



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



International Union for
Conservation of Nature

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This is the first volume of the IUCN Annual Report for 2016. The financial statements, which form an integral part of this report, will be published as the second volume once they have been audited and approved by the IUCN Council.

Published by IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Design and layout by Miller Design (Bristol, United Kingdom)

Printed by Artgraphic Cavin SA (Grandson, Switzerland) on FSC-certified paper

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Message from the President and Director General

Without a doubt, 2016 was a momentous year for the Union. A year when the conservation community came together in Hawai'i to set the global conservation agenda for the next four years. A year when membership grew to new heights. In many ways, the Union has never been so strong.



In 2016, we delivered an amazing World Conservation Congress. Amazing because the unprecedented attendance, diversity and enthusiasm of delegates provided for rich exchanges. Amazing because the breadth of new initiatives launched offered real solutions for tackling some of the world's biggest problems. Amazing because the use of electronic voting allowed the Members' Assembly to focus on essential business. Amazing because unparalleled media coverage provided deep relays for our message.

The IUCN Congress achieved on many fronts. We are particularly enthusiastic about the decision to create a new category of membership for indigenous peoples.

In Hawai'i, we also promoted the move to a culture of conservation, highlighting the role of spirituality and religion as well as the need for empowering youth. We also recognised that the future of sustainability depends on tackling numerous challenges, including food systems, the health of oceans, wildlife trafficking, business engagement and climate change. These will prove essential to navigate Planet Earth.

We are much indebted to the United States. For the relentless dedication of the Host Committee which ensured that the spirit of Aloha prevailed; for the strong diplomatic relays including by Ambassador Hamamoto

in Geneva; and to President Obama who first endorsed the idea of hosting the IUCN Congress in Hawai'i and announced the extension of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument with a perfect sense of timing at the beginning of the Congress.

The IUCN Congress in September marked the beginning of an impressive line-up of international policy meetings in the second half of 2016. The Union, including through its Members and Commissions, continued as ever to play a critical role in all these negotiations.

The Hawai'i Congress also marked the natural renewal of our Council. We would like to sincerely thank our outgoing Councillors for the incredible support they have provided the Union over the last four years. We look forward to working with the incoming Councillors in delivering the new Programme 2017-2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zhang Xinsheng".

Zhang Xinsheng

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inger Andersen".

Inger Andersen



President Zhang Xinsheng and Director General Inger Andersen discuss on the floor of the Members' Assembly during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawai'i, USA.

**THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY DEPENDS
ON TACKLING NUMEROUS CHALLENGES,
INCLUDING FOOD SYSTEMS,
THE HEALTH OF OCEANS, WILDLIFE
TRAFFICKING, BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Overview of IUCN

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

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

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

It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 16,000 experts.

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

The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

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

Combined, our knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. As the only environmental organisation with official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

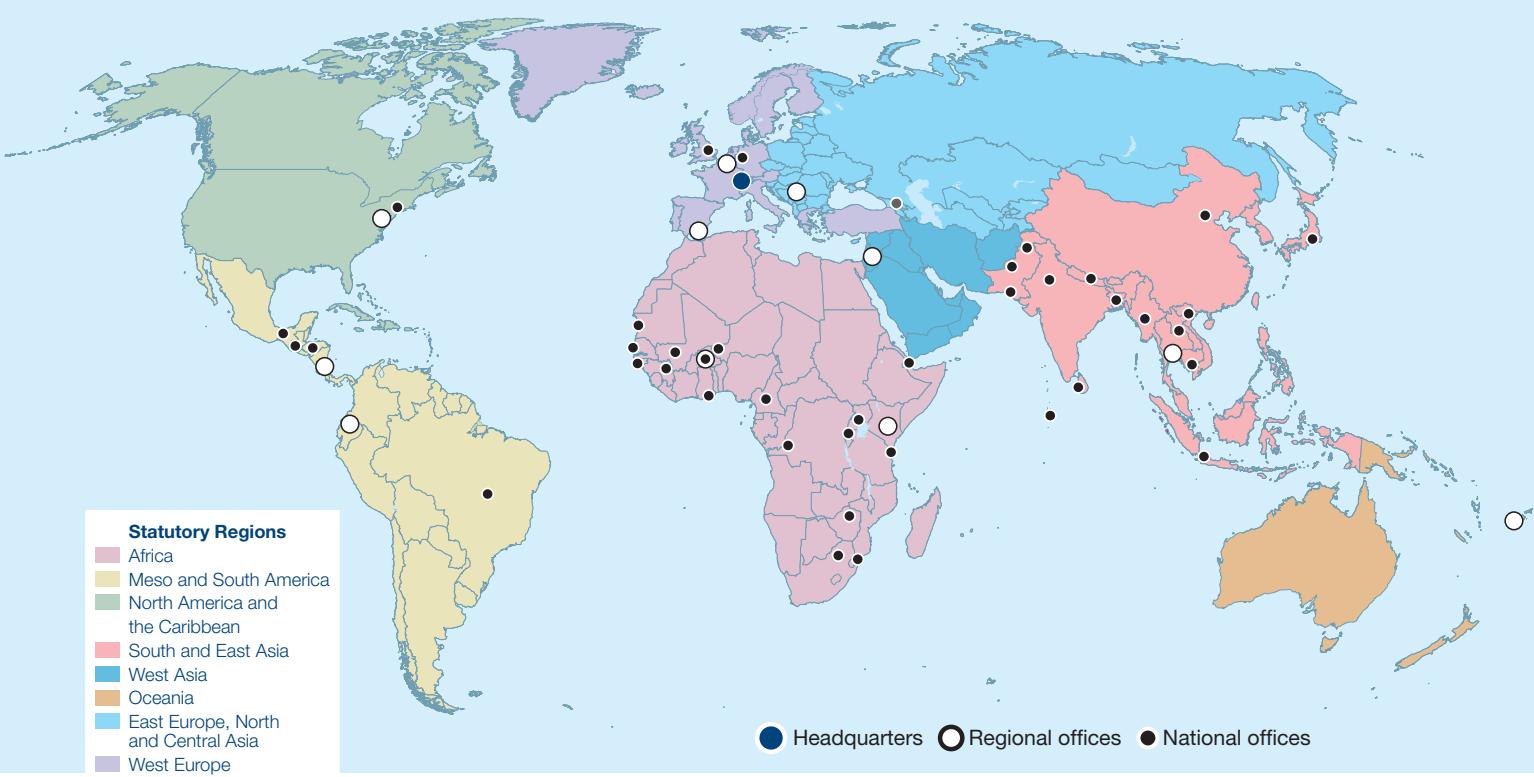
IUCN's expertise and extensive network provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve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

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, voting Resolutions which drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme. IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. We continue to help these conventions strengthen and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 950 staff in more than 50 countries.

Members

IUCN harnesses the knowledge, resources and reach of over 1,300 Member organisations from 163 countries. These include States, government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and indigenous peoples' organisations. In 2016, 98 new Members were admitted to the Union, with the NGO



sector accounting for the largest percentage of the growth. State membership increased with the addition of Rwanda, and Government agency membership of the Union remained stable.

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. There are currently 62 officially recognised National Committees and seven recognised Regional Committees.

Committees of IUCN Members 2016

Statutory Region	National	Regional
Africa	16	2
Meso and South America	14	2
North America and the Caribbean	2	1
South and East Asia	9	1
West Asia	5	1
Oceania	2	
East Europe, North and Central Asia	3	
West Europe	11	
Total	62	7

Commissions

IUCN's Commissions unite 16,000 experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues.



Director General's strategic orientations 2017

In many ways, 2016 was a remarkable year, which provides a solid footing for a successful 2017. We have every reason to be proud of our accomplishments. Every reason to be upbeat. Every reason to be confident in our ability to ensure that conservation imperatives will prevail and will be mainstreamed into sectors beyond our traditional community.

As a community, we pushed for and achieved many victories in 2016. The Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force in a record time. The extension of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the United States and the creation of the Ross Sea protected area in Antarctica represent major milestones towards safeguarding vital marine ecosystems. Five years after its launch, the Bonn Challenge is within close reach of achieving its target to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020. These achievements should be celebrated.

What better way to illustrate this dynamism than to look back at the IUCN Congress in Hawai'i, which was attended by more delegates and more countries than ever before? This was a Congress which promoted youth and celebrated gender equality. This was a Congress which opened up to the world as never



IUCN Council 2012-2016 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016

before, engaging with faith communities as well as business. The ambitious Programme 2017-2020 adopted by Members exploits IUCN's strengths – it takes advantage of the Union's knowledge, embedded to a large extent in its Commissions of experts, and reaches to move recent international agreements into concrete action. In Hawai'i, a new category of membership was also created, promising to boost support for indigenous peoples' rights around the world.

Yet, at the same time, the world is more perilous than ever. In many ways, we are heading into uncharted territories in 2017 with many uncertainties looming over key aspects of security and multilateralism, as well as regional organisation. How these uncertainties will unfold is likely to have a profound impact on an already fragile environmental outlook.

It is thus with a sense of accomplishment but mindful of the challenging times ahead of us that I revisit, for the purpose of 2017, the strategic orientations I had canvassed a year ago.

Delivering on nature-based solutions to climate change

Building on our major investments into the UNFCCC's COP21, IUCN continued to champion nature-based solutions to climate change in 2016. A welcome breakthrough last year was the clear recognition of nature-based solutions within the Global Climate Action process at UNFCCC COP22 and the incorporation of natural systems within the 'Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action'. There is every indication that this will continue to be a key component of the climate action agenda going forward.

The IUCN Congress brought together some of the world's leading public figures to deliberate on this topic, including the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and the French Ambassador for the Environment, representing the COP21 Presidency. In Hawai'i, vibrant themed journeys focusing on climate change and nature-based solutions also showcased the breadth of expertise and energy that can be further mobilised.

There have been ample reminders over the last year of the need to further amplify action to combat climate change and its impacts. Ahead of COP22, the World Meteorological Organization announced that 2016 would likely be the hottest year on record, breaking the previous record of 2015. World Bank analysis released for Marrakech also showed that natural disasters push 26 million people into poverty every year. Increasing attention is also being drawn today by military and national security experts to the risks that climate change poses to international peace and stability.

A major focus in 2017 will be to develop our portfolio of Green Climate Fund projects, following successful accreditation in 2016. This will help to significantly bolster IUCN's ability to support governments in implementing nature-based solutions to climate change at scale.

In 2017, efforts will be targeted towards further consolidating, coordinating and strengthening our work on climate change more generally.

We will also look to the launch of a new initiative to recognise and expand best practice on nature-based solutions to climate change by COP23 together with key partners, including the UNFCCC.

Assessing food systems

Food systems are the second-largest driver of species extinction, the source of one-third of soil degradation and over one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions. Despite 30% of all food produced being lost or wasted, 800 million people in the world still suffer from undernourishment. Conversely, an estimated 41 million children under the age of five are considered overweight or obese. The future of sustainability will be very much constrained by the future of food systems.

In 2016, IUCN stepped up the integration of agriculture into its work priorities. At the Members' Assembly in September, a strategic session examined the challenge of conserving nature in the face of industrial agriculture. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), IUCN also convened and organised a series of events around the Global Commons, which explored how to transform food systems. On the margins of the climate COP in Marrakech, IUCN joined the '4 per 1000'



US President Barack Obama greets IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng and IUCN Director General Inger Andersen ahead of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawai'i, USA.

initiative to help restore soil carbon, increase agricultural productivity and maintain soil biodiversity.

In 2017, IUCN will further contribute to examining how to change food production patterns in order to eradicate poverty while preserving ecosystems and remaining within our planetary boundaries.

Our agriculture strategy will also look into supporting a comprehensive assessment of food systems.

Understanding and investing in natural capital

Equipping IUCN for tomorrow's conversations requires investing in the scaling up of natural capital approaches.

In 2016, IUCN continued to actively contribute to the development of guidance for companies to better integrate the value of nature into decision making, particularly in the food, beverage and apparel sectors. Natural capital also took centre stage at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. In addition to a resolution on the topic, the IUCN Congress saw the launch of the Coalition for

Private Investment in Conservation. This aims to increase finance sector awareness of nature-based solutions as business opportunities. These activities have in common the need for metrics on the status of biodiversity and the impacts of investment on them.

In 2017, efforts will be geared towards reorganising, systemising and deepening our analytical potential around a limited number of priority areas, including natural capital. We will, in this regard, enhance and redeploy our economics capacity.

Preparing IUCN for the future

2016 was characterised by a profound evolution of our donor landscape. On the one side, the flow of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq continued to present donor countries with an immediate moral and humanitarian crisis which could not be ignored. This follows 1.3 million migrants who applied for asylum in 2015 in Europe. As a consequence, a significant budgetary readjustment, including of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds, took place to accommodate the expenses associated with incoming refugees and migrants.

The external context remains volatile.

In the US, a new government has taken office with new policy directions to be revealed, while in Europe, where IUCN generates most of its revenues, political change will also impact the environment in which the organisation operates – a number of key elections are upcoming while Brexit will also bring new scenarios to which IUCN will have to adjust.

A roadmap reflecting this context was developed with staff throughout the organisation and will be rolled out starting in 2017.

This will serve to place IUCN on an even more relevant and stable course by the time we celebrate the organisation's seventieth anniversary in 2018. In doing so, we will build on some very solid foundations, including a very healthy and expanding project portfolio.



Stephan Opitz, Director General for Policy and Latin America Region, German Development Bank KfW and IUCN Director General sign a Memorandum of Cooperation, April 2016.

Measuring our impact against the Sustainable Development Goals

In an increasingly crowded setting, with many actors in the environment space, IUCN, as a membership organisation, must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work and be accountable for its results.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer us a great opportunity to integrate environmental stewardship and sustainability across all dimensions, across all sectors and across all countries.

IUCN has fully embraced this opportunity. With our Programme 2017-2020, we will measure ourselves against these Goals.

In 2016, a Programme and Project Portal was launched to allow for better management, monitoring and reporting of the project portfolio and its contribution towards IUCN's impact and the SDGs. It will also help to further strengthen the coherence of the IUCN project portfolio, helping to move from anecdotal evidence to stronger, more robust and convincing narratives. In due course, Members may elect to report against the IUCN Programme so that we can raise our game and begin measuring the wider impact of the Union.

Improving our data

We seek to influence decision makers and policy makers. We do so with the power of our message, with the power of our evidence and, ultimately, with the power of our data. We do so with the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ which examines threats to biodiversity to assess the extinction risk of species following standardised categories and criteria. With a number of IUCN Members, we do so through our maintenance of the standards for identification and documentation of Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas and contributions to the databases for these. Together they are used to track the extent to which sites of global importance for nature are protected and properly managed.

The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 has generated incentives to cooperate on data to guide sustainable development. The first UN World Data Forum (Cape Town, January 2017), for instance, is to explore innovative ways to apply data and statistics to measure progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is happening against the backdrop of major technological developments which offer many promising avenues for collecting, organising and sharing data at scale.

In this context, there is much potential for the use of conservation data alongside socio-economic data ordinarily gathered by the statistical community.

In 2017, we will evaluate how our existing data sets can be upgraded, taking into account the latest standards and benchmarks for stability, interoperability and user friendliness.

We will also examine how to improve the ease with which users – including national statistical offices, businesses and academia – can access and use these data sets in order to reach better decisions for conservation.



Didier Leroy, Executive Vice President of Toyota Motor Corporation and IUCN Director General at the signing of a five-year partnership to provide funding to broaden the scope of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.



IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016

1-10 September 2016, Hawai'i USA

LARGEST CONSERVATION EVENT EVER IN THE US

The 2016 Congress was the largest in IUCN history and the largest international conservation event ever held in the United States.

10,000+
PARTICIPANTS FROM

176 COUNTRIES

1,380
WORKSHOPS AND OTHER SESSIONS

2,400
PEOPLE TRAINED IN

57
CONSERVATION CAMPUS SESSIONS

1,000+
STUDENTS AND

1,300+
PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE 35



Hon Enele Sosene Sopaga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu, Tom Friedman, The New York Times, Peter Seligmann, President, Conservation International and Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Papua New Guinea after the High Level Dialogue A Changing Climate: Championing Nature-based Solutions.

Planet at the crossroads

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, under the theme *Planet at the crossroads*, played a significant role in shaping how the world will move 2015's historic agreements on sustainable development and climate change into action.

The IUCN Congress brought thousands of top scientists and academics together with world leaders and decision makers from governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and business. Six heads of state and government, eight heads of international organisations and multilateral conventions and 35 national ministers and heads of government agencies participated in the Congress. Together, these diverse and knowledgeable participants gave shape to the global environmental agenda for the coming years.

IUCN Members and Congress participants addressed urgent conservation issues around climate change, conservation finance, youth, wildlife trafficking, oceans, agriculture, spirituality and building new constituencies for conservation, among many other topics. Six High Level Dialogues and three strategic discussions captured top-level thinking on the issues, and hundreds of workshops and other interactive sessions presented the latest in conservation science, practice and innovation.

MAKING A SPLASH

Thanks to extensive media coverage and social media presence, the IUCN Congress engaged millions around the globe on the challenges and the solutions needed for nature conservation and sustainable development.

UNPRECEDENTED MEDIA COVERAGE DURING CONGRESS



39 PRESS CONFERENCES



388 JOURNALISTS ON SITE

21,000 MEDIA HITS



IUCN and the Congress were mentioned in international media outlets such as The Economist, CNN International, Al Jazeera English, The New York Times, The Washington Post, BBC, Channel News Asia, El País, Le Monde, der Spiegel, as well as all major international newswires.

TRENDING: #IUCNCONGRESS

#IUCNcongress hashtag trended on social media in multiple countries

IUCN social media had a potential reach of

75 MILLION
PEOPLE DURING THE EVENT

13,000
PEOPLE USED
#IUCNCONGRESS

over

27,000
times during the 10 days of Congress

Setting the global conservation agenda

IUCN's Member organisations are among the most influential and impactful government and civil society organisations from around the world, giving the decisions taken at the IUCN Congress a powerful mandate. IUCN Members approved 121 motions directing the Union and calling on third parties to take action on a wide range of urgent conservation issues.

Key decisions included creating a new IUCN membership category for indigenous peoples' organisations, elevating efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, urging increased protection for the high seas and primary forests, setting no-go areas for industrial activities within protected areas, adopting an official IUCN policy on biodiversity offsets, and directing the development of an IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology.

The Union also approved the IUCN 2017–2020 Programme, and elected 30 IUCN officers including the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and the Chairs of IUCN's six Commissions.

"The United States is proud to host the IUCN Congress for the first time."

US President Barack Obama

The Hawai'i Commitments

The Hawai'i Commitments incorporate the insights from IUCN Congress deliberations into a set of global opportunities to meet key conservation challenges. The Commitments highlight that pressures on nature and on our environment are causing extensive species and ecosystem losses, while climate change is forcing environmental change at an ever more rapid pace.

The Commitments therefore call for profound transformation in our patterns of production and consumption and address key issues such as agriculture and food production systems, health of the oceans, wildlife crime, climate change and the role of the private sector. They also encourage the next generation and spiritual and cultural constituencies to demonstrate leadership in conservation.



CREATIVE CONTENT PARTNER



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

IUCN and the National Geographic Society joined forces in a creative content partnership in support of the IUCN Congress. The partnership featured videos to highlight conservation issues and turn attention to the Congress and an engaging National Geographic presence at the event.

6 VIDEOS

3 MILLION VIEWS

100,000
LIKE AND SHARES

on National Geographic and IUCN Facebook accounts.



Alison Sudol, actress, musician and IUCN Goodwill Ambassador speaks with Jane Goodall, Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute and IUCN Patron of Nature.

IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng presides over the Members' Assembly.



Improved processes for turning motions into action

For the IUCN Congress 2016, motions were open for online debate and voting prior to the Congress for the first time in IUCN's history, increasing transparency and participation in the discussions. Of the 121 motions approved by IUCN Members, 85 were decided online ahead of the IUCN Congress, allowing more time during the Members' Assembly to discuss more contentious issues. Members proposing a motion were also required to submit plans and resources for its implementation. This has fostered collaboration amongst IUCN Members and encouraged concrete action in response to Members' Assembly decisions.

"Imagine if those in the future could look back at this as the turning point, that this was truly the crossroads when we chose to go in the direction of a better world."

Sylvia Earle, Founder, Mission Blue and IUCN Patron of Nature



Caleen Sisk, the Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe in North America and Chief Appolinaire Oussoulio from Benin take questions from the media.

Highlights of major announcements

In addition to the Members' Assembly outcomes, IUCN Members and partners made a number of major announcements and commitments at the Congress:

- Mexico announced its intention to make all its islands protected areas by 2020.
- The State of Hawai'i announced a suite of commitments to protect its oceans and watersheds, and to develop more sustainably.
- Members of the financial, academic and international conservation sectors announced the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation to help bring conservation projects to the marketplace.
- The Natural Capital Coalition launched the Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides, a framework to measure and value business impacts and dependency on nature.
- Eleven of the world's leading conservation organisations announced an ambitious new partnership with more than US\$ 15 million in commitments to identify, map, monitor and conserve Key Biodiversity Areas.
- Over one hundred partners joined forces to launch the #NatureForAll campaign. The campaign aims to inspire a new generation of thinkers and doers to connect with nature.
- National Geographic Society announced a US\$ 10 million grant for conservation work in the Okavango Delta.
- Two new commitments to the Bonn Challenge brought the world closer to its goal of restoring 150 million hectares of degraded forest lands by 2020.
- The Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species was launched to address biological invasions, and protect biodiversity and human well-being from their impacts.

More outcomes of the IUCN Congress; iucnworldconservationcongress.org

MY GREEN CONGRESS

IUCN followed through on ambitious goals for making the Congress as sustainable an event as possible. In addition to mitigating carbon emissions related to the IUCN Congress through the Cordillera Azul National Park Project in Peru and two wind energy projects of the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now initiative, IUCN eliminated single-use plastic from the entire event and replaced paper materials with digital information communicated to the participants through the Congress mobile app. These and other sustainability efforts earned the Congress the ISO 20121 certification for sustainable event management, led to a significantly reduced social and environmental footprint, and developed a model for future events in Hawai'i and elsewhere.



100%

OF CARBON EMISSIONS MITIGATED



62%

OF FOOD SOURCED LOCALLY



18

PARTICIPATED IN THE GREEN CONGRESS PROGRAMME



50%

OF WASTE RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED



100%

OF THE CARDBOARD FOR PAVILIONS WAS RECYCLED, REPURPOSED OR COMPOSTED

IUCN Programme 2017–2020

Facing tremendous forces of transformation such as ongoing species loss and ecosystem degradation, climate change and dramatic socioeconomic inequality across the world, there are credible and accessible political, economic, cultural and technological choices that can promote general welfare in ways that support and even enhance our planet's natural assets.

To inform these choices, IUCN is aligning its conservation efforts all around the world through its 2017–2020 Programme. The Programme is underpinned by three solid lines of work: valuing and conserving nature, promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources, and deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and development challenges.

Healthy nature provides us with countless benefits that are vital for our survival and well-being, including food, water, medicine and protection against disasters. Nature conservation is therefore crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The IUCN Programme 2017–2020 harnesses IUCN's strengths, taking advantage of the Union's knowledge and reach, while leveraging its constituent structure – the Secretariat, six Commissions and more than 1,300 State and NGO Members – towards the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets.

Valuing and conserving nature

Achieving this Programme Area by 2020 would represent a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 14 (Life below water) and 15 (Life on land), and Goals B (Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use) and C (To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity) of the Aichi Targets.

This Programme Area aims to:

- increase the coverage of protected areas of important sites for marine biodiversity
- increase the coverage of protected areas of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity
- increase the value of the IUCN Red List Index, which measures trends in the overall extinction risk of species
- increase the value of the IUCN Red List Index for species in trade and expand the number of countries that have developed, implemented and enforced national policies and laws on illegal wildlife trade
- increase the number of countries that have adopted national legislations relevant to the prevention or control of invasive alien species
- increase the number of identified invasive alien species and pathways as well as the number of effective invasive species eradications.

**HEALTHY NATURE PROVIDES US WITH COUNTLESS BENEFITS VITAL FOR OUR SURVIVAL AND WELL-BEING.
ITS CONSERVATION IS CRUCIAL TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources

Achieving this Programme Area by 2020 would represent a significant contribution to the delivery of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This Programme Area aims to:

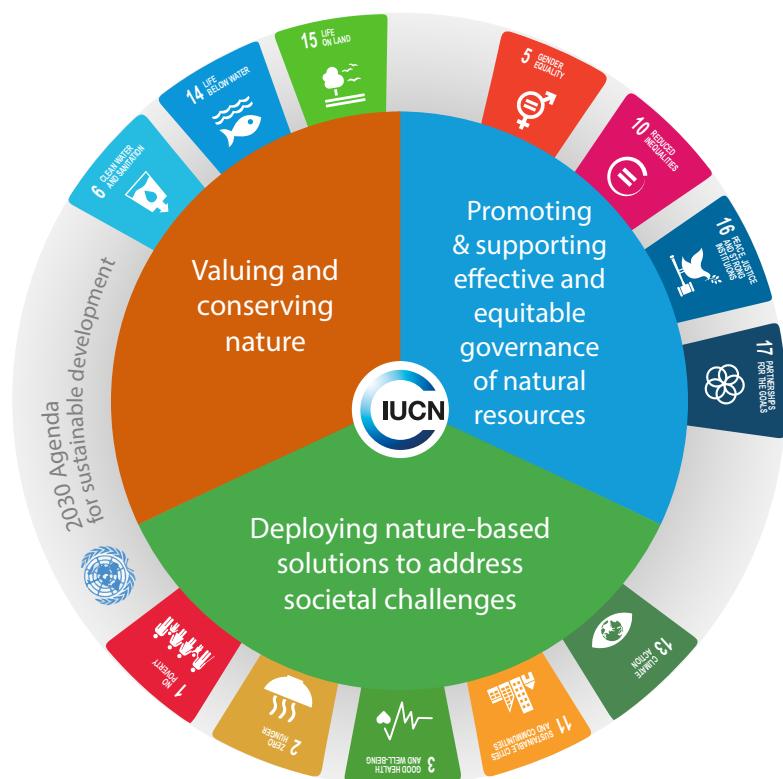
- increase the number of beneficiaries of enhanced procedural rights (e.g. participation) and substantive rights (e.g. tenure, right of access) attributable to natural resource governance systems assessment, with particular emphasis on women, indigenous peoples and the poor
- reduce the number of documented illegal and/or environmentally harmful activities at all levels, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction, Antarctica and Arctic
- increase the number of countries having mainstreamed biodiversity values and ecosystem services into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts, and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)
- increase the number of countries complying with international obligations, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements.

Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development

Achieving this Programme Area by 2020 would represent a significant contribution towards the delivery of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action).

This Programme Area aims to:

- increase sustainable food production attributable to nature-based solutions (NBS)-related programmes and policies, with particular emphasis on small-scale producers, women, family farmers and indigenous peoples
- increase the number of beneficiaries having access to NBS-supported sustainable water supplies (quantity and quality)
- increase sequestration of global carbon dioxide emissions attributable to NBS
- document the reduction in the number of casualties and the magnitude of economic losses due to natural disasters, attributable to NBS-supported climate adaptation programmes and policies
- reduce areas subject to desertification and other forms of land and soil degradation
- engage with sectors such as health and urban development to promote the role that NBS can play in supporting healthy societies.



Global policy engagements

Having actively contributed to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, IUCN continued to promote the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation for food and water security, disaster risk reduction and combatting climate change. IUCN also stressed the importance of integrating nature conservation into global and national strategies, and called for concrete action to achieve the targets agreed by governments in a number of global policy frameworks.



IUCN Director General makes an intervention at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The United Nations General Assembly

Throughout 2016, the Permanent Observer Mission of IUCN to the United Nations, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, organised a series of science-policy dialogues at the United Nations Headquarters. Their aim was to build interest in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 and to showcase its outcomes and contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

At the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the UNFCCC held in Marrakech, Morocco, IUCN promoted nature-based solutions to climate change and highlighted the need for greater synergies among existing international agreements.

At the COP22 High-Level Event on Global Climate Action on 'Nature-Based Solutions', the IUCN Director General stressed the importance of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

IUCN also advanced its work on forest landscape restoration, ecosystem-based adaptation, gender, oceans, and indigenous peoples.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

IUCN's knowledge contributes to the implementation of the CBD, guiding a number of thematic programmes of work under the Convention.

At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) held in Cancún, Mexico, IUCN's positions and interventions directly influenced decisions on protected areas, invasive alien species, gender mainstreaming, synergies among the biodiversity-related and non-biodiversity-related conventions, and capacity building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, among others. As a result, IUCN received a clear mandate to continue its work on issues such as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures, the Green List, Key Biodiversity Areas, the World Database on Protected Areas, Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas, and the Honolulu Challenge. Following IUCN's guidance, Parties to the CBD also adopted a decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which emphasises the role of non-forest ecosystems in climate change and reaffirms the links between ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

IUCN and TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network and a joint programme of IUCN and WWF – provided scientific advice at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. New IUCN reports informed decisions on regulating sustainable and legal trade in threatened species, providing expertise on species such as African rhinos, African and Asian elephants, amphibians, boa and pythons, pangolins, sharks and seahorses, as well as livelihoods and the sustainable use of wild species. An IUCN/TRAFFIC assessment guided decisions on whether to add or remove species from Appendix I or Appendix II of CITES, restricting trade in the species, or strengthening controls around it.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IUCN – which is an Observer to the IPBES process – became an official partner to IPBES in 2016, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The aim is to ensure synergy between the activities of the two institutions, with a particular emphasis on stakeholder engagement, knowledge and data, and capacity building.

World Heritage Committee

As the advisory body on nature, IUCN provided recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. This included 61 reports monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites facing threats, and 17 evaluations of proposals for inscription on the World Heritage List or boundary changes of listed sites. The World Heritage Committee followed IUCN's advice to inscribe four new sites on the World Heritage List, located in India, China, Mexico and Canada.

UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)

IUCN provided technical assistance and policy guidance to HABITAT III. IUCN highlighted the importance of integrating ecosystems and their associated services in urban planning, and promoted strategies that need to be considered to achieve a sustainable urban agenda.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

At the 35th Meeting of the CCAMLR, IUCN provided significant input into the negotiations that led to the establishment of the Ross Sea protected area – the

world's largest marine reserve and the most pristine marine ecosystem on Earth. This was based on IUCN's extensive work on the critical role that the Southern Ocean plays in the preservation of the fragile biodiversity of Antarctica. The declaration will unlock the potential for new marine protection measures, and the expansion of protected area systems in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

IUCN's work on cetacean conservation – and particularly the hosting of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel – was well received at the 66th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

IUCN also presented three cetacean-related Resolutions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, drawing attention to the urgency of conserving the Critically Endangered vaquita. The species may be beyond rescue by the time the Commission meets again in 2018 if the current ban on gillnetting in its habitat is not maintained and fully enforced. IUCN also presented the support of the IUCN Congress for the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary, and the concerns about whaling under national scientific permits expressed at the event.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

IUCN, as the Institutional Observer to the UNCCD Science Policy Interface, played a leading role in the adoption of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target and the development of the LDN Conceptual Framework at the 12th Conference of the Parties to UNCCD, which took place in Ankara, Turkey, in October 2016. LDN is Target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to ensure that land degradation is balanced by land restoration. A principle of LDN is that as much land as possible is managed sustainably to minimise degradation and to support ecosystem services.

IUCN also developed the Global Environment Facility project 'Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Initiative' (TSI) which is executed by the UNCCD to support 100 countries in establishing their National Voluntary Targets for LDN. By the end of 2016, 13 countries had completed their national inception processes to launch the target-setting consultations.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

IUCN provided technical advice and policy briefs to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and presented suggestions for the structure of a new international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

A Union of partnerships

Partnerships are the very essence of IUCN, and a cornerstone of its work. The generous contributions of IUCN's Framework Partners – Denmark, France, Finland, Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the USA and the MAVA Foundation – together with those of IUCN's Programme and Project Partners are crucial investments in nature conservation, governance and nature-based solutions to humanity's greatest challenges.

"Sweden places great value on its long-standing engagement with IUCN. IUCN plays a crucial role in implementing solutions for environmental and sustainable development challenges at the national, regional and international levels. IUCN will continue to play a strong role globally in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals over the coming years." – Isabella Lövin, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate

In 2016, IUCN established and began to implement a number of partnerships which have helped expand IUCN's strategic engagement worldwide.

New partnership with Toyota Motor Corporation
Announced in May 2016, a five-year partnership between Toyota and IUCN is providing a significant boost to the work of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and its efforts to double the number of the world's species assessed to 160,000 by 2020. The partnership is funding the assessment of over 28,000 species of wild cereals, fruit-bearing plants and other wild crop relative species, including many that are increasingly critical for food security.

Implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project portfolio

In 2016, IUCN began the implementation of the GEF portfolio with the approval of US\$ 6.6 million for two global projects (Safeguarding the Global Commons and Land Degradation Neutrality), and one national project in Nepal (Access and Benefit Sharing of natural resources).

"Our global commons are under pressure from climate change, habitat destruction, and other threats. Our partnership with IUCN engages stakeholders around the world, from government ministers to local communities, to safeguard our planet's diversity and resources." – Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

IUCN became an Accredited Entity with the Green Climate Fund in March 2016. Programme development focused on projects addressing forest and land use in Africa, dryland restoration in Mesoamerica, and mangrove management and coastal zone protection in Asia.

Collaboration with German Development Bank (KfW)

Building upon successful collaboration on the Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, IUCN and KfW signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2016 to extend joint work on forest landscape restoration, marine conservation protected areas, and innovative financing approaches which encourage investment in natural capital.

Additional support from the Arcus Foundation

The Arcus Foundation extended its support to the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group, strengthening the global network of experts working to secure the long-term survival of apes.

IUCN's Patrons of Nature grew to 14 strong in 2016. This special group of conservation leaders provides both financial and strategic support to the Union.

"It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the IUCN family for almost seven years. As a Patron of Nature, I have been a part of a truly special group of conservation leaders whose unwavering energy and dedication continues to inspire the urgent change we need." – H.S.H. Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco

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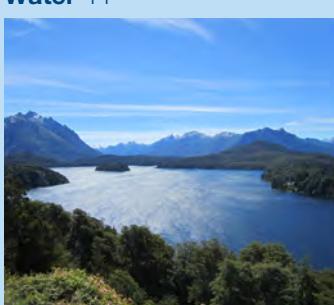
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Business

The business sector is heavily dependent on natural resources, so it is not surprising that economic activity also has a major impact on biodiversity.

IUCN works closely with business to transform the way it values, manages and invests in nature. Together with the public, private and civil society sectors, IUCN conducts independent scientific assessments, develops policy standards and creates innovative business tools to deliver sustainable solutions. IUCN focusses on sectors that have a significant impact on natural resources and livelihoods, including large 'footprint' industries, biodiversity-dependent industries and financial services.

Valuing natural capital

In 2016, IUCN played an important role in developing the Natural Capital Protocol, which helps businesses measure their dependencies on nature – such as the need for water in production – and impacts on nature – such as on water quality. An IUCN-led consortium helped put the Protocol into action by developing guides for specific business sectors, as well as managing business engagement and pilot testing of the Protocol by 50 leading companies.

With Nespresso and other partners, IUCN also conducted a natural capital pilot study in Colombia, which included testing the Protocol. In India, IUCN provided Protocol training to over 150 executives, including from Rio Tinto, Tata Steel, Apollo Tyres and Veolia. With the support of Chinese Xingzhitianxia Media Company, IUCN also initiated a pilot study to mainstream Gross Ecosystem Productivity accounting standards in Xishui County, China.

Investing in landscapes and seascapes

Under SUSTAIN-Africa – an initiative designed to facilitate inclusive and climate-resilient green growth – IUCN provided advice to the Secretariat of the Southern Agriculture Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) on developing screening criteria for investors. In Mozambique, IUCN trained more than 100 representatives from civil society, government and business on integrating sustainability principles into agribusiness value chains in the Beira corridor.

In Guinea Bissau, prior to government negotiations on three new mining projects, IUCN informed more than



The Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation was launched at the IUCN Congress, with more than 30 organisations supporting its efforts at the end of 2016.

3,000 community members, including parliamentarians and students, about the potential impacts of mining.

In Nigeria, the IUCN Niger Delta Panel concluded its work with the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC), as operator of the SPDC Joint Venture. The Panel's aim was to improve standards and develop good practice guidance on oil spill remediation, rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation in the Niger Delta. The Panel also developed a biodiversity strategy for the region, which IUCN will publish in 2017.

In Russia, the IUCN Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel's recommendations resulted in Sakhalin Energy adopting new measures to reduce its impacts on the Critically Endangered whales. The Panel confirmed an increase in the population of whales from an estimated 115 animals in 2004 to 174 in 2015. In addition, IUCN released new environmental guidelines on seismic surveys and other forms of undersea mapping.

In Viet Nam, the IUCN-supported Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance, including Coca-Cola, Grant Thornton, Bhaya Cruise and others, backed research that led to a government ban on polystyrene – a substance toxic to small fish – in Ha Long Bay, a World Heritage site. As part of IUCN's Mangroves for Markets Initiative – Viet Nam's largest shrimp exporter – Minh Phu, offered financial incentives to more than 1,000 farmers to sustainably harvest shrimps.

Promoting biodiversity net gain

IUCN published the first global biodiversity offsets policy, which will guide governments and developers. IUCN also released two papers with Rio Tinto, Shell and The Nature Conservancy exploring the business and conservation case for a Net Positive Impact (NPI) approach to biodiversity. In India, IUCN developed a corporate biodiversity policy for Tata Steel, which includes guidelines for achieving a 'no net loss' of biodiversity. In Pakistan, IUCN worked with Engro Elengy Terminal (Pvt) Ltd to restore mangrove plantations on 500 hectares of the Port Qasim area of Karachi, as an offset proposed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to mitigate the impacts of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal being built by the company.

Supporting conservation finance

An IUCN-backed report by Credit Suisse and others outlined a pathway for building a new asset class that would scale up investment in conservation. The new Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation, which includes IUCN, Credit Suisse, Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy as the founding members, was launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to work towards achieving this goal.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN plans to publish additional work to guide business committed to achieving a biodiversity net gain, and report on lessons learned with Rio Tinto, following their Net Positive Impact (NPI) experience.

IUCN will develop new guidelines for business operating in and around Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). KBAs are sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity. The guidelines will complement the global KBA Standard released in 2016.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

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AREAS OF WORK

VALUING AND MEASURING NATURAL CAPITAL

INVESTING IN LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION FINANCE

IN RUSSIA, SAKHALIN ENERGY ACTED TO REDUCE ITS IMPACTS ON CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WHALES FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IUCN WESTERN GRAY WHALE ADVISORY PANEL

Climate change

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

IUCN advances nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction by improving the conservation, management and restoration of natural ecosystems. IUCN also assesses the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems, and ensures that climate policy and action are socially inclusive and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable.



Stéphane Le Foll, French Minister of Agriculture and IUCN Director General sign IUCN's declaration of intent to join the '4 per 1000' initiative at UNFCCC COP22.

Assessing the impacts of climate change

In 2016, IUCN published a review of the causes, scale, effects and consequences of ocean warming, as well as guidelines on assessing species' vulnerability to climate change. IUCN also produced an online atlas assessing the climate vulnerability of 229 natural World Heritage sites. This information will guide appropriate conservation action plans, policies and regulations.

IUCN supported the launch of the Coffee Cloud tool by 'Centro Clima', the first Integrated Regional Climate Information System for Central America and the Dominican Republic. The tool allows coffee producers to take decisions on management practices for their farms based on the best climate data and information available.

Advancing nature-based solutions

The number of pledges from countries to restore forest landscapes under the Bonn Challenge initiative more than doubled from over 62 million hectares in 2015 to over 136 million in 2016. This area has the potential to sequester up to 13.96 GtCO₂, which is equivalent to 1.4 billion homes' worth of energy use for one year in the US. The goal of the Bonn Challenge is to restore 150 million hectares of forests by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. Two new resources – [infoFLR](#) and the Bonn Challenge Barometer – were developed to support and monitor progress on those goals.

IUCN launched a new initiative, 'Life Blue Natura'. Its aim is to quantify blue carbon deposits and the sequestration rates of seagrass meadows and marsh habitats in Andalusia, Spain highlighting the importance of these ecosystems for climate change mitigation. Based on this information IUCN will examine the necessary financing for conservation and restoration projects of blue carbon sink habitats in the Alboran Sea.

In Asia, IUCN analysed the costs and benefits of ecosystem-based adaption (EbA) in the Philippines. Results indicated, for example, that mangroves provided shoreline protection worth US \$ 206,621, together with a wide variety of livelihood and biodiversity co-benefits, compared to US \$ 180,046 worth of protection provided by seawalls. This analysis will inform decisions on allocating resources for ecosystem services and biodiversity in climate adaptation planning.

Eleven countries participating in the IUCN-led Mangroves for the Future initiative in Asia adopted the Resilience Analysis Protocol. The protocol will guide strategic resilience planning and investments in the region.

IUCN was accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – an operational entity of the UNFCCC's financial mechanism established to assist developing countries

in reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. This will allow IUCN to better support governments and communities in the developing world, especially IUCN Members, in implementing nature-based solutions to climate change.

The IUCN Congress in Hawai'i adopted, for the first time, a clear and commonly-agreed definitional framework for nature-based solutions.

Promoting more socially inclusive and responsive climate policy and action

At the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) in Marrakech, IUCN emphasised the importance of investing in nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation during the high-level event convened under the Global Climate Action (GCA) process. IUCN also highlighted its work on restoration and blue carbon in the specific 'action tracks' on forests and oceans under the GCA process, and on ecosystem-based adaptation by convening a meeting of the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

IUCN signed a declaration of intent to join the '4 per 1000' initiative, led by France. The initiative aims to increase the quantity of carbon contained in soil, for greater food security and climate change mitigation.

IUCN contributed to the development of national Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) in Peru, Zambia and the Dominican Republic, by providing technical guidance, capacity building and by facilitating workshops. The aim was to ensure that women are positioned as agents of change in national climate change policies and plans. This brought the total of ccGAPs with inputs from IUCN to 21.

IUCN'S ACCREDITATION TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND WILL ALLOW THE UNION TO BETTER SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will continue to strengthen its engagement on climate change, contributing to the global goals agreed under the Paris Agreement. IUCN will focus on strengthening the knowledge and evidence base for nature-based solutions to climate change, and on developing new institutional initiatives to advance these solutions on the ground.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

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AREAS OF WORK

[ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION](#)

[FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[LAW AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[PROTECTED AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[SOCIAL POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[SPECIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[WORLD HERITAGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

Disaster risk reduction

Ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and coastal systems can provide cost-effective natural buffers against disasters and the impacts of climate change. They also increase the resilience of vulnerable people in the face of natural hazards, such as droughts, hurricanes and earthquakes.

IUCN uses ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to long-term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. IUCN addresses information gaps and capacity needs on the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, with the aim of achieving sustainable and resilient development.

Ecosystems protecting infrastructure and communities

In 2016, IUCN's Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) project – an initiative to implement ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) in Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Nepal, Senegal and Thailand – led to the restoration of over 500 hectares of degraded lands in Senegal and Burkina Faso. This was done using traditional land management techniques, and resulted in a 40% increase in crop yields in those countries. The restoration of degraded slopes through bio-engineering in Nepal – also part of the EPIC project – led to an estimated 95% reduction in erosion rates in Tihalar village.

In Nepal, IUCN contributed to the integration of Eco-DRR into the new National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation (NSFNC). In Thailand, IUCN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources to collaborate on Eco-DRR through mangrove management under the newly established Marine and Coastal Resources Management Promotion Act. IUCN also carried out policy reviews to incorporate Eco-DRR sectoral policies in EPIC countries.



Mangroves act as natural buffers against disasters and the impacts of climate change. IUCN works to conserve and restore mangrove ecosystems, such as these in Thailand.

Biodiversity assessments

IUCN conducted assessments which highlighted the importance of biodiversity in disaster risk reduction for six regions: Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, South America, West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Asia and Oceania. A key recommendation resulting from these assessments is to strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration in policy and practice in order to implement integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction, such as combining grey and green infrastructure and improving land use. These integrated approaches will enhance the co-benefits of conservation and disaster risk reduction, and improve human well-being.

Role of biodiversity in disaster risk reduction

At the Convention on Biological Diversity's 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP13) in Mexico, IUCN launched a global report on the role of biodiversity in disaster risk reduction. The report is part of the RELIEF-Kit – an initiative to address information gaps and capacity needs to better conserve biodiversity for disaster risk reduction. Its outcomes will inform disaster risk reduction policy at national, regional and global levels, for example at regional conferences of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Global Platform of the Sendai Framework.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will organise six regional training events on the role of biodiversity in disaster risk reduction, based on the outcomes of an IUCN report launched at CBD COP13.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

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AREAS OF WORK

ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (EPIC)

RESILIENCE THROUGH INVESTING IN ECOSYSTEMS - KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT (RELIEF KIT)

IUCN'S EPIC PROJECT LED TO THE RESTORATION OF OVER 500 HECTARES OF DEGRADED LANDS IN SENEGAL AND BURKINA FASO, AND A 40% INCREASE IN CROP YIELDS IN THOSE COUNTRIES

Economics

Human well-being and the global economy rely on healthy ecosystems which provide goods and services such as food, water, fuel, medicines and raw materials for nutrition and well-being, manufacturing, trade and commerce.

IUCN encourages decision makers to invest in the environment as a means of supporting livelihoods and economies. IUCN recognises that economic growth must remain within planetary boundaries, and promotes better measurement and valuation of the impacts and dependencies on biodiversity to inform economic decision making.

Economic analyses

In 2016, an IUCN report presented evidence that ecosystem-based adaptation options, such as planting and protecting mangroves, have higher net present values in the Philippines than engineering options such as seawalls. IUCN's work on the economics of land degradation resulted in a US\$ 4.5m landscape restoration project with Jordan, Egypt and the League of Arab States to scale up the restoration of rangelands.

People in Nature (PiN) initiative

The People in Nature (PiN) initiative aims to provide systematic means to measure and document how biodiversity contributes to livelihoods and well-being, focusing on material use and cultural values. In 2016, IUCN produced publications on the conceptual and methodological foundations of PiN. The methodological framework and tools developed in 2015–16 will be applied in pilot tests in Honduras and Malawi in 2017–18.



Farmer in Malawi talks about the benefits she has received from growing orange maize, part of a project linked to IUCN's People in Nature (PIN) initiative.

Natural Capital Protocol

IUCN played an important role in developing the Natural Capital Protocol, which helps businesses measure their impacts and dependencies on nature, e.g. the external costs associated with the impacts of mining activities on forest ecosystems, which contribute to climate change mitigation, water regulation and filtration, and non-timber forest products for local communities. IUCN pilot-tested the Protocol with Shell in the Philippines, generating new information on the costs of water supply in petroleum refining to encourage less environmentally damaging investments in infrastructure. This study is being used to assess the costs and benefits of different options of water supply, including the costs of ecosystem impacts associated with water extraction.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will continue to use economic analysis to increase the visibility of the economic values of biodiversity, with the aim of strengthening decision making in different sectors.

As part of the PiN initiative, IUCN will continue to develop and apply methods to integrate data and knowledge on human use and values of biodiversity into decision making, to achieve more sustainable and equitable land and seascape management.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

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AREAS OF WORK

NATURAL CAPITAL ASSESSMENTS

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CONSERVATION ACTION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

PEOPLE IN NATURE (PIN), NATURE-BASED LIVELIHOODS

AN IUCN REPORT PRESENTED EVIDENCE THAT ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION OPTIONS, SUCH AS PLANTING AND PROTECTING MANGROVES, HAVE HIGHER NET PRESENT VALUES THAN ENGINEERING OPTIONS, SUCH AS SEAWALLS

Environmental law

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

IUCN aims to advance environmental law through the development of legal concepts and instruments, making sure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN also facilitates the use of environmental law to influence, encourage and assist societies in conserving the integrity and diversity of nature.



Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin, High Court of Brazil and IUCN Chair, World Commission on Environmental Law, and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, commemorate the signing of the Charter of the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment during the first IUCN World Environmental Law Congress, Rio de Janeiro, April 29, 2016.

The Global Judicial Institute for the Environment

IUCN – working closely with a number of partners, including UNEP and the Organization of American States – inaugurated the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment at the first IUCN World Environmental Law Congress, which took place in Brazil in April 2016. The institute will support the role of courts and tribunals in applying and enforcing environmental laws, and promote environmental rule of law and the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.

Marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

IUCN developed a tool which specifies possible mechanisms for an agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The tool is based on legal precedents and best practices in other agreements and institutions and aims to help negotiators and others involved in the United Nations Preparatory Committee process to develop a draft text of the agreement. It offers a range of options for the principles, obligations and scope of the agreement on issues such as area-based management tools, benefit sharing of marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments, capacity building and technology transfer.

Combatting illegal wildlife trade

IUCN, in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam, conducted an analysis of over 260 court cases related to illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania, with the aim of strengthening the country's judicial system with regards to wildlife legislation. The analysis revealed several gaps and challenges, for example failures to fully investigate those operating further up the criminal chain, beyond the initial offenders. In partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation and TRAFFIC, IUCN conducted two training workshops to address problems revealed by the analysis. These workshops – attended by judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement stakeholders – aimed to improve the understanding of legal tools and prosecution methods available to combat illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania.

Hydrodiplomacy and International Water Law

IUCN conducted high-level training sessions on Hydrodiplomacy and International Water Law for officials from several government ministries in Honduras, Lao PDR, Thailand, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru, Tanzania, Cameroon and Ethiopia. Enhanced understanding of the complexities of transboundary governance arrangements by key decision makers in charge of water management will foster cooperative water governance at regional, basin and local levels.

Integrated planning for climate change and biodiversity

Policies and laws can serve as a means to integrate planning into land-use practice, which also considers climate change and impacts on biodiversity. In 2016, IUCN concluded a global review on legal frameworks concerning integrated land-use planning in 16 countries, and conducted workshops on integrated planning for climate change and biodiversity in Colombia, Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Information and knowledge of environmental law

ECOLEX – operated by IUCN, FAO and UNEP – launched an interface which includes a new dataset on decisions of the Conference of Parties of major Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Its aim is to boost access to information and knowledge of environmental law. IUCN also developed capacity-building modules on wildlife crime which include a mock trial and concepts of wildlife law, prosecution and adjudication. These modules are available at wildlex.org – a database on criminal aspects of statutory and judicial responses to wrongful behaviours affecting wildlife.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will continue to provide legal advice and expertise on issues relating to natural resource governance. In particular, IUCN will focus on capacity building and governance support on transboundary water law and hydrodiplomacy. IUCN, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute on Training and Research, will develop e-learning courses on integrated land-use planning, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and combating wildlife crime and will begin a legal review on mangrove conservation. IUCN will also implement a project on the effective management and financing of protected areas through a multidisciplinary approach that considers the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, law, economics and social well-being.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Martin, P., Boer, B. and L. Slobodian (Eds.) (2016). *Framework for Assessing and Improving Law for Sustainability*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Slobodian, L. et al. (2016). *Wildlife Cases in Tanzanian Courts*. Bonn, Germany: IUCN.

AREAS OF WORK

[ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE](#)

[MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN AREAS BEYOND](#)

[NATIONAL JURISDICTION](#)

[ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING](#)

[WILDLIFE CRIME](#)

[PROTECTED AREAS LAW AND GOVERNANCE](#)

[LEGAL ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

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[INTEGRATED LAND-USE PLANNING](#)

[INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OF](#)

[ENVIRONMENTAL LAW](#)

[WATER LAW AND GOVERNANCE](#)

IUCN INAUGURATED THE GLOBAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL RULE OF LAW AND THE FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND BURDENS

Forests

Forests stabilise the climate, support biodiversity and sustain communities, supplying goods and services that can drive sustainable growth.

IUCN works to develop and implement policies and initiatives for protecting, stabilising and restoring forest landscapes. In partnership with a range of stakeholders – governments, donors, NGOs, cooperatives and communities – IUCN helps countries address their national priorities such as rural development and water and food security, while contributing to the achievement of global climate change, biodiversity and land degradation goals.



Community members prepare land as part of efforts to implement forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Rwanda. IUCN supports FLR at the policy and knowledge sharing levels.

Restoring forest landscapes

Launched by IUCN and Germany in 2011, the Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. Commitments to the Bonn Challenge more than doubled from over 62 million hectares in 2015 to over 136 million hectares in 2016. A total of 114 countries featured forest restoration in their UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions at the end of 2016, showing that IUCN's work to promote forest landscape restoration (FLR) is taking effect.

Expanding restoration initiatives

IUCN launched the German government-funded Bonn Challenge Barometer to monitor the implementation of restoration pledges in six pilot areas, including confirmed participation from the United States and El Salvador, with others under discussion. The Barometer outputs will feature on IUCN's new forest landscape restoration website, InfoFLR.org.

IUCN also launched the US\$ 250 million project The Restoration Initiative (TRI), which aims to help 10 countries define and achieve commitments under the Bonn Challenge. The initiative, supported by the Global Environment Facility, will be implemented in Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Tanzania.

Developing regional forest capacity

With the opening of a new forest landscape restoration hub in Rwanda in April 2016, IUCN has established seven regional FLR Hubs in Kigali, Yaoundé, Bangkok, San Jose, Quito, Suva and Washington DC to provide knowledge and technical and policy support on FLR to governments and practitioners. As a result, a ministerial roundtable in Africa led to the signing of the Kigali Declaration on FLR by 14 African governments, affirming their dedication to developing and implementing FLR activities with the support of IUCN and partners.

The Bonn Challenge Latin America ministerial event in Panama resulted in expanded regional restoration pledges. It also led to commitments from South Sumatra, Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, and West and Southern Africa to host high-level Bonn Challenge events in 2017 and beyond.

Assessing opportunities for restoration

IUCN provided evidence to decision makers in 34 countries on how to prioritise areas for restoration using IUCN's Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) –a framework that helps countries identify, analyse and prioritise areas appropriate for FLR. As a result, conservation and restoration options were identified for 13.5 million hectares in Central America; the Government of Malawi invited IUCN to assess restoration opportunities to enhance food security; and seven Eastern European countries completed FLR field studies as a critical first step of ROAM.

Informing national forest policies

IUCN helped ensure that gender and livelihood-enhancing options are included in national climate change strategies in seven countries – Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia (Papua), Mexico, Peru and Uganda. IUCN supported the development of REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanisms that were included in national policies in 10 countries. IUCN also provided analysis of local forest dependency that led to improved governance practices by governments and communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will continue to work on forest landscape restoration (FLR) with new donors, including the World Bank which will fund a large-scale rollout of Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and associated restoration actions in 35 countries. Further pledges to the Bonn Challenge are expected as IUCN continues to expand its InfoFLR website and begins to track progress on the implementation of Bonn Challenge commitments.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN and WRI (2016). *A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)* (Russian). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN and WRI (2016). *A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)* (Indonesian). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Moraes, M.A. (2016). *Restauração de paisagens e florestas no Brasil – Forest landscape restoration in Brazil*. Brasilia, Brazil: IUCN.

IUCN (2015). *Rwanda's Green Well: Opportunities to engage private sector investors in Rwanda's forest landscape restoration*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Stefan, M. (2016). *Governance of Local Forests in ENPI East Countries and Russia*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

AREAS OF WORK

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

THE BONN CHALLENGE

RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTS

SLOWING THE GLOBAL DEFORESTATION RATE

COMMITMENTS TO THE BONN CHALLENGE MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM OVER 62 MILLION HECTARES IN 2015 TO OVER 136 MILLION HECTARES IN 2016

Gender

Recognising the value of gender equality and of women's vital roles as decision makers, natural resource managers, stakeholders, caregivers and knowledge holders across sectors and at all levels is key to effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable environmental solutions.

IUCN champions a gender-responsive approach by providing capacity building and technical support across sectors. IUCN's aim is to address gender gaps and historical gender-based biases, and enhance gender equality and women's empowerment in conservation and sustainable development policies and programmes.



IUCN works to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment through capacity building and technical support across sectors.

Anchoring agreements on gender and climate change

In 2016, IUCN concluded the implementation of an eight-year joint programme under the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) – an initiative co-founded by IUCN, UNDP, UNEP and WEDO and supported by the Government of Finland – whose aim is to ensure that climate change policies, decision making and initiatives are gender-responsive. Results of the programme include over 20 countries with national Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs), more than 50 UNFCCC decisions that integrate gender considerations, new knowledge and capacity-building tools, and negotiators and stakeholders trained on gender and climate links.

Gender-responsive forest restoration efforts

IUCN provided capacity building and gender analyses of political, institutional and technical policies to government and non-government stakeholders to ensure that forest landscape restoration (FLR) pilot projects in Brazil, Rwanda and Malawi are gender-responsive. This involved empowering women and ensuring that all methodologies are equitably inclusive of both women and men.

Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO)

As part of its USAID-supported Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO) initiative, IUCN contributed to the development of national Climate Change Gender Action Plans for Peru, Zambia and the Dominican Republic. IUCN provided capacity building, technical guidance, and facilitated workshops on a wide range of issues to ensure women are positioned as agents of change. The Action Plans and other GECCO efforts aim to include gender-specific issues in national climate change policies and plans.

Mainstreaming gender in Aichi Biodiversity Targets

IUCN, in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Japan Biodiversity Fund, assisted the governments of Uganda, Mexico and Brazil in incorporating gender considerations into their national strategies for Aichi Biodiversity Targets. IUCN hosted capacity-building workshops for government representatives, women's organisations and civil society actors in these countries. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of Uganda, Mexico and Brazil are among the most gender-responsive NBSAPs presented to the CBD.

Shared Resources, Joint Solutions initiative

IUCN is the lead capacity-building partner on gender for the *Shared Resources, Joint Solutions* – a programme that aims to enhance climate resilience and water and food security. In 2016, IUCN supported partners in 16 countries to strengthen the gender aspects of projects through cross-sectoral gender analyses and by building capacity for gender-responsive work planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform

The platform aims to bridge information gaps on women's inclusion and gender considerations in conservation and development. In 2016, it provided new data and knowledge on protected areas, wetlands, REDD+ policy and planning, mitigation actions and [the CBD's] National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will continue to support governments and non-governmental organisations in the development and implementation of gender-responsive conservation and development policies and programmes. A strong focus will continue to be placed on gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation at all levels, with actions from international to subnational levels. New forest landscape restoration and REDD+ efforts will continue to strengthen women's inclusion in sustainable forest policies and programming. New EGI datasets to inform policy and practice will be developed in partnership with several organisations, including the BRS Conventions.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Bastian, L., Gilligan, M. and B. Clabots (2016). *Gender and Protected Areas: Exploring National Reporting to the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention*. Washington, DC: IUCN.

IUCN Global Gender Office. (2016, April). *Gender in Mitigation Actions*.

AREAS OF WORK

DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GENDER ACTION PLANS AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

IUCN HELPED DEVELOP NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLANS FOR PERU, ZAMBIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ENSURING WOMEN ARE POSITIONED AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Marine and polar

The oceans support the physical, economic and food security of up to 60% of the world population, while polar regions and their surrounding waters are critical for climate regulation and other functions supporting human well-being. However, marine and polar environments are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction, over-exploitation of resources, pollution and climate change.

IUCN works to ensure that marine and polar ecosystems are restored and maintained, and that any use of resources is sustainable and equitable. IUCN also works to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of marine and polar biodiversity as part of nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.



Scalloped Hammerhead shark at Cocos Island
IUCN works to conserve marine ecosystems, increasingly threatened by habitat destruction, over-exploitation of resources, pollution and climate change.

Ocean warming report

In 2016, IUCN published a report on the causes, scale, effects and consequences of ocean warming. The report warns that ocean warming is already affecting species, ecosystems and the benefits oceans provide to humans in a direct way, causing reduced fish stocks and crop yields, more extreme weather events and increased risk from water-borne diseases.

Blue carbon policy

IUCN, through the UNEP/GEF Blue Forests Project, is supporting Ecuador, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique and the United Arab Emirates on the development and implementation of appropriate blue carbon policy. Four National Blue Carbon Policy Assessments have so far been launched. Blue carbon is the carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems, such as tidal salt marshes, seagrass meadows and mangrove forests. These ecosystems provide essential climate change adaptation benefits, including protection and food security for many coastal communities.

In collaboration with its Members and partners, IUCN published a policy brief analysing blue carbon as part of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to mitigate and adapt to climate change under the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

European Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

IUCN released ecosystem profiles of seven regions where the 34 EU Overseas entities are located: Amazonia, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Macaronesia, Pacific, Polar/Sub-polar and South Atlantic. The profiles identify over 400 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) – places that include vital habitats for species and therefore require enhanced protection – and ecological corridors, covering 8 million km². Marine ecosystems constitute as much as 80% of the area.

The profiles will inform regional investment strategies for EU Overseas, and applications for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas (BEST) 2.0 project grants, which support projects promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services in EU Overseas Countries and Territories.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas (BEST)

A total of 44 new projects worth over €3.9 million were funded through the BEST 2.0 grant facility, managed by IUCN and financed by the European Commission. The projects are located in five regions: Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Pacific, Polar/Sub-polar and South Atlantic. They address issues such as management of lionfish, marine spatial planning, establishment and management of marine protected areas, coral reef restoration, offshore pelagic ecological assessments, sea turtle conservation, sustainable fishing, improvement of fisheries management, and seagrass conservation.

Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel

In Russia, the IUCN Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel confirmed an increase in the population of the Critically Endangered whales from an estimated 115 animals in 2004 to 174 in 2015. The panel, made up of independent scientists, provides scientific advice and recommendations on how the oil and gas company Sakhalin Energy can minimise risks to the Western Gray Whales and their habitat, associated with its operations.

AN IUCN REPORT REVEALED THE SCALE OF OCEAN WARMING AND ITS IMPACTS ON SPECIES, ECOSYSTEMS AND THE BENEFITS OCEANS PROVIDE TO HUMANS

UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will launch the National Blue Carbon Policy Assessment Framework and Tool which aims to help countries identify which blue carbon policies, programmes or projects are best for their national circumstances. It will also conduct research on the social impacts of blue carbon projects, and the global carbon offset market opportunities for coastal blue carbon projects.

IUCN, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, will produce a global map and analysis of potential opportunities for mangrove restoration using best available globally consistent data, modelling and expert reviews. The climate mitigation and adaptation potential of mangroves will also be assessed.

IUCN will continue its work in the EU Overseas. A further €1.29 million will be committed, through the BEST 2.0 grant facility, for new on-the-ground projects in the 25 EU Overseas Countries and Territories. Through a new BEST pilot project, an additional €500,000 will be used to fund on-the-ground projects in the six French Outermost Regions.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Laffoley, D. and J.M. Baxter (eds). 2016. *Explaining ocean warming: Causes, scale, effects and consequences*. Full report. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Herr, D. and E. Landis (2016). *Coastal blue carbon ecosystems: Opportunities for Nationally Determined Contributions*. Policy Brief. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Washington, DC, USA: TNC.

Simard, F., Laffoley, D. and J.M. Baxter (eds). 2016. *Marine Protected Areas and Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation Synergies, Opportunities and Challenges*. Full report. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Regional Ecosystem Profiles, BEST, Service contract 07.0307.2013/666363/SER/B2, European Commission, 2016.

AREAS OF WORK

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION

EUROPEAN OVERSEAS PROGRAMME

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

MARINE PLASTICS

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MARINE SPECIES CONSERVATION

OCEAN GOVERNANCE

POLAR ACTIVITIES

SECURING COASTAL LIVELIHOODS

Protected areas

Protected and conserved areas – including national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas and nature reserves – conserve biodiversity, enhance social equity, and help address climate change. They reduce the risk of disasters, improve food and water security, boost human health and well-being, and foster cooperation and peace.

IUCN works to establish best practices and standards that would maximise the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas, and advance justice and equity in conservation, including the role of indigenous peoples and local communities.



Mount Huangshan in China was the first World Heritage site to achieve the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard.

Tracking protected area coverage

IUCN, together with UNEP-WCMC, launched the Protected Planet Report 2016. It showed an overall growth in protected area coverage, including an increase of almost 300% in marine protected areas in the last decade. The report also noted the need to improve the effectiveness of protected areas in conserving biodiversity.

Facilitating progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Target on protected areas

Through six regional workshops involving 124 countries, IUCN identified a total of 1,400 priority actions needed to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 to conserve at least 17% of terrestrial areas, and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. These actions include ensuring effective management and equitable governance, enhancing connectivity between areas, and increasing financing and capacity for protected areas.

Setting standards for protected areas globally

IUCN completed the global standard for the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, which provides an international benchmark for quality in protected area conservation. IUCN also developed new guidelines for identifying ‘Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures’, to be used by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) implementing Aichi Target 11.

Learning from success in the field

IUCN, in partnership with GIZ, UNEP and GRID-Arendal, launched PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet. PANORAMA provides a means for conservation practitioners to better understand and share successful elements of conservation programmes.

Delivering results on the ground

In Albania, IUCN – with support from Italy and the European Union – designed management plans for the Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park and the Protected Landscape of the Buna River.

Developing capacity in protected area management

The BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management) Programme – supported by the European Union and implemented by IUCN, the European Commission and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative – develops capacity for protected area management in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. In 2016, 140 protected area professionals were trained on data collection and analysis for biodiversity and protected area management. This was done through four regional observatories set up in the Pacific, Caribbean, West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Protected Areas Caribbean Gateway, under the BIOPAMA Programme, now provides a regional hub for research and innovation to improve conservation practice that responds to the challenges posed by climate change and other threats affecting biodiversity.

Mapping the role of indigenous peoples in protected area management

IUCN developed a new mapping tool for 'Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Natural Ecosystems in Central America' that aims to promote a rights-based approach that respects the tenure rights of indigenous peoples in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP)

The Asia Protected Areas Partnership – a regional platform established by IUCN with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Environment to share experience and best practice in protected area management – adopted a 'Partnership Document' to promote regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas, and expanded its membership to 14 organisations from 12 countries.

THE IUCN GREEN LIST STANDARD PROVIDES AN INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR QUALITY IN PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will strengthen the regional observatories in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Phase II of the BIOPAMA Programme, with a total value of €43.5 million, including an action grant mechanism of €20 million, was recently approved by the European Union and will run for six years starting in early 2017.

IUCN will continue the development of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, with the support of the German Ministry of the Environment (BMUB) and their International Climate Initiative. It will be expanded to include more countries and jurisdictions, with the aim of listing more than 100 sites per annum.

IUCN will strengthen the PANORAMA partnership with the German development agency GIZ, improving the learning technology and extending the portfolio of solutions geographically and thematically. IUCN will continue to expand APAP membership in order to widen its regional collaboration.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Appleton, M.R. (2016). *A Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN WCPA (2016). *PARKS. The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation, Volume 22.1*, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN WCPA (2016). *PARKS. The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation, Volume 22.2*, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2016). *Protected Planet Report 2016*. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN: Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland. (and *update*)

UNEP-WCMC and Korea National Park Service (2016). *Protected Planet National Technical Series: Republic of Korea*. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC.

Casson, S.A., Martin, V.G., Watson, A., Stringer, A. and C.F. Kormos (eds.) (2016). *Wilderness Protected Areas: Management guidelines for IUCN Category 1b protected areas*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN WCPA.

Paolini, C., Rakotobe, D. and D. Jomha Djossi (2016). *Coach Observatory Mission Information Toolkit (COMIT): A toolkit to support coaching missions to improve protected area management and develop the information system of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

AREAS OF WORK

GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

PANORAMA – SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (BIOPAMA)

Science and knowledge

Science and knowledge are crucial in providing evidence for the best approaches to conservation.

IUCN advances conservation science and knowledge by generating, maintaining and integrating data, and working in synergy with peer conservation science networks.



Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson Global Environment Facility (GEF) and IUCN Director General, at the International Dialogue on Our Global Commons, Washington DC, USA, October 2016.

Knowledge products mobilised against IUCN standards

In 2016, IUCN continued to maintain key knowledge products mobilised against Union-approved standards.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ – the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the extinction risk of plant, animal and fungi species

New and updated assessments for 20,595 species were completed for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, including plants (1,510 species), invertebrates (1,226 species), marine fishes (1,021 species), freshwater fishes (677 species), reptiles (663 species), and more than 700 newly recognised bird species. The assessments also included evidence of the continued declines of two iconic species – the eastern gorilla and the giraffe – as well as an increase in the population of the giant panda. The IUCN Red List now includes 85,604 assessed species.

The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems – the global standard for ecosystem risk assessment, identifying which ecosystems are most threatened, and providing information on key drivers of change

IUCN completed ecosystem risk assessments for the terrestrial Americas and Caribbean, including nearly 2,000 ecosystems at the continental level. Three national ecosystem risk assessments were also completed as part of this process: Costa Rica, Chile and Colombia. The assessments showed that over 50% of forests in the Americas are threatened. The European Red List of Habitats – also completed in 2016 – provided a new tool to review commitments for environmental protection and restoration within the EU2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Key Biodiversity Areas – the standard assessing sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity

The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) was published. It allows countries to identify sites that are important for their biodiversity, using a set of scientific criteria. Eleven international conservation organisations, including IUCN, established the KBA Partnership to support the implementation of this standard.

Protected Planet – the standard documentation of areas of land and water dedicated to conservation uses, encompassing more than 200,000 sites in total

IUCN, together with UNEP-WCMC, launched the Protected Planet Report 2016. The report found that 14.8% of terrestrial ecosystems, 12.7% of coastal and marine ecosystems within national jurisdiction and 5.1% of the global ocean are currently covered by national parks and other protected areas. It noted, however, the need to improve the coverage and quality of protected areas.

Our global commons

IUCN, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), developed a joint initiative to promote the conservation of the global commons – the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system and the very foundation of our global economy and modern society.

A dialogue on our global commons was held at the National Academy of Science, Washington, D.C., USA, with leading environment, innovation and system design thinkers assessing the latest evidence on the state of our global commons.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators

IUCN participated in the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators – the body charged with developing metrics to track progress towards SDGs. This led to the adoption of indicators based on IUCN standards: the Red List Index; protected area coverage of marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain key biodiversity areas; and policy responses to invasive species.

Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IUCN signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with IPBES, with the aim of ensuring synergy between the activities of the two institutions, including in stakeholder engagement, knowledge and data, and capacity building. The *Thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production*, published by IPBES in 2016, draws substantially from IUCN's work and expertise, in particular the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides of IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management and Species Survival Commission.

IUCN Editorial Board

A formal IUCN Editorial Board was established to ensure the peer review process for IUCN publications, with representatives from each of the Union's six expert Commissions. This will help maintain the high credibility and reliability of IUCN's publications for policy makers and practitioners.

IUCN publications

IUCN produced 63 new peer-reviewed publications in 2016. A new system for tracking IUCN publication downloads was established to allow the Union to better monitor the uptake of its science and knowledge.

UPCOMING WORK

IUCN's partnership with GEF will continue with events at the World Economic Forum and elsewhere. IUCN will also incorporate indicators based on IUCN standards – including the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators of the Red List Index, protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas, and policy responses to invasive species – into the IPBES assessment processes, further consolidating the policy relevance of these knowledge products.

In 2017, at least 5,000 new assessments of species will be published on the IUCN Red List, including a large number of reptiles, fishes and plants.

IUCN will increase the number and profile of Red List of Ecosystems assessments worldwide. An online, publicly available database will be launched. Pilot tests will be conducted in selected countries to support land and water management decisions. A framework will be completed as the basis for developing a global typology of ecosystems. This will be the foundation for a global ecosystem classification system.

IUCN will also identify freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes, Madagascar and Canada. A strategic plan will be developed for the implementation of the Key Biodiversity Areas Standard, including providing guidance to the private sector.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Bland, L.M. et al. (2016). *Guidelines for the application of IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Categories and Criteria, Version 1.0*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN (2016). *A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0*. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN (2016). *An Introduction to the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems: The Categories and Criteria for Assessing Risks to Ecosystems*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Gubbay, S. et al. (2016). *European Red List of Habitats. Part 1. Marine habitats*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Janssen, J.A.M. et al. (2016). *European Red List of Habitats. Part 2. Terrestrial and freshwater habitats*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2016). *Protected Planet Report 2016*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. (and *update*)

**20,595 SPECIES
WERE ASSESSED
FOR THE IUCN RED
LIST IN 2016**

Social policy

Many local cultures manage and conserve nature through their own value systems and beliefs.

IUCN applies a rights-based approach to its work, respecting and supporting the rights of people in conservation practice, and promoting the maintenance of cultural systems and features through engagement with indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders.



Participants in the E Alu Pū Global Gathering take part in an activity to restore a traditional Hawaiian fishpond, typically built in the shallow areas of a reef flat by building a lava rock wall to separate it from the sea.

Recognition of indigenous peoples' organisations

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, IUCN Members voted to create a new category of membership for indigenous peoples' organisations, in recognition of the role they play in conserving the planet. This has provided the opportunity to strengthen the presence and role of indigenous organisations within IUCN. IUCN has also enabled indigenous peoples and local communities closely connected to and dependent on nature to influence the global conservation agenda. IUCN Members recognised the rights of indigenous peoples to design and represent their own forms of management of their territories and models of natural resource use.

Indigenous peoples in Central America

IUCN produced a map of indigenous peoples, protected areas and natural ecosystems in Central America – a region that is home to 63 different indigenous peoples. This has provided evidence of the important contribution of indigenous peoples' territories to the conservation of natural ecosystems, and can serve as a valuable argument to increase the role and rights of indigenous peoples in conservation.

Guidelines for Free, Prior Informed Consent

IUCN produced Guidelines for Free, Prior Informed Consent for consultations with local communities and indigenous peoples for REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) programmes. The Guidelines will help ensure that REDD+ programmes are designed in a culturally appropriate manner, based on genuine participation, and respectful of the rights of indigenous peoples in climate change mitigation activities.

Strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local communities in South America

IUCN strengthened the capacity of indigenous and local communities to conserve the mountain ecosystems in the Andes of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, in particular the páramo highlands. This was done through regional learning exchanges on topics such as bio-commerce, agrobiodiversity and the links between gender, climate change and conservation. These exchanges will contribute to crop diversification, improving livelihoods and reducing gender inequities.

Tenure security for indigenous peoples and local communities

IUCN developed a new policy framework for achieving greater tenure security for indigenous peoples and local communities in protected areas, through formal recognition of their rights to lands and resources. IUCN also developed a new conceptual and methodological framework on natural resource governance (NRGF). Its aim is to guide decision makers in improving the quality of decisions on the use of natural resources and the distribution of nature's benefits, and to enhance the contributions of ecosystems to equity and sustainability.

Human rights principles in conservation

The Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR) is composed of IUCN and seven IUCN Member organisations working to improve the practice of conservation by promoting the integration of human rights principles in conservation policy and practice. The initiative entered a new phase of work in 2016, in collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteurs to the Human Rights Council. Its aim is to strengthen the content and application of rights-based approaches, and to achieve greater international recognition of the value of inclusive conservation for sustainable development, justice and well-being.

UPCOMING WORK

Following the Resolutions adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, IUCN will strengthen the application of rights-based approaches in its programme. IUCN will work more closely with indigenous peoples and community organisations to resolve conflicts on natural resource use that affect them, and improve its tools for project design and implementation. Actions for supporting community tenure security will be implemented in indigenous and community lands overlapping with protected areas in Africa. IUCN will also strengthen the role of indigenous peoples and coastal communities in marine conservation and local governance in selected regions, such as East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. This will be done by improving legal and policy frameworks, and by building local capacities and institutions.

The Conservation Initiative on Human Rights will start a new area of collaborative work on rights-based management of indigenous territories, in partnership with indigenous organisations.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Map of indigenous peoples, protected areas and natural ecosystems in Central America

Ma. Zelma Larios (2016). *Lineamientos para la Consulta y Consentimiento Libre, Previo e Informado en el marco de las salvaguardas ambientales y sociales para proyectos REDD+: Una oportunidad para la instrumentalización de mecanismos de participación*. San José, Costa Rica: IUCN.

IUCN (2016). *Lineamientos para la gestión compartida de áreas protegidas: Pueblos indígenas y tribales y comunidades locales en Centroamérica*. San José, Costa Rica: IUCN.

AREAS OF WORK

INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL PEOPLES

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES

BIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY, INCLUDING THE SPIRITUAL VALUES OF NATURE

GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

IUCN MEMBERS CREATED A NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ORGANISATIONS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ROLE IN CONSERVING THE PLANET

Species

Species are critical for the survival of the planet but the ever-increasing human population is placing them under enormous pressure. Habitat destruction, invasive species, overexploitation, illegal wildlife trade, pollution and climate change are among the biggest threats to their survival.

IUCN is at the forefront of the global fight to save species from extinction. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is used to guide decision making and conservation action. IUCN also supports conservation projects on the ground and provides technical expertise on most species groups and issues affecting wildlife, such as invasive species, sustainable use and trade, or the impact of climate change.

Assessments of species

In 2016, new and updated assessments for 20,595 species were completed for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, including plants (1,510 species), invertebrates (1,226 species), marine fishes (1,021 species), freshwater fishes (677 species), reptiles (663 species), and more than 700 newly recognised bird species. The assessments also included evidence of the continued declines of two iconic species – the eastern gorilla and the giraffe – as well as an increase in the population of the giant panda. The IUCN Red List, which is the most comprehensive source of information on the extinction risk of plant, animal and fungi species, now includes 85,604 assessed species.

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

IUCN published 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas', following a global consultation process. KBAs are places that include vital habitats for species and therefore require enhanced protection. The standard allows countries to identify sites that are important for their biodiversity, using a set of scientific criteria, and can be used, for example, to extend their protected area network.

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, 11 of the world's leading conservation organisations, including IUCN, announced a new partnership to identify, map, monitor and conserve Key Biodiversity Areas, with more than US\$ 15 million committed over the next five years.

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool brings together three key global data sets: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the World Database on Protected Areas and The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas™. It provides tools and reporting for businesses, the finance sector, governments and conservation planners. In 2016, major improvements were tested to enhance decision making on interventions near freshwater catchments and the provision of country-level statistics.

The Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species

IUCN, together with 32 organisations and institutions, launched the Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species. The initiative calls for urgent action to address biological invasions, in order to protect biodiversity and human well-being from their impacts. By the end of 2016, the Challenge had 34 supporters and seven commitments, including two from national governments: New Zealand and the UK.



2016 IUCN Red List assessments included evidence of the continued decline of the giraffe, now listed as Vulnerable.

Conservation action on the ground

SOS – Save Our Species is a joint initiative of IUCN, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. It provides grants to selected projects to conserve threatened species and their habitats. The SOS portfolio reached a total of 109 projects in 2016, including 11 grants awarded to projects focussing on lemurs in Madagascar under the SOS Lemurs special initiative. A private foundation based in Geneva and the European Commission joined the initiative at the end of the year with a particular focus on lemurs in Madagascar and large carnivores in Africa. This will result in a significant increase in SOS activities in the coming years. Five small rapid action grants were also awarded to tackle emerging threats to species. These grants completed the first five-year phase of SOS in 2016, with a cumulative amount committed reaching US\$ 10.2 million, and US\$ 13 million leveraged.

The Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation

Programme (ITHCP), funded by the German Cooperation, has a current portfolio of 10 projects which represent €15 million, focussing on key Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs) of India, Nepal, Indonesia, Myanmar and Bhutan. Five of these projects started in 2016. In addition to boosting the management of protected areas by providing better infrastructure, modern equipment, training programmes and improved patrolling techniques, the projects seek to improve the livelihoods of people and maintain a peaceful coexistence between humans and tigers. The ITHCP is aligned with the Global Tiger Recovery Programme, which aims to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022.

Partnership with Toyota Motor Corporation

IUCN and the Toyota Motor Corporation announced a five-year partnership to provide funding to broaden the scope of the IUCN Red List. This partnership will significantly increase knowledge on the extinction risk of more than 28,000 species, including many that are increasingly critical for food security.

IUCN'S PARTNERSHIP WITH TOYOTA WILL INCREASE KNOWLEDGE ON THE EXTINCTION RISK OF MANY SPECIES THAT ARE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL FOR FOOD SECURITY

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will publish at least 5,000 new assessments of species on the IUCN Red List, including a large number of reptiles, fishes and plants.

IUCN will identify new Alliance for Zero Extinction sites for mammals, amphibians, chameleons, cacti, conifers and cycads which contain more than 95% of the global populations of known threatened species.

IUCN will identify freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes, Madagascar and Canada. A strategic plan will be developed for the implementation of the KBA Standard, including providing guidance to the private sector.

IUCN will start the implementation of new SOS initiatives in Africa and Madagascar and will pursue efforts to increase tiger populations.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at CoP17

IUCN (2016). *A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0*. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Thouless, C.R. et al. (2016). *African Elephant Status Report 2016: An update from the African Elephant Database*. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 60. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Henson, D.W., Malpas, R.C. and F.A.C. D'Udine (2016). *Wildlife Law Enforcement in Sub-Saharan African Protected Areas – A Review of Best Practices*. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 58. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Foden, W.B. and B.E. Young (eds.) (2016). *IUCN SSC Guidelines for Assessing Species' Vulnerability to Climate Change*. Version 1.0. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 59. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN Species Survival Commission.

SOS Save Our Species: five years of conservation action. Report 2011–2016

AREAS OF WORK

THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES™

SUSTAINABLE USE AND TRADE

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

SPECIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CONSERVATION PROJECTS: SAVE OUR SPECIES (SOS) AND THE INTEGRATED TIGER HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (ITHCP)

PROVIDING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONVENTIONS

Water

Only 3% of the planet's water is freshwater, two-thirds of which is captured in glaciers and polar ice. In the current climate predictions, safeguarding the water supplies we need for a global population set to reach 10 billion by 2050 will be a challenging task.

IUCN promotes the conservation of freshwater biodiversity to ensure sustainable, clean and affordable water for human use. IUCN mobilises its knowledge and networks to improve water governance and investments in natural water infrastructure, and to implement sustainable river basin management.



Lago Moreno, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. IUCN works towards strengthening water law and governance in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Transboundary governance of rivers and lake basins

Through the Building River Dialogues and Governance (BRIDGE) initiative, IUCN aims to strengthen institutions to improve water management in 14 transboundary river and lake basins in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In the Mano River basin in West Africa, the initiative secured agreement among Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Guinea to cooperate on investment in controlling pollution caused by mining activities. The countries surrounding Lake Malawi/Niassa/Nyasa (Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania) agreed for the first time to jointly explore three-way cooperation for management of the lake and freshwater biodiversity.

In the Horn of Africa, the BRIDGE initiative is helping negotiators build a protocol on shared watercourses, which the international community has identified as a pillar for renewing peace and security in the region.

In Honduras, the Goascorán Basin Council – set up with the support of BRIDGE – is strengthening democracy in vulnerable communities by bringing together local municipalities, businesses and national government for basin management.

In the Lake Titicaca basin (Peru/Bolivia), IUCN, Agua Sustentable, and the BRIDGE leaders' network have empowered women to advocate for ecosystem management in the basin.

In the Mekong region, BRIDGE provided training in international water law to parliamentarians and in diplomatic academies to trigger support for the ratification of the United Nations Watercourses Convention. The Convention seeks to establish a governing framework for transboundary rivers.

Natural water infrastructure

IUCN, with a consortium of scientific partners in the WISE-UP to Climate project in the Tana (Kenya) and Volta (Burkina Faso, Ghana) river basins, brought together governments and investors to begin using data on hydrology and ecosystem values to plan investments in natural infrastructure such as wetlands, floodplains and watersheds. The aim is to generate benefits for people's livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and water security.

Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture

IUCN's knowledge on sustainable basin management was applied in Tanzania and Mozambique in joint ventures between local and commercial farmers, incorporating forest restoration in watershed protection

and small business development. The aim is to improve elephant transit between protected areas. This is part of the SUSTAIN-Africa initiative in which IUCN and partners aim to facilitate inclusive and climate-resilient economic growth in African growth corridors.

Sustainable water management

Water security plans in eight municipalities in Jordan and Tunisia were developed based on knowledge generated by the IUCN-led Regional Knowledge Network on Water (RKNOW), which aims to strengthen water management and governance in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco and Egypt.

In Asia, IUCN strengthened cooperation on wetland management through the launch of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI). This initiative will improve coordination between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands through, for example, improved sharing of wetland management outcomes, provision of technical training, and support for regional dialogues on wetland policies.

IUCN'S BRIDGE INITIATIVE SECURED AGREEMENT AMONG SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, IVORY COAST AND GUINEA TO COOPERATE ON INVESTMENT IN CONTROLLING POLLUTION CAUSED BY MINING ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will work to identify pipelines for investment of climate finance in watersheds and water-related ecosystems. IUCN will work with partners from scientific and financial institutions, governments and civil society organisations, to apply tools for natural infrastructure investment. Building on its extensive expertise, IUCN will make a case for a global mechanism or commitment process that requires a percentage of every investment in built infrastructure to be matched by investment in nature.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Smith, M., Cross, K., Paden, M. and P. Laban (2016). *Spring – Managing groundwater sustainably*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

IUCN (2016). *A window of opportunity for the Mekong Basin: The UN Watercourses Convention as a basis for cooperation (A legal analysis of how the UN Watercourses Convention complements the Mekong Agreement)*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Smith, M. (2016). *Collaboration for Resilience: How Collaboration among Business, Government and NGOs could be the Key to Living with Turbulence and Change in the 21st Century*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

RKNOW (2016). *Knowledge for SDG Action in West Asia and North Africa. R-KNOW Water Governance Best Practices within the Water, Energy, Food and Climate Change Nexus*. Gland, Switzerland and Amman, Jordan: IUCN.

Davies, J., Barchiesi, S., Ogali, C.J., Welling, R., Dalton, J. and P. Laban (2016). *Water in drylands: Adapting to scarcity through integrated management*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Porras, N. (2016). *The Sixaola River Basin: Costa Rica and Panama*. San José, Costa Rica: IUCN.

Maier, L., Porras, N., Córdoba, R., MacQuarrie, P. and R. Welling, R. (2016). *La Cuenca del Río Goascorán: Honduras y El Salvador*. San José, Costa Rica: IUCN.

Newborne, P. and J. Dalton (2016). *Water Management and Stewardship: Taking stock of corporate water behaviour*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and London, UK: ODI.

AREAS OF WORK

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER AND LAKE BASIN GOVERNANCE
NATURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

World Heritage

Natural World Heritage sites are recognised as the world's most significant protected areas, and yet they are under increasing pressure from climate change, large infrastructure projects and other threats.

IUCN is the official advisory body on nature under the World Heritage Convention. IUCN provides technical advice to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and governments, evaluates sites nominated for the World Heritage List, and monitors the state of conservation of listed sites. IUCN works to promote the effective management of World Heritage sites and enhance the Convention's leadership role in conservation and sustainable development.

Recommendations to the World Heritage Committee

IUCN provided recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. This included 61 reports monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites facing threats and 17 evaluations of sites proposed for inscription or boundary changes.

IUCN World Heritage Outlook

IUCN brought together the African Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London as the first partners to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook – the only system to date assessing all natural World Heritage sites – to translate it into action on the ground. The objective is to help address the main challenges faced by World Heritage sites and improve the effectiveness of their conservation.

Heritage Heroes awards

IUCN launched the Heritage Heroes awards to recognise exceptional individuals who protect natural World Heritage sites, often in life-threatening circumstances. The initiative generated public engagement through online voting, with close to 8,000 participants. Bibhuti Lahkar won the 'Heritage Hero people's choice' award in recognition of his conservation work in India's Manas Wildlife Sanctuary. Five Heritage Heroes were celebrated at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016.



UNESCO's 40th session of the World Heritage Committee
IUCN is the official advisory body on nature under the World Heritage Convention.

Nature-culture commitments

Delegates of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016's Nature-Culture Journey, which was coordinated by IUCN and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS, an advisory body on cultural World Heritage) with the support of US/ICOMOS, issued a statement of commitments. The document calls on the nature and culture conservation sectors to work towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and Habitat III's New Urban Agenda. It feeds into the Hawai'i Commitments and continues to gather the support of practitioners around the world.

World Heritage Leadership

IUCN signed a six-year project with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) – an advisory body on culture to the World Heritage Committee. Funded by Norway, the project focusses on making sure that World Heritage plays a leadership role in innovation and excellence, as an integral component of the Convention's contribution to sustainable development.

Multi-internationally designated areas

Following the request from IUCN Members, IUCN provided guidance on harmonising the management of multi-internationally designated areas, including Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks. A 2016 IUCN Resolution invites Member organisations and the four international designating bodies to implement IUCN's recommendations.

World Heritage in the high seas

In a new study, IUCN, together with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, identified five sites in the high seas that have potential for World Heritage recognition despite being located beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

Collaboration on the Ohrid Region World Heritage nomination

Among the World Heritage actions undertaken at the regional level, IUCN engaged in a pilot project for the 'upstream process'. The process involves collaboration between governments and World Heritage advisory bodies, in preparation for the nomination of new sites for World Heritage listing. In 2016, the project focussed on the extension of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region in FYR Macedonia into Albania, and addressed the management plan, waste management and soft-tourism infrastructure.

UPCOMING WORK

In 2017, IUCN will update its World Heritage Outlook, making it possible to track the progress of World Heritage conservation over time. The Benefits of Natural World Heritage project, which identifies and assesses the ecosystem services and life-supporting benefits of natural World Heritage sites, will enter its second phase, shifting its focus from a global level to a site level.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Schaaf, T. and Clamote Rodrigues, D. (2016). *Managing MIDAs: Harmonising the management of MultiInternationally Designated Areas: Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Freestone, D., Laffoley, D., Douvere, F. and Badman, T. (2016). *World Heritage in the High Seas: an idea whose time has come*. Paris, France: UNESCO.

AREAS OF WORK

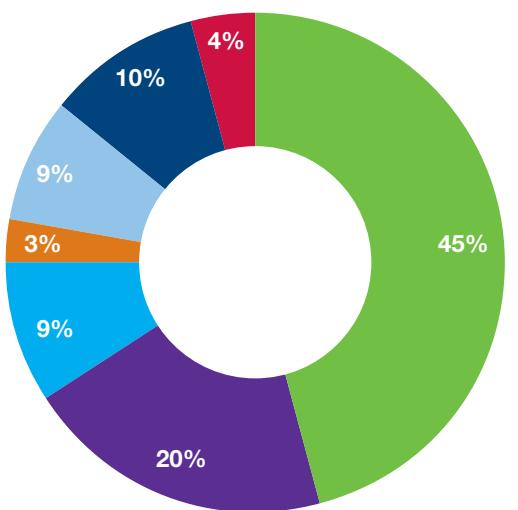
NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE

AS THE OFFICIAL ADVISORY BODY ON NATURE UNDER THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, IUCN ISSUED 61 REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES FACING THREATS

Thanking our Members, donors and partners

IUCN is a Union made up of committed governments, national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations who share a passion for valuing and conserving nature. Their continued and valued engagement is vital for the existence of the Union. The Membership fee contributions represented CHF 12.9m in 2016.

IUCN's work is further supported by public and private sources – governments, multilateral agencies, foundations and trusts, businesses, individuals and non-governmental organisations. Governments and multilateral institutions continue to be IUCN's largest donors providing both core and programme support.



2016 contributions – total CHF 129.9m

Membership – 12.9m (10%)
International and national NGOs – 5.2m (4%)
Government agencies – 57.7m (45%)
Multilateral agencies and conventions – 25.9m (20%)
Foundations – 12.2m (9%)
Corporations – 3.8m (3%)
Other – 12.2m (9%)

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

Denmark, Finland, France, Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, The MAVA Foundation

IUCN also wishes to acknowledge the following donors for their continued programmatic support in 2016:

Governments: Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, United Arab Emirates/Abu Dhabi and the United Kingdom

Multilateral institutions: European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations

Environment Programme, West African Economic and Monetary Union, The World Bank, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Foundations/Funds: Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Arcus Foundation, Argidius Foundation, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Drosos Foundation, Ford Foundation, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Audemars Piguet & Cie, Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, The Christensen Fund, Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation, Manna Foundation, The Asia Foundation, Tiffany Foundation

Toyota Motor Corporation for its significant support to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

For a full list of donors, please consult
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**“LATER IS OFFICIALLY
OVER. YOU CAN
REMOVE IT FROM
THE DICTIONARY
BECAUSE LATER
WILL NOW BE TOO
LATE.”**

Thomas Friedman, The New York Times
at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016



WORKING FOR A JUST WORLD THAT VALUES AND CONSERVES NATURE



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