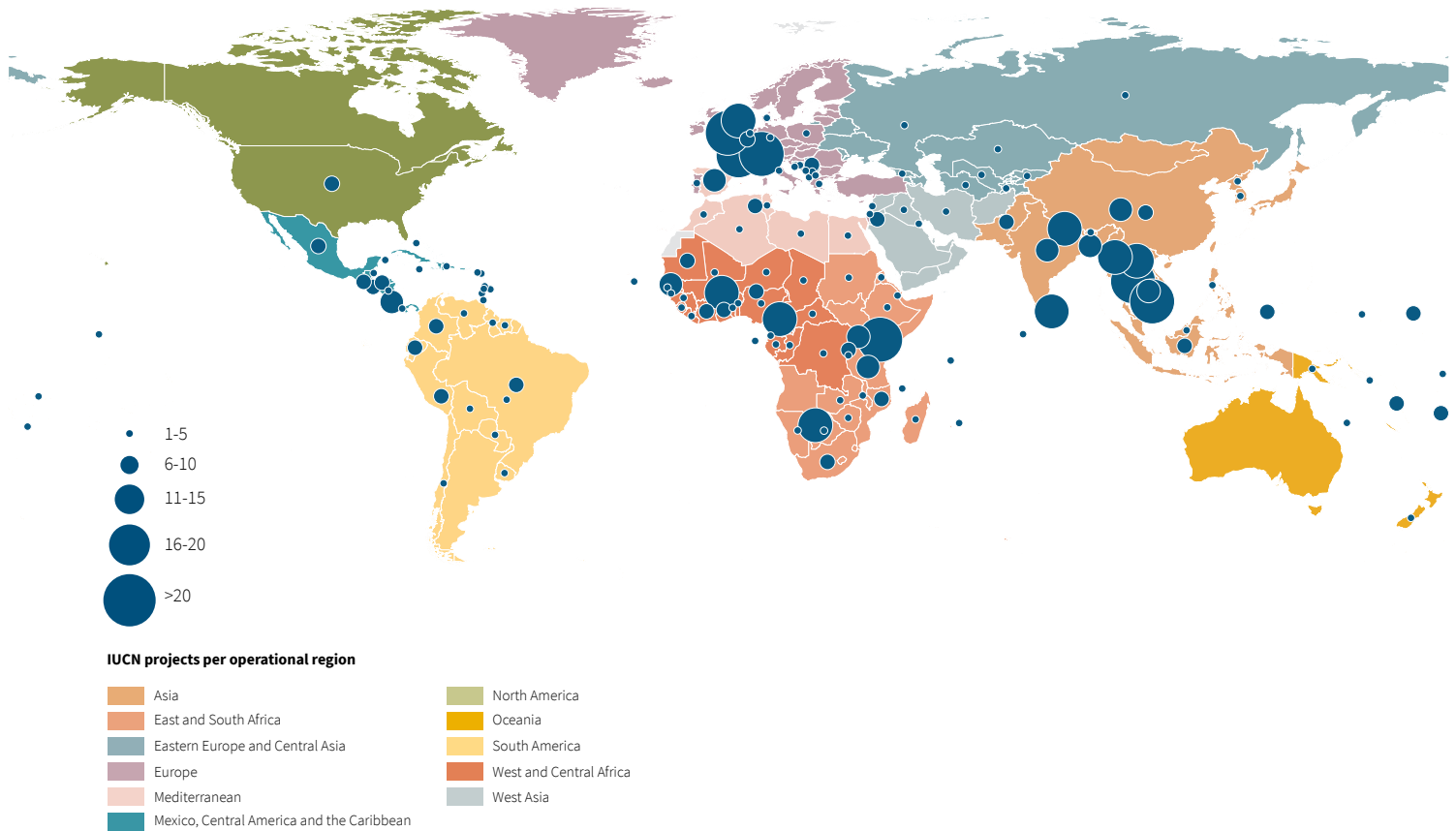
provides a neutral forum in which governments, non-governmental organisations, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals, including on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

Combined, its knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. With its official United



## A GLOBAL REACH – IUCN'S PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD



Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

IUCN's expertise and extensive network provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information which feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, discussing and approving Resolutions, which lay the foundations for the global conservation agenda. Members meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme. IUCN congresses have

produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. IUCN continues to support these conventions as they grow stronger and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

IUCN's Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, the IUCN Secretariat comprises around 900 staff in more than 60 countries.

# MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

IUCN harnesses the knowledge, resources and reach of over 1,300 Member organisations.

Representing governments and civil societies from 165 countries, the Union's diverse membership helps drive IUCN's mission of informing and empowering global conservation efforts.

Sixty-three new Members joined the Union in 2018, with the NGO sector representing the highest growth percentage.



IUCN Council 2017–2020 during its 94th meeting at IUCN's headquarters in Gland, Switzerland

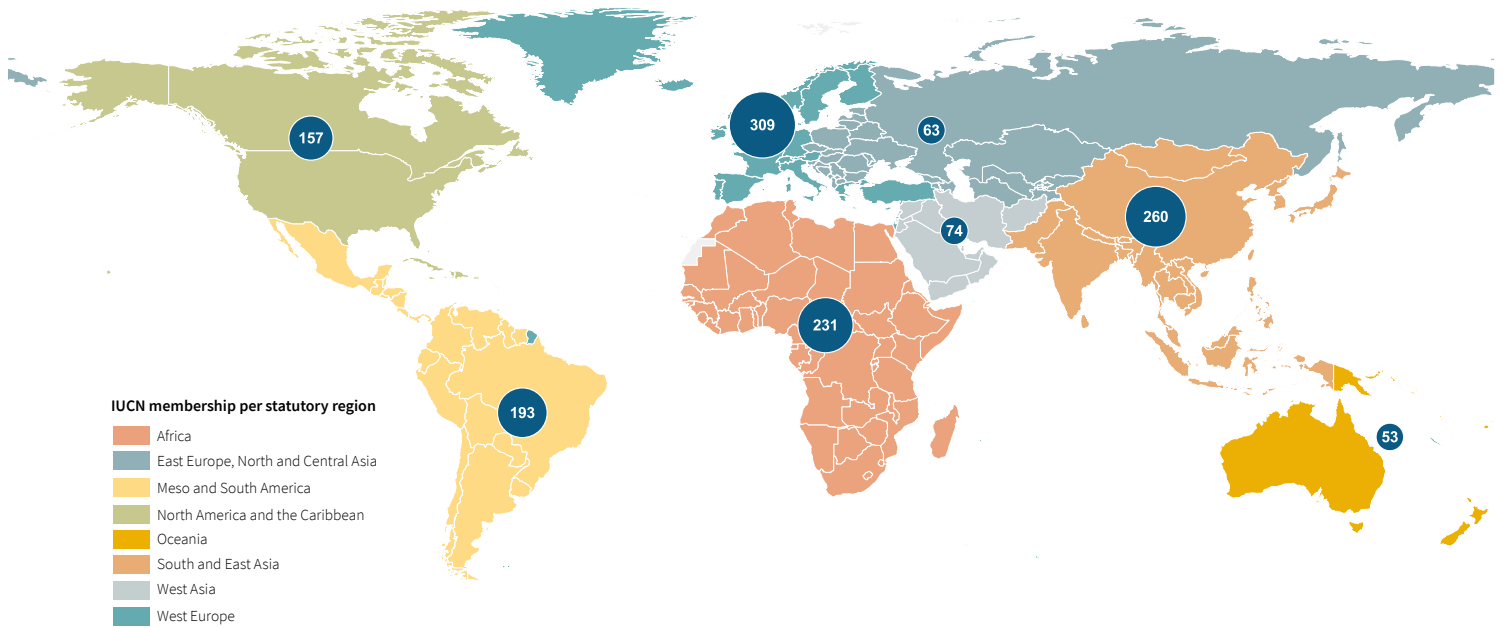
## Committees of IUCN Members 2018

IUCN Members within a country or region may choose to establish National and Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation among themselves and with other parts of the Union. There are currently 65 officially recognised National Committees and seven recognised Regional Committees.

Statutory Region	National Committees	Regional Committees
Africa	17	2
Meso and South America	15	2
North America and the Caribbean	3	1
South and East Asia	9	1
West Asia	5	1
Oceania	2	
East Europe, North and Central Asia	3	
West Europe	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7</b>



## IUCN MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



## IUCN's Commissions unite 14,500 experts from a range of disciplines.

The six IUCN Commissions are a broad and active network of 14,500 scientists and experts providing IUCN and its Members with sound know-how and policy advice to drive conservation and sustainable development. The Commissions focus on developing environmental laws and policies, linking conservation to social and economic decision making, evaluating the status of species and ecosystems, promoting expanded and improved management of protected areas and natural resources, and strengthening conservation through education, training and strategic communication.



# SEVENTY YEARS: UNITED FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS

IUCN celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018 under the theme *United for Life and Livelihoods*. Through numerous events and commemorative materials, the Union reflected on its seven decades of vision and impact, and focused on how to apply that experience to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

## EVENTS

IUCN Members, National Committees, partners and offices hosted more than two dozen events throughout the year in all eight IUCN statutory regions. True to IUCN's nature, the events brought together diverse groups of experts, leaders and supporters to celebrate and to offer insightful perspectives on nature conservation and IUCN's role in advancing it.



IUCN returned to Fontainebleau, France, where governments and civil society organisations first established the Union in 1948.



A public lecture was held at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland to mark IUCN's 70th anniversary.



IUCN's 70th anniversary celebrations in Bangkok, Thailand



In Jeju, Republic of Korea, the hosts of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012 celebrated IUCN's anniversary as part of the 2018 World Leaders' Conservation Forum.





The IUCN Swedish Committee celebrated IUCN's 70th anniversary at Sweden's Ulriksdal Palace.



The Oceania Regional Office and IUCN offices around the world held celebratory events.

## COMMEMORATIVE MATERIALS

With support from IUCN Members and partners, IUCN created a number of products to capture the impact it has had over its seventy-year history and to present the Union as an essential contributor to addressing current challenges and reaching global goals. IUCN created a visual identity and promotional materials for the anniversary as well as a number of high-profile products to reach audiences across the planet.



“For the past 70 years, IUCN has been the indispensable ally of all those who are concerned about the state of our environment. IUCN has been able to work in a doubly positive dimension: positive for nature, and positive for humanity.”

IUCN Patron of Nature HSH Prince Albert of Monaco

**24** EVENTS  
**IN 20** COUNTRIES  
**10** CROSSROADS  
BLOG POSTS  
**7.9** MILLION  
PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH #IUCN70

# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS 2019

Major anniversaries are unique moments. And so it was in 2018 for IUCN. A moment to reflect on some of the greatest successes the organisation has achieved over the last seven decades. A moment to celebrate the diversity and resolve of our Members. A moment to recognise the expertise residing in the IUCN Commissions. A moment to reflect, also, on the future of conservation and conservation delivery models in a fast changing and uncertain world.

## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF CONSERVATION ACTION

**One year to celebrate seventy years.** In 2018, the Union celebrated seven decades of success. Throughout the year and throughout the world, I had the opportunity of participating in a number of celebratory events. Many, many others took place. Councillors, Members, Secretariat staff, National Committees and Commission experts came together to reflect on seven decades of essential work for conservation.

In 2018, we “shared” this anniversary with a number of other organisations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Council of Churches

(WCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). 2018 also marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the 70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. In 2019, we will be followed by the 70th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

### **Facing the rise of new populism: defying multilateralism, defying elites, defying bureaucracies.**

In 1948, the world came together to establish what is now IUCN. The creation of the organisation was premised on the hopes of multilateralism, based on a diagnosis that global environmental threats require coordinated global action. The creation of IUCN reflected, in many ways, the heyday of multilateralism.

Fast-forward 70 years and multilateralism has become a frail patient. Many have argued that multilateralism and multilateralism structures are under threat. On a number of geographic fronts, the prognosis and political rhetoric are towards retrenchment and national focus. In 2018, the foundations underpinning much of the political discourse over generations were seriously tested, leaving many unresolved questions as we step into 2019.

2018 saw the emergence, in many locations and with much virulence, of a contempt for “the elite”, however ill-defined, increased suspicion of the political class, and an aversion for what is seen as dehumanised technocratic fixes. Crucially though, many of these movements were not “anti-environmental” but, rather, called for green fiscalism to be in tune with social considerations.

It beholds us to examine this carefully. Conservation cannot operate in an idealised bureaucratic bliss. Above all, conservation cannot be divorced from people, a prescription we ignore at our peril.



Secretary General of the Government of Mauritania Madame Zeinabou Ely Salem and IUCN Director General Inger Andersen take questions from the press following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the Government of Mauritania.



Members of the UN Global Compact board, including IUCN Director General Inger Andersen, at the Board Dinner in New York City, United States

**Beyond the 70th anniversary celebrations, 2018 marked many successes worth celebrating in their own right.** As illustrated in this report, IUCN continued to influence global policy, including advancing indigenous peoples' rights. IUCN was also privileged to welcome a new Councillor, representing indigenous peoples' organisations. The organisation continued to build a strong project portfolio, and the shift from retail to wholesale delivery is further confirmed in 2019.

**In 2018, IUCN approved a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy.** The purpose of this is to guide and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are systematically and comprehensively recognised, addressed and accounted for in IUCN projects, and that the IUCN project portfolio is improved through a gender-responsive approach. In 2019, significant emphasis will be given to ensuring the full implementation of this important policy.

A chilling reminder of the progress needed in this area came with *The Global Gender Gap* report published by the World Economic Forum in December. The report highlights that at the current rate, it would take more than 100 years to close the overall global gender gap.

In addition to the above, my pact with Members over the next year will include a focus on three key dimensions: (1) ensuring that the organisation continues to modernise in line with corporate best practice as a prelude to operational scale up, (2) shaping the 2020–2030 decade for development, including the development of a new, fit for purpose, quadrennial Programme, and (3) ensuring that we adequately prepare our vital rendezvous in Marseille, France, in June 2020.

## TRANSFORMING CONSERVATION

As we ponder on the highs (so many) and the lows (a few) of the organisation over the last 70 years, we should be mindful of the changes at play in the world at large and the development sector specifically. Now is the time to start shaping the organisation which will be needed in 2088. This seems impossibly far away – it is. But this does not prevent us from reflecting on some key questions: is our message as audible to outside audiences as it should be? Are we operating at the right scale, at a scale commensurate with the environmental challenges ahead of us? Can we transform the scale and nature of conservation, beyond its current largely initiative-, programme-, and project-based approaches?

Before attempting to scale up, however, we need to continue ensuring that the organisation's internal machinery is well oiled and aligned with industry best practice. IUCN is, therefore, committed to fostering an organisational culture of ethics and a harmonious and inclusive work environment, anchored in the values of integrity, accountability, transparency, respect and professionalism. Equally, as part of the IUCN drive to strengthen its corporate approach to Governance, Risk management and Compliance (GRC), IUCN is committed to working towards a reliable achievement of its objectives, whilst addressing uncertainty and acting with integrity.

**The writing is on the wall: demonstrating relevance and transparency.** Donor expectations, as well as expectations from the general public on how public money is being spent, are changing fast. Donors want to see relevance to development, beyond conservation stories. And there is a growing impatience

# If we get biodiversity right, our hopes of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are greatly enhanced.

– quite rightly so – for recipients of donor aid to provide hard evidence. This is why we will continue, in 2019, to anchor our impact narrative along the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019, we will continue to consolidate and expand our Project Portal. Today, our budgeting and planning are developed using the Portal. Tomorrow, it will become even more central to the work we do, from bringing efficiencies to project workflow, to better testing, deploying and monitoring delivery models, to measuring impact and reporting. We will also build public facing capabilities of the Portal, so that we can deliver data in line with international standards in international aid transparency.

In 2019, we will continue to harmonise and standardise our International Organisation status across the network of offices, building on the significant progress made in 2018 in Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe.

Expectations on organisations are changing in many other profound ways. For instance, International Women's Day took on new significance in 2018, as a wave of women stepped forward demanding their rights, equal treatment, and an end to denigrating and discriminatory behaviour, sexual harassment and violence.

In 2018, members of the Leadership Team committed to educate themselves to understand more about sexual harassment; set the tone at the top; stamp out any hint of sexual harassment; address transgressions immediately and with consequences (in accord with internal policies); and create safety and trust so

harassed staff can approach them to report. In 2019, we will be revisiting this roadmap on a regular basis. In 2019, I will also personally continue to promote the formidable work of the International Gender Champions.

In 2018, significant efforts were made to raise awareness on the impact of fraud, including by officially supporting International Fraud Awareness Week. Likewise, the organisation actively observed International Anti-Corruption Day. Just like any other industry, the environmental industry is prone to such challenges. These need to be recognised openly, staff made aware of the implications of transgression, the organisation equipped to oversee operations adequately, and leadership reconditioned fairly but firmly when needed. I am grateful for the support of the IUCN Council in the small number of cases we have had to deal with in 2018.

As a Union of Members, it beholds us to continuously demonstrate value to our membership. And so, as we set sails for the next 70-year voyage, we need a renewed pact on membership, defining the service level that should be delivered, to whom and with what infrastructure. I look forward to exploring such issues with Members, in 2019, in the cycle of Regional Conservation Fora.

## SHAPING THE 2020–2030 DECADE FOR DEVELOPMENT

In the near future, the impact of the conservation community will be seen in its ability to meaningfully shape the 2020–2030 sustainable development decade. This will be the decade that decides much of humanity's future. In September 2015, 193 countries looked ahead and drew a detailed and hopeful picture of what the world could look like in 2030, if we get the 2020s right.

Because our natural world is so intimately connected to everything that we strive for in the great SDG vision, if we get biodiversity right, our hopes of getting the rest right are greatly, greatly enhanced. As we hurtle towards 2030, Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 cannot be overlooked, because that's where biodiversity and nature reside – Life below water, 14, and Life on land, 15. And to get to 2030 we need to get nature and its biodiversity right.

**Getting the 2021–2024 Programme right.** This bold challenge will require some rethinking and some retooling on our side as well, including with the 2021–2024 Programme. So, whilst remaining respectful of our heartland and our proud history, we need to propel the Programme, and hence the Union, confidently into the future. The new Programme, if it is to impact on the course of the 2020–2030 decade, needs to go beyond the safe space and venture into, at times, unknown and challenging territories.

In 2018, Secretariat staff, Commissions and Council dedicated some considerable time to kick-starting this



IUCN Director General Inger Andersen and Finnish Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing Kimmo Tiilikainen during a bilateral meeting at Säätöytalo (The House of the Estates), Helsinki, Finland

important process. Basic characteristics of the new Programme should include these dimensions: ambitious, vibrant and solutions driven; outward looking; development centric; championing gender; engaging indigenous peoples; and results focused. To achieve impact, the Programme needs to focus on a limited number of priorities. In addition, it will have to answer how we deliver on technology, data and innovation, gender equality and women's empowerment, and access to finance and financial sustainability.

In 2019, we will work with others on the development of the post-2020 targets, including an overall target for measuring the health of nature and biodiversity (an "apex target"). Such an apex target should be measurable, quantifiable and trackable and should be underpinned by sector specific science-based targets against which states, local governments, cities and private sector entities can measure their performance.

Aspiring for impact can only come with the delivery of strong analytics. Throughout 2018, some considerable attention has gone into strengthening our analytical production. In 2019, we will continue this, focusing on a number of key questions which warrant particular investigation over 2019–2020. Sharpened analytics will also serve to further strengthen our policy advice.

## PREPARING FOR OUR RENDEZVOUS IN MARSEILLE, FRANCE

A major step was achieved in 2018 with the selection of a host country for the next IUCN Congress. Since the signing of the host country agreement, support from France has been nothing short of impressive. President Macron at the UN General Assembly in September mentioned: "Let's set ourselves the goal of concluding in 2020 a plan for an ambitious global pact for the environment, and making the Beijing COP on biodiversity and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in France, in 2020, decisive steps".

### **An IUCN Congress for getting the 2020–2030 right.**

The IUCN Congress is aligned in a very particular diplomatic sequence, including the seventh Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-7, Paris, France), the 45th G7 Summit (Biarritz, France), the IUCN Congress itself (Marseille, France) and the CBD COP 15 (Beijing, China).

In June 2020, the IUCN World Conservation Congress will be a key moment that will help define if and how we can get biodiversity right. It will set the course for ambitious, science-based conservation action post-2020, inaugurating a decade of great change. Our vision for a sustainable world hangs in the balance.

In terms of organisation, and though this is still early days, the Congress could prove the first step towards the implementation of the 2021–2024 Programme. That



TRAFFIC Chair of the Board of Trustees Mark Halle, WWF International Director of Network Governance Maria Boulos, IUCN Director General Inger Andersen and TRAFFIC Executive Director Steve Broad at the signing of a new partnership agreement between IUCN, WWF and TRAFFIC

means ensuring that the 2021–2024 Programme takes centre stage. For this reason, I see close alignment between the IUCN Congress themes and the priorities of the next quadrennial Programme.

### **An IUCN Congress to champion gender**

**responsiveness.** The IUCN Congress will also be a unique opportunity to move significantly forward on the gender agenda. We have positioned the Congress to lead the way as a gender responsive assembly. Before, during and after the IUCN Congress we will roll out the new Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming for IUCN events.

I see the 2020s as the decade when humanity will rise to the challenge. I see the 2020s as the decade that will change the world, for the better; a decade that begins in June 2020, at the IUCN Congress in Marseille, France.

## In June 2020, the IUCN World Conservation Congress will set the course for ambitious, science-based conservation action post-2020, inaugurating a decade of great change.

# SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

**A sound scientific basis is vital for effective decision making in nature conservation, ensuring that biodiversity persists and continues to provide the services on which human well-being and the global economy depend.**

IUCN advances science and economic knowledge for effective conservation action. IUCN generates and analyses conservation data and provides rigorous standards to assess the state of the world's biodiversity and conservation, working closely with other scientific networks.



At a press conference launching the IUCN situation analysis *Oil palm and biodiversity*, lead author and Chair of IUCN's Oil Palm Task Force Erik Meijaard and Task Force member Marc Anrenaz answer questions from the media.



## ASSESSING THE STATE OF NATURE AND CONSERVATION

IUCN maintains the global standards for assessments of risk of species extinction and ecosystem collapse – the IUCN Red Lists of Threatened Species™ and of Ecosystems respectively, as well as for assessments of places that are important for biodiversity – the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Planet.

Assessments for 10,189 species published on the IUCN Red List in 2018, many conducted with the support of Toyota Motor Corporation, highlighted continuing species declines, especially from rising threats such as climate change and invasive species. Although almost 28% of assessed species are threatened with extinction, the assessments also revealed encouraging news: some species, including the mountain gorilla and fin whale, are beginning to recover thanks to conservation action.

Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessments of 19 terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in Madagascar, conducted with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), revealed that 14 were threatened with collapse. Conservation planning and action is urgently needed to preserve the benefits these ecosystems provide. RLE data were also used to identify opportunities to restore coastal and marine ecosystems in three districts in Mozambique. This initiative received support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

An IUCN report outlined how data and knowledge from RLE assessments can be used by countries to measure natural capital, their overall stock of natural resources. IUCN also continued to develop a global ecosystem classification system to ensure a standardised framework for all ecosystem types.

The Protected Planet Report, a partnership between IUCN and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, tracks progress towards achieving global biodiversity targets. The December 2018 update reports that protected areas now cover 14.87% of land and 7.47% of the ocean. The assessment also found that 47% of the planet's terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) – areas critical to global biological diversity – were fully or partially protected, while freshwater and marine KBA coverage was at 43.5% and 44% respectively. IUCN also published guidelines and held workshops for practitioners to ensure a uniform identification of these areas.

Data from the IUCN Red List and coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas by protected areas were used for assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which provided an outlook on the status of biodiversity. The assessments revealed that the pervasive nature and scale of land degradation is currently undermining the well-being of two fifths of humanity.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2018, which provides yearly updates on progress towards achieving the goals, used IUCN's indicator of invasive alien species (IAS) response for the first time. This indicator shows countries that have enacted national legislation relevant to the prevention or control of IAS. It revealed that this number has increased over time, but a third of the countries have no allocated budget for these efforts and have not accessed any global mechanism to seek funding. As in previous years, the UN report featured the Red List Index, highlighting the decline of mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads. It also showed that the proportion of KBAs covered by protected areas increased by more than 10% from 2000 to 2018. These IUCN standards help track progress towards achieving targets of SDG 15 (Life on land).

IUCN also supports the development of benchmarks for success in biodiversity and conservation: the IUCN Green Lists of Species, Protected and Conserved Areas, and Ecosystems. In 2018, 15 new sites were admitted to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, which recognises best practice in area-based conservation, bringing the total number of listed sites to 40. The IUCN Green List is supported by many partners and donors, principally the German government through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)'s International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Development Bank KfW, as well as the European Commission through the LIFE Programme.

## SCIENCE UNDERPINNING CONSERVATION ACTION

A situation analysis of the impacts of oil palm production on biodiversity, requested by Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, was published by the IUCN Oil Palm Task Force. The analysis revealed that banning palm oil would most likely increase the production of other oil crops to meet the demand for oil, displacing rather than halting global biodiversity loss. Also at the request of IUCN Members, the IUCN Task Force on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation began to assess the risks and opportunities for conservation associated with synthetic biology.

The IUCN Publications Committee considered 68 concept notes for planned publication by the IUCN Secretariat. The Editorial Board reviewed 29 publications to be assigned ISBNs over the course of the year.

## VALUING BENEFITS FROM NATURE

IUCN, with financial support from the Foundation Gonzalo Rio Arronte and the World Bank, helped the Mexican government manage cross-sectoral subsidies in Mexico's southern Chiapas region, promoting alignment of the agricultural and forest sectors toward environmental sustainability. IUCN also supported the



IUCN Global Director, Policy and Programme Group Cyriaque N. Sendashonga speaks during a panel discussion at the Forum for the Future of Agriculture in Brussels, Belgium.

development of a road map to define national-level coordination of cross-sectoral policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, IUCN developed options of using landscape restoration to meet agriculture and livestock production as well as forestry objectives and the provision of ecosystem services. These options show greater economic, environmental and social impact compared to traditional schemes. This work was funded by the World Bank.

In Guatemala, IUCN – with funding from the Argidius Foundation – worked with the government and other partners to improve policy and increase investment in the country's cocoa agroforestry system, and in the Guatemala Cacao Route as an ecotourism destination. A total of 180 hectares belonging to 196 producers have been enrolled in an agroforestry programme (PROBOSQUES) that combines cocoa crops and forests in an effort to increase income and provide a sustainable supply of cocoa to the world market. IUCN helped the government and cocoa producers to prepare four investment proposals in the amount of US\$ 4 million over five years to promote the Cacao Route, and new business arrangements were set up among producers to sell cocoa to national and international enterprises.

The Science for Nature and People Partnership, involving IUCN, University of California-Santa Barbara, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and others, formulated and tested criteria for identifying compensatory approaches most likely to deliver equitable conservation benefits. The purpose of compensatory approaches, such as biodiversity offsets, is to counterbalance the detrimental impacts of economic activities on biodiversity and services that nature provides.

The five-year Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project, of which IUCN was an executing partner, was completed in 2018. Supporting the governments of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in meeting their national biodiversity targets, the project focused on marine ecosystem service valuation, marine spatial planning and dissemination of best practices and tools to improve the management of marine and coastal biodiversity throughout Oceania. Over 70 technical workshops were conducted, and 150 economic values provided by marine and coastal ecosystems identified. These values can be incorporated into national development plans to strengthen biodiversity conservation. The MACBIO project was funded by the German Ministry of the Environment.

# An IUCN situation analysis of the impacts of oil palm production on biodiversity revealed that banning palm oil would most likely displace rather than halt global biodiversity loss.

## UPCOMING WORK

The IUCN Flagship Report series will be launched in 2019 with support from the French Development Agency and the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development. The series will provide evidence of the importance of nature to economic and social well-being, and policy options to unlock nature's benefits. The first report will focus on the interlinkages between conflict, migration and nature.

The Inspire4Nature programme, which unites IUCN, BirdLife International, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Zoological Society of London and nine European universities, will support 15 PhD studentships researching different aspects of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and Key Biodiversity Areas. The programme is funded by the European Commission.

Under the People in Nature (PiN) initiative, IUCN will develop guidance on how to assess conservation projects which use the IUCN Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions to avoid negative impacts on local communities.

IUCN will continue to develop a biodiversity footprint tool to capture the effects of economic activities on biodiversity along supply chains. It will also begin developing a plastic footprint calculator to help quantify the magnitude of plastic pollution.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Akçakaya, H.R. et al. (2018). 'Quantifying species recovery and conservation success to develop an IUCN Green List of Species'. *Conservation Biology* 32(5):1128–1138.

Chaudhary, A. and Brooks, T. (2018). 'Land Use Intensity-Specific Global Characterization Factors to Assess Product Biodiversity Footprints'. *Environmental Science & Technology* 52(9): 5094–5104.

Fargione, J. et al. (2018). 'Natural climate solutions for the United States'. *Science Advances* 4(11).

McConnell, K.E. and Siikamäki, J.V. (2018). 'Seeking External Evidence to Assess Benefit Transfers for Environmental Policy'. *Environmental and Resource Economics* 69(3): 555–573.

Meijaard, E. et al. (2018). *Oil palm and biodiversity: A situation analysis by the IUCN Oil Palm Task Force*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Also available in [French](#).

Puydarrieux, P. and Mésenge, A.L. (2018). 'Key Factors for the Successful Implementation of Payments for Environmental Services and Offsets for Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Development'. In: Leal Filho, W. et al. (eds) *Towards a Sustainable Bioeconomy: Principles, Challenges and Perspectives*, World Sustainability Series, 135–151. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Strand, J. et al. (2018). 'Spatially explicit valuation of the Brazilian Amazon Forest's Ecosystem Services'. *Nature Sustainability* 1: 657–664.

## AREAS OF WORK

[ASSESSING THE STATE OF NATURE AND CONSERVATION](#)

[CONNECTING TO PEER NETWORKS](#)

[MAINTAINING IUCN'S CULTURE OF SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE](#)  
[FLAGSHIP REPORT](#)

# GLOBAL POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

The Resolutions taken by IUCN Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress set the global conservation agenda and guide IUCN's policy engagements at the local, national and global levels.



IUCN representatives at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

In 2018, IUCN continued to inform and drive the integration of nature conservation into global and national strategies. IUCN also called for concrete action to achieve global targets, such as those in the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **UN General Assembly**

Through its Permanent Observer Mission to the UN in New York, IUCN continued to partner with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the government of France in convening dialogues to bring the latest conservation science to diplomats at UN headquarters. Through these dialogues, IUCN also emphasised the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation into global and national strategies.

**IUCN Resolution:** [WCC-2016-Res-062](#)

## **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

The sixth session of the Platform's Plenary saw the adoption of the Summaries for Policymakers of four regional assessments and a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. IUCN Secretariat and Commission members were contributing authors in all five assessments, with data provided by IUCN also used. This work was supported by the French

Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition. IUCN also established a partnership with the Japanese government to support the forthcoming assessment of the impact of invasive alien species.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2012-Res-117](#), [WCC-2012-Res-118](#)

## **GEF Assembly**

As an accredited implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IUCN participated in the sixth GEF Assembly where funding priorities for the next four years were decided. In the coming years, IUCN will expand its work to address cross-cutting themes as part of the GEF's newly introduced Impact Programmes on sustainable forest management and on sustainable cities.

## **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is the overarching target of the Convention, which aims to halt land degradation and maintain the benefits ecosystems provide to humans. By the end of 2018, 120 countries were developing National Voluntary Targets for LDN and half of these had completed this step. IUCN, with support from the Global Environment Facility, provided funding which enabled 75 of these countries to set their targets and develop national strategies to achieve their commitments by 2030. Technical support was provided to help countries set targets and response measures in

line with IUCN recommendations and good practices. IUCN also continued to advise countries on ways to mobilise investments for LDN initiatives, including on forest landscape restoration, rangeland restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation.

**IUCN Resolution:** [WCC-2008-Rec-134](#)

### **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**

IUCN experts provided technical input to the development of an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, at the first session of the Intergovernmental Conference convened by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. There was significant uptake of IUCN's recommendations, including on the potential structure, functioning and benefits of marine protected areas (MPAs). This work was supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-047](#), [WCC-2016-Res-050](#)

### **World Heritage Committee**

As the advisory body on nature to the World Heritage Committee, IUCN recommended action for 58 sites facing threats. This led to several key decisions, including the removal of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System from the List of World Heritage in Danger following a ban on oil drilling in Belize's maritime zone, and the inclusion of Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya on the Danger List due to impacts of the Gibe III dam in Ethiopia. Also following IUCN's advice, Tanzania was urged not to proceed with plans to log large tracts inside the Selous Game Reserve. An IUCN-UNESCO field mission to Yemen's Socotra Archipelago was requested to assess the impacts of developments such as leisure resorts on the site's unique wildlife and landscapes.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2012-Res-046](#), [WCC-2012-Res-047](#)

### **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

At the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, IUCN continued to emphasise actions to conserve nature – nature-based solutions – as indispensable in helping countries meet their climate change mitigation and adaptation targets. IUCN welcomed the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, noting the urgency for ambitious climate action. IUCN also contributed its expertise on forests, land use, water, oceans and climate resilience to inform current and future actions to address climate change.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-056](#), [WCC-2016-Res-057](#), [WCC-2016-Rec-107](#)

### **UN Convention on Biological Diversity**

At the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, IUCN's delegation proposed the inclusion of science-based targets in the post-2020 framework to ensure that commitments by Parties are more easily and accurately quantified and tracked. In line with IUCN's recommendations, Parties to the CBD agreed to strengthen their national strategies and plans, and encourage non-

state actors, including the private sector, to contribute to an effective post-2020 framework through the development of voluntary biodiversity commitments.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-096](#), [WCC-2016-Res-050](#)

### **World Water Forum**

IUCN and partners coordinated the Conference of Judges and Prosecutors on Water Justice, held at the eighth World Water Forum in Brasilia. An outcome of the Conference, the Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice, provides a set of principles on the protection of water and water ecosystems to guide the legal community. IUCN also coordinated a high-level session at the Forum titled "Transformational Integrated Water Resource Management for the 2030 Agenda". The session was based on IUCN's long-standing work with the World Water Council in developing a more adaptable framework for water management.

### **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

At the 17th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, IUCN was for the first time represented by an indigenous delegate, Yeshing Juliana Upún Yos, a Mayan Kaqchikel woman from Guatemala. She highlighted IUCN's indigenous peoples' organisation (IPO) membership category and the first-ever indigenous-led strategy, developed by IUCN's IPO Members, for advancing indigenous issues within IUCN and more broadly in conservation.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-004](#), [WCC-2016-Res-075](#)

### **UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

As part of the Forum's review of progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 – Life on land, IUCN outlined progress that has been made to enhance biodiversity conservation, while noting this is still insufficient as biodiversity loss is continuing at an unprecedented rate. IUCN stressed the need for urgent action to address biodiversity loss, highlighting the SDG framework as an opportunity to amplify conservation action. For SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation, IUCN called for on-the-ground actions towards achieving SDG 6 targets that embed themselves in national plans and match the severity of the problems, starting with targets that are most off-track such as target 6.6 on water-related ecosystems.

**IUCN Resolution:** [WCC-2016-Res-062](#)

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

Together with the UN Environment Programme, IUCN brought together government representatives and civil society leaders at the 62nd session of the Commission. The session highlighted the importance of gender-environment statistics for accelerating action toward meeting the SDGs and recommended specific indicators to collect, analyse and apply information broken down by sex across the environmental arena.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [GA-1988-Res-013](#), [GA-1990-Rec-018](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The achievement of IUCN's vision and mission is made possible through the continuous, long-term investments of its donors. With their support, IUCN delivers conservation science and action, as well as cost-effective nature-based solutions to help address today's most pressing challenges.

Bilateral and multilateral partners provide close to 70% of the organisation's income, alongside Membership dues, income from foundations, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and support from IUCN's Patrons of Nature.

As IUCN celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018, the continued trust and confidence of its donors and supporters resulted in significant growth in the organisation's income. IUCN is grateful to its partners and donors who committed over CHF 127 million of new support in 2018, resulting in an active portfolio of close to CHF 500 million – setting a new record in the Union's 70-year history.

## CORE SUPPORT

In 2018, the governments of Switzerland, Norway and the USA renewed their core funding to IUCN, joining the governments of Finland, France, the Republic of Korea and Sweden.

These Framework Partners provide core funding through multi-year agreements to support the delivery of the IUCN Programme. This support continues to be essential in providing financial stability that allows IUCN to play its unique role influencing and assisting societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature.

IUCN is also grateful to its Patrons of Nature who continue to provide critical financial support and strategic guidance to IUCN.

*“Reconciling the preservation of nature and sustainable development is a priority for AFD. Our partnership with IUCN makes it possible to take into account its expertise in our projects and to put nature at the heart of development policies.” Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency (AFD)*

## PROGRAMME AND PROJECT SUPPORT

Framework Partners continue to provide significant support for large programmes and projects on biodiversity and natural resource conservation, water governance and sustainable land management, community-led resilience and adaptation to climate change, fighting marine plastic pollution, curbing wildlife trafficking and fostering gender equality.

Thanks to the support of all IUCN donors, over 60% of IUCN's project portfolio contributed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on land), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 14 (Life below water).

As was the case over recent years, the government of Germany remains IUCN's largest government donor, supporting initiatives on climate change resilience, biodiversity conservation, protected area management and forest landscape restoration.

The European Union (EU), in partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, is IUCN's largest donor with a total portfolio of over CHF 100 million. The EU supports IUCN programmes and projects focusing on conservation and sustainable use globally and within EU countries. The largest EU multi-year grants are allocated to the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA), the voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas (BEST), and the SOS – Save Our Species African carnivore initiative.

As an accredited implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, IUCN worked with its State Members in 2018 to implement projects that address biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. IUCN's growing portfolio of projects reached US\$ 78 million by year-end. The largest portfolio focuses on landscape restoration in 10 countries, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Environment Programme. Additional regional projects



BETC advertising agency Account Director Fanny Buisseret, IUCN Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group Jane Smart, and Lacoste Global Brand Image and Partnerships Director Mylène Atlan, following a strategic planning meeting on the IUCN-Lacoste partnership at IUCN's headquarters in Gland, Switzerland

are under way on international water resource management in four major basins in Africa: Senegal Delta and Mano, Pungwe and Volta Rivers.

IUCN also strengthened its engagement with the Green Climate Fund in 2018 as one of the Fund's Accredited Entities. This saw the approval of a large project to build livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands.

IUCN's work is backed by a number of foundations spread across the world. Support from the MAVA Foundation has been instrumental in solidifying IUCN's position as a leading knowledge provider, through the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the Red List of Ecosystems and the IUCN World Heritage Outlook, the first global assessment of natural World Heritage sites. MAVA's support has further enabled IUCN to strengthen its engagement with local partners in West Africa and renew its small grants programme for emerging non-governmental organisations in North Africa.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

IUCN entered into a new three-year partnership with Lacoste, the French fashion company. The partnership aims to raise public awareness and increase engagement in species conservation through outreach campaigns, while providing support for projects on the ground.

The first outreach campaign focused on the sale of a limited number of polo shirts corresponding to the

number of known individuals of threatened species remaining in the wild. All polo shirts were sold in just 24 hours. The campaign led to over 1,200 online articles mentioning IUCN and 36,000 new visitors to IUCN's SOS website in the first week, as well as more than 600,000 shares on social media. IUCN issued a call for proposals to conserve the species featured in the campaign.

*"A healthy and biologically diverse environment is essential in order to address global development challenges such as poverty, climate change, food and water security. IUCN is a key partner for the European Commission in implementing the EU's priorities regarding the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean, Pacific and EU overseas countries and territories."* **Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission**

# SECRETARIAT SERVICES

IUCN aims to ensure that its corporate support units are lean and effective, and contribute to achieving the Union's mission.

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

IUCN's accountability framework continued to be strengthened through integrating risk management, internal control, fraud prevention and internal oversight. The risk control self-assessment process launched in late 2017 enables management to evaluate and monitor internal risk control systems, and internal audits have helped identify areas for improvement and reduce risk. Investigations examined allegations of wrongdoing and heightened awareness of the concepts of fraud, corruption and conflict of interest. IUCN also joined the global effort to minimise the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education during International Fraud Awareness Week in November.

## COMMISSION SUPPORT

IUCN established a new unit in 2018 to support its Commissions in matters related to membership, communications and finance. Since its formation, the unit has made significant improvements to the Commissions' financial and administrative processes. It also improved consistency across Commission websites, newsletters and other communication channels. Visits to Commission pages of the IUCN website doubled compared to 2017. A secure membership management system is being developed to enable Commission Chairs to manage their membership directly in compliance with data protection legislation.



IUCN Vice President Malik Amin Aslam Khan, former French Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition Nicolas Hulot, IUCN Director General Inger Andersen and IUCN Global Director, Union Development Group Enrique Lahmann at the signing ceremony of the agreement between France and IUCN to jointly organise the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 in Marseille, France.



## FINANCE

In 2018, IUCN continued its drive to improve finance processes and increase efficiency. The eBanking service was expanded to five offices to further improve payment efficiency and fiduciary control across the Union. The organisation's insurance coverage was also reviewed, and a global third party liability policy covering all offices and operations was put in place. Work started on the development of a time management and resource planning system which will be rolled out to all offices during the course of 2019. This will improve process efficiency and resource utilisation.

## GENERAL SERVICES

IUCN introduced new policies and procedures to ensure the efficient and safe running of the IUCN Conservation Centre in Gland, Switzerland. This included new energy and waste management guidelines and a procedure for handling suspicious mail. Carpet which had been fitted in 1992 was replaced with a new carpet made of PET and recycled fish nets.

## GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Corporate communications around the Union's 70th anniversary showcased IUCN's experience and contributions to global challenges such as food security and poverty reduction. A newly developed content strategy was applied to communications around major IUCN reports, helping increase their impact. IUCN-wide communications capacity improved thanks to new task forces and training sessions, an updated social media policy, and the publication of guides to media relations and to social media best practice. Strong media relations helped secure 71,500 articles mentioning IUCN, published in 179 countries. IUCN social media reached almost 12.2 million people in 2018, with Twitter and Facebook engagements growing 65% and 34% respectively compared to 2017. The IUCN website received over 7.2 million page views.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

A leadership development programme, which covers the fundamentals of people management, was launched for senior staff. It intends to improve managers' effectiveness as well as staff performance.

To measure sentiment of organisational life, IUCN conducted a staff survey. The results, to be published in early 2019, will guide revisions of HR policies and procedures to improve working conditions. To further enhance IUCN's management principles and practices for staff in the Secretariat, the revised IUCN Staff Rules were approved by the Council.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Throughout the year, IUCN strengthened collaboration among its constituents through better collection, storage and access to data, secure information systems and the use of more sustainable technologies.

A new version of the Programme and Project Portal was launched. It now includes all programme and project approval workflows in order to automate and optimise the process for all users. The Portal also ensures alignment of all projects with IUCN's Programme strategy. With preparations for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 under way, a new platform to support Commissions was launched to automate the processes for membership management and approvals across all Commissions. Major applications, software and systems were also upgraded to the latest and most secure versions, and new and improved contracts renegotiated with key suppliers.

## LEGAL

IUCN established a Data Protection Policy for the Secretariat that is consistent with the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. Efforts to ensure that data protection procedures are applied across the Union will continue into 2019.

Aiming to strengthen governance processes, IUCN – through the joint efforts of its Council and Secretariat – also worked on a proposal for improving the processes around IUCN motions. This proposal is a response to a Resolution adopted by Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016.

## PROGRAMME QUALITY

In an environment of growing strategic, financial and operational uncertainty, embedding a risk management culture in IUCN is essential to ensure the organisation can continue to achieve its mission. In response, IUCN developed an Enterprise Risk Management Policy, which will help IUCN make risk-informed decisions that maximise impact.

IUCN also modernised its project development process. The improved process ensures that selected projects address society's most pressing needs, mobilise the best expertise worldwide, and propose effective solutions while meeting the highest standards.

## UNION DEVELOPMENT

IUCN completed the host country selection process for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020. The IUCN Congress is to be held in Marseille, France from 11 to 19 June.

A total of 63 Members were admitted to IUCN in 2018. To support the recruitment and retention of new Members into the future, work continued on the IUCN membership strategy, which will be finalised and implemented in 2019.



**Conservation works:** the mountain gorilla population has increased to over 1,000 individuals, the highest ever recorded, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

# IUCN 2018 OUTPUTS



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## BUSINESS

**From innovation and finance to best practice and new standards, business is an essential player for driving and delivering the transformational changes needed to achieve the global goals for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.**

IUCN engages companies and key sectors to identify their impacts on biodiversity, transform how they value, manage and invest in nature, and create innovative solutions to address current global challenges.

## VALUING BIODIVERSITY

IUCN continued to develop tools to help companies better understand and measure how they impact and depend on nature. Working with the international energy company Enel, IUCN assessed risks for biodiversity associated with the company's energy infrastructures as well as measures that are in place to address those risks. The assessment will be used to improve Enel's procedures and practices related to risk assessment and reporting for thermal, solar and hydro power generation.

In India, IUCN worked with Tata Steel to implement a new biodiversity strategy at a corporate and site level. An IUCN workshop provided staff in the company's Joda mine site with basic knowledge on plant nursery management techniques to successfully grow unique species for the restoration of mine sites.

In the Russian Far East, an IUCN-backed scientific paper found that salmon nets pose great risks to threatened western grey whales, and called for halting permits near their feeding grounds. In the Mediterranean, IUCN launched the MEET Network Association to enhance ecotourism in and around protected areas, including through increased engagement with the private sector.



Western gray whale. An IUCN-backed scientific paper found that salmon nets pose great risks to threatened western grey whales in the Russian Far East.

## DELIVERING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

IUCN released a new protocol for business and governments interested in achieving a net gain for biodiversity in their development projects. As part of a new three-year agreement with Newmont Mining Corporation, IUCN is applying the protocol at select sites to identify ways the company can meet its targets to achieve no net loss of biodiversity, and where possible, net gains.

Under the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Partnership, IUCN led the development of new guidelines for business operating in or around KBAs – sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. In partnership with the International Olympic Committee, IUCN published a new guide to help the sports industry mitigate its impacts on nature and contribute to conservation.

In Mexico, through a joint venture with the World Bank and the public forestry sector, IUCN analysed environmental, socioeconomic, legal and agro-climatic criteria used to define no-go areas in palm oil production. This analysis is being used to guide Mexico's national interpretation of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Principles and Criteria, and minimise the impact of palm oil on biodiversity in the Mexican Southeast.

## INVESTING IN NATURE

With unprecedented investment in infrastructure expected in the coming decade, IUCN jointly organised the first China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Summit with the government of Pakistan to explore options for mitigating impacts on biodiversity in the corridor and elsewhere. The Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation, which IUCN co-founded, produced 27 deal sheets to help investors make the case for financing conservation projects in sectors, including sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forest landscape restoration.

The first report of IUCN's independent Rio Doce Panel outlined a pathway for long-term restoration of the watershed affected by the 2015 Samarco Fundão Dam breach in Brazil. IUCN continued to support peer-to-peer learning among civil society organisations on how to engage business through its BioBiz Exchange initiative. To capture lessons learnt, IUCN launched a business engagement theme under the PANORAMA initiative.

## UPCOMING WORK

Through its Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs) project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, IUCN will engage with business to measure and monitor plastic flows within supply chains, and develop business solutions that drastically reduce and ultimately stop plastic pollution.

As part of a new collaborative initiative, We Value Nature, IUCN and its partners will use existing networks and tools to help businesses integrate the value of nature into their decision making, and consider all the risks and opportunities created by nature.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Martin Mehers, G.S. (2018). *IUCN Niger Delta Panel: Stories of influence*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Sánchez, L.E. et al. (2018). *Impacts of the Fundão Dam failure. A pathway to sustainable and resilient mitigation*. Rio Doce Panel Thematic Report No. 1. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Also available in [Portuguese](#).

The KBA Partnership (2018). *Guidelines on Business and KBAs: Managing Risk to Biodiversity*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

VALUING BIODIVERSITY  
DELIVERING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN  
INVESTING IN NATURE



A new IUCN guide is helping the sports industry mitigate its impacts on nature and contribute to conservation.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Climate change is one of the most pressing environmental and development challenges. Healthy ecosystems such as forests, drylands and mangroves contribute to climate change mitigation by absorbing and storing carbon. They also help vulnerable communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.**

IUCN advances nature-based solutions to climate change by improving the conservation, management and restoration of the world's ecosystems. IUCN also assesses the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems, and promotes climate policy and action that is ambitious, socially inclusive, gender responsive and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable.



Sandeep Sengupta, Global Coordinator of IUCN's Climate Change Portfolio, speaks at the UN Climate Change conference in Katowice, Poland.

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

At the invitation of the Fijian Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), IUCN participated in the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue, taking stock of progress made under the Paris Agreement. IUCN's intervention drew attention to the need for countries to incorporate more concrete targets in relation to nature-based solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At other key policy events – the Global Climate Action Summit and under the UNFCCC Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action – IUCN emphasised the need for criteria and standards for nature-based solutions to enable their better integration into national climate plans.

IUCN secured 8.1 million hectares in new forest landscape restoration pledges from eight governments under the Bonn Challenge. A study under IUCN's Mangroves for the Future initiative in Asia identified gaps and opportunities to better integrate mangrove conservation and restoration into the REDD+ mechanism in nine countries.

IUCN, together with Peru's ministries of Environment and Agriculture, The Mountain Institute, German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and La Molina National University of Agriculture, organised a virtual course on ecosystem-based adaptation. Fifty-eight participants from government entities and academia in Peru and Colombia took part in the course, which will further enable the inclusion of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in the planning, financing and implementation processes of these countries.

In the Cahoacán River Basin of Mexico, IUCN provided technical support to local communities farming common lands under the traditional ejido system. IUCN advised them on soil conservation best practices to enable reforestation and restoration of degraded lands. On over 1,200 hectares of land, soil erosion from surface runoff decreased, lessening the likelihood of flooding and overflows.

Workshops co-organised by IUCN in Morocco and Tunisia led to the creation of working groups tasked with creating a roadmap to implement the nature-based solutions contained in their NDCs. Subsequently the working groups, consisting of government and civil society representatives, developed project proposals to secure funding from donors such as the Green Climate Fund.

IUCN contributed to the development of guidelines for Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that would enable countries to design and implement effective measures to conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing climate resilience.

## ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE RISKS

IUCN experts published a major review of the relatively new field of assessing species' vulnerability to climate change, prompted by its escalating impacts on species. The review provides guidance on how to carry out rigorous assessments that take into account the broad range of ways in which climate change may become a threat to species. The review was supported by the Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation, Environment Agency of Dubai, IUCN Species Survival Commission, Norwegian Polar Institute, Global Environment Facility, Chevron Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Centre for Invasion Biology, and Claude Leon Foundation.

An IUCN report, commissioned by the global (re)insurance company XL Catlin, released at the first-ever Ocean Risk Summit, of which IUCN was a founding partner, warned of the unprecedented changes occurring in the ocean as a result of climate change, with growing evidence that the cost to human societies will be significant. The report recommended a multi-sectoral approach to prevent devastating consequences for human life, health and livelihoods.

## INCLUSIVE CLIMATE POLICY AND ACTION

IUCN provided technical support towards the implementation of the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan and of its Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. IUCN also held training workshops to assist UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund ensure gender-related policy mandates are implemented on the ground.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the French Development Agency (AFD), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), IUCN will continue to engage with governments to encourage the inclusion of nature-based solutions in national climate plans. Lessons learnt testing ecosystem-based adaptation measures in the mountains of Nepal, Peru and Uganda will be applied to mountain ecosystems in Bhutan, Colombia and Kenya. IUCN will also continue to assess the impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems and species, and work to make climate policy and action more inclusive and equitable.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Laban, P., Metternicht, G. and Davies, J. (2018). *Soil Biodiversity and Soil Organic Carbon: keeping drylands alive*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Laffoley, D. and Baxter, J. M. (2018). *Ocean connections: An introduction to rising risks from a warming, changing ocean*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

MAE, IUCN y GIZ. (2018). *Programa de Desarrollo de Capacidades sobre Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas Manabí sAbE*. Programa Regional "Estrategias de Adaptación al cambio climático basadas en Ecosistemas en Colombia y Ecuador". Quito, Ecuador: MAE, IUCN y GIZ.

## AREAS OF WORK

ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS  
ADVANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE  
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE CLIMATE POLICY AND ACTION



IUCN experts published guidance on how to rigorously assess species' vulnerability to climate change.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

**Law is fundamental to the just and effective governance of natural resources, for the benefit of people and nature.**

IUCN develops and implements legal and governance frameworks to assist societies in applying environmental law to nature conservation. In doing so, IUCN helps protect the integrity and diversity of the natural world, and ensures that the use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN's World Commission on Environment Law (IUCN-WCEL) Chairs Emeriti Nicholas Robinson and Sheila Abed, current IUCN-WCEL Chair Antonio H. Benjamin, IUCN-WCEL Steering Committee member Claudia S. de Windt, and Deputy Director and Senior Lawyer at the UN Environment Programme Arnold Kreilhuber, at the Global Symposium on Judiciary and the Environment hosted by IUCN-WCEL and partners.

## **ENHANCING GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS**

IUCN and partners brought together more than 140 judges, prosecutors, diplomats, law professors, scientists, and experts from over 60 countries for the Conference of Judges and Prosecutors on Water Justice, which took place during the World Water Forum in Brazil. The Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice developed at the Conference provides a set of principles on the protection of water ecosystems to guide the legal community.

IUCN experts provided technical input to the development of an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, at the first session of the Intergovernmental Conference convened by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. There was significant uptake of IUCN's recommendations, including on the potential structure, functioning and benefits of marine protected areas (MPAs). This work was supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

IUCN convened a meeting with technical experts from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UN Environment Programme and WWF International to discuss a global strategy to fight illegal wildlife trade and crime as requested by IUCN Members in Resolution 70 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016. The meeting was supported by the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).





## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS

In Tanzania, IUCN and partners developed an online course and conducted a workshop for judges, magistrates and prosecutors to strengthen legal mechanisms that help combat wildlife trafficking. IUCN expanded its WILDLEX database – an information service on wildlife-related law – through the collection and analysis of 150 judicial cases from East Africa and China, providing an essential resource for prosecutors, judges and civil society watchdogs. This work was supported by GIZ, BMZ and BMU.

IUCN conducted an extensive global study to assess the effectiveness of legal frameworks in the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves. The findings will be used to develop the legal capacity of government and civil society actors. With support from BMZ, IUCN trained and provided expert advice to the governments of Viet Nam, Tanzania, Zambia and Colombia to help integrate biodiversity and climate considerations into land use planning.

With funding from the MAVA Foundation, IUCN developed legislative drafts for the establishment of two MPAs to conserve deep-sea ecosystems in Lebanon. IUCN, with support from the Global Environment Facility, also drafted policies, legislation, regulations and contracts for accessing and sharing benefits from genetic resources for eight countries in the Caribbean.

As part of IUCN's Incubator for Nature Conservation initiative, 10 protected areas in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America received technical support and advice to establish their own financial sustainability plans, with the ultimate goal of meeting the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas standard. This work was supported by the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation.

IUCN provided technical support to Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico in developing policies, legislation and regulations which include the conservation and restoration of ecosystems – nature-based solutions – as an integral part of their climate change adaptation strategies. IUCN also worked with Honduras and El Salvador on incorporating the Paris Agreement commitments into their national legal frameworks. This work was supported by BMU.

## ENABLING RULE OF LAW

The IUCN Secretariat, with the cooperation of the IUCN Netherlands Committee, organised four webinars on environmental law for civil society partners in 15 countries to support their advocacy to safeguard healthy ecosystems, foster climate resilience, and ensure food and water security.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will continue its existing work and expand into new areas, such as developing legal and governance frameworks to address marine plastic pollution and enhance climate change resilience. It will also explore the application of the Earth Observation System programme as a tool for implementing, monitoring and enforcing environmental law.

## AREAS OF WORK

GLOBAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS

LOCAL ACTIONS ENABLED BY RULE OF LAW



IUCN provided technical input to the development of an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

## FORESTS

**Forests stabilise the climate, support and protect biodiversity and sustain communities. Solutions to protect and manage forests, as well as to restore degraded and deforested lands, can make forests more valuable for people and the planet.**

IUCN works with countries and decision makers to build resilient, productive landscapes, protect standing forests, uphold the rights of forest communities, engage investors in financing forest restoration, and implement effective land-use policies with the aim of meeting commitments on climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and other goals.



Georgia's Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture Solomon Pavliashvili, Global Director of IUCN's Nature-Based Solutions Group Stewart Maginnis, and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Chief Paola Deda, at a field visit to the "Ak kayin" tree nursery during the first Bonn Challenge Regional Ministerial Roundtable for the Caucasus and Central Asia

## THE BONN CHALLENGE

Regional Bonn Challenge ministerial dialogues supported by IUCN in Brazil, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan and the Republic of the Congo resulted in new commitments towards forest landscape restoration (FLR). These restoration efforts were strengthened by engaging with technical cooperation initiatives in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Mediterranean, including Initiative 20x20 and AFR100. Commitments by eight governments in 2018 to restore 8.1 million ha of deforested and degraded land under the Bonn Challenge brought the total commitments made so far to 168 million ha.

IUCN continued to refine the Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress, a comprehensive reporting framework for pledges. The Barometer revealed that six pilot jurisdictions achieved 41% of their total targets, and that the USA is on track to reach its target of restoration work covering a total area of 15 million ha across the country by 2020. IUCN's work was supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

## RESTORING FOREST LANDSCAPES

With support from the Global Environment Facility, IUCN assessed half a billion hectares of land, identifying 160 million ha with strong restoration potential. Assessment findings from Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, El Salvador, India and Peru were integrated into government policies. IUCN also supported Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam in developing restoration plans, helped Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia assess potential costs and revenue from restoration interventions, and in Burundi and Mozambique outlined the role of the private sector in driving restoration.

Case studies from Brazil, Malawi, Myanmar, Colombia and Costa Rica showcased the trade-offs between ecosystem services, decision-making processes and large-scale restoration investments. IUCN also prepared a framework to help countries incorporate restoration into their biodiversity commitments.

IUCN entered into multi-agency projects including Trees on Farms, phase two of the Forest and Farm Facility partnership, the UN Joint Initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration, and the Global Mangrove Alliance, increasing its influence on global restoration policy and practice. IUCN also helped map the global restoration potential of mangroves and produced the Central America restoration priority map.

## FORESTS AS A NATURE-BASED SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

IUCN and Climate Focus analysed the extent to which FLR has been incorporated into the Nationally Determined Contributions of 165 countries under the Paris Agreement, with the analysis informing restoration potential. Through the Forest, Food and Land Coalition, IUCN positioned FLR and the Bonn Challenge in global climate change debates as principal components of nature-based solutions which can help countries achieve more than 30% of the climate mitigation required globally by 2030.

## ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS

With support from BMU, IUCN worked with partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda to establish governance working groups around protected areas under the Stabilizing Land Use initiative. This work will enhance biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity, and implementation of the UN's REDD+ initiative.

## PRIMARY FORESTS

The Primary Forests Task Force, established to implement Resolution 45 from the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, began work on a policy to help position primary forests as a priority for global conservation.

## UPCOMING WORK

The next Bonn Challenge Barometer report, supported by BMU, will assess the progress made in the six pilot jurisdictions to restore degraded and deforested lands, and an online platform for the Barometer will be developed for all Bonn Challenge countries.

IUCN will contribute to policy recommendations for the 2020 Talanoa Dialogue to help strengthen the role of nature-based solutions in achieving the Paris Agreement. A partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity will help further incorporate forest landscape restoration into biodiversity conservation plans and reporting.

IUCN will support its Members and donors on a proposal to declare 2021–2030 the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Initiatives such as Mangroves for the Future and The Restoration Initiative will increase restoration efforts in 10 countries.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Beatty, C.R., Cox, N. A., and Kuzee, M. E. (2018). *Biodiversity guidelines for forest landscape restoration opportunities assessments*. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Colomer, J. et al. (2018). *Value for Money: Guatemala's Forest Landscape Restoration*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Verdone, M. (2018). *The world's largest private sector? Recognising the cumulative economic value of small-scale forest and farm producers*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, FAO, IIED and AgriCord.

## AREAS OF WORK

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR)  
LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTS  
PRIMARY FORESTS, AND SLOWING THE GLOBAL DEFORESTATION RATE



IUCN assessments of the restoration potential of half a billion hectares of land were integrated into government policies in Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, El Salvador, India and Peru.

## GENDER

**Improving equality between men and women contributes to more effective, efficient and equitable outcomes across the environmental sphere.**

IUCN works to identify and overcome gender equality gaps to enable better natural resource governance and conservation.

## **KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Advancing gender equality is fundamental to meeting each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and yet profound gender-related data gaps in the environmental sector limit strategies and impact. Together with the UN Environment Programme and the governments of Mexico, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Kenya, IUCN developed a framework to fill these gaps. The framework highlights key gender indicators, such as information on women's and men's secure tenure of agricultural land, to be used across the environmental sector to track and accelerate progress toward the SDGs.

An analysis of sub-Saharan African national energy frameworks, using IUCN's Environment and Gender Information methodology, revealed that nearly three-quarters of the region's energy frameworks address gender equality, making it a world leader in this regard. The data also demonstrated the positive impacts of gender-responsive action, including through empowering women in decision making and supporting women's professional networks across relevant sectors.



IUCN supports indigenous women in conserving the ecosystems and water resources of Lake Titicaca, on which they rely for their livelihoods.

## IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, IUCN provided training and technical support to National Focal Points of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to help countries implement the Convention's Gender Action Plan and identify solutions to land degradation which advance equality between men and women.

In Lao PDR, IUCN – with support from the UN Environment Programme – brought together international and national organisations involved in biodiversity conservation planning, statistics and gender equality to develop a gender roadmap that will feed into the government's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

In Honduras' Gulf of Fonseca, IUCN helped increase women's participation in a coastal watershed project through training and by integrating gender considerations into rules and conventions governing investment in the project. This resulted in 44% of the board positions of the community savings and credit association related to the project being occupied by women, as well as increased access to credit by local women.

Through workshops in Bolivia and Peru as part of IUCN's Building River Dialogue and Governance programme, the Women United in Defence of Water: Lake Titicaca network worked with other indigenous, community and government leaders in creating a roadmap for the participation of indigenous women in the governance of the transboundary lake. These workshops were supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) supported over 21,000 women in accessing livelihood, trade and finance opportunities as well as alternative fuel resources such as cookstoves, preventing deforestation and minimising human-wildlife conflicts. ITHCP is funded by the German Development Bank KfW.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As part of Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT), a 10-year partnership with the US Agency for International Development, IUCN produced a resource guide for partners of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 to promote deforestation-free supply chains while advancing gender equality and inclusion. Also under AGENT, IUCN launched a major new area of work examining the linkages between gender-based violence and the environment, collecting over 100 case studies that will serve as the foundation of an extensive knowledge platform.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will continue to ensure through 2019 and beyond that its projects not only avoid exacerbating or reinforcing gender inequities, but proactively improve gender equality. IUCN's newly approved Gender Policy will advance the Union's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment.

IUCN will aid countries in applying gender indicators for Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. In El Salvador and Honduras, IUCN will provide recommendations to local authorities on the inclusion of women in fishing supply chains. IUCN will also develop technical guidance on gender-based violence in the environmental sector.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Siles, J. and Wen-Besson, J. (2018). *Advancing Gender in the Environment: Cultivating a more equitable and inclusive TFA 2020*. Washington, USA: IUCN.

Fauconnier, I. et al. (2018). *Women as change-makers in the governance of shared waters*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GENDER ACTION PLANS AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT



IUCN launched a major new area of work examining the linkages between gender-based violence and the environment.

## GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS

**Rights-based approaches and equitable solutions that support social inclusion are fundamental to effective natural resource management and conservation.**

The importance of social justice, equity, transparency and inclusion anchors IUCN's vision and mission. IUCN respects the rights of indigenous peoples; advances gender equality and women's empowerment; strengthens natural resource governance; and promotes human rights-based approaches to conservation.

## INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

IUCN's 17 indigenous peoples' organisation Members produced a strategy to advance indigenous issues within IUCN and more broadly in conservation. Priorities include increasing participation in IUCN's governance and global policy engagement; increasing recognition of rights in relation to lands and territories, natural and cultural resources; strengthening indigenous institutions; and creating a system of indigenous protected areas to strengthen and protect the use, management and conservation of natural resources by indigenous peoples.

In Honduras, IUCN worked with the Miskitu people to develop an Indigenous Protocol to ensure continued access to, management and use of fishery resources in the Karataska lagoon. This was supported by the US Agency for International Development, Pan para el Mundo and the Ford Foundation.

Working with indigenous peoples in Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, and with the support of the European Commission, IUCN helped establish four community forestry offices. These offices provide facilities to support community-based monitoring of deforestation, forest governance processes and safeguards.

## GOVERNANCE

With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IUCN launched the first country projects under the initiative Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD) in Jordan and Egypt. HERD aims to strengthen the governance by pastoralist communities of degraded land to support restoration and preserve the services these rangelands provide to humans. The two countries are establishing community-based governance on 500,000 hectares of degraded rangeland by reviving the traditional Bedouin practice of Al Hima.

In West Africa, IUCN – with support from the GEF – provided training and technical support to better conserve dryland ecosystems in five countries through the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative. This work also helped increase the participation of marginalised and minority groups in landscape planning and dryland ecosystem management.

IUCN collaborated with the governments of Kenya, Burkina Faso, Niger, Kyrgyzstan and Uruguay to develop and test the Participatory Rangeland and Grassland Assessment methodology. The methodology will enable these countries to assess the state of their rangelands, informing efforts towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality targets under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, while helping halt land degradation and enhance food security.



Yeshing Juliana Upún Yos, a Mayan K'aqchikel woman from Guatemala, gave IUCN's statement at the 17th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

IUCN further developed its Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF), which provides a thorough, inclusive and credible approach to assessing and strengthening natural resource governance. In 2018, the NRGF principles and criteria were refined with input from an expert working group, and the framework was used to identify strengths and gaps in how other IUCN assessment methods and tools address governance issues. At an NRGF Eastern and Southern Africa workshop, IUCN raised awareness about the NRGF and identified ways it can be applied in the region. This work was supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

## ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

IUCN provided technical and legal assistance in drafting policies to facilitate the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in Grenada, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Similarly, in Nepal, IUCN helped draft a bill using the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a basis.

## COMMUNITIES, CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOODS

IUCN and the Community Conservation Research Network brought together indigenous peoples, researchers and representatives from governments and non-governmental organisations for a conference in Halifax, Canada. The event highlighted environmental and livelihood challenges that communities face, and ways to overcome them.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, IUCN will continue to support governments and non-governmental organisations in developing socially inclusive conservation policies and programmes. IUCN will also support the land tenure security of rural and indigenous peoples, and engage in national-level platforms to promote best practices in the environmental and human rights fields.

The Natural Resource Governance Framework will continue to be established as the overarching institutional standard for IUCN's programmes and projects. IUCN will also encourage increased indigenous organisation membership and advance the strategy of its indigenous peoples' organisation Members.

The Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD) initiative will be expanded into four more countries in 2019.

## AREAS OF WORK

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
ADVANCING THE REALISATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS  
APPROACH TO CONSERVATION  
STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES



In Jordan and Egypt, IUCN helped establish community-based governance on 500,000 ha of degraded rangeland to support its restoration.

## MARINE AND POLAR

**Over three billion people depend on coastal and marine biodiversity for food and income. The polar regions are also critical for climate regulation and other functions supporting human well-being.**

IUCN works to tackle three of the most important challenges facing the world's ocean and polar regions: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Working with governments, business organisations and scientific experts, IUCN unravels the complexities of global threats, and develops innovative solutions for the conservation of nature and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## INVESTING IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative, co-chaired by IUCN and the UN Development Programme, continued to build resilient coastal communities in 11 countries in Asia. MFF's unique governance structures, partnership-based approach, and extensive network has enabled a valuable platform for collaboration and implementation to achieve healthy coastal ecosystems. Since 2014 more than 140 projects have been completed, benefiting more than 300,000 people, with almost 75% of projects implemented by either community-based organisations or local non-governmental organisations. MFF is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Danish International Development Cooperation Agency (DANIDA), and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Thailand.

IUCN launched the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility in 2018. This funding mechanism, with the initial start-up capital generously provided by the government of Luxembourg, aims to support projects in developing countries which protect, restore and strengthen coastal and marine ecosystems, while enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation. The screening of proposed projects has begun, underpinned by IUCN's Blue Natural Capital Positive Impacts Framework. The



Ms Lek from Trat Province, Thailand, collects oysters among the mangroves at low tide. Since 2014, more than 300,000 people have benefitted from projects under the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative, which supports coastal communities in maintaining healthy ecosystems for sustainable development.



Framework will ensure that the positive environmental and social impacts of accepted projects can be easily and accurately monitored, reported and verified.

As leading partners in the Save Our Mangroves Now initiative, IUCN, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and WWF Germany developed guidance to increase the effectiveness of mangrove conservation investments.

## CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY IN EU OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Since its establishment in 2010, the EU's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas (BEST) Initiative, funded by the European Commission, has supported the protection and sustainable management of the EU overseas marine environment. In 2018, through the grant facility managed by IUCN, €793,000 were invested in conservation projects. One of these is a coral restoration project to restore a reef area of some 500 m<sup>2</sup> within the Bonaire Marine National Park. The project uses two innovative approaches: a "pop-up" coral nursery installed close to the restoration site, and the monitoring of out-planted corals with 3D modelling software and an underwater camera. BEST has invested close to €7.5 million in 41 marine and coastal projects, with €4.9 million of this granted through IUCN.

## PRESERVING THE DEEP SEA

An IUCN report reviewed the current status of deep-sea mining exploration, and the potential environmental impacts of exploiting minerals in the deep sea. The report warned that regulations under development at the International Seabed Authority to manage deep-sea mining are insufficient to prevent irrevocable damage to marine ecosystems and a loss of unique species.

An IUCN report warned that regulations being developed to manage deep-sea mining are insufficient to prevent irrevocable damage to marine ecosystems and a loss of unique species.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, IUCN will continue to develop knowledge and tools to help address marine plastic pollution. IUCN will launch a plastic footprint methodology, model and data package, to be applied in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam, and islands in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Pacific, with support from SIDA, NORAD, the MAVA Foundation and the Primat Foundation. IUCN will also determine how much plastic waste countries discharge into the Mediterranean and Baltic seas, as well as the effects of microplastics on Arctic ice formation and melting.

Lessons learned from IUCN's twelve-year engagement in the Mangroves for the Future initiative will be used to help coastal communities maintain healthy ecosystems for sustainable development. As part of the Save Our Mangroves Now initiative, IUCN will continue to develop guidance to support mangrove protection and restoration efforts worldwide. IUCN will fund projects to protect and restore coastal ecosystems in developing countries through its Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility.

IUCN will also continue to train climate change policy makers, scientists and industry representatives working in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean on measures to adapt to the effects of ocean acidification.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Cuyvers, L. et al. (2018). *Deep seabed mining: a rising environmental challenge*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Laffoley, D. and Baxter, J. M. (2018). *Ocean connections. An introduction to rising risks from a warming, changing ocean*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Zucchi, S. et al. (2018). *Oases for marine life. State of knowledge on seamounts and hydrothermal vents*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

GLOBAL COASTS

GLOBAL THREATS

GLOBAL COMMONS



## PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

**Protected and conserved areas – including national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas and nature reserves – are the foundation of biodiversity conservation. They safeguard nature and cultural resources, improve livelihoods and drive sustainable development.**

IUCN supports countries and communities in achieving effective and equitable protected and conserved areas that yield positive outcomes for society. IUCN works to develop best practices and approaches that enable effective conservation and help sites achieve high standards, while also informing professional capacity development and influencing national and global policy.

### PROTECTED AREA COVERAGE

The Protected Planet Report, a partnership between IUCN and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, tracks progress towards achieving global biodiversity targets. The December 2018 update reports that protected areas now cover 14.87% of land and 7.47% of the ocean. The assessment also found that 47% of the planet's terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) – areas critical to global biological diversity – were fully or partially protected, while freshwater and marine KBA coverage was at 43.5% and 44% respectively.

IUCN issued guidance on monitoring and reporting the conservation of marine protected areas to ensure reports are reliable and verifiable. IUCN also formulated guidance for recognising “other effective area-based conservation measures” – areas that are managed to deliver effective conservation of biodiversity, but that are not formally recognised as protected areas. Recognition of these conserved areas will significantly boost the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities – the custodians of many of these areas.

IUCN worked with partners to examine the scientific rationale and priorities for the post-2020 targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Important data gaps were filled at country level, with the information compiled feeding into deliberations at the 14th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Egypt.

### THE IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

In 2018, 15 new sites were admitted to the IUCN Green List, the first global standard recognising best practice in area-based conservation, bringing the total number of listed sites to 40. Since its launch in 2014, the number of countries committing to the IUCN Green List has grown fourfold, from eight to 35. IUCN began assessments of the management effectiveness of sites in the Selva Maya region of Central America, an important step towards their inclusion in the IUCN Green List. The IUCN Green List is supported by many partners and donors, principally the German government through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)'s International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Development Bank KfW, as well as the European Commission through the LIFE Programme.



Participants at the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) Regional Inception Workshop for the Pacific

## PROTECTED AREA GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

IUCN and partners conducted national-level assessments of protected area governance, and provided recommendations to enhance its quality, in Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Peru, Tanzania and Viet Nam.

With the generous contribution of the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, IUCN launched the second phase of the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA), a collaboration between IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. In five regional workshops, four hundred stakeholders from 79 countries defined BIOPAMA's priorities for the next five years. IUCN also began to implement a regional programme in West Africa which aims to reinforce the role of protected areas in conserving ecosystems.

IUCN continued to train site managers and local communities on protected area management. In 2018, topics covered included marine protected area management, integrated development planning, climate change adaptation and transboundary conservation. In collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL), IUCN organised four MOOCs which reached more than 21,000 learners in Africa. The courses were supported by the MAVA Foundation and the French Development Agency (AFD).

IUCN led on new work in the area of business engagement as part of the learning initiative PANORAMA, which profiles protected area solutions to global challenges alongside solutions from other areas. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) also joined the PANORAMA partnership. This work is funded by BMU and the Global Environment Facility.

The inaugural Pathfinder Award, a joint initiative with UNDP and WildArk, identified and rewarded innovative solutions in protected area financing and resourcing.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will launch the EUR 20 million Action Component of the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA), funded by the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, providing funds for conservation action on the ground. It will publish *Protected Planet - State of Protected Areas* reports for the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific detailing the progress of these regions towards achieving biodiversity targets.

IUCN will convene the Latin American Parks Congress and African Protected Areas Congress, and undertake a mid-term review of the outcomes of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 – the Promise of Sydney.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN WCPA (2018). *PARKS. The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation*, Volumes 24.1, 24.2 and *Special Issue on OECMs*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Mitchell, B.A. et al. (2018). *Guidelines for privately protected areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines, No. 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Leung, Y.-F., Spenceley, A., Hvenegaard, G. and Buckley, R. (eds.) (2018). *Tourism and visitor management in protected areas: Guidelines for sustainability*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 27. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

### GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

### PANORAMA – SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (BIOPAMA)



In 2018, 15 new sites were admitted to the IUCN Green List, the first global standard recognising best practice in area-based conservation.

## SPECIES

**Species provide vital services for people and society. Growing anthropogenic pressures, such as habitat destruction, spread of invasive species, overexploitation of natural resources, illegal wildlife trade, pollution and climate change threaten the survival of species worldwide.**

IUCN is at the forefront of the global fight to save species from extinction. IUCN experts, including over 8,000 Species Survival Commission members in 130 Specialist Groups, and tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ provide technical expertise and guide conservation action worldwide.



IUCN, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and volunteers use life-sized elephant puppets to teach Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Kutupalong Camp how to react when elephants enter the camp.

## KNOWLEDGE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

Assessments for 10,189 species were published on the IUCN Red List in 2018, including 3,643 plants, 1,024 invertebrates, 540 marine fishes, 506 freshwater fishes, 280 mammals and 1,190 reptiles. The assessments, many conducted with the support of Toyota Motor Corporation, highlighted continuing species declines, especially from rising threats such as climate change and invasive species; almost 28% of assessed species are threatened with extinction. However, the assessments also revealed encouraging news: some species, including the mountain gorilla and fin whale, are beginning to recover thanks to conservation action.

Eight hundred and thirty-six Alliance for Zero Extinction sites – vital habitats that contain the last remaining populations of species at risk of extinction – have now been identified using IUCN Red List data. In the catchment of Lake Victoria, one of the most species-rich lakes in the world, IUCN identified 26 new Key Biodiversity Areas. This information will enable strategic decisions to conserve biodiversity.

A new, optimised version of the IUCN Red List website was released, with support from Toyota and Synchronicity Earth. It now has improved search functions, better data display and clearer options for downloading data, enabling users to quickly and efficiently find the information they are seeking.

## POLICY AND PLANNING FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

IUCN continued to provide technical advice to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), informing state decisions on regulating sustainable and legal trade. IUCN also co-organised events about the role local communities play in tackling illegal wildlife trade at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference hosted by the UK government.

IUCN Red List data were extensively used for assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which provided an outlook on the status of biodiversity. The outlook showed climate change and agricultural expansion to be the greatest threats to biodiversity; if not tackled, biodiversity loss will jeopardise the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

IUCN continued its technical support to the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), by analysing data on IAS and providing strategic guidance on policy options. Through its Inva'Ziles project, IUCN published a guidance document for planning and managing invasive alien species on islands.

## SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTION

Through its grant-making initiatives, SOS – Save Our Species and the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, IUCN has awarded to date almost CHF 70 million, funding 160 projects in 70 countries, and protecting over 300 threatened species. IUCN is grateful to the many donors to these initiatives, including the European Commission, the German Development Bank KfW, Segré Foundation, Iris Foundation and private foundations in Switzerland and Asia.

IUCN entered into a new partnership with the French fashion company Lacoste in a public outreach campaign based on limited edition polo shirts. The campaign raised public awareness of 10 threatened species. IUCN also issued a call for proposals to conserve the species featured in the campaign.

IUCN and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees worked to minimise human-elephant conflict in and around the Kutupalong Camp of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, which provides shelter for Rohingya refugees and lies on the migration route of Asian elephants. Refugees were trained on how to divert elephants away from the camp, and elephant watch towers were also installed along the edge of the camp.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, IUCN will publish at least 20,000 new assessments of species on the IUCN Red List, including large numbers of reptiles and freshwater fishes, as well as European species. Re-assessments of freshwater species in Western Africa will be used to identify vital habitats for these species.

IUCN will continue to support the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Regulation on Invasive Species, as well as disburse grants as part of the SOS – Save Our Species initiative. New projects will commence in Asia to conserve migratory mammals and gibbons, and efforts to increase tiger populations will continue.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN (2018). *Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Cálix, M. et al. (2018). *European Red List of Saproxyllic Beetles*. Brussels, Belgium: IUCN.

Beatty, C.R., Cox, N.A., and Kuzee, M.E. (2018). *Biodiversity guidelines for forest landscape restoration opportunities assessments*. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

KNOWLEDGE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION  
POLICY AND PLANNING FOR SPECIES  
CONSERVATION  
SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTION



The 2018 IUCN Red List update revealed encouraging news: some species, including the mountain gorilla and fin whale, are beginning to recover thanks to conservation action.

## WATER

**Water is essential for sustaining all life and it must be managed sustainably in order to ensure that global freshwater supply continues to meet demand.**

**With a world population set to increase to 8.5 billion by 2030, that demand will grow further, while freshwater resources and biodiversity continue to decline.**

IUCN works to implement sustainable water resource management, build better water governance in transboundary areas, and support increased investment in ecosystems that provide natural water infrastructure.

## **WATER GOVERNANCE**

In the Andes region, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IUCN's Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) programme facilitated the development of an agreement between the governments of Ecuador and Peru. The agreement will serve as the basis for the creation of the Binational Commission for the Management of Transboundary Basins between the two countries. As one of the first bilateral coordination bodies on transboundary river management in the region, the Commission will serve as a model for other countries.

Reforms for improved transboundary water governance in the Mekong region, proposed by IUCN, are being integrated into regional institutional dialogues. These include strengthening the legal framework, diversifying energy sources into non-hydro renewables, and enhancing regional power trade. These reforms will enable the region to achieve energy security at much lower cost, while reducing environmental risk.

IUCN supported the development of an interactive app that provides real-time data on river flows in the Pungwe, Buzi and Save basins in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Representatives from government and river basin management agencies received training on environmental flows, and are using the information from the app to maintain the environmental integrity of the basins.



Subsistence crop producers adopt technologies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, leading to greater water availability in the Goascorán River Basin between Honduras and El Salvador.

## INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN AFRICA

Through the SUSTAIN initiative, IUCN and partners launched a local radio programme to help spread information on climate-smart agriculture methods to communities living in the Kilombero valley of Tanzania. Farmers were able to cultivate a pest- and drought-resistant sugarcane variety which requires less land to grow, resulting in increased income for local communities and less damage to the landscape. The initiative was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IUCN and the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania are working with Tanzania's financial sector towards responsible financial systems which support the conservation of nature. In 2018, the two organisations organised the first-ever roundtable dialogue on biodiversity conservation and business in the country, with over 30 CEOs of major financial institutions in attendance. A working group is being set up to develop and promote sustainable banking principles in Tanzania.

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER

At the eighth World Water Forum in Brasilia, IUCN coordinated the high-level session "Transformational Integrated Water Resource Management for the 2030 Agenda". The session was based on IUCN's long-standing work with the World Water Council to develop a more adaptable development framework for water management. A joint pavilion on nature-based solutions with five IUCN Members – World Wildlife Fund-US, The Nature Conservancy, Forest Trends, Conservation International and Wetlands International – showcased IUCN's leading role in promoting the conservation and restoration of ecosystems as solutions to address global water challenges.

At the Forum, IUCN and partners coordinated the Conference of Judges and Prosecutors on Water Justice. The Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice developed at the Conference provides a set of principles on the protection of water ecosystems to guide the legal community.

IUCN was part of the UN Task Force on Nature-based Solutions for Water and supported the development of the messaging for World Water Day (22 March). IUCN also provided case studies and expert input to the UN World Water Development Report.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, IUCN will begin the next phase of the Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) programme, building on past experience to work in new basins and further engage with states at the regional level.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Fauconnier, I. et al. (2018). *Women as change-makers in the governance of shared waters*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Fauconnier, I. et al. (2018). *Champions of Water Governance: Leadership Building for Local to Transboundary Water Cooperation*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

ENHANCING GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE  
IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE BASIN MANAGEMENT  
INVESTING IN NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE



IUCN facilitated an agreement that will serve as the basis for the Binational Commission for the Management of Transboundary Basins, coordinated by Ecuador and Peru.

## WORLD HERITAGE

**Natural World Heritage sites are recognised as the planet's most important protected areas, providing life-supporting benefits to millions of people worldwide. And yet they are under increasing pressure from climate change, infrastructure development, mining, poaching and other threats.**

IUCN is the official advisory body on nature under the World Heritage Convention. IUCN evaluates sites nominated for the World Heritage List and monitors the state of conservation of listed sites, aiming to improve the management of World Heritage sites and enhance the role of the Convention in nature conservation and sustainable development.

## ADVISING THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

IUCN's recommendations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee included 58 reports monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites facing threats, and evaluations of eight proposed inscriptions of new sites, as well as one extension to an existing site.

The Committee followed IUCN's advice to remove the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System from the List of World Heritage in Danger following a ban on oil drilling in Belize's entire maritime zone, and to include Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya on the Danger List due to impacts of the Gibe III dam in Ethiopia. As advised by IUCN, the Committee also urged Tanzania not to proceed with plans to log 143,638 ha in the Selous Game Reserve, and called on Yemen to halt any activity that may negatively impact on Socotra Archipelago.

Three new "mixed" sites with outstanding natural and cultural values were added to the World Heritage List following the advice from IUCN, which evaluated the sites' natural values. Just 38 World Heritage sites are classified as mixed, out of a total of 1,092. The new mixed sites include two vast indigenous peoples' territories, Pimachiowin Aki in Canada and Chiribiquete National Park in Colombia, now among the largest World Heritage sites on the planet. The third is Mexico's Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley, whose rich biodiversity supports local communities.



Chiribiquete National Park, inscribed onto the World Heritage List in 2018, is Colombia's largest national park. It is home to iconic wildlife such as the puma, pink dolphin and lowland tapir.



## IUCN WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook, supported by the MAVA Foundation, assesses the present situation and future prospects of all natural World Heritage sites. Threats to the planet's most outstanding places continue to increase while management is becoming less effective, according to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook.

In 2018, IUCN held a series of workshops and conferences in China, Costa Rica, France and Thailand. These were designed to help site managers use results from the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to inform decisions and drive action on the ground to effectively protect sites in these regions. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook was translated into French, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic in order to boost its uptake. The translations were supported by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage and the China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites.

## ASSESSING NATURE'S BENEFITS TO PEOPLE

IUCN issued new guidance to help practitioners assess ecosystem services – the benefits that nature provides to people – in natural World Heritage sites, Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas. The report reviews nine assessment tools and includes “decision trees” for practitioners to select the most appropriate tool, responding to a growing demand for practical advice. It was the second most downloaded IUCN report published in 2018. The guidance is the result of collaboration between over 20 international experts convened by IUCN, with funding and in-kind contributions from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP).

## WORLD HERITAGE LEADERSHIP

Four workshops for natural and cultural heritage practitioners were held under the World Heritage Leadership programme, jointly implemented by IUCN and ICCROM (a World Heritage advisory body on culture) with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment. They focused on improving the management of sites and building resilience to climate change, conducting better environmental impact assessments, and providing networking opportunities for managers.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2019, IUCN will work with its Members and partners to improve the prospects of World Heritage sites through the IUCN World Heritage Outlook. IUCN will continue to implement the World Heritage Leadership programme to help address pressing challenges through the World Heritage Convention.

Also next year, IUCN will publish a thematic study identifying volcanic landscapes with potential to become World Heritage sites. It will also provide advice to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for its 2019 session.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Neugarten, R.A. et al. (2018). *Tools for measuring, modelling, and valuing ecosystem services: Guidance for Key Biodiversity Areas, natural World Heritage sites, and protected areas*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Osipova, E. et al. (2018). *Horizon du patrimoine mondial de l'UICN 2 : Une évaluation globale de la conservation des sites du patrimoine mondial naturel*. Gland, Suisse : UICN.

Osipova, E. et al (2018). *Perspectiva del Patrimonio Mundial de la UICN 2: Evaluación sobre la conservación de todos los sitios naturales del Patrimonio Mundial*. Gland, Suiza: UICN. Also available in [English](#) (2017) and [Chinese](#) (2018).

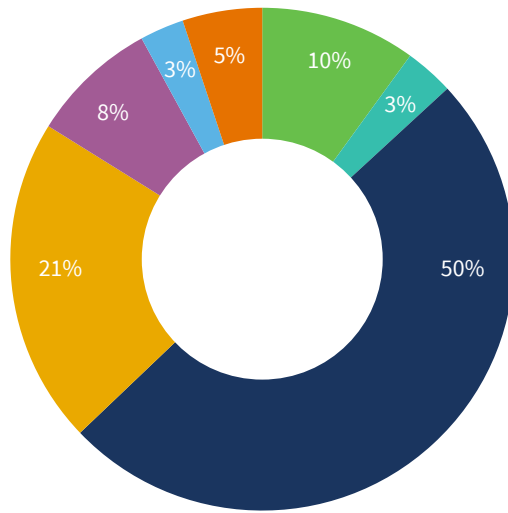
## AREAS OF WORK

[ADVISING THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION](#)  
[IUCN WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK](#)  
[WORLD HERITAGE LEADERSHIP](#)  
[BENEFITS OF NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE](#)



Two vast indigenous peoples' territories, Canada's Pimachiowin Aki and Chiribiquete National Park in Colombia, were inscribed onto the World Heritage List, following advice from IUCN on the sites' natural values.

# THANKING OUR MEMBERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS



## IUCN's total 2018 income amounted to CHF 127.2m (unaudited)

- Membership – 12,767,942 (10%)
- International and national NGOs – 4,040,665 (3%)
- Government agencies – 63,172,536 (50%)
- Multilateral agencies and conventions – 26,697,218 (21%)
- Foundations – 10,392,200 (8%)
- Companies – 3,624,122 (3%)
- Other income – 6,539,679 (5%)

### IUCN is grateful to its Framework Partners for continued core funding as well as programmatic support:

Finland, France, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America

### In 2018, IUCN's top donors were: (in order)

European Union, Government of Germany, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Government of Sweden, US Agency for International Development, Government of the Netherlands, Government of Norway, Government of Switzerland, MAVA Foundation

### IUCN also wishes to acknowledge the following donors and partners for their continued programmatic engagement in 2018:

**Governments:** Austria, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, United Arab Emirates/Abu Dhabi and the United Kingdom

**Multilateral institutions:** African Development Bank, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, The World Bank, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, West Africa Economic and Monetary Union

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Fund for International Development, Open Society Foundation, Segré Foundation, Renova Foundation, Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, Swedish Postcode Foundation, The Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Total Foundation

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### IUCN is grateful to its growing Membership for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Union.

### IUCN is thankful for the guidance and support provided by the IUCN Patrons of Nature:

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## IN MEMORIAM

Dr Rustam Sagitov, IUCN Regional Councillor for Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia, and Chair of the IUCN National Committee for Russia, passed away on Sunday, 19 August 2018.

*“Throughout his life, Rustam kept the admiration of nature and great care for humans a vital part of it. With his passing, we have lost a mindful colleague and teacher, a person who fully devoted himself to preserving nature and instilling values and integrity into people, a skilful organiser and wise negotiator, and a kind and thoughtful friend.”* – Aleksei Zavarzin, IUCN CEC Regional Vice Chair Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Boris Erg, Director, IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, in their tribute to Dr Rustam Sagitov.



This is the first volume of the IUCN Annual Report for 2018. The financial statements, which form an integral part of this report, will be published as the second volume once they have been audited and approved by the IUCN Council.

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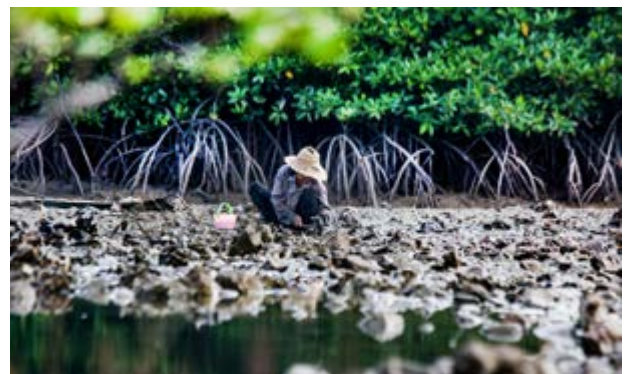
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