



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

IUCN2023

ANNUAL REPORT

UNITE FOR NATURE

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All figures are correct as of 31.12.2023 unless otherwise stated.

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Editing by: Eoghan O'Sullivan

Proofreading by: Deborah Murith

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FOREWORD

2023 marked a momentous milestone for the Union: IUCN's [75th birthday](#). Established in the years immediately after the devastation of World War II, IUCN's founders believed in the vision of creating a better world. In 2023, our Members, Commission experts, and staff around the globe had the chance to commemorate 75 years of joint action towards that vision. Drawing on our rich heritage, we have continued to translate this enduring vision into concrete actions, meeting the challenges of the present with the same spirit of innovation and collaboration that has always defined our mission.

Throughout the year, building on this history, IUCN took key steps to strengthen the Union. In April, we launched IUCN Engage, an online community platform to promote collaboration and communication for all IUCN constituents. We also began publishing a new Members' magazine, *Unite for Nature*, which aims to inspire with the stories and insights of our worldwide membership.

2023 was also the warmest year on record. This was matched by continued extreme weather, including severe wildfires and flooding, with ocean heat reaching its highest level since observational records began 65 years ago.

In response, IUCN leveraged its unparalleled expertise to shape deliberations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Mobilising across its membership, IUCN urged parties to raise ambition on emissions reduction, increase finance for adaptation and mitigation, better address the linkages between nature and climate, and take other critical steps to safeguard our planet. During COP28, IUCN released an update to the Red List of Threatened Species™ and showcased cutting edge approaches to address the climate and nature crises through events at the 'Unite for Nature' pavilion - a 'Home for the Union' that drew hundreds of people daily.

IUCN's global membership continued to grow in 2023 and to take visible action, united under a common mission to conserve nature. Commissions led the production of world-leading guidance, tools and knowledge. IUCN's offices and staff around the world complemented this work, implementing the Union's Programme, Nature 2030, hand in hand with IUCN's constituencies. In 2023 the power of the Union was strong and visible.

This Annual Report contains these and many more details. We hope that in reading it, you will also be inspired to Unite for Nature.

Razan Al Mubarak
President



Gretel Aguilar
Director General



© Mohamed Bin Zayed Fund for Species Conservation

01 AT A GLANCE

THE UNION



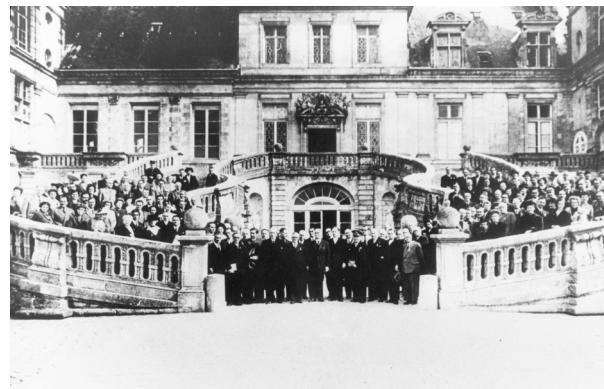
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF IUCN



IUCN marked its 75th anniversary in 2023 with celebrations in the Union's offices around the world and a special event in the Château de Fontainebleau, the very building where IUCN was founded in 1948. It was born as a joint endeavour between visionary leaders in government and civil society who, following the devastation of World War II, had the courage to think about the importance of nature conservation.

Over the past three-quarters of a century, IUCN has been providing knowledge, convening governments and civil society, improving lives and livelihoods through conservation action on the ground, and serving as the voice of nature. Naturally, the Union has evolved over these years, expanding its global reach and influence, not least by welcoming new Member groups, such as Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and sub-national governments.

IUCN's strength comes from bringing so many different viewpoints together to achieve a single mission, with great passion and commitment to the vision of conserving



IUCN's founding in 1948 in Fontainebleau © UNESCO / Inez Forbes

nature. With environmental degradation and the climate crisis worsening, the world has never needed this Union more than it does today.



To mark IUCN's 75th anniversary, the 110th Council meeting was held in Fontainebleau with the generous support of the Government of France and the IUCN French Committee. The meeting took place in the Château de Fontainebleau, the building in which the Union was founded. © Sean Southey

Celebrating 75 years



Nasdaq congratulating IUCN at Times Square, New York © NASDAQ

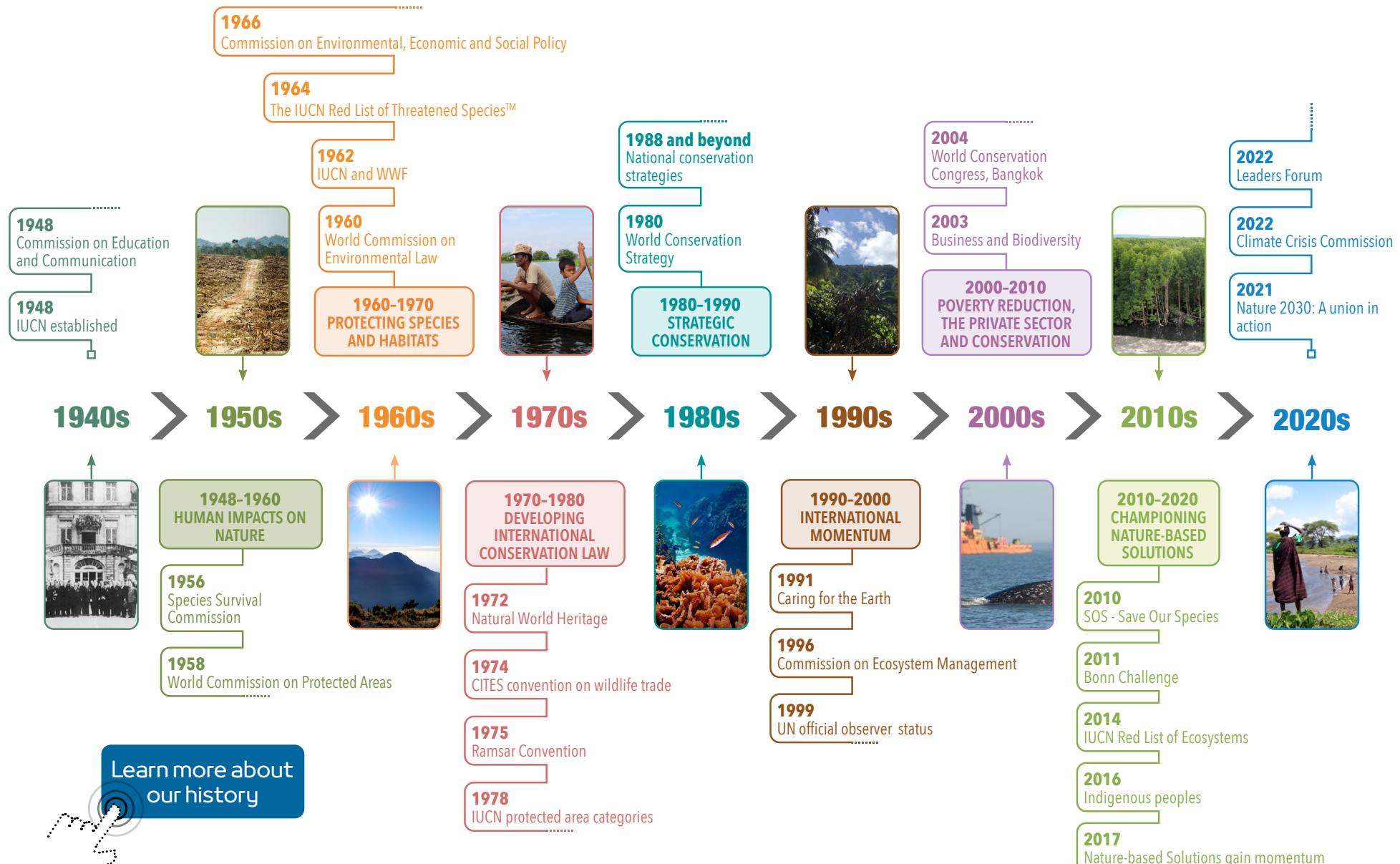


Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC) © IUCN



West and Central Africa Regional Office (PACO) ©IUCN

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



MISSION & NATURE 2030

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. The experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 16,000 experts make IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

IUCN'S MISSION

Influence, encourage and assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable

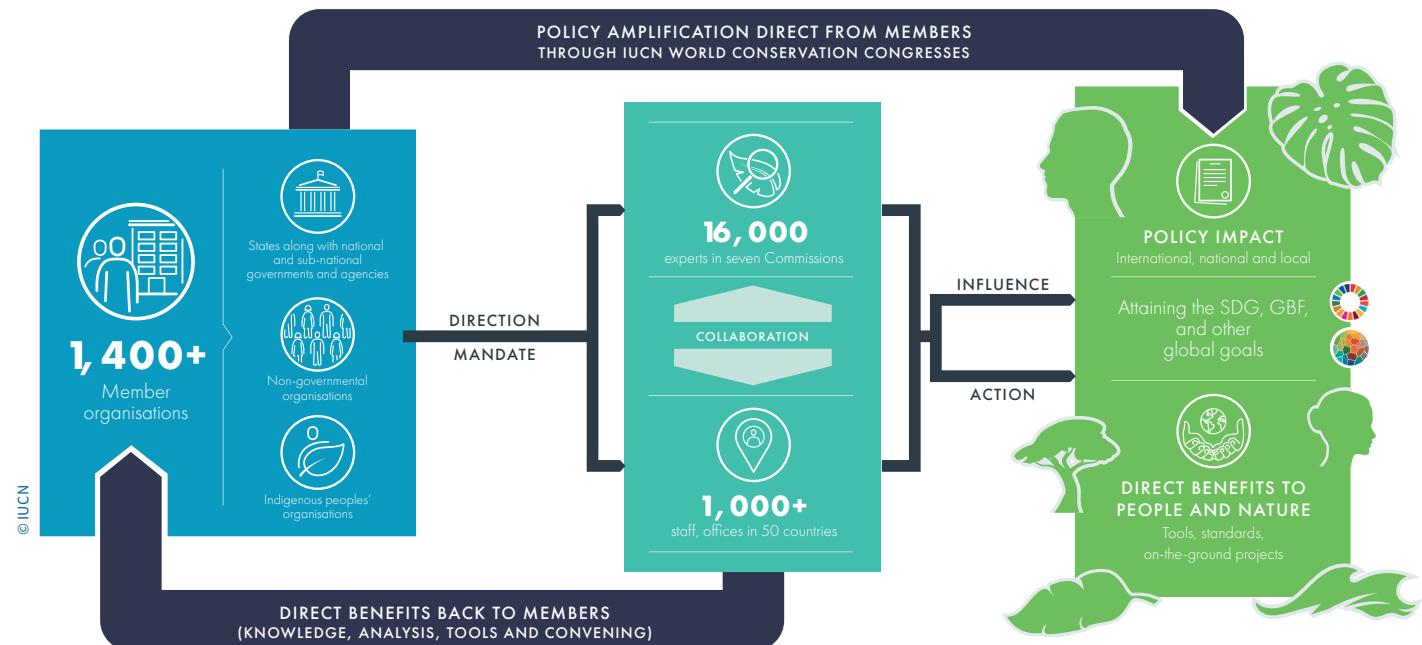
The Union

The Union has the following constituent parts:

- Members
 - National and Regional Committees
(composed of Members)
 - Commissions
 - Secretariat
 - Council
 - World Conservation Congress

IUCN'S VISION

A just world that values and conserves nature



NATURE 2030

A UNION IN ACTION

Adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, the [Nature 2030 IUCN Programme](#) was the result of many years of deliberation across the Union. Covering a ten-year time frame for the first time, the Programme is a call for mobilisation to IUCN Members, Commissions and the Secretariat. This longer-term outlook aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

Five Programme Areas

The Nature 2030 Programme, with a more inclusive and extended vision, defines five broad areas where IUCN is working to deliver tangible positive impacts:

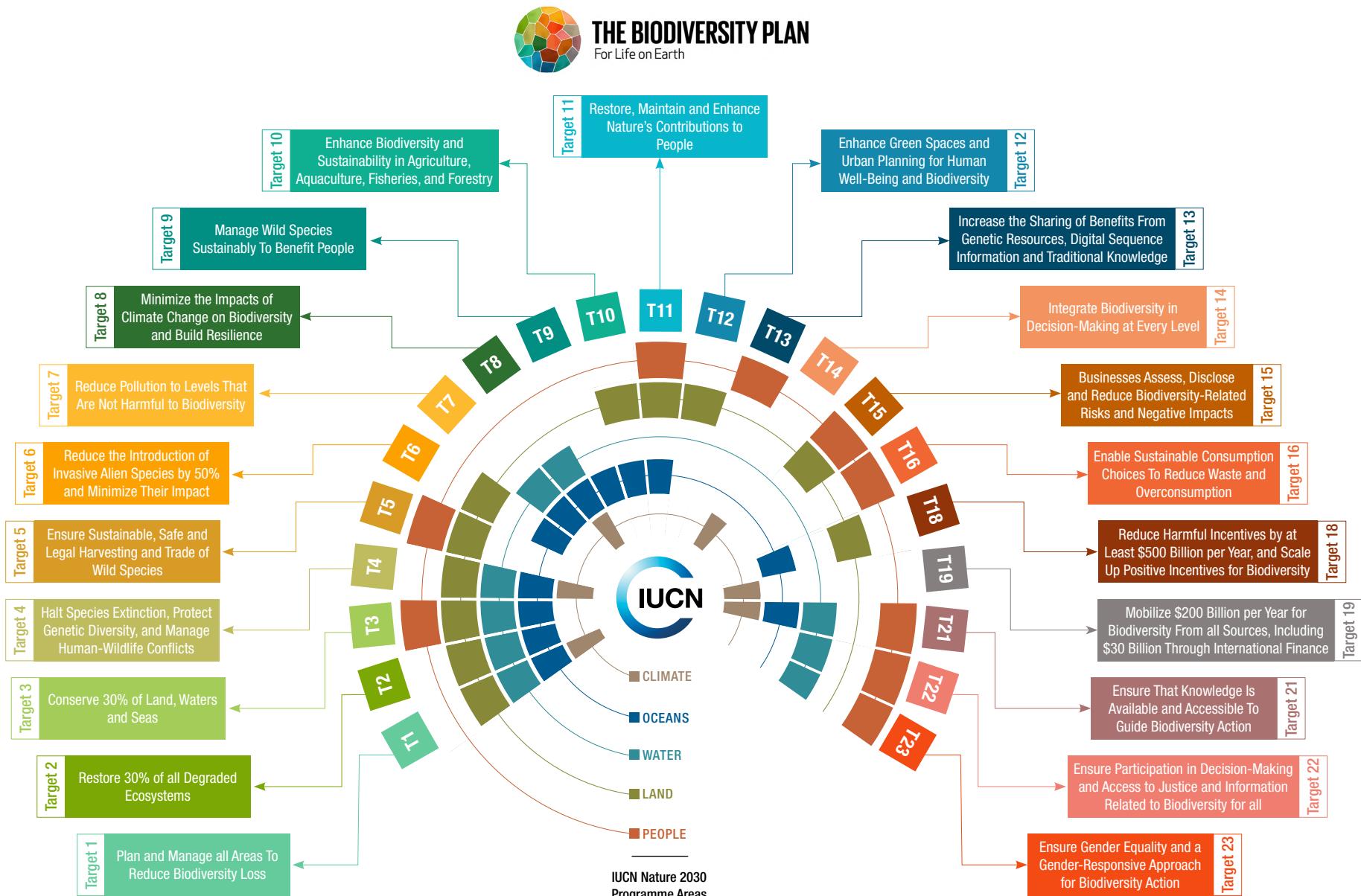
- PEOPLE** Biodiversity is nurtured in harmony with human well-being, based on the principles of equity, equality and justice.
- LAND** Intact landscapes are protected while sustainable use balances the needs of people and nature on production and urban land.
- WATER** Freshwater systems support and sustain biodiversity and human needs.
- OCEANS** Stronger legal frameworks and investment in biodiversity restoration ensure a healthy ocean supporting nature and people.
- CLIMATE** Global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C through ambitious mitigation measures, alongside effective adaptation.

The Nature 2030 Programme contributes to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



Infographic by Natacha Bigan, using SDG icons

The five Programme Areas of the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme contribute to the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

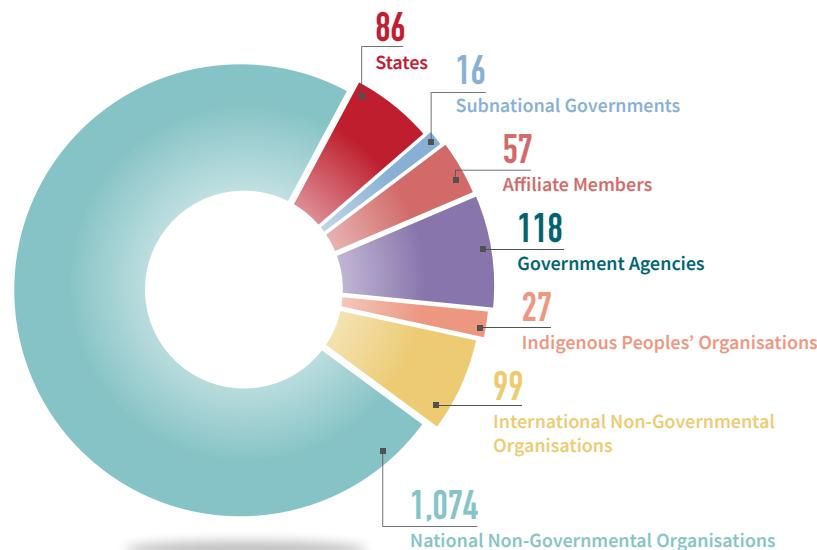


MEMBERS

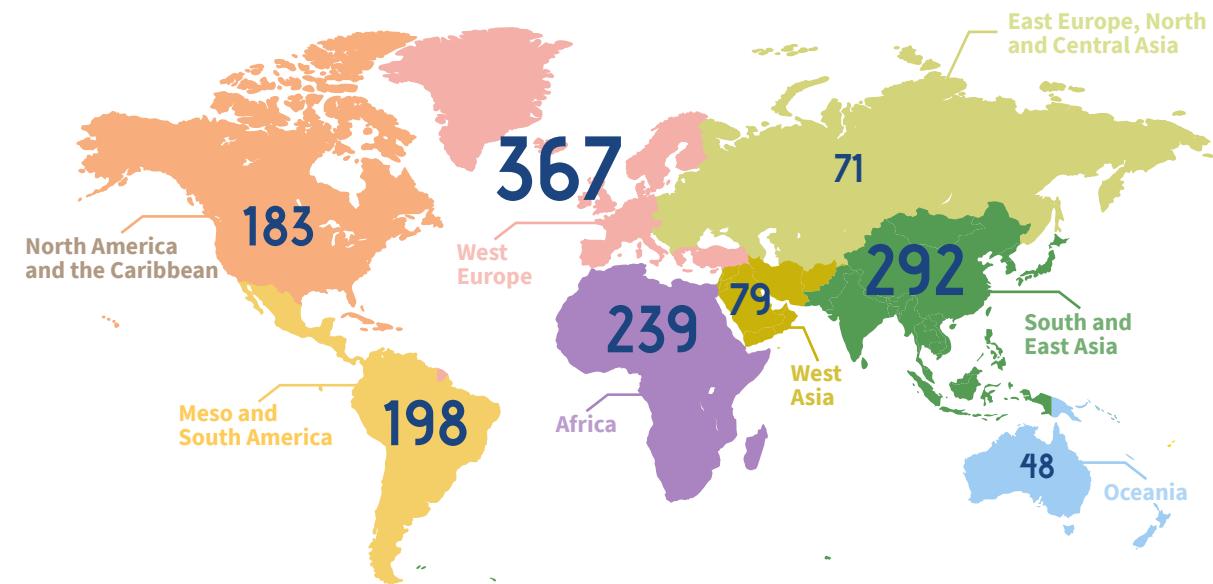
IUCN harnesses the knowledge, resources and reach of over 1,400 Members. These include States and government agencies at national and sub-national levels, large and small non-governmental organisations, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, scientific and academic institutions.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Members work with Commissions and the Secretariat to forge and implement solutions to the planet's greatest environmental challenges. IUCN Members also convene and influence diverse stakeholders, including at the highest levels, in support of nature conservation. As part of a democratic process, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Members vote on Resolutions that drive the global conservation agenda. IUCN's history is built on Members putting their knowledge and influence to work for a more sustainable future for nature and people.

Distribution of IUCN Members by type



Distribution of IUCN Members

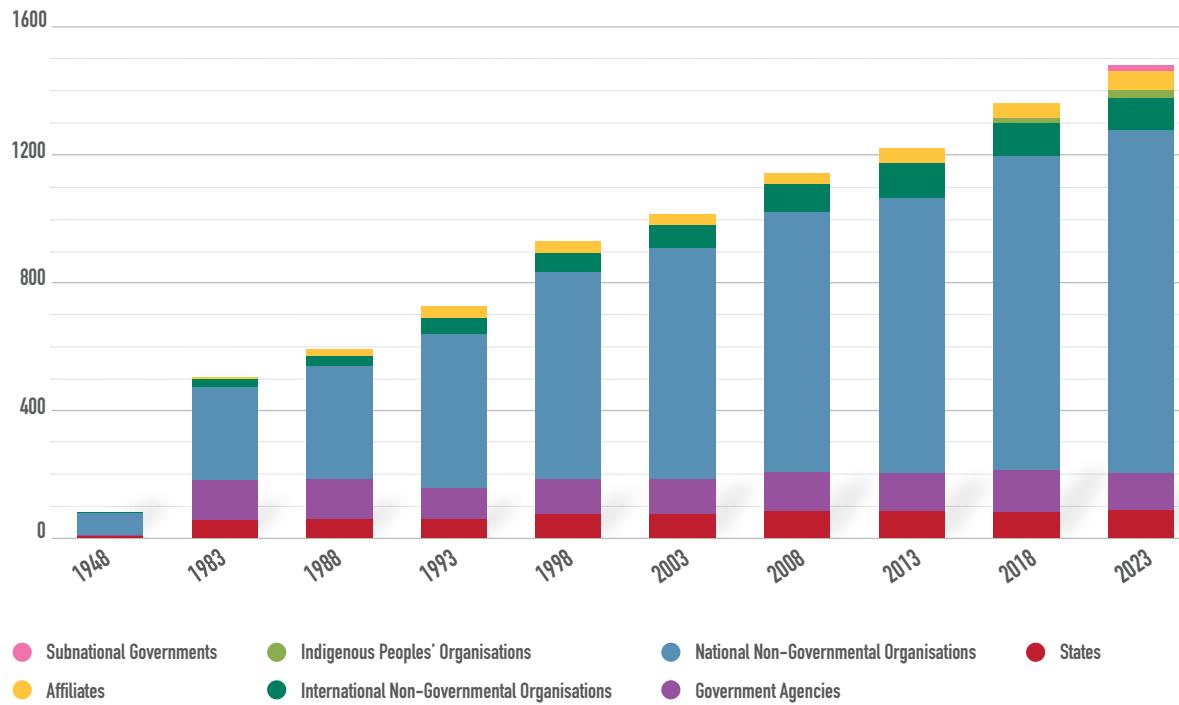


**1,477
MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS**

53 NEW MEMBERS | **JOINED THE UNION IN 2023**
WITH 4 RE-JOINING MEMBERS

163 COUNTRIES | **WITH IUCN MEMBERS**

Evolution of IUCN's membership by category



2023 Member Highlights

- IUCN Engage was launched in April 2023 as an online community platform for all IUCN constituents. It is designed to improve communication and enable more effective collaboration across the Union. It can be used to host and promote events, find and share opportunities – such as jobs, funding or grant calls – run consultations, share outputs and collaborate with other constituents. Access is easy thanks to integration with existing IUCN platforms.
- 2023 saw the publication of the [inaugural issue of Unite for Nature](#), a new magazine for IUCN Members that aims to capture and share the Union's collective passion for conservation and environmental sustainability. Published biannually, it includes insights from IUCN Members, inspiring stories about conservation champions, thought leadership from renowned experts, and updates on global conservation initiatives and new opportunities for collaboration. *Unite for Nature* is another way for Members to actively contribute to the global conservation dialogue and join a community of changemakers determined to make a positive difference.
- A new annual survey, run for the first time in 2023, is designed to reveal what is important to IUCN Members, how this changes over time, and what IUCN can do to improve the Member experience. The results showed that 82% of respondents were very or somewhat satisfied with their membership. IUCN knowledge products, networking with conservation organisations and specialists, and IUCN conservation policy work were reported as the three most important benefits for Members. They would, nevertheless, appreciate more opportunities to get involved in IUCN field projects and to learn new conservation expertise via capacity-building offerings.



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

IUCN Members within a country or region may choose to organise themselves into National and Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation among Members, and with other parts of the Union, and to support the participation of Members in the Programme and governance of IUCN. IUCN's National and Regional Committees can be very different in nature. Some of the Member Committees work to jointly implement projects, whereas others are predominantly vehicles for exchange and networking.

8 Officially recognised Regional Committees of IUCN Members

- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Committee
- North Africa Regional Committee
- West and Central Africa Regional Committee
- Meso America Regional Committee
- South America Regional Committee
- [Caribbean Regional Committee](#)
- South and East Asia Regional Committee
- West Asia Regional Committee

1 Officially recognised Interregional Committee of IUCN Members

- [Interregional Committee for Europe, North and Central Asia](#)

66 Officially recognised National Committees of IUCN Members

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Argentina | ▪ Burundi | ▪ El Salvador | ▪ Japan | ▪ Nepal | ▪ Russian Federation | ▪ Türkiye |
| ▪ Australia | ▪ Cambodia | ▪ Finland | ▪ Jordan | ▪ New Zealand | ▪ Senegal | ▪ Uganda |
| ▪ Bangladesh | ▪ Cameroon | ▪ France | ▪ Kenya | ▪ Nicaragua | ▪ South Africa | ▪ United Arab Emirates |
| ▪ Belize | ▪ Canada | ▪ Guatemala | ▪ Kuwait | ▪ Pakistan | ▪ Spain | ▪ United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland |
| ▪ Benin | ▪ Chile | ▪ Guinea Bissau | ▪ Lebanon | ▪ Palestine | ▪ Sri Lanka | ▪ United States of America |
| ▪ Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | ▪ Colombia | ▪ Honduras | ▪ Malawi | ▪ Panama | ▪ Sweden | ▪ Viet Nam |
| ▪ Botswana | ▪ Costa Rica | ▪ Hungary | ▪ Mexico | ▪ Paraguay | ▪ Switzerland | ▪ Zimbabwe |
| ▪ Brazil | ▪ Denmark | ▪ India | ▪ Morocco | ▪ Peru | ▪ Thailand | |
| ▪ Burkina Faso | ▪ Dominican Republic | ▪ Israel | ▪ Mozambique | ▪ Poland | ▪ The Netherlands | |
| | ▪ Ecuador | ▪ Italy | | ▪ Republic of Korea | ▪ Tunisia | |



2023 Highlights from the National and Regional Committees

IUCN Interregional Committee for Europe, North and Central Asia (ICENCA)

An invitation from the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) to participate in its annual SunChild International Environmental Festival in October 2023 provided an opportunity to [bring IUCN Members from Europe and North and Central Asia together](#) for informal meetings and training workshops. Participants, drawn from the full range of IUCN constituencies, provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, having gained a better understanding of the many elements of IUCN and delivered valuable input for the ICENCA Steering Committee on expectations around collaborative activities for conservation.



IUCN ICENCA Community meeting participants with Environment minister of Armenia Mr Hakob Simidyan © FPWC

IUCN ABCñ group

The ABCñ working group unites the Regional Committees of the Caribbean, Meso America and South America, and the Spanish Committee of IUCN, with the incorporation of the “ñ” in its name representing the group’s use and promotion of Spanish, one of the Union’s three official languages. In June 2023, the group held a rich and dense [meeting with Jon Paul Rodríguez, chair of the Species Survival Commission](#), with the aim of enhancing knowledge of and engagement with SSC’s work. This meeting aligned well with ABCñ’s aim of creating an open and sustained space for dialogue to facilitate and encourage synergies around shared projects.

IUCN Mexican National Forum

Members of IUCN in Mexico, representatives of Indigenous peoples, women’s and youth organisations, experts from the Union’s Commissions, and other actors committed to conservation met in San Cristóbal de las Casas for the second [IUCN Mexican National Forum](#). They discussed and exchanged experiences and knowledge in search of innovative and concrete solutions to confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The meeting served as preparation for the Regional Conservation Forum in 2024.



Mexican National Forum of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas - Mexico © IUCN

IUCN US National Committee

IUCN’s US National Committee hosted a hybrid meeting of the [Nature Crime Alliance](#), a new global network that raises political will, mobilises financial commitment and bolsters operational capacity to fight nature crime and the other international criminal activities with which it converges. The event was managed by IUCN Member the World Resources Institute and supported by the Government of Norway and the US State Department.

66 | NATIONAL COMMITTEES
OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY THE IUCN COUNCIL

8 | REGIONAL COMMITTEES

1 | INTERREGIONAL COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONS

Over 16,000 scientists and experts from around the world and across a wide range of disciplines volunteer their expertise as members of an IUCN Commission. IUCN Commissions:

- Analyse issues and prepare assessments, reports, action plans, criteria and methodology;
- Undertake research and other scientific and technical work;
- Undertake tasks assigned to them within the integrated programme of IUCN;
- Provide advice on any matter within their fields of competence;
- Broaden knowledge and competence on matters relating to their mandates;
- Work with Members and the Secretariat to develop activities within the various Regions;
- Support Members and components of IUCN with necessary expertise; and
- Undertake such other responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the World Conservation Congress and the Council.

7 | IUCN COMMISSIONS

16,000+ | COMMISSION MEMBERS

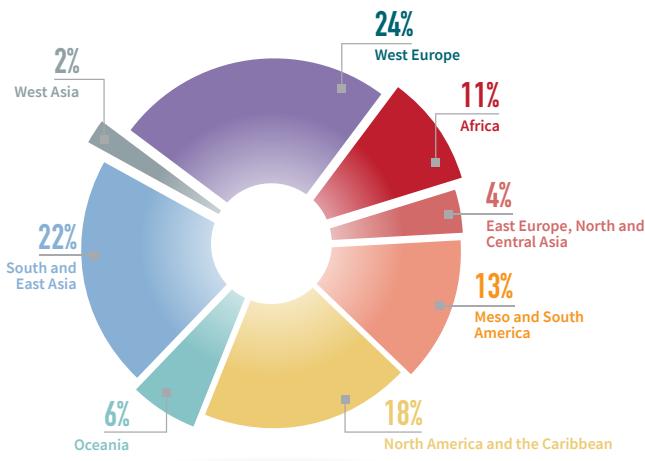
17,000 | IN 450+ COMMISSION-LED EVENTS
PARTICIPANTS

45+ | ACTIVE PROJECTS AND GRANTS

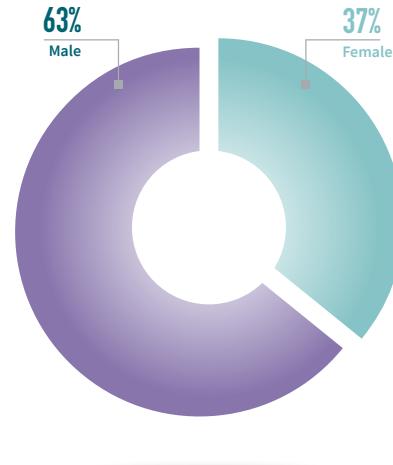
110+ | 'GREY LITERATURE' PUBLICATIONS

120+ | PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Commission regional spread



Commission gender split





Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

Chair: Manuel Pulgar-Vidal*

Promoting appropriate, effective, just and nature-positive solutions to the climate crisis that are based on the best available scientific evidence from all reputable international bodies and from Indigenous knowledge systems

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

A growing CCC community

November 2023 saw the start of the process to incorporate new members into CCC, tapping into the desire of professionals around the world to contribute to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. By the end of the year, CCC had more than 300 members, drawn from eight regions. The new members join the work being carried out by the regional chairs in collaboration with the thematic leads in the Commission's four priority areas: 1) policy and climate justice; 2) solutions and innovative approaches; 3) finance; and 4) climate and nature.

Advancing convergence of climate and nature

Political advocacy work by CCC before and during the UNFCCC COP28 contributed to advancing recognition of the importance of incorporating nature/biodiversity in climate solutions and maintaining ecosystem integrity, in connection with the Global Biodiversity Framework. CCC also actively contributed to the outcome of the first global stocktake of efforts to address climate change, which will guide countries in updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and recognises the importance of biodiversity/nature and Nature-based Solutions for achieving climate goals.

Impactful collaboration – thought leadership and evidence-based actions

Ahead of COP28, CCC developed thought leadership pieces in collaboration with IUCN WCPA. These gathered scientific evidence to support [increasing connections between key instruments and mechanisms such as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans of the CBD and the NDCs of the Paris Agreement](#) and to discuss [the role of protected areas in climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation](#).

*The Commission is provisional and its Chair and Steering Committee are interim until the next IUCN World Conservation Congress adopts the Commission's mandate and elects its Chair.



Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Chair: Sean Southey (second term)

Driving change through leading communication, learning and knowledge

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

CEC leading implementation of IUCN Youth Strategy

CEC continued to facilitate meaningful youth engagement throughout the Union, implementing the [IUCN Youth Strategy](#). CEC leaders championed youth engagement at international convenings such as the [Seventh GEF Assembly](#) in Vancouver and at [COP28 in Dubai](#), where CEC also turned the attention of global leaders to the power of [Nature-based Education](#) as a key solution for planetary health.

Inspiring action for conservation

#NatureForAll is led by CEC and WCPA, and supported by core partners: Parks Canada, the Alana Foundation, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Children & Nature Network, IUCN-US, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. In 2023, the #NatureForAll movement grew to reach over 600 organisational partners, inspiring new audiences to connect with and fall in love with nature, thus igniting action for conservation. CEC led two transformative environmental film festivals in [Goa, India](#) and in [Katmandu, Nepal](#) with CMS Vatavaran. [The Greening Schoolgrounds and Outdoor Learning Partnership](#), launched in 2022, continued to grow, showcasing case studies from around the world of system-wide greening of school systems and learning environments, and building an international movement for school greening.

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Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Chair: Angela Andrade (second term)

Promoting ecosystem-based approaches for the management of landscapes and seascapes

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

CEM's role in classifying the Earth's ecosystems

The UN committee responsible for international statistical classifications [adopted the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology \(GET\)](#), acknowledging its solid scientific foundation, comprehensive scope and clear statistical framework. With its development led by CEM, the GET helps identify the ecosystems that are most critical for biodiversity conservation, research, management and human well-being into the future. The relevance of the GET was highlighted during Earth Observation Day at COP28 as well as in the context of a new initiative with the Group on Earth Observations to create a Global Atlas of Ecosystems.

Setting standards for ecosystem restoration

At the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Darwin, Australia, in September 2023, a new set of [Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration](#) was launched. With CEM as a key partner, the publication builds on restoration principles, standards and other guidance developed for specific biomes and restoration approaches, setting the benchmark for a shared vision of restoration for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. On the fringes of the Darwin conference, CEM co-organised the Global Forum on Ecological Restoration.

Monitoring Global Biodiversity Framework implementation

As a monitoring framework was put in place for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), in April 2023 an expert group on indicators was established. CEM's co-lead for the Red List of Ecosystems Group, Emily Nicholson, was selected as a member of the group under IUCN's observer status. At the group's first meeting in October, where the GBF's 26 headline indicators were evaluated, a key suggestion was to use the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology in national reporting for various indicators, fostering a causal connection between different targets.



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Chair: Kristen Walker Painemilla (second term)

Harmonising nature conservation and the critical social, cultural, environmental and economic justice concerns of human societies

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

In-depth analysis on the conservation role of Indigenous peoples

The August 2023 edition of CEESP's peer-reviewed journal *Policy Matters* was titled [Journeys to more equitable and effective conservation: the central role of Indigenous peoples and local communities](#). It presented a collection of seven compelling case studies, encapsulating frontline struggles for the preservation of critical biodiversity and habitats. The cases demonstrate a profound concern for community well-being, intricately linked to the health of ecosystems, and underscore the enduring relevance of Indigenous peoples' and local communities' knowledge and cultural resilience in navigating contemporary conservation challenges.

Progress on governance, equity and rights

A key focus for CEESP was advancing the Learning for Governance (LfG) initiative. A workshop in August 2023 focused on the establishment of governance structures for the LfG network, with the proposal of forming a steering committee to drive collective efforts forward. Along with the continued development of the [LfG portal](#), these accomplishments indicated significant progress in CEESP's mission to promote effective governance, equity and rights in environmental stewardship.

Prioritising people in protecting marine ecosystems

CEESP was instrumental in the creation of the [Ocean Defenders Project](#), launched at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver in February. The project aims to spotlight and support the vital work of ocean defenders while advocating for coastal community rights and well-being. Ocean defenders include individuals, groups and communities of small-scale fishers and Indigenous peoples who are actively protecting the marine environment and human rights. Unfortunately, they are often marginalised, criminalised, threatened and even murdered for their efforts to safeguard the ocean.



Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Chair: Jon Paul Rodríguez (second term)

Influencing, encouraging and assisting societies to conserve biodiversity by building knowledge on the status and threats to species

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Building capacity to assess and act on species survival

The network of [Centers for Species Survival](#) grew to include 35 staff working across 18 Centers in 12 countries in support of SSC's work to assess, plan and act. Discussions are under way with a further 30 organisations interested in partnering with SSC as Centers for Species Survival. SSC also continued to support the establishment of National Species Specialist Groups (NSSGs), organising and hosting stakeholder consultation meetings and providing guidance to those wishing to prepare proposals. During 2023, new groups were created in Kenya and Singapore, for a total of six NSSGs around the world, with groups in Spain and South Africa under discussion.

Taking a position on the role of botanic gardens, zoos and aquariums

The result of a deeply collaborative three-year process involving expert input and public consultation, 2023 saw the publication of an [IUCN SSC statement on the role of botanic gardens, aquariums and zoos in species conservation](#). The document outlines SSC's position on the roles played by these institutions in the conservation of species and their genetic diversity, urges them to achieve their potential in ensuring that animals, fungi and plants thrive in the wild, and encourages the global species conservation community to work in a collaborative and integrated fashion towards reversing biodiversity declines.

Guidance on human-wildlife conflict

In 2023, SSC published the first edition of [IUCN guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence](#). The guidelines provide foundations and principles for good practice, with clear, practical guidance on how best to tackle conflicts – which are becoming more frequent, serious and widespread worldwide – and enable coexistence with wildlife.



WCEL

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
COMMISSION MONDIALE DE DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
COMISIÓN MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

Chair: Christina Voigt (first term)

Advancing environmental law to strengthen the legal foundations of conservation of nature and sustainable development

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Putting science at the service of international law

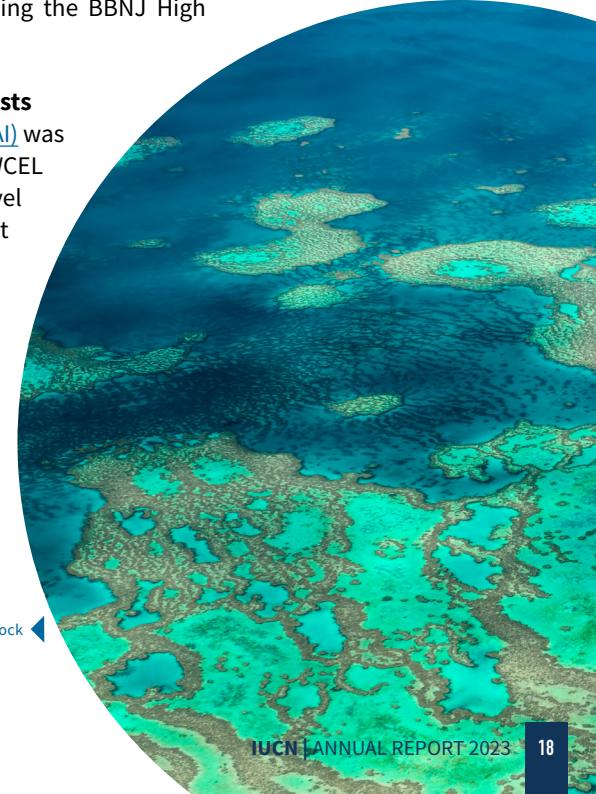
WCEL provided advisory opinions in three international courts during 2023. [The first was to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea](#), relating to state responsibilities regarding the ocean, of great importance to small island developing states. The other two related to cases at the [International Court of Justice](#) and the [Inter-American Court on Human Rights](#), both concerning state obligations with respect to the climate crisis. A WCEL webinar in January 2023 summarised IUCN's contributions to these three proceedings.

Equipping negotiation teams with legal briefings

As IUCN stepped into international negotiations towards a treaty on plastic pollution, WCEL issued [briefings for negotiators](#) on topics such as multilateral environmental agreements and the legal process for treaty negotiations. WCEL also contributed to IUCN's policy brief regarding the BBNJ High Seas Treaty, agreed in March 2023.

Partnering on a legal framework for forests

The [Model Forest Act Initiative \(MoFAI\)](#) was launched in New York in July 2023, with WCEL as one of its main partners. It is a novel effort aimed at developing a legal toolkit for policymakers, legislators and other stakeholders to design and enhance legal frameworks for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.



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World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Chair: Madhu Rao (first term)

Developing knowledge-based policy, advice and guidance on the full suite of issues surrounding protected areas

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting Target 3 implementation

WCPA has been forging alliances to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which involves the commitment to conserve 30% of the Earth's surface by 2030. The Commission has developed technical guidance including a [comprehensive Target 3 Guide](#), in partnership with WWF and GEF, and a [detailed online toolkit](#), in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. WCPA has also been building implementation capacity through national and regional dialogues in addition to creating new task forces for the other two area-based conservation targets, Target 1 on spatial planning and Target 2 on restoration.

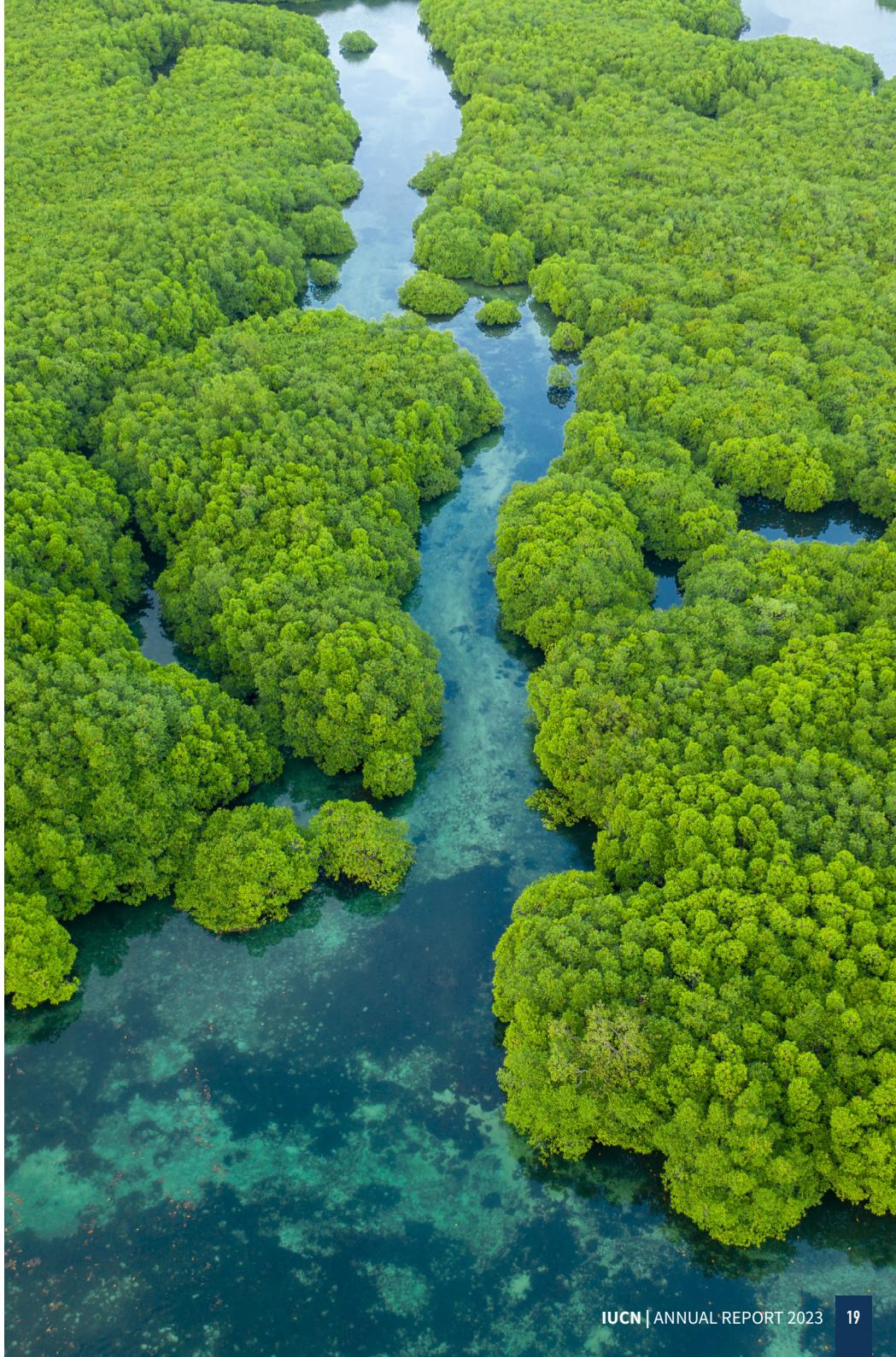
Clarity on OECMs

In a context where achievement of Target 3 of the GBF will require contributions from areas beyond formally protected areas, WCPA has contributed extensively to improving awareness and knowledge of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). 2023 was an active and demanding year for the Commission's OECM Specialist Group, with heightened global interest from countries seeking to recognise OECMs to meet their Target 3 goals. A significant achievement was the publication of a [site-level tool for identifying OECMs](#), responding to the need for a clear, criteria-based instrument.

Rangers as planetary health workers

WCPA collaborated with the Universal Ranger Support Alliance in providing policy advice and developed a new framework, [Rangers for 30 by 30](#), as guidance for governments, agencies, donors and NGOs to implement Target 3 of the GBF. Further, [a new publication](#) outlined the need for global leaders across multiple sectors to recognise the profession of rangers as essential planetary health workers who should be positioned more effectively within global conservation and environmental policy mechanisms. WCPA members contributed to a high-level workshop for donors and governments on protected area personnel and rangers (Brussels, Belgium, September 2023) and with capacity presentations and workshops at the first Asian Ranger Forum (Guwahati, India, December 2023).

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SECRETARIAT

The IUCN Secretariat works to achieve the vision of the Union's membership. The Secretariat includes over 1,000 staff working in over 40 countries.

IUCN's headquarters are in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland, and there are regional, outposted, country and project offices around the world. In addition to contributing knowledge and undertaking convening and capacity-building work, the Secretariat manages projects worldwide and coordinates support services to Members and Commissions.

Through the work of the IUCN Centres, the Secretariat supports the implementation of the policy work and the Programme of IUCN.

The Corporate Services Group is responsible for constituency support, strategic partnerships and donor relations, communications, human resources, legal, finance, global convenings and events, and knowledge and information management.

IUCN Centres

To support the delivery of the Nature 2030 Programme, three Centres were created in the IUCN Secretariat, reflecting the pillars of sustainable development – environmental sustainability, economic feasibility and social equity. These are underpinned by a fourth new Centre focused on science and data and the already-established Centre for International Policy.

Centre for Conservation Action

Oversees IUCN's work on biomes, including global efforts on land, oceans and species. This Centre works directly with regional teams to drive conservation and policy action on the ground and apply state-of-the-art knowledge to improve conservation planning, monitoring and results.

Centre for Economy and Finance

Oversees efforts to mobilise and redirect the resources needed to meet the global targets on biodiversity and climate change. Through the creation of new business models and economic analysis, the Centre makes the case for investing in nature with the public and private sectors.

Centre for Society and Governance

Responsible for institutional, legal and collaborative efforts aimed at empowering and protecting the rights of a wide range of stakeholders, especially traditionally marginalised communities, women and girls, Indigenous peoples, local communities and youth.

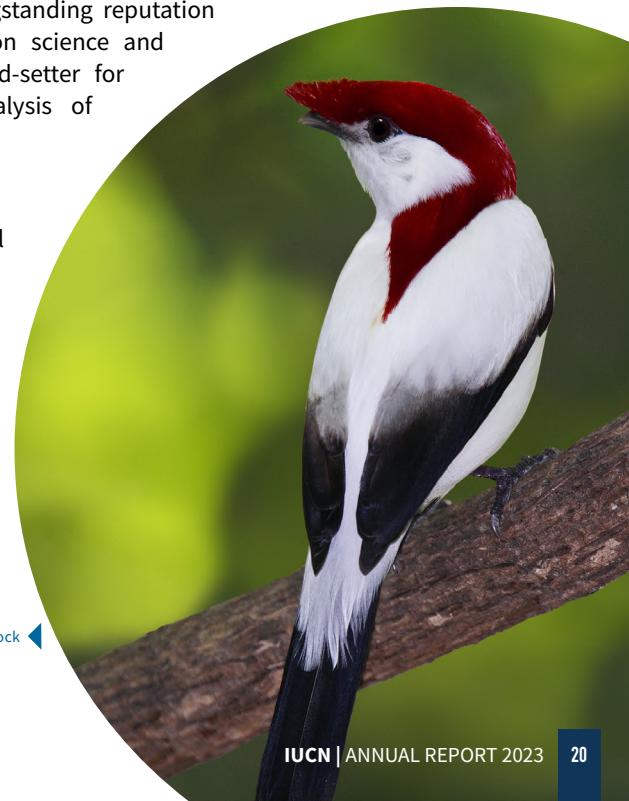
Centre for Science and Data

Strives to further develop IUCN's longstanding reputation as a global authority on conservation science and knowledge, and as a global standard-setter for the collection, assessment and analysis of biodiversity-related data.

International Policy Centre

Works with the IUCN Director General to enhance the Union's policy work and impact, guiding engagement in multilateral processes and international environmental forums to ensure the provision of sound policy and technical advice to negotiators and key stakeholders.

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IUCN OFFICES

45
OFFICES IN
40
COUNTRIES



IUCN Project Offices are not represented on the map

COUNCIL

The IUCN Council is the Union's principal governing body in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress, the General Assembly of the Union's Members.

Subject to the authority, direction and policy of the Congress, the role of the IUCN Council is to set strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union; provide oversight and guidance on the performance of the components of the Union as a whole and of the Director General in particular; and to fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities to the Members and render account to them.

Back in 2022, the Council defined five key priorities on which it committed to deliver by 2025. These included:

1. Strengthening the governance of IUCN, and increasing the level of membership participation and confidence in the decision process
2. Developing a 20-year Strategic Vision for IUCN, including a financial strategy, that receives the support from all its constituent parts
3. Implementing the [Resolutions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)
4. Increasing Member engagement and satisfaction
5. Improving IUCN's influence on the global agenda and mobilising IUCN's constituents in order to secure high-ambition conservation goals



IUCN President, Director General and Council members at the Castle of Fontainebleau, France for the 110th Council meeting and celebration of the 75th anniversary of IUCN's founding in 1948 in the same building, November 2023 © Mohamed Bin Zayed Fund for Species Conservation

Members of Council

President

Treasurer

Chairs of the Commissions

28 Councillors elected from the Regions

Indigenous Councillor (appointed)

Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland)



IUCN President Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak addressing UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, UAE, December 2023 © Sean Soutey

2023 Highlights

- Following the departure of Director General Bruno Oberle at the end of June, and a short transition period with Gretel Aguilar as Acting Director General, the Council appointed Dr Aguilar as Director General during a virtual meeting in October 2023.
- At the occasion of the 108th Council meeting held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in January 2023, and thanks to the generous support from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Fund for Species Conservation, a first ever “All-Commission meeting” took place bringing together Steering Committee members from all seven IUCN Commissions and a team from the Secretariat. The objective was to align actions of the Commissions to collectively contribute to the 20-year Strategic Vision.
- At its 109th meeting in May, following a thorough selection process, the Council accepted the offer from the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi to host the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 9 to 15 October 2025.
- November saw a high-level celebratory event, co-organised by IUCN and France, at the Castle of Fontainebleau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of IUCN’s founding in this prestigious setting in 1948, concluding a series of celebrations in many regions and held alongside the 110th Council meeting. The roundtables on the theme of



Mangroves in the United Arab Emirates © Salim Javed

conservation and restoration in the next 20 years and IUCN’s role can be viewed on IUCN’s website in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). The Council focused on developing IUCN’s 20-year Strategic Vision through stimulating discussions with, among others, Professor Johan Rockström, Dr Kate Raworth, Professor Jeffrey Sachs and IUCN Vice-President Ramiro Batzín Chojoj on the global transformations needed for the successful future of our planet and IUCN’s role.

- In December, IUCN Members voted in favour of the proposed amendments to the Statutes elaborated by the Advisory Group established by the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress and endorsed by the Council, making the Congress henceforth a fully hybrid event where IUCN Members will discuss and vote either in person or virtually. The proposals also made the supreme governing body of IUCN more agile.
- Pursuing one of its priority objectives of improving IUCN’s influence on the global agenda, the Council welcomed the excellent policy and advocacy work based on quality and timely position papers, and the exceptional mobilisation of Secretariat, Commissions, IUCN Members, the President and Council members during numerous multilateral events culminating at the UNFCCC COP28 on climate change.



Tiofilosi Tiueti, Minister for Finance, Revenue and Customs, Kingdom of Tonga, Ayshka Najib, Climate Activist, Fridays for Future MAPA, Fridah Githuku, Executive Director, GROOTS Kenya, H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, IUCN President and COP28 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, H.E. The Chhun Hak, Director General, Gender Equality and Economic Development, Ministry of Women, Cambodia © IUCN

02 NATURE 2030

IN ACTION



© Monica Volpin/Pixabay

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

IUCN LEADERS FORUM 2023

Aligning leaders and changemakers towards the global goals for nature



Lucy Mulenkei, Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network (IIN) © IUCN / SmartCuts

spoke about the importance of including Indigenous and local communities in planning and implementing conservation action on the ground. There was also strong participation from the business community, with over 120 private sector representatives in attendance, including 20 senior sustainability leaders. Sessions were focused on incentivising the business sector to engage in conserving nature and developing partnerships to stimulate finance for conservation programmes at national and global levels.

Participants agreed that attaining the goals of the GBF will require contributions from across all of society, including governments, business and the finance sector, but will require especially the involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

During the event, IUCN President Razan Al Mubarak unveiled the Ocean Breakthroughs – a new global marine conservation and climate action initiative.

Financial support for the event was provided by the Royal Commission for AlUla, the Government of Switzerland, Anglo American, BNP Paribas, Deloitte, Jeju Province, Société Générale, and Woori Group, helping to ensure the success of the event and particularly the attendance of young changemakers.

“The Leaders Forum is very very important. It has brought different key players, it has brought government, private sector, it has also brought the youth, women, and Indigenous peoples and local communities. Putting all these ideas together really makes such a big difference, and listening to each other – those voices are very very important.

Lucy Mulenkei, Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network (IIN)

**450+ PARTICIPANTS
ONSITE**

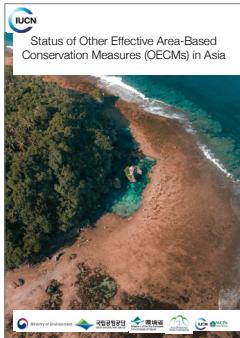
**75 | HIGH-LEVEL
SPEAKERS**

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

CONVENINGS AROUND THE WORLD

Numerous dialogues and workshops convened around the world throughout 2023 once again demonstrated IUCN's unparalleled global reach and influence, creating constructive spaces for multi-stakeholder collaboration and leveraging the Union's tools and knowledge. Three examples are presented here.

OECM workshops in Asia



A series of national dialogues throughout 2023 served to familiarise stakeholders in Asia with Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), a critical tool for achieving the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Organised by the IUCN Asia Regional Office and the Protected and Conserved Areas Team, workshops were held in Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam, with support from Ministries and government agencies from the four countries, and other partners (GIZ, UK-led Global Ocean Alliance and WWF). A [report](#) on the status of OECMs in Asia has been released and includes coverage of countries in the Asia Protected Areas Partnership.

Dialogue on NbS in Central Asia



Decision-makers, policy leaders, experts and practitioners from Central Asia discussed the role of policy and regulation in facilitating large-scale NbS deployment and strategies for addressing the impacts of climate-induced natural disasters through landscape restoration and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Strengthening grant-making practices

An [IUCN workshop](#) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2023 allowed over 55 grantee participants to share their experiences with grant-making, including good practices and lessons learned. Organised by the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) and IUCN European Regional Offices, the workshop's participants came from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions, and European Overseas Countries and Territories. Part of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Action Component and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas (BEST) programmes, this innovative pilot initiative was an inspiring experience for knowledge sharing and set the ground for future exchanges.



© IUCN

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

IUCN's influence and impact in prioritised international policy processes continued to grow in 2023. The Director General, President and other members of the wider IUCN leadership team participated as keynote speakers, panellists and expert contributors across several important international gatherings. IUCN delegations provided inputs to United Nations processes and addressed topics such as climate change, water, plastic pollution and more.

United Nations Water Conference

New York, March

The UN Water Conference was the organisation's first to focus on water in almost 50 years. It provided an opportunity for the global community to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, as well as other water-related goals and targets. Led by the Director General, IUCN's delegation participated actively, demonstrating the Union's expertise and impact in the areas of water governance, transboundary waters and Nature-based Solutions.

An [IUCN@UN Water Conference](#) website provided briefs on key resolutions and information on priority conference engagements. In addition to delivering an official statement to the plenary, IUCN led a knowledge dialogue, an official virtual side event, on "Water, Climate and Biodiversity: Managing Freshwater Ecosystems for Multiple Benefits".



© UN Web TV

UN General Assembly and SDG Summit

New York, September

This gathering at the United Nations marked the halfway point to the deadline set for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IUCN released the report "[Seven years to save nature and people: a proposed set of policies and actions for the SDG Summit](#)". It provided an account of progress on the four nature-related SDGs – for clean water and sanitation, climate action, life below water, and life on land – based on IUCN-derived data and presenting a set of actions to accelerate progress to meet the SDGs by 2030, supporting the UN Secretary-General's Rescue Plan for People and Planet. During the ministerial segment, IUCN Acting Director General Gretel Aguilar delivered one of the few statements to mention the role of nature and the environment in securing a sustainable future for all.



© IUCN / Jose Hong

The UN General Assembly saw 82 nations [formally signing the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty](#). The treaty, the creation of which was supported by IUCN, had been adopted at the UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Inter-Governmental Conference in June 2023.



We have no future unless we urgently take steps to protect nature.

Dr Gretel Aguilar, IUCN Director General

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP28

Dubai, UAE, November/December



© IUCN / Jose Hong

Nature received unprecedented attention at COP28, where IUCN was highly visible, with the Council, Commissions, Members and Secretariat coming together powerfully to speak with a united voice.

Key COP28 decisions, including on the [First Global Stocktake](#) of the Paris Agreement, clearly recognised the importance of integrated action on climate and biodiversity, the key contribution of nature and Nature-based Solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation, and the vital role of Indigenous peoples.

IUCN's delegation was actively engaged on several initiatives and partnerships, including the expansions of the [ENACT Partnership](#), the [Freshwater Challenge](#),



© UN Web TV

Ocean Breakthroughs and the [Mangrove Breakthrough](#). IUCN successfully launched the [Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative](#), the [Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables \(GINGR\)](#) and [Act30](#), and supported the [Global Call to Action](#) on gender and environment data. COP28 also marked the release of the [IUCN Red List Update](#).

IUCN President Razan Al Mubarak, who is also the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion from the UAE COP28 Presidency, played a major role at the conference.

Home of the Union

A high point for IUCN at COP28 was the hosting of a dedicated [Unite for Nature](#) pavilion. Serving as the “Home of the Union”, the pavilion hosted 77 events and ten receptions over the two weeks of the conference, powerfully amplifying the Union’s policy messages and work on nature and climate.



Home of the Union Pavilion at UNFCCC COP28 © IUCN

“Today’s update to the IUCN Red List shows the power of coordinated local, national and international conservation efforts. Success stories such as that of the scimitar horned oryx show that conservation works. To ensure the results of conservation action are durable, we need to decisively tackle the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises.

Razan Al Mubarak, IUCN President

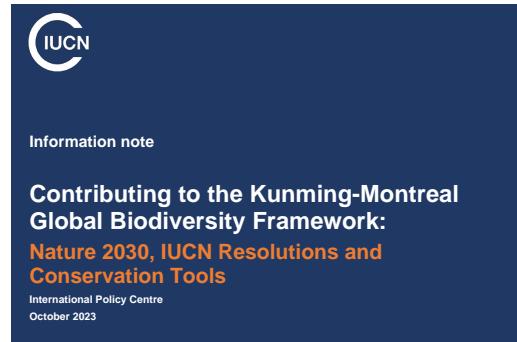
Enhancing implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework

IUCN actively participated in the global effort to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Published early in 2023, [Contributing to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Nature 2030, IUCN Resolutions and Conservation Tools](#) links the IUCN Programme's ambitions, impact targets and associated actions to the GBF's 2030 global targets. The paper also presents contributions of IUCN's knowledge products and tools for the implementation and monitoring of the GBF. As a leading provider of biodiversity knowledge, IUCN contributed to determining the scientific and technical needs for implementation. Experts attended intersessional meetings, including the Convention on Biological Diversity's scientific body and the working group that addresses the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Stepping into policy processes on plastics, waste and pollution

With discussions on a global plastics treaty kicking off in 2023, [IUCN engaged strongly](#) in the negotiations, issuing policy briefs and hosting side events during the meetings. This work was also linked to the chemical and waste agendas, where the Union successfully achieved observer status to the relevant conventions. IUCN delegations thus participated in the Conference of the Parties meetings for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions, which focus respectively on trafficking of hazardous waste, trade in hazardous chemicals, and persistent organic pollutants.

With input from the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), IUCN brought to the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (Bonn, Germany, September) strong messages on nature conservation and international biodiversity goals and targets, providing legal expertise and scientific inputs. The conference successfully adopted a Global Framework on Chemicals.



Improving the conservation impact of World Heritage sites

IUCN's new [World Heritage Strategy](#) was launched, with a focus on supporting the World Heritage Convention, and current and potential World Heritage sites, to make the greatest conservation impact, including maximising their contribution to the achievement of global goals for nature conservation. In the context of the strategy roll-out and further to IUCN advice, the World Heritage Committee has enlarged natural World Heritage areas by more than 100 million hectares. This 29% increase translates into a major set of new commitments for the conservation of geological heritage and biodiversity, representing a major global step forward in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.



Supporting India's G20 presidency

IUCN served as a technical resource organisation for India's presidency of the G20 throughout 2023, taking several opportunities to support engagements on nature and sustainability. IUCN prepared and presented inputs for several G20 meetings throughout the year, for example, on enabling finance to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (for the Sustainable Finance Working Group) and on the blue economy and marine biodiversity (for the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group).

Mount Kilimanjaro in Morning light, Amboseli, Kenya © Adobe stock



SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

In 2023, IUCN registered around 1.7 million document downloads from the IUCN Library System.

There were 19 new IUCN ISBN publications and 11 translations of IUCN ISBN publications in 2023. Seventeen of these 30 publications were developed with IUCN Members or Commissions.

IUCN ISBN publications released in 2023 with most online attention



IUCN SSC guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence



The IUCN Urban Nature Indexes

Methodological framework and key indicators



Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)



Intégrer la biodiversité dans les secteurs économiques prioritaires

Leçons tirées de l'évaluation des principales menaces dans 16 pays pilotes BIODEV2030



What can communities teach us? Indigenous and local knowledge for mountain conservation



These Altmetric Attention Scores were captured on 29 January 2024. The live Altmetric Attention Score for these publications may fluctuate, and the most up-to-date data is available on the publication page.

Top 5 IUCN ISBN publications downloaded in 2023



Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories

Including IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types

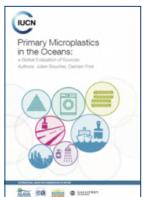


42,326 downloads



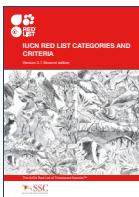
Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development

14,963 downloads



Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources

28,867 downloads



IUCN Red List categories and criteria Version 3.1, second edition

14,611 downloads



IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions

A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS



27,008 downloads

IUCN PUBLICATIONS REACHED

11,595 | ONLINE MENTIONS

5,009
MENTIONS ON X

3,406
MENTIONS ON WIKIPEDIA

705
MENTIONS IN NEWS OUTLETS

1.7 MILLION | DOCUMENTS DOWNLOADED

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & PUBLICATIONS

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Using IUCN Standards to generate global scale datasets to help identify and address the most pressing nature conservation challenges

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™



The [IUCN Red List](#) is the world's most trusted information source on global species biodiversity and the gold standard for identifying threatened species. Produced with the active participation and support of the Red List Partnership, it includes the Green Status of Species tool, which assesses the recovery of species populations, measuring conservation success.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Release of the global update to IUCN Red List at UNFCCC COP28, including the [first comprehensive assessment of the world's freshwater fish species](#)
- Inclusion of 157,190 species, of which 44,016 are threatened with extinction, in the [IUCN Red List](#)
- Renewal of the IUCN Red List Partnership (see below), with a new governance structure consisting of a Partnership Committee and a Scientific Committee

Partnership between IUCN SSC, IUCN Secretariat, and several IUCN Members and partners: [New Mexico BioPark Society](#), [BirdLife International](#), [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#), [Center for Biodiversity Outcomes](#), [Arizona State University](#), [Conservation International](#), [Re:wild](#), [NatureServe](#), [Missouri Botanical Gardens](#), [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#), [Department of Biology and Biotechnologies](#), [Sapienza University of Rome](#), [Senckenberg Society for Nature Research](#), [Texas A&M University](#) and [The Zoological Society of London](#).



IUCN Red List of Ecosystems



The [IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#) (RLE) is a tool to assess the conservation status of ecosystems. It is based on scientific criteria for performing evidence-based analyses of the risk of ecosystem collapse. It builds on the [IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology](#) for classifying and mapping all Earth's ecosystems.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (GET) [recommended by the monitoring group for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) for use as a reference for ecosystem classification across its goals and targets
- [Adoption of the IUCN GET](#) as an international statistical classification initiated by the UN committee responsible for international statistical classifications (UNCEISC)
- The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems [broadly used across Africa for the design and management of protected areas](#)

The RLE Partnership is comprised of IUCN CEM, IUCN Secretariat, [University of New South Wales](#), [Deakin University](#), [Arizona State University](#), [Provita](#), [Wildlife Conservation Society](#), [Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean \(Cordio\)](#) East Africa and [Conservación Internacional Colombia](#).



IUCN Global Invasive Species Database and Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species

The [Global Invasive Species Database](#) (GISD) is a searchable source of information about alien and invasive species that negatively impact biodiversity. It also incorporates impact assessments conducted using the IUCN Standard for classifying the impact of alien species on the environment, EICAT (Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa). The [Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species](#) (GRIIS) presents validated checklists of alien and alien invasive species.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,071 invasive alien species accounted for in the GISD, with EICAT assessments for 182; 38 of these approved and published in 2023
- Close to 400 national and sub-national checklists of alien and invasive species presented in the GRIIS
- Assessment report on invasive alien species, covering risk from 3,500 species, [launched at the tenth plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#).

GISD is managed by the ISSG of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Until 2014, the GISD was hosted by the [University of Auckland](#), New Zealand. The GISD has been redesigned with support from the [Abu Dhabi Environment Agency](#), [the Italian Ministry of Environment](#) and [ISPRA – Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research](#). GRIIS is also managed and maintained by the IUCN SSC ISSG GRIIS unit based in New Zealand on behalf of the CBD-established [GIASI Partnership \(Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership\)](#).



Protected Planet



The [Protected Planet](#) initiative, from IUCN and managed by UNEP-WCMC, provides key resources to help understand the current state of protected and conserved areas globally. It encompasses the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and other associated databases and indicators.

Protected Planet intersects with several IUCN knowledge products and standards, incorporating data on the IUCN Green List Standard and its use, and the ongoing application of IUCN protected area management categories and governance types.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 13,500 new protected areas and OECMs added to Protected Planet.
- Major progress on redeveloping the Protected Planet databases and processes to improve efficiency and data quality control
- New approach initiated for the integration of meaningful indicators on protected and conserved area effectiveness into Protected Planet

Protected Planet is a joint project between [UN Environment Programme](#) and [IUCN](#). The compilation and management of the databases is carried out by [UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#), in collaboration with governments, non-governmental organisations, academia and industry.



World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas



IUCN publishes the global standard for identifying [Key Biodiversity Areas](#) (KBAs), sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. IUCN co-hosts the KBA Secretariat with BirdLife International and is one of 13 global conservation organisations in the KBA Partnership.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 49 new KBAs identified, 91 sites re-assessed, boundary improvements for 70 sites and 24 legacy sites delisted as no longer meeting KBA criteria, resulting in a [total of 16,333 KBAs](#)
- [Guidance on KBAs in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) shared with CBD focal points in 85 target countries
- New KBA national coordination groups established in Guinea, Ghana, Madagascar (marine) and Fiji, bringing the total number to 27

The KBA Partnership includes [IUCN](#), [BirdLife International](#), [Conservation International](#), [Wildlife Conservation Society](#), [American Bird Conservancy](#), [Amphibian Survival Alliance](#), [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#), [Global Environment Facility](#), [NatureServe](#), [Rainforest Trust](#), [Re:wild](#), [World Wildlife Fund](#) and [RSPB](#).



Quiver tree forest, Namibia © Nhelia / Pixabay



SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & PUBLICATIONS

OTHER IUCN STANDARDS

Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™



The [Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™](#) sets a common basis of understanding for NbS and contributes to transformational changes by supporting the development of policy and improving practice. It is intended for use by anyone working on the verification, design and scaling up of NbS.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 513 new users added to the Standard's user group, for a total of 2,534
- Launch of the NbS Management Hub to provide support to IUCN Members, partners and the global community, ensuring the effective implementation of NbS
- Support provided by IUCN for the Chinese government's launch of the NbS Asian Hub to facilitate conservation and sustainable development across Asia by providing knowledge, capacity building and solutions for global challenges

The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions is developed as a collaboration between the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions, in particular the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), with input from IUCN Members and the global NbS community through public consultation, and under IUCN's Framework Partnership with France.



Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard



The [IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard](#) is the global standard for effective area-based conservation. It provides governments and site managers with a framework for assessing and improving the conservation status of their protected areas, and a way to publicly demonstrate their commitment to conservation and sustainable development. As of 2023, it encompassed 75 certified sites – including marine areas, Indigenous territories and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) – more than 50 committed countries, 300+ candidate sites and 300+ experts.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Green List Programme reach successfully extended into new areas including the Western Indian Ocean region, Central Asia region, South Africa, Chile, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Green List Standard integrated as a metric for evaluating investment effectiveness for Marine Protected Areas in Belize, as part of the [Belize Blue Bond](#)
- First Green List Forum, held in December in South Africa, bringing together 100+ participants from more than 30 countries to conduct a strategic review of the programme in preparation for COP16 of the CBD

The Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is owned by IUCN and developed according to [ISEAL principles](#). An independent review panel is appointed by the IUCN Director General, as part of an overall assurance mechanism to guarantee credibility of the Green List. IUCN's [World Commission on Protected Areas \(WCPA\)](#) appoints the Green List Standards Committee, which oversees the review and maintenance of the IUCN Green List Standard.



SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & PUBLICATIONS

DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

IUCN hosts or supports a range of other tools providing access to valuable global datasets.

IUCN Contributions for Nature Platform



Mandated by the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme, the [Contributions for Nature Platform](#) allows all IUCN constituents – Members, National, Regional and Inter-regional Committees, Commission members and the Secretariat – to document conservation and restoration actions over the decade 2021–2030. This documentation is used to measure potential contributions towards global goals for biodiversity, specifically extinction risk reduction and climate change mitigation.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Platform received 9,874 contributions from 139 IUCN constituents by end of 2023; contributions used to inform the first report of the ENACT Partnership
- Conservation actions with the potential to deliver almost 20% of the global goal of extinction risk reduction documented; restoration actions covering 15.4 million hectares and having the potential to deliver a further 10% also documented
- Start of work on overhauling platform's user interface and on incorporation of data to allow calculation of potential contributions from avoided CO₂ emissions

PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet



[PANORAMA](#) is a global knowledge exchange initiative that provides an open, neutral platform to document and promote examples of inspiring, replicable solutions across a range of conservation and sustainable development topics. PANORAMA promotes solutions across different themes through dedicated communities, each coordinated by one or several partner organisations.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 194 new solution case studies published
- PANORAMA methodology used to support knowledge capture and exchange for grant programmes, including BEST, BIOPAMA and IKI Small Grants
- Additional funding of €3 million secured from BMUV; greatly improved new version of the PANORAMA web platform launched in beta form at COP28

Secretariat-led with the support of partners, including [GIZ](#), [UNEP](#), [GRID-Arendal](#), [Rare](#), [World Bank](#), [UNDP](#), [ICCROM](#), [IFOAM Organics International](#), [ICOMOS](#), [EcoHealth Alliance](#), [OCTO](#). Supported by funding from Germany's [BMUV](#), Norway's [Ministry of Climate and Environment](#) and the [Global Environment Facility](#).

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)



IUCN is part of the [IBAT Alliance](#), whose website offers a ‘one-stop shop’ data search service for those seeking authoritative global biodiversity information. Licensees can use its web-based mapping and reporting tool to access datasets including The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, World Database on Protected Areas and World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- USD 1.2 million invested back into biodiversity datasets, marking the first time IBAT investment has passed USD 1 million in a year
- 296 organisations contributed to biodiversity data through either subscriptions or Pay As You Go, more than 50% growth from last year
- IBAT featured as a key tool by the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosures to help companies navigate the Locate component of the LEAP framework; collaboration between IBAT and TNFD to create an integrated and open access version of the IBAT map
- Over 22,000 registered accounts on the IBAT platform, an almost 50% increase from the previous year

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) is an Alliance between [IUCN](#), [BirdLife International](#), [Conservation International](#) and [UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#).

Restoration Barometer



The [IUCN Restoration Barometer](#) is a tool to track the progress of restoration targets across all terrestrial ecosystems, including coastal and inland waters. Based on core principles of flexibility and inclusivity, it is currently the only such tool used by national and sub-national governments.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Officially designated as a monitoring tool for [Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework on ecosystem restoration](#)
- Collaboration initiated with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s Forest Ecosystem Restoration Mechanism (FERM) to enhance Target 2 monitoring
- Scope widened to include additional ecosystems such as shallow reefs and kelp forests, reinforcing the Restoration Barometer’s role as a comprehensive ecosystem restoration monitoring tool

Secretariat-led with the support of Germany’s [Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection \(BMUV\)](#).

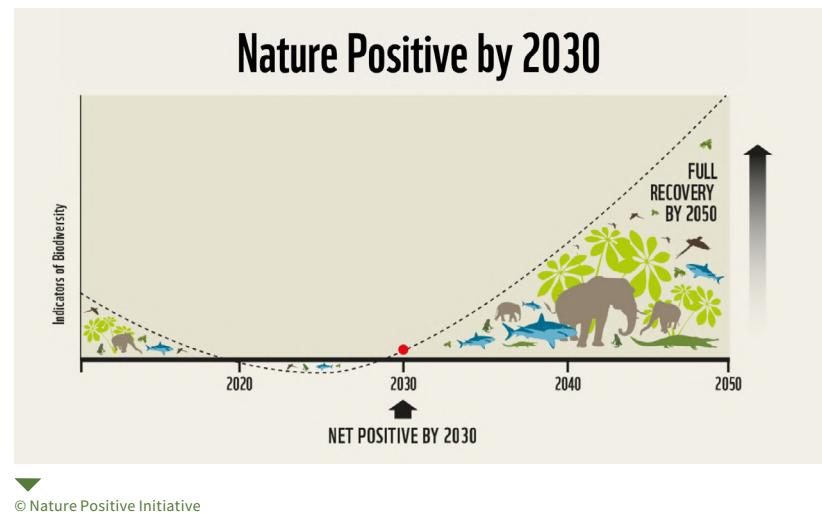
Nature Positive



Following the launch in 2023 of the [Nature Positive Initiative](#), IUCN has been developing an approach to set and deliver verified, robust targets for species and ecosystems within a Nature-Positive framework. In view of the important role that the private sector has in affecting the future of biodiversity, IUCN has focused this approach on enabling companies to identify and deliver these contributions.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Measuring Nature Positive document sent out for consultation in December 2023
- Technical paper [Nature positive for business: Developing a common approach](#) published by IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) to provide businesses with a better understanding of approaches that can contribute to the global goal of Nature-Positive



IUCN'S PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF **969** MILLION
IN 143 COUNTRIES

CHF **263** MILLION
IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

490 PROJECTS

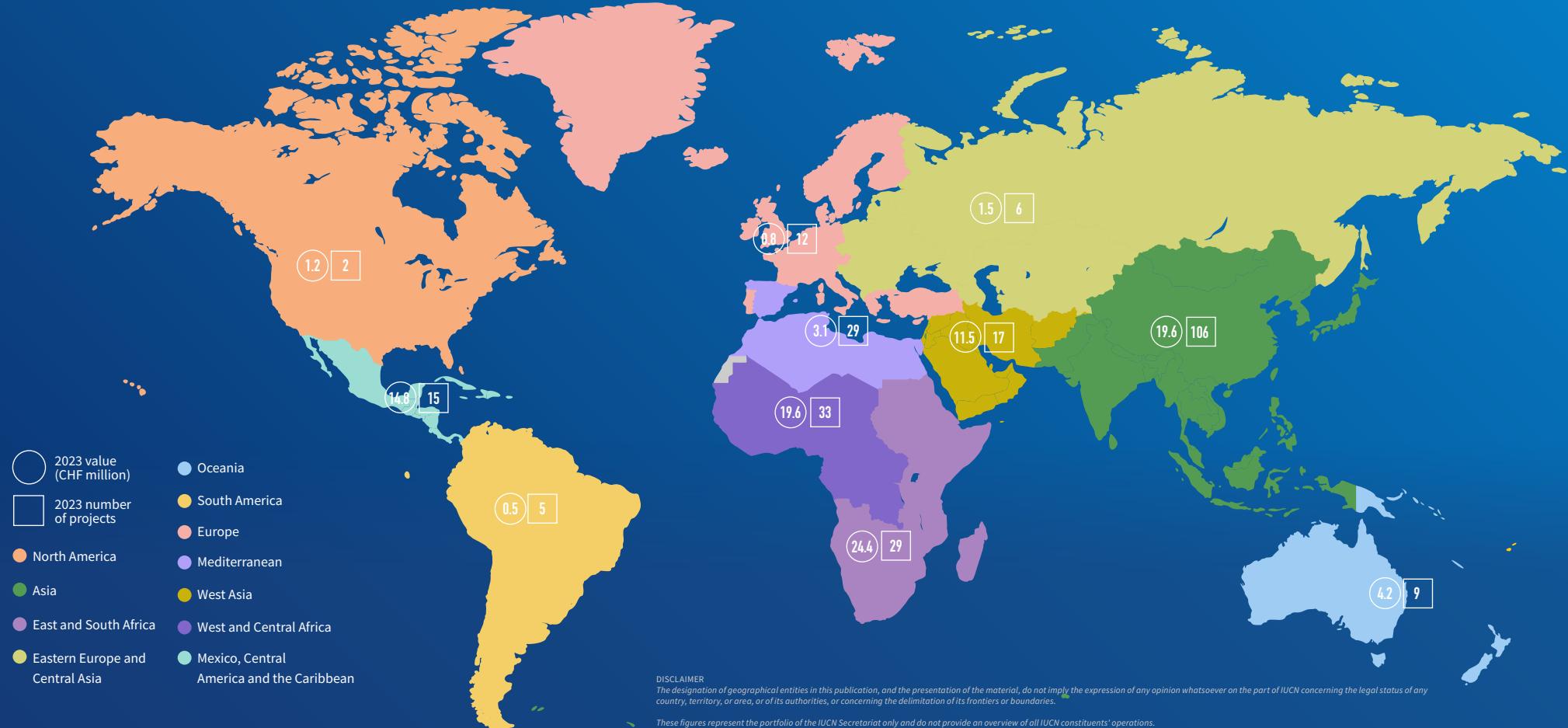
73.9	158	Global
11.5	32	Centre for Economy and Finance
13.4	20	Centre for Society and Governance
0.04	1	International Policy Centre

41.1	60	Centre for Conservation Action
6.2	41	Centre for Science and Data

1.6	4	Others (NbS management Hub, Headquarters units)
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2023 VALUE

CHF **175** MILLION | **421** PROJECTS



Portfolio annual distribution



GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)



GREEN CLIMATE FUND
6 ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2023
CHF 17.7 MILLION 2023 VALUE
CHF 138.5 MILLION PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

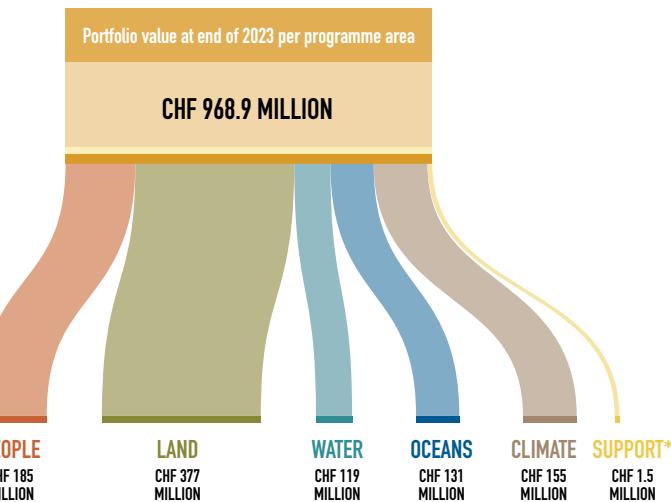
132 NEW PROJECTS SECURED IN 2023

FOR A VALUE OF CHF 162 MILLION



35 ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 2023
CHF 20.9 MILLION 2023 VALUE
CHF 139.5 MILLION PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

Distribution by Programme Area



* % of budget allocation that does not directly contribute to advancing one of the five Programme Areas.

2023 value per programme area

CHF 174.9 MILLION

PEOPLE CHF 36 MILLION
LAND CHF 74 MILLION
WATER CHF 17 MILLION
OCEANS CHF 21 MILLION
CLIMATE CHF 27 MILLION
SUPPORT CHF 0.2 MILLION

PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

PEOPLE

IUCN Nature 2030 Impact Targets



Fully realised rights, roles, obligations and responsibilities for just and inclusive conservation and sustainable use of nature



Equitable and effective governance of natural resources at all levels to benefit people and nature

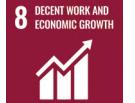


Enhanced realisation and enforcement of the environmental rule of law



© pexels.com / Vincent Tan

Contributing to the SDGs and GBF targets

THE GLOBAL GOALS	1 NO POVERTY	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
 THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN For Life on Earth								
Target 3 Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	Target 5 Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species	Target 11 Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	Target 13 Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge	Target 15 Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts	Target 16 Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption	Target 21 Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action	Target 22 Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all	Target 23 Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

Highlights

Facilitating and supporting Indigenous-led stewardship of nature

Launched at COP28, the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative recognises the central role that Indigenous peoples play in stewardship of the Earth and its resources. It will support Indigenous-led management of landscapes and seascapes in biodiversity hotspots and wilderness areas where Indigenous peoples and local communities hold customary or statutory tenure rights.

The Podong initiative has four priorities: to facilitate the Indigenous-led design of direct funding approaches; to scale up direct investment in Indigenous-led conservation and climate actions; to strengthen and build the capacity of Indigenous organisations to access, manage and govern such investments; and to promote Indigenous rights and leadership, particularly of women and youth, in global biodiversity and climate policy spaces.

Specific targets include mobilising biodiversity and climate finance, up to USD 200 million from 2023 to 2030, and ensuring that Indigenous women and young girls constitute at least 50% of the overall stakeholders in the initiative.

“The initiative brings together our wisdom, science and knowledge systems to strengthen the work our communities are currently doing to heal Mother Nature,” said Ramiro Batzín Chojoj, IUCN Vice President and focal point for Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations. “It will ensure that a minimum of 85% of all funds are delivered directly to Indigenous peoples, enhancing their means to safeguard their lands and territories, secure their rights, reduce the impacts of climate change, and contribute to global efforts to use, manage and conserve Mother Nature.”



Signing of the letter of commitment between IUCN, IUCN Indigenous Peoples’ Organisation Members, and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) to work together on the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative © IUCN



© IUCN / Juan Carlos Huayllapuma

Tapping into diverse perspectives and experiences on environmental defenders

A consultation process among IUCN Members and its Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) resulted in contributions to the design of the [“Regional Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean”](#). The tool will be submitted for approval at the third Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement in April 2024. During November and December 2023, the Regional Membership Committees of Mesoamerica, the Caribbean and South America, the CEC, and the Regional Office of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC), held six virtual sessions, involving 89 people from 16 countries. “This joint effort highlights the importance of the articulated work between the three pillars of the Union for the promotion of sustainable and equitable development, where the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters is essential to achieve a harmonious balance between nature conservation and respect for the fundamental rights of communities,” said Úrsula Parrilla, IUCN Regional Director.

CHF 185 MILLION | PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF 36 MILLION | 2023 VALUE

Ensuring younger voices speak up and are heard

Implementation of IUCN's Youth Strategy took a major step forward in 2023 with the constitution of a Youth Advisory Committee for the Union, with support from the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). The new body differs from other committees because it is driven and led by youth - it is formed solely of youth representatives appointed through a youth-led process.

IUCN committed to enabling and supporting but not driving the effort. Representatives from the Commissions, the Secretariat and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations had all been appointed by the end of the year, with representatives from the IUCN Members set to complete the committee.

There was strong youth participation at the IUCN Leaders Forum 2023 through the [Changemakers programme](#), which brought together young leaders and innovators who were designing or implementing innovative nature conservation or biodiversity action projects in their communities. Each day of the Forum, speakers selected from a pool of over 3,500 young entrepreneurs around the world highlighted innovative solutions to some of the most complex sustainable development challenges of our time. Each speaker gave a pitch, followed by questions from a panel and the audience, comprising global leaders from the private sector, government and civil society.

IUCN also continues to support the participation of youth leaders in global negotiation processes, particularly at the climate COP, where in 2023 the participation of six young leaders was funded. Earlier in the year, IUCN played a key role in the launch of the new Global Environment Facility (GEF) youth initiative at the GEF Assembly, in Vancouver, Canada, in August, further advancing implementation of the IUCN Youth Strategy.



Franziska Trautmann, Glass Half Full, one of the changemakers at the IUCN Leaders Forum 2023 © IUCN / SmartCuts

Understanding and addressing the links between gender and the environment

A new call for proposals was issued under the Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge. In a boost to IUCN's work to address gender-based violence in environmental programming and climate-vulnerable contexts, existing funding from USAID was bolstered with [additional funding from NORAD](#), enabling an enlarged call for proposals to be issued. The call will result in a new cohort of RISE grantees contributing to addressing interlinked global goals of eradicating gender-based violence and securing a healthy and peaceful planet.

"With the RISE grants challenge, IUCN is pinpointing the perhaps most fundamental constraint for women's participation in the environment and climate space. Yet, gender-based violence has been absent from most discussions regarding environment and climate action," said Per Frederik Pharo, Director of Climate and Environment, NORAD. "We truly appreciate IUCN's ground-breaking work and believe that the coupling of women's organisations and environmental organisations can bear fruit both locally and globally. We are proud to support and help scale the RISE grants challenge."

IUCN was a co-host of the [Global Conference on Gender and Environment](#) that preceded COP28 in Dubai. The event closed with a call for action to all world leaders, policymakers and other key actors to strengthen the production, uptake, financing and inclusive governance of global data on gender and environment. Climate policy and action cannot address the critical needs of women and girls without a full understanding of the links between gender and the environment, and this cannot happen without abundant and reliable data and statistics that can be incorporated into global climate negotiations.



We truly appreciate IUCN's ground-breaking work and believe that the coupling of women's organisations and environmental organisations can bear fruit both locally and globally.

Per Frederik Pharo, Director of Climate and Environment, NORAD

PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

LAND

IUCN Nature 2030 Impact Targets



Ecosystems are retained and restored, species are conserved and recovered, and KBAs are safeguarded.



Thriving production landscapes are sustainable, and nature's value and benefits are safeguarded in the long term.



Nature and people thrive in cities while delivering solutions for urban challenges and a sustainable ecological footprint.



Contributing to the SDGs and GBF targets



THE GLOBAL GOALS



1 NO
POVERTY



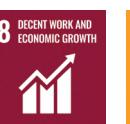
2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

Target 1

Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Target 2

Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

Target 3

Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

Target 4

Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Target 5

Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

Target 6

Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact

Target 10

Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Target 11

Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

Target 12

Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity

Target 15

Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts

Target 18

Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity

Highlights

Acting together with Indigenous peoples to achieve '30 x 30'

Act30, launched at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, is a new conservation initiative that brings together governments, Indigenous peoples, and local communities to help achieve the global goal of preserving 30% of the planet's land and water by 2030. Created by IUCN with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and technology company Esri, Act30 aims to help governments chart an effective and fair route to conserving their countries' biodiverse areas. The initiative demonstrates the commitment of IUCN and IIFB to co-design and co-implement solutions, formalised in the signing of the Podong Initiative. Act30 will use the IUCN Green List Standard and the geographic mapping tools of Esri to pinpoint high-impact, ecologically representative locations where 30% of lands and waters could be brought under conservation to deliver the maximum, long-term benefits for nature, people and biodiversity.



IUCN's Director General, Dr Grethel Aguilar, announces the launch of Act30 © IUCN

Asking who, rather than what, counts for biodiversity

A participatory 3D modelling approach was applied during a five-day exercise, led by IUCN's Regional Office for West Asia, in the Saudi Arabian oasis city of AlUla in October 2023. Women, men, rangers and chiefs of tribes all provided input on a 3D model of the Harrat Uwayrid Nature Reserve, capturing profound local knowledge about species, natural and cultural values, and ecosystem services.

A parallel Youth Media and Storytelling workshop trained 15 boys and 18 girls in written storytelling, interviewing and cellphone photography, with field visits to local heritage and natural sites to put these techniques into practice. These two activities highlighted the effective partnership between IUCN and the Royal Commission of AlUla, emphasising community participation and knowledge integration in the management of protected areas, contributing to both AlUla's development and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.



© IUCN



Act30 comes at a crucial time for biodiversity conservation. It will be Indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth who are the real changemakers. If governments work with us, we will make progress in fulfilling the Global Biodiversity Framework target.

Lucy Mulenkei, Co-Chair of IIFB and Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network (IIN), Kenya

IUCN's plan to guide global efforts to halt biodiversity loss

IUCN's [Global Species Action Plan](#), launched at a Convention on Biological Diversity subsidiary meeting in Kenya in October 2023, is a guide to the actions needed to conserve animals, fungi and plants, setting out a transformative path for countries to mitigate species decline. The plan provides guidance for governments, businesses, NGOs, academic institutions, Indigenous peoples, and local communities on actions they can take to contribute towards achieving the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework, alongside the tools and resources available to support efforts. Dr Gretel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General, described the plan as providing "*the first comprehensive roadmap by which all of society can take the critical actions needed to protect our planet's species and revive what we have lost.*"



Grandiers baobab (*Adansonia grandiflora*), Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species © Gabriel Bienzobas Fernández (CC BY-NC)

End of landmark forest governance project in Amazon

The Amazonia 2.0 project, which aimed at strengthening forest governance models and local capacities for good territorial and forest management, [came to a close in February 2023](#). Running since 2017, the project resulted in 1.5 million hectares observed using satellite imagery and 420,000 hectares monitored by Indigenous peoples – the data all combined in a GIS tool with 20+ layers of information. Furthermore, 47 governance structures were implemented through 21 institutional agreements, allowing for the effective management of the project territories and the reporting of threats. Finally, more than 2,000 people from 34 communities in the Amazon received training tailored to their needs. Amazonia 2.0 has become a benchmark for multi-stakeholder territorial interventions, leading to better planning in cooperation and grassroots-level work. It was funded by the European Union and implemented in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. IUCN Members involved included Ecociencia, Eco REDD and Fundación Natura.



© Fundación Natura / Proyecto A2.0

CHF **377** MILLION | PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF **74** MILLION | 2023 VALUE

© Shutterstock



PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

WATER

IUCN Nature 2030 Impact Targets



The loss of freshwater species and decline of freshwater ecosystem health is halted, and restoration initiated.



Equitable access to water resources and all associated ecosystem services are secured.



Water governance, law and investment decisions address the multiple values of nature and incorporate biodiversity knowledge.



Okavango Delta, Botswana © IUCN/ Peter Howard

Contributing to the SDGs and GBF targets

 THE GLOBAL GOALS	 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	 5 GENDER EQUALITY	 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	 13 CLIMATE ACTION	 15 LIFE ON LAND
 THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN <i>For Life on Earth</i>	Target 1 Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss	Target 2 Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	Target 3 Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	Target 4 Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	Target 7 Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity	Target 8 Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	Target 21 Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action
							Target 22 Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all
							Target 23 Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

Highlights

45 countries join the Freshwater Challenge

The [Freshwater Challenge](#) (FWC) is a new country-led initiative that aims to support, integrate and accelerate the restoration of 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030. Chosen as one of the official Water Outcomes of COP28, the FWC had been launched earlier in the year at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.

IUCN is one of the core partners for the FWC, along with WWF, UNEP, The Nature Conservancy, Wetlands International, Conservation International and the RAMSAR Secretariat. The challenge is key to tackling climate change as well as paving the way to a net-zero, nature-positive and resilient future for all.

The governments of the 45 countries that have signed up to the FWC, many of them also IUCN Members, will co-create freshwater solutions with Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders, including the private sector. Along with accelerating and ensuring an integrated approach to the restoration and conservation of freshwater ecosystems, the FWC will also serve to quantify existing global ambitions and account for the contributions of the different stakeholders.



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CHF 119 MILLION | PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF 17 MILLION | 2023 VALUE

Communities in Southern Africa benefit from shared water solutions

The Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe have recorded remarkable progress in building resilience against climate shocks, including floods and drought, in their shared Buzi, Pungwe and Save river basins. This was a finding of the mid-term review of the BUPUSA project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by IUCN, with Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) as the regional executing partner supporting the two governments.

Last year saw the creation of the BUPUSA Watercourses Commission to oversee the planning, development and management of water resources within the three basins. Also during 2023, the project installed hydro-meteorological equipment to provide accurate measurements of water flow, aiding decision-makers to alert communities about floods, and began risk assessments to map drought hotspots for possible interventions in hard-hit communities.

The BUPUSA project owes its existence in large part to IUCN's BRIDGE programme – Building River Dialogue and Governance – focusing on the use of diplomacy within a hydrological context between states, to help lead them towards workable solutions for sharing water.



We attribute the success of the project to the funding from GEF, the effective collaboration between IUCN and GWPSA, the long-standing, strong relations and trust between the two member states, and efficient engagement of stakeholders, who all assumed ownership of the project and commitment to transboundary cooperation.

Engineer Gilbert Mawere, Director of Water Resources Development and Utilisation in Zimbabwe's Ministry of Water

PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

OCEANS

IUCN Nature 2030 Impact Targets



The loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity is halted, and restoration initiated.



Uses of marine natural resources generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and sustain livelihood benefits for coastal communities.



Ocean and coastal processes are maintained as a key foundation for planetary stability.



Sea lion with a starfish, La Paz © Ocean Image Bank / Hannes Klostermann

Contributing to the SDGs and GBF targets



THE GLOBAL GOALS



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 4	Target 6	Target 7	Target 8	Target 9	Target 10	Target 11	Target 18	Target 21
Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss	Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact	Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity	Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People	Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry	Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity	Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

Highlights

Major achievement on management and governance of the ocean

The adoption, in June 2023, of the agreement for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), or the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty, marked the culmination of over two decades during which IUCN, as an intergovernmental observer to the negotiations, supported UN nations in the Treaty's creation.

September 2023, at the UN General Assembly, was the next step, when 82 nations signed the Treaty. In line with its goal of supporting UN member states towards ratification of the Treaty, IUCN [published a report](#) targeting professionals from governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, explaining the key provisions and important considerations in moving towards implementation.



Black sea common dolphin © Elena Gladilina

CHF 131 MILLION | PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF 17 MILLION | 2023 VALUE

From ambition to action on marine protected areas

The [5th International Marine Protected Area Congress \(IMPAC5\)](#), co-convened by IUCN, provided a unique opportunity for the global ocean community to transform the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework from bold ambition to action. The event welcomed 3,900 participants from 123 countries to Vancouver, Canada, with youth and Indigenous voices front and centre.

High-level discussions at IMPAC5 showed growing momentum for marine Nature-based Solutions and a high level of political will for their implementation. The Government of Canada [announced](#) the first major financial contribution of CAD 30 million to protect and restore ocean ecosystems in developing countries, including the Western Indian Ocean, in alignment with the [IUCN Great Blue Wall](#) initiative.

Great Blue Wall initiative supported in Moroni Declaration

The [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#), signed by several African countries during the Blue Future Ministerial Conference held in Moroni, Union of Comoros in June 2023, highlighted the importance of ocean conservation, climate action and the sustainable development of coastal communities in Africa. It specifically focuses on the unique challenges faced by African Island States and stresses the importance of the [Great Blue Wall](#) initiative, an Africa-driven roadmap supported by IUCN and targeting the role of the Western Indian Ocean to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030.

Building support on a deep sea mining moratorium

Throughout 2023, IUCN continued its campaign promoting a moratorium on deep sea mining in the face of rising demand for metals found on the deep seabed, including those used to produce wind turbines and solar panels. An additional 12 countries – Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Ireland, Monaco, Mexico, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and Vanuatu – declared their support for a moratorium in 2023, bringing the total to 25.

PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

CLIMATE

IUCN Nature 2030 Impact Targets



Countries use Nature-based Solutions and innovations in financing to scale up effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change.



Countries scale up Nature-based Solutions to reach climate mitigation targets.



Responses to climate change and its impacts are informed by scientific assessment and knowledge to avoid adverse outcomes for nature and people.



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Contributing to the SDGs and GBF targets



THE GLOBAL GOALS



5 GENDER EQUALITY



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

Target 1
Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Target 4
Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Target 8
Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

Target 14
Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level

Target 19
Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance

Target 21
Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

Highlights

Accelerating nature-based action on climate change

The [ENACT \(Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation\)](#) initiative, launched in 2022 by the Egyptian COP27 Presidency, co-chaired by Germany and with IUCN as its Secretariat, was joined by six additional states in 2023: Belgium, Pakistan, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States of America. Alongside ENACT's 13 state members, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre) became part of this growing partnership that aims to amplify and strengthen collaboration between existing Nature-based Solutions efforts and partnerships, and foster an enabling environment for NbS across the Rio Conventions.

ENACT has influenced major policy processes and was listed by the UAE COP28 Presidency in the implementation roadmap for the [2030 Climate Solutions](#), launched in Dubai as a comprehensive and coherent climate action roadmap to accelerate climate action through specific real-economy and on-the-ground solutions by 2030. Also, ENACT is part of the [COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People](#) that aims at bridging the gap between biodiversity conservation and climate action working through the planning and implementation of national plans and strategies.

CHF 155 MILLION | PORTFOLIO VALUE AT END OF 2023

CHF 27 MILLION | 2023 VALUE

Supporting climate change adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond

IUCN has partnered with the Government of Canada on its Partnering for Climate (P4C) initiative to fund projects, from civil society, Indigenous peoples and other organisations in Canada, that will support climate change adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world. CAD 315 million have been allocated to P4C, with one of the conditions being the application of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™.

To support partner organisations in applying the NbS Standard, Global Affairs Canada has entered a three-year partnership (2023–2026) to leverage IUCN's tools and expertise on NbS for climate and biodiversity, with funding of CAD 3 million. Through the [Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation: Monitoring & Impact Project](#), IUCN is providing technical support to Canada's nature-positive programming in Africa while simultaneously developing an overarching framework for gender-responsive NbS for climate adaptation with biodiversity co-benefits. The framework builds on the experience of Canadian organisations and their partners working in this field.

An energy transition that protects nature

The Global Initiative for Nature, Grids, and Renewables (GINGR) aims to empower governments, industries and the financial sector to achieve their energy, climate and biodiversity targets in a harmonious and timely manner. It was [launched by IUCN in December 2023 at COP28](#), in partnership with the Renewables Grid Initiative.

GINGR's main objective is to accelerate the deployment of renewables and electricity grids while at the same time ensuring the protection and restoration of nature. The initiative aims to provide tools and methodologies to measure the efficacy of nature-positive solutions and monitor and report progress towards set targets. It also focuses on collecting and showcasing best practices and providing capacity building to support efforts towards nature-positive infrastructure development.

At the launch event during COP28, Dr Grethel Aguilar, Director General, IUCN said: "It is vital that the transition to renewable energy systems contains protections for nature. That is why we need GINGR, to help ensure the transition helps and not harms the environment and contributes towards nature-positive goals."

03 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

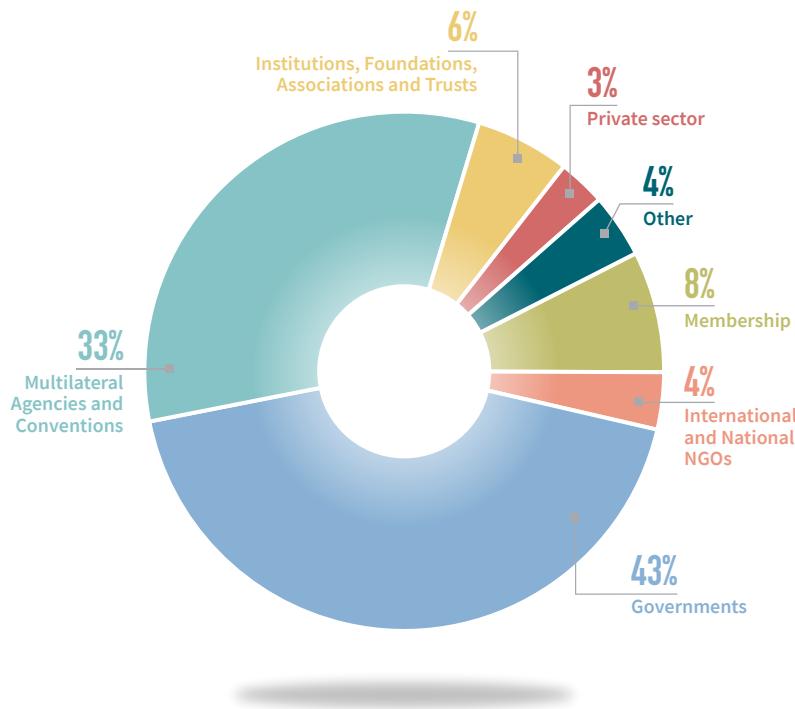
© Fayaz Ahmed Sunny / Pixabay



IUCN is grateful to its growing membership and partners, who are vital to the success of the Union's work.

2023 Funding sources

IUCN receives support from a wide variety of partners, with a total income in 2023 of CHF 178 million. This includes project income, framework income, membership dues and philanthropy income.

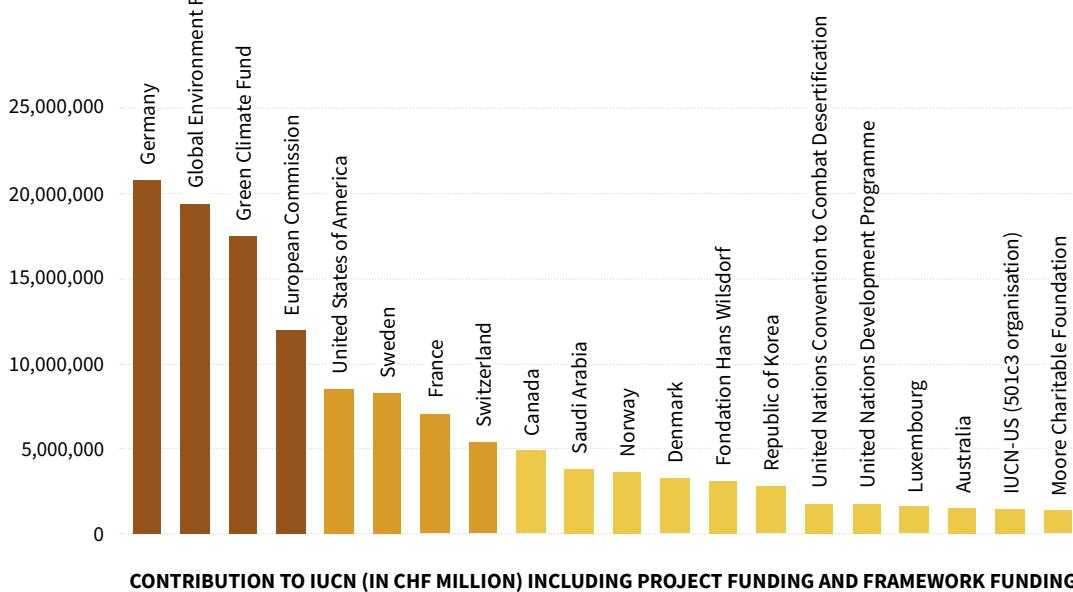


CHF 178 MILLION | TOTAL INCOME IN 2023

2023 Top contributors

IUCN's growing global portfolio, executed in partnership with its Members and partners, puts IUCN's science-based knowledge into practice.

Over the course of 2023, IUCN's portfolio grew to CHF 969 million, with the top five donors being the Government of Germany, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the European Commission, and the United States of America.



Framework Partners

Framework Partners are a dedicated group who support IUCN's four-year Programme, Nature 2030, through multi-year core funding. Their support allows IUCN to innovate, produce compelling evidence on emerging challenges, continue to shape global consensus, and create greater impact for nature. Framework Partners are also important project partners.

IUCN's Framework Partners are:



DENMARK

- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



FINLAND

- MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



FRANCE

- FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
- MINISTRY FOR THE ECOLOGICAL AND INCLUSIVE TRANSITION
- MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- MINISTRY FOR OVERSEAS FRANCE
- MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



NORWAY

- NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (Norad)



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



LUXEMBOURG

- MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SWEDEN

- SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (Sida)



SWITZERLAND

- SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC)



USA

- DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Framework Partners meet in Rwanda

In 2023, the annual meeting of Framework Partners took place in Kigali, Rwanda. It included a dialogue between IUCN, its Partners and the Rwandan Ministry of Environment on reconciling growth and biodiversity across Africa and exploring challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Framework Partners were able to witness IUCN's work on the ground with a visit to a project in the Sebeya region of Western Province, where elements of Nature-based Solutions are applied to improve integrated water resource management, support livelihoods, reduce flooding, and protect and restore important biodiversity.



IUCN Framework Partners meeting in Rwanda © IUCN / Jean Claude Habimana

Patrons of Nature

IUCN is grateful for the continued support provided by the Patrons of Nature. Chaired by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Patrons of Nature support and advise the IUCN President and leadership and play an important role in amplifying IUCN's voice. In 2023, this included advocacy in support of the ratification of the High Seas Treaty and negotiations towards a moratorium on deep seabed mining; provision of financial support to expand assessments for the IUCN Red List; and support for the Unite for Nature pavilion at UNFCCC COP28.



Highlighted partnerships

Global Coral Biodiversity Assessment

IUCN entered a new partnership with the MSC Foundation to conserve and restore threatened coral reefs. Announced in March 2023 at Monaco Ocean Week, the [Global Coral Biodiversity Assessment project](#) aims to deliver concrete, actionable restoration plans for coral reefs, as well as the threatened species populating them. The MSC Foundation's support will enable the completion of a comprehensive global assessment of the world's coral species on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.



▼ IUCN President Razan Al Mubarak and MSC Foundation Executive Director Daniela Picco launch the partnership. © Elina Kabakova



I want to express my sincere thanks to the MSC Foundation for their support. It could not be more vital; over a third of coral species assessed on the IUCN Red List face extinction. This partnership will enable us to complete further assessments, and ensure the world has the information needed to protect corals and the livelihoods of the more than half a billion people who depend upon them.

Razan Al Mubarak, IUCN President

European Commission



Having successfully passed the European Commission's pillar assessment, IUCN is now an Implementing Partner for the Commission. The assessment is a thorough and comprehensive process that examines whether an organisation meets the requirements for indirect management of EU funds. IUCN already has a long-standing engagement with the European Commission through a broad range of projects at global, regional and national level. It will now be eligible to manage the allocation of EU funds, further contributing to the implementation of the European Commission's biodiversity and climate priorities.

Hans Wilsdorf Foundation

The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation extended its support of the SOS Lemurs initiative until 2029, renewing its commitment to protect one of the world's most threatened primate groups. The Foundation has also committed to providing support for IUCN's first global assessment of freshwater molluscs. This work will increase the IUCN Red List representation of both invertebrates and freshwater species, analysing the variability in threat status and distribution geographically, taxonomically and ecologically. The Foundation is also engaged with the Red List of Ecosystems, supporting the first mangrove ecosystem assessment. Mangroves form essential coastal systems, and this work will provide key information on threats and risk to guide protection and restoration strategies.

Partnering with business

Economic ‘success’ can no longer come at nature’s expense. Through a holistic approach, IUCN works with leading companies in key sectors to improve their environmental performance, transform economies and promote solutions that work for people and nature.

Esri



IUCN and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) partnered with geographic mapping company Esri to launch the Act30 initiative, designed to support governments that have committed to the Global Biodiversity Framework target of conserving 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas by 2030. Esri's mapping and spatial analysis technology will help pinpoint the most promising locations for conservation.

BNP Paribas



IUCN and BNP Paribas signed an agreement during the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2023 to support the implementation of the IUCN Programme Nature 2030. Their critical support will enable IUCN to innovate further and generate better and greater impact at a global scale. BNP Paribas aims at better assessing and managing its nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities and is implementing several actions to do so. IUCN and BNP Paribas are working to scope out further areas of joint work for a broader partnership around biodiversity and nature-positive tools.



Yannick Jung, Head of Global Banking
BNP Paribas CIB, and Dr Gretel
Aguilar, IUCN's Director General,
signing the agreement © IUCN



BNP Paribas is glad to work with IUCN which, thanks to its expertise and its close relationship with many stakeholders (scientists, public authorities, NGOs, Indigenous peoples, businesses...) is very well placed to help banks introduce nature-related criteria in the way they finance their clients.

Antoine Sire, Head of Company Engagement BNP Paribas

Holcim



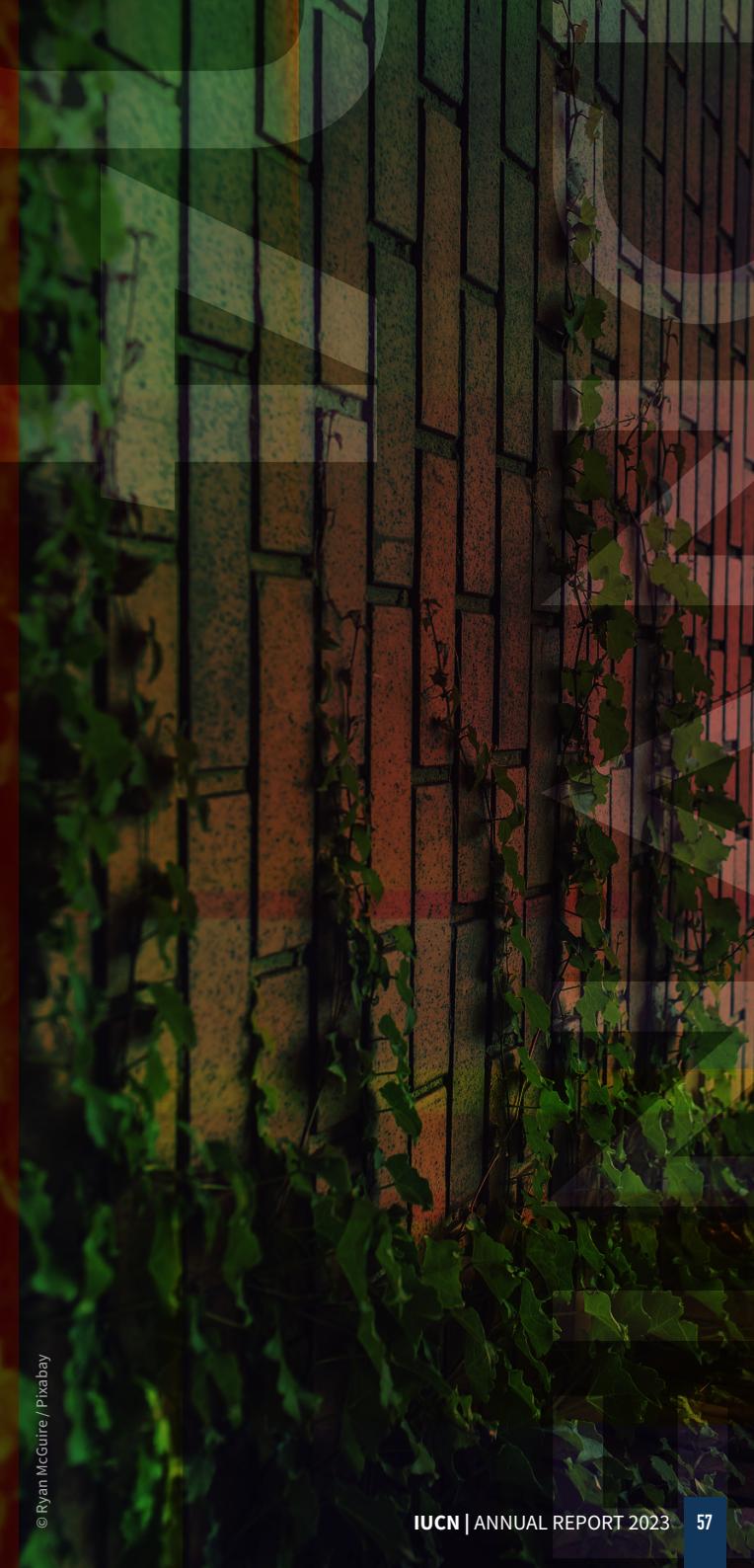
IUCN entered a new three-year partnership with Holcim focused on enhancing biodiversity, water stewardship and awareness programmes across the building solutions company's operations. Building on an earlier partnership to develop the sector's first measurable biodiversity targets, the new collaboration aims to drive nature-positive change across the built environment.

Stora Enso



IUCN's new partnership with Stora Enso focuses on developing a framework to measure and disclose net positive biodiversity impact and nature-positive outcomes. Offering solutions for packaging, biomaterials, wooden constructions and paper, Stora Enso has developed a framework that combines science, technology and data to verify and forecast its impact on biodiversity. The partnership with IUCN will further develop the framework for simultaneous delivery of industrial forestry and biodiversity conservation. It will help refine and improve IUCN's approach to measuring nature positive, while promoting the transition to adaptive management focused on outcomes for biodiversity in the forest sector.

04 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Report Currency: CHF ('000)

	2023			2022				
	Secretariat	Unrestricted	Project Agreements	Total	Secretariat	Unrestricted	Project Agreements	Total
EXTERNAL OPERATING INCOME								
Membership dues	13,425	-	13,425	13,425	13,463	-	-	13,463
Retention of staff income tax	1,806	-	1,806	1,806	1,671	-	-	1,671
Agreements income	1,130	127,808	129,938	129,938	200	124,262	124,462	124,462
Framework income	13,132	1,996	15,128	15,128	12,430	1,317	1,317	13,747
Other operating income	4,830	323	5,153	5,153	4,426	1,854	1,854	6,280
TOTAL EXTERNAL OPERATING INCOME	34,323	130,127	164,450	164,450	32,190	127,433	127,433	159,623
INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS								
Unrestricted allocations to projects	(2,679)	2,679	-	-	(2,292)	2,292	-	-
Cross charges from projects	48,593	(48,593)	-	-	42,667	(42,667)	-	-
Other internal allocations	125	(125)	-	-	1,797	(1,797)	-	-
TOTAL INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS	46,037	(46,037)	-	-	42,172	(42,172)	-	-
OPERATING EXPENDITURE								
Staff costs	62,943	10,749	73,692	73,692	58,684	9,800	9,800	68,484
Consultants	2,336	21,803	24,139	24,139	1,726	22,135	22,135	23,861
Grants to partners	452	9,670	10,121	10,121	323	14,167	14,167	14,490
Travel	2,734	12,834	15,569	15,569	2,134	11,848	11,848	13,982
Workshops and conferences	307	3,463	3,770	3,770	301	3,651	3,651	3,952
Publications and printing costs	503	2,054	2,558	2,558	365	2,710	2,710	3,075
Office and general administrative costs	3,207	5,609	8,815	8,815	3,140	5,722	5,722	8,862
Vehicles & equipment – costs & maintenance	1,048	11,263	12,311	12,311	1,070	10,570	10,570	11,640
Professional fees or costs	476	2,569	3,045	3,045	489	1,703	1,703	2,192
Depreciation and amortisation	2,133	3	2,136	2,136	2,050	63	63	2,113
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	76,139	80,017	156,156	156,156	70,282	82,369	82,369	152,651
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	4,223	4,071	8,294	8,294	4,080	2,892	2,892	6,972
OTHER INCOME - EXPENDITURE								
Interest income	745	550	1,295	1,295	440	10	10	450
Financial charges	(449)	(213)	(662)	(662)	(567)	(190)	(190)	(757)
Gains (losses) on financial assets	331	-	331	331	(1,663)	-	-	(1,663)
Net gains (losses) on foreign exchange	(2,332)	(5,268)	(7,600)	(7,600)	(1,294)	(2,600)	(2,600)	(3,894)
Exchange differences on revaluation of project balances	-	(1,730)	(1,730)	(1,730)	-	(369)	(369)	(369)
Net movements in provision and write-offs	(1,432)	2,590	1,158	1,158	(1,012)	257	257	(755)
TOTAL OTHER INCOME - EXPENDITURE	(3,137)	(4,071)	(7,208)	(7,208)	(4,096)	(2,892)	(2,892)	(6,988)
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	1,086	-	1,086	1,086	(16)	-	-	(16)



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Rue Mauverney 28

1196 Gland, Switzerland

www.iucn.org

www.iucn.org/resources/publications

