



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR CONSERVATION  
OF NATURE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

We are now more ready than ever to acknowledge that there will be no healthy people, or a healthy economy, without a healthy planet. In 2019, IUCN Members – including governments, civil society and indigenous people's organisations – jointly demonstrated the Union's commitment to nature and people.



IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng



Dr Grethel Aguilar.

There is no doubt that we need to curb the unprecedented rate at which we are losing biodiversity. We know that nature is essential to sustaining our existence on Earth. In 2019, the links between human activity and nature played out in full force. The second-hottest year on record saw raging wildfires destroy lives and ecosystems in the Amazon rainforest, Australia, Indonesia, Russia and the United States. The disturbing trends in biodiversity loss were brought into stark focus by the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, which revealed that over 30,000 species now face the threat of extinction. Furthermore, the year ended with the emergence of COVID-19, a global pandemic that continues to transform and challenge the way we live, even as this report goes to print.

Despite the turmoil, this year also brought hope, unity and a sense of urgency to address the biodiversity and climate crises. Calls to action were heard throughout the world. This report shows how the Union mobilised to bring about positive action, working with national and local governments, civil society, scientists, businesses and indigenous peoples to solve environmental, social and economic challenges. Through our partnerships, we have come to better understand the problems at hand, find sustainable solutions and scale up actions that can reconcile people and planet. We helped position nature-based solutions as essential for both human well-being and biodiversity, and raised ambitions for the next decade.

In 2019, IUCN's membership and Commissions took part in 11 Regional Conservation Fora worldwide, shaping the development of an ambitious new IUCN Programme. The Programme, to be submitted for adoption at the next IUCN World Conservation Congress, will guide the Union's work to 2024 and beyond. This year also advanced the Union's preparations for the IUCN Congress – a key opportunity to set us on a path to recovery and resilience and shape the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and with it the new world that will emerge in the coming decade. We thank our Councillors, Members and Commission experts for their passion and dedication, invigorating the Union as we approach the final lap of the 2017–2020 quadrennium.

The challenges humanity faces are considerable, but so are the opportunities. With the dedication, knowledge and skills of our 15,600 volunteer experts and over 1,300 Members, IUCN is ready to take on those challenges.

Zhang Xinsheng

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

Dr Grethel Aguilar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grethel Aguilar".



IUCN Acting Director General Dr Grethel Aguilar and IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng, along with Elizabeth Bennett of the Wildlife Conservation Society, at the Knowledge Dialogue Series on nature-based solutions for climate change, held during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This year, IUCN helped position nature-based solutions as essential for both human well-being and biodiversity.

# OVERVIEW OF IUCN

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

We provide public, private and non-governmental organisations with 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.

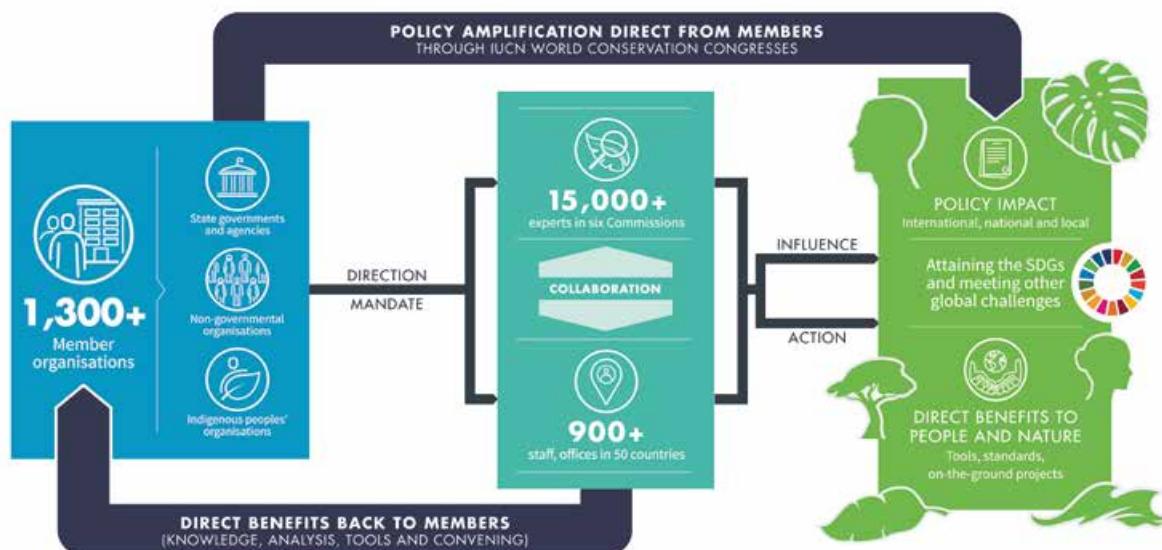
Harnessing the experience, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of over 15,600 volunteer scientists and experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six Commissions 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 forum in which governments,

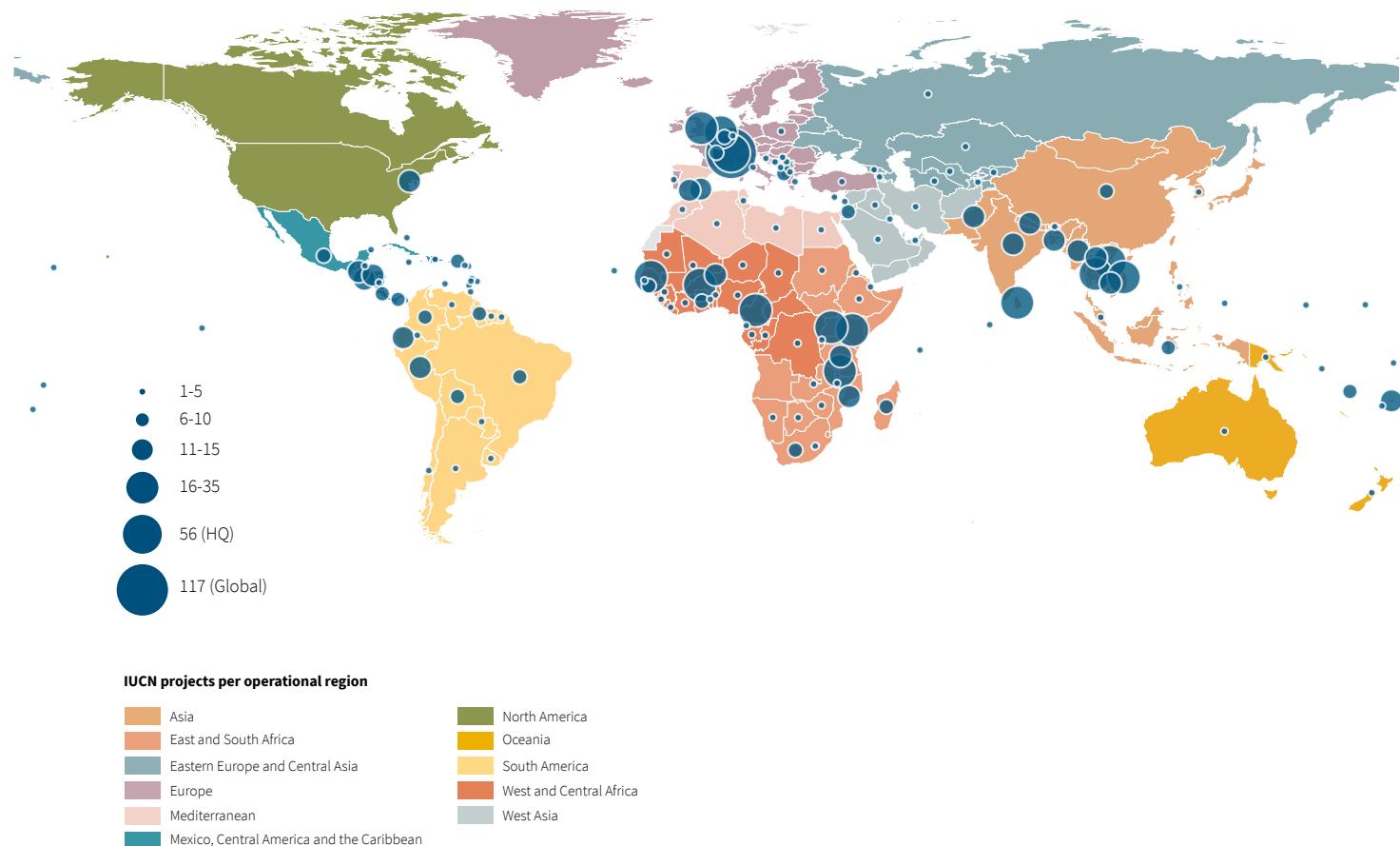
non-governmental organisations, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

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

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



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



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 reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information that feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

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

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

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

# MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

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

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

Seventy-two new Members joined the Union in 2019, with the NGO sector representing the highest growth

percentage. This year was also important for State membership. Bahrain and Kosovo joined the Union as new Members, and six States that were previously active Members rejoined IUCN: Central African Republic, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Solomon Islands and South Africa.



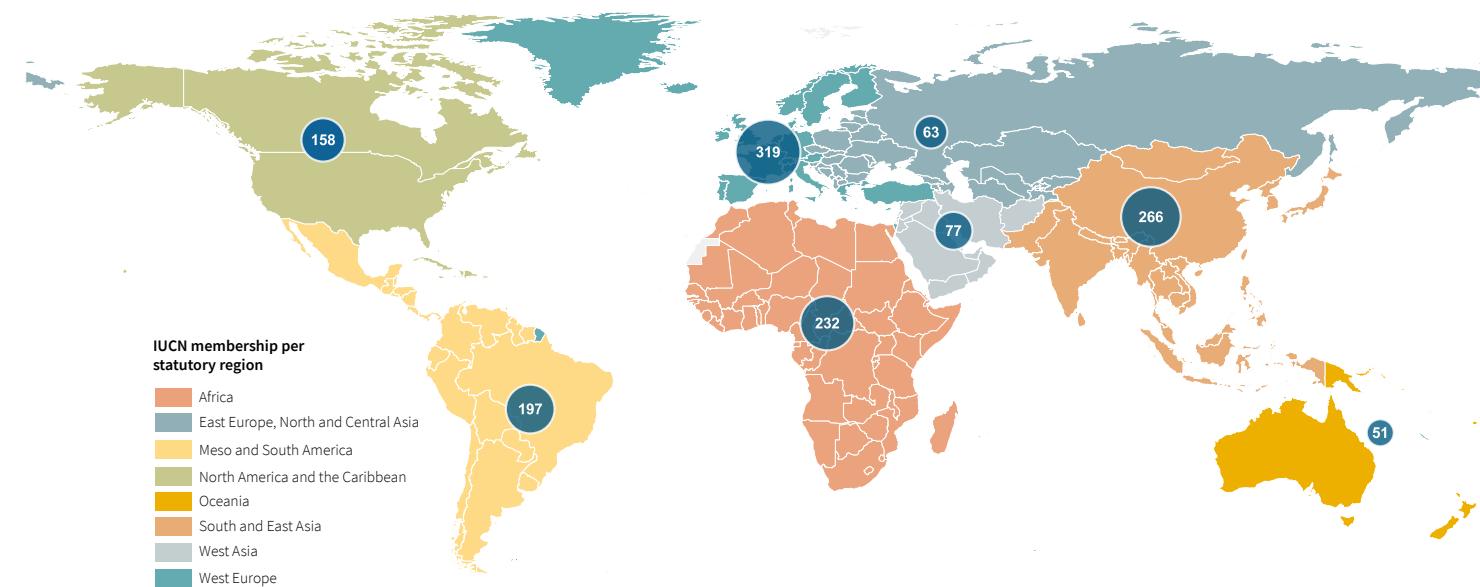
IUCN Council 2017–2020 during its 95th meeting at IUCN's headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

## Committees of IUCN Members 2019

IUCN Members within a country or region may choose to establish National and Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation among themselves and with other parts of the Union. There are currently 67 officially recognised National Committees and seven recognised Regional Committees.

Statutory Region	National	Regional
Africa	17	2
Meso and South America	16	2
North America and the Caribbean	3	1
South and East Asia	10	1
West Asia	5	1
Oceania	2	
East Europe, North and Central Asia	3	
West Europe	11	
Total	67	7

## IUCN MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



## IUCN's Commissions unite 15,600 experts from a range of disciplines.

The six IUCN Commissions are a broad and active network of over 15,600 scientists and experts, providing IUCN and its Members with sound knowledge and policy advice to drive conservation and sustainable development. The Commissions focus on developing environmental laws and policies, linking conservation to social and economic decision making, evaluating the status of species and ecosystems, catalysing systematic planning and conservation action, promoting expanded and improved management of protected areas and natural resources, and strengthening conservation through education, training and strategic communication.



# IUCN'S LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

Despite the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the coming year will be of vital importance for people and nature. It will be a time for action, grounded in the knowledge that risking the health of the planet is risking our own health, stability and well-being.

## THE WISDOM OF INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Our interconnectedness is becoming increasingly apparent as the world moves into the new decade. There is now no denying that countries are economically interdependent, that ecosystem health and human well-being are inextricably linked, and that collaboration and integration are more powerful than competition and segregation. Every interconnected system is more than the sum of its parts – an adage that applies well to IUCN itself.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals agreed upon by countries are now widely recognised as being interlinked. These goals need to be achieved at a much faster pace if we want a planet on which people and nature can prosper. Yes, we need to recognise that our current efforts are not enough and that integrated multi-sectoral approaches are called for, if we are to embrace our developmental challenges, and their solutions, holistically. Singular actions to eradicate poverty,

provide education or end hunger will not generate the desired impacts if not coupled with access to water, clean air and a healthy environment. We humans depend on nature to thrive and nature needs us to take the right decisions.

Throughout 2019, IUCN continued to explore the interrelatedness of conservation and development, and shed light on critical issues that call for immediate action. Among others, we analysed the startling yet often overlooked links between the degradation of nature and gender-based violence, underscoring the need to address the two issues together. We alerted decision makers to the threat of ocean oxygen loss, a crisis driven by global warming and nutrient pollution that has grave and urgent consequences for us all, not just for ocean life. We provided evidence that connecting forest landscape restoration initiatives under the Bonn Challenge with Land Degradation Neutrality targets helps countries restore land more efficiently, and could ultimately help protect biodiversity and support climate change mitigation and adaptation. We also spotlighted the latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ update, which showed that while conservation efforts did improve the status of ten species, more than 30,000 are still threatened with extinction.

Bold action is urgently needed. Many citizens are calling for societal outlooks to change, especially now as we face unsettling times. As we enter 2020 in crisis mode, with the tragedy of lives lost and the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic just beginning to be felt, we are taking heed of just how interlinked we are. We are seeing how swift, wilful action can be impactful and how cooperation between countries can be a lifeline in the face of a global crisis.

Now would be a good time to re-examine many facets of our interconnected and globalised lives, and devise ways to amplify what works well for the greater good and renovate what does not. Once the imminent threat to human life begins to subside, attention will increasingly turn to restarting the economy. Investing in conservation and restoration, for instance, could



Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala Alfonso Alonso and IUCN Acting Director General Dr Grethel Aguilar, after signing a memorandum of understanding for the USD 38 million Green Climate Fund project "Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands," during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.



IUCN Acting Director General Dr Grethel Aguilar speaking at the official launch of the USD 300 million Sea the Future initiative, held during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event was organised by IUCN Patron of Nature Andrew Forrest.

simultaneously stimulate economies, safeguard nature, mitigate climate change and improve global health. Indeed, this crisis should prompt us to revisit some of the economic premises that have been comfortably accepted for decades. Rethinking political and financial decisions will be the order of the day. As a worldwide Union of governments, organisations and experts from a wide range of disciplines, IUCN is well-placed to shape this debate and lead efforts to build a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive future.

IUCN has long understood the interdependence of the three pillars of sustainable development, which, much like a three-legged stool, will not hold steadfast unless each is equally stable. Ensuring socio-political, environmental and economic sustainability is today an urgent task that calls for new partnerships and the full engagement of public, private and social actors. As a respected evidence-based Union with the ability to advise, convene and generate positive impacts, IUCN has the opportunity to be a leader in this arena.

Increasing its reach into non-conservation sectors, particularly the business community, should be a priority for IUCN, using approaches such as nature-based solutions to demonstrate the role of nature in achieving development goals. In fact, IUCN will soon be launching the new Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions to provide a common framework for benchmarking nature-based responses to societal challenges such as water security, food security, human health, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

## SHAPING THE DECADE OF ACTION

Despite the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19, the coming two years are hugely important milestones in the international development agenda. They will mark the beginning of the Decade of Action, a crucial period for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. As the UN Decade on Biodiversity (2011–2020) comes to an end, a new global biodiversity framework will be adopted for the post-2020 era. IUCN will continue to engage in the development of this ambitious framework, aiming to achieve, by 2050, the shared vision of “living in harmony with nature”. This post-2020 framework should be seen not as a new conservation agenda, but as a global strategy for jointly safeguarding nature and securing our common future, as was called for by the IUCN membership in its Resolution WCC-2016-Res-096.

Following extensive consultations during 2019, IUCN Members will soon be adopting a new IUCN Programme. This Programme, which gives IUCN the opportunity to look 10 years into the future, offers a forward-thinking strategy with incremental goals that can be refreshed every four years, in line with the IUCN Statutes. Once adopted, the new IUCN Programme will align our work and high-level objectives with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It will solidify our role as a key agent of change, guiding our collective action in line with IUCN’s vision: a just world that values and conserves nature.

This coming year will lead us to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to prioritise people's health and safety, IUCN and the French Government decided, before this Annual Report was published, to postpone the IUCN Congress from June 2020 to January 2021. This Congress is an opportunity for IUCN to be the voice of nature, a space where governments, civil society, the private sector and young leaders can build a more promising future. As the post-COVID-19 recovery phase begins, the role of the IUCN Congress in shaping a brighter, fairer and less vulnerable world becomes more critical than ever.

In striving towards its vision, and to achieve its mission, IUCN will continue to harness the potential of multi-stakeholder engagement, inter-generational action, women's empowerment, and respect for indigenous peoples' rights. We know that social, economic and environmental progress can – and must – go hand in hand, and that when different sectors work together, people and biodiversity can thrive. Because we know that sustainable practices and inclusive governance mechanisms can improve the state of the environment, strengthen local communities and build resilience, we remain committed to scaling up and mainstreaming these approaches.

In the coming decade, we are likely to see responsible and accountable natural resource governance becoming development cornerstones. We should see increasing

due diligence requirements and demands for responsible business conduct and sustainable supply chains. Concepts such as environmental justice and social equity should ring stronger and stronger in the ears of political leaders, while the climate and biodiversity crises gain ground. Nature must be increasingly valued as an ally and an asset, rather than an externality, and the environmental wisdom of indigenous peoples and ancient cultures should be recognised. Our interconnectedness should become undeniable.

In recent years, millions of people took to the streets and to social media, advocating for bold climate action and greater sustainability. Expectations are higher now than ever before and will only continue to rise. Moving into the next decade, we are likely to see an even greater sense of urgency for deep-rooted change. This is our opportunity to steer towards truly sustainable and equitable development and for IUCN to strengthen its position at the forefront of nature conservation. As the Kenyan activist and Nobel Peace prize winner Wangari Maathai said: "*In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other.*" IUCN has the knowledge, the networks, the convening and influencing power, and the commitment to push the boundaries of conservation, drive transformative change and embark on a more hopeful path. The time for this Union to take the lead is now.

**“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other.”** Wangari Maathai



Two girls walk along a rural road in Nepal that was stabilised with broom grass as part of an ecosystem-based adaptation project to reduce risks of landslides and flash floods. IUCN supports disaster risk reduction work across mountain ecosystems in Nepal, Bhutan, Peru, Colombia, Uganda, and Kenya.



# IUCN REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORA

Throughout 2019, IUCN hosted Member organisations, government leaders and conservation experts at Regional Conservation Fora in each of its 11 operational regions.

Participants identified their objectives for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 and drafted motions for debate focused on regional needs, global conservation goals and the advancement of IUCN's mission.

Regional Conservation Fora strengthen the decisions made at Congress by the Members' Assembly, IUCN's highest decision-making body, by bringing together regional expertise and perspectives in advance of each IUCN Congress.

## IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2020

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, the world's leading biodiversity event, takes place under the theme 'One nature, one future' – underlining the need for healthy environment as a prerequisite for the sustainable future of our planet.

The outcomes of the IUCN Congress will inform new global targets to address the escalating biodiversity crisis under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, to be adopted in Kunming, China, and inform the debate at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP26 in Glasgow, UK, and at the UN General Assembly Leaders' Biodiversity Summit in New York, USA.



High-level panel on the post-2020 agenda at the Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Panellists included from left Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, Peter Bakker, President and CEO, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission.



Participants at the Regional Conservation Forum for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, held in La Antigua, Guatemala.



IUCN President President Zhang Xinsheng with President of Pakistan Imran Khan at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum.



Closing ceremony at the Central and West Africa Programme's Regional Conservation Forum. Panellists from left to right: Jean-Louis Zoël, Ambassador of France in Guinea Bissau; Aliou Faye, IUCN Regional Director for Central and West Africa; Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General; Armando Manga, Vice Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau; Quite Djata, Secretary of State for Environment and Biodiversity, Guinea Bissau; Mamadou Diallo, IUCN Regional Councilor for Africa.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The implementation of IUCN's 2017–2020 Programme is made possible through partnerships, investments and support from a growing number of donors

## CORE SUPPORT

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development member countries remain the largest source of income for IUCN. In 2019, income from multilateral sources represented the largest growth, followed by bilateral donors. Income from foundations, the private sector and non-governmental organisations remained stable.

**IUCN's Framework Partners** continue to be instrumental in building and supporting a strong Union through multi-year core support and project funding:

- Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Government of France:
  - French Development Agency
  - Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition
  - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry for Overseas France
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- United States State Department

**Patrons of Nature** are a growing group of passionate voices for the environment who support IUCN through investment, strategic advice and advocacy to enhance IUCN's visibility. In 2019, IUCN welcomed four new Patrons: Dr Luming Ai, Andrew Forrest, Laura Turner Seydel and David E. Shaw.

*I think the world is at the crossroads. If we don't protect the environment now, the environment will forever be incapable of recovery. We need to protect it right now. The next four to five years are completely critical.*

**Andrew Forrest, IUCN Patron for Nature**

*Human activities continue to intensify, leading to the global climate crisis and the decline of biodiversity today. As the largest conservation organisation in the world, IUCN should take the lead and shoulder the greater responsibilities in natural protection, including addressing climate change and conserving biodiversity.*

**Dr Luming Ai, Patron of Nature**

## PROGRAMME AND PROJECT SUPPORT

IUCN is grateful to its donors who committed over CHF 146 million in new project support in 2019, resulting in an active portfolio of CHF 462 million.

New and large programmatic funding agreements were signed with the Governments of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Support from the US State Department and USAID has been key in advancing the Union's work on gender in the environment, as well as work on wildlife trafficking.

*Working with IUCN has been an important part of USAID efforts to make conservation more inclusive and effective. Our work has focused on issues as diverse as the integration of gender issues into conservation actions, and combating wildlife trafficking. We value IUCN and its network as a facilitator in bringing the expertise and commitment of civil society and national governments together to address global biodiversity issues.*

**Mary Rowen, DFES, Senior Wildlife Advisor, Forestry and Biodiversity Office, USAID/Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment**

The German government remains the largest bilateral contributor to the project portfolio. Over the past decade, IUCN and the German Development Bank (KfW) have collaborated successfully on a number of terrestrial and marine conservation programmes. This fruitful cooperation was further strengthened in 2019 with the renewal of a partnership for 2019–2021 and with the signing of two financing agreements. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank signed two agreements with IUCN as the implementing agency for two regional initiatives in Latin America and Southern Africa for EUR 18.9 million and EUR 12 million respectively.

*Acknowledging that IUCN sets the international quality standards for nature conservation, it is only logical that one of the leading financing institutions for biodiversity protection such as KfW, with a current funding volume of EUR 2.7 billion, deepens its ties with IUCN.*

**Roland Siller, member of the KfW Management Committee**

IUCN's engagement with the European Commission, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund increased significantly last year, with a large portfolio of projects being implemented that focus on forest landscape restoration, protected areas, mangrove restoration, climate change, species conservation and drylands management.

IUCN's work continues to be supported by a number of foundations spread across the world. Of significant importance was the continued support from the MAVA Foundation in developing IUCN's knowledge products and strengthening conservation work in West and North Africa, the Balkans and the Mediterranean. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided support for applying the IUCN Green List Standard to a number of protected and conserved areas in South America, with the aim of measuring, improving and maintaining their conservation outcomes, good governance and effective management.

A number of private foundations underwrote species conservation action plans through SOS-Save our Species, IUCN's financing mechanism that funds frontline conservation organisations across the world to respond to the challenges identified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.



IUCN's partnership with KfW was renewed for 2019-2021, and two new financing agreements were signed by Dr Grethel Aguilar (Acting Director General) for IUCN and Roland Siller (member of the Management Committee) for KfW Development Bank.

The IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership added 9,150 species to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ in 2019, including species that are important for food security and livelihoods. All assessments are available on the new IUCN Red List web-based platform, which is used to raise awareness about species conservation.

The second chapter of IUCN's partnership with Lacoste launched on May 22, International Biodiversity Day. Lacoste released a new line of limited edition polo shirts featuring threatened species, highlighting the urgent need to conserve biodiversity to new audiences.

*Sida supports IUCN's work in championing nature-based solutions for people's well-being as a long-standing Framework Partner that shares IUCN's vision for a just world that values and conserves nature.*

**Carin Jämtin, Director General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**



Rainbow eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*).  
The December 2019 update of the IUCN Red  
List of Threatened Species™ revealed that  
almost a quarter of the 826 known eucalypt  
species are threatened with extinction.

# IUCN 2019 OUTPUTS



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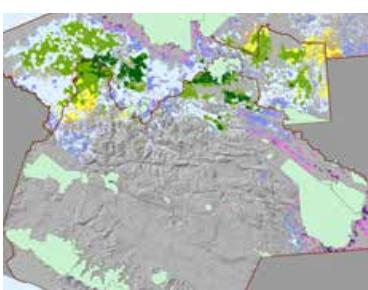
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# BUSINESS

**As the world prepares to scale up its commitments to address biodiversity loss and climate change, business will play a key role in driving the transformation towards a healthy, low-carbon economy.**

IUCN engages companies, key sectors and civil society organisations, providing tools and guidance that help business value nature, manage impacts and invest in nature-based solutions.

Aerial view of the Fundão Dam failure (July 2016). Convened by IUCN, the independent Rio Doce Panel is making recommendations to the Renova Foundation on the reparation of the Rio Doce watershed in Brazil, following a 2015 tailings dam collapse.



## VALUING BIODIVERSITY

IUCN is helping business better understand and value biodiversity. IUCN helped launch Business for Nature, a global umbrella of forward-thinking companies and influential organisations that are calling for action to reverse nature loss and restore the planet's vital natural systems. IUCN also facilitated the creation of SwissBiz4Nature, an initiative backed by the Swiss Government that is working with international companies to showcase good practice and help businesses monitor their biodiversity performance.

To make valuing nature the new norm for business across Europe, IUCN worked with partners as part of the European Commission-funded We Value Nature campaign. The campaign targets key business sectors, identifying barriers and offering tailored clinics to help business become more sustainable.

IUCN and IUCN Member the Nigerian Conservation Foundation collaborated with Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. to identify sites where they will monitor the efficacy of the company's revised remediation standard on biodiversity recovery at remediated spill sites.

## PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

IUCN launched a project in collaboration with Électricité de France (EDF), Energias de Portugal (EDP) and Shell Group to explore the biodiversity risks associated with onshore and offshore wind energy and solar PV and to establish new guidelines to mitigate biodiversity impacts from these projects.

In partnership with Newmont, IUCN piloted its biodiversity net gain protocol – a step-by-step guide for measuring progress towards biodiversity net gain – at the company's Boddington mine in Australia, and made recommendations to enhance biodiversity management.

In Madagascar, IUCN facilitated a scientific committee's review of the natural resource programme and biodiversity mitigation plans for Rio Tinto's QIT Madagascar Minerals site. In South Africa, IUCN worked with Black Mountain Mining towards achieving no net loss of biodiversity at its Gamsberg operation.

In Russia, IUCN's Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel, an independent scientific advisory body, received a renewed mandate to advise Sakhalin Energy on mitigating their operational impacts on the Endangered whales. The Panel is also studying the cumulative impacts of industry on marine life in the region and underwater noise-related issues from seismic surveys and vessel traffic.

## INVESTING IN NATURE

In Brazil, the Rio Doce Panel, an IUCN-led independent scientific advisory group, produced four papers making recommendations to the Renova Foundation on the environmental restoration of the Rio Doce watershed following the 2015 tailings dam collapse.

The Cerrado Waters Consortium, which IUCN co-founded with support from Nespresso, is now an independent initiative that also includes Nestlé and Lavazza among its partners. As part of the Consortium, IUCN worked with the Federal Coffee Association, NGOs and other stakeholders to introduce restoration commitments and sustainable agricultural practices in the Feio river basin.

IUCN contributed to the Dutch-funded Shared Resources, Joint Solutions project, providing training on business engagement to civil society organisations and laying the groundwork for new business and biodiversity networks in Africa.

Building on this momentum, IUCN's BioBiz Exchange initiative, funded by Agence Française de Développement, provided technical assistance to IUCN Members and other stakeholders in West Africa on designing and implementing effective business engagement strategies. In addition, IUCN held quarterly webinars on key issues with PANORAMA initiative partners and experts, providing an opportunity for NGOs to learn from case studies and share lessons on business engagement.

Evidence shows nature-based solutions can help business reduce risk and secure supply chains, while addressing threats such as climate change.

## UPCOMING WORK

Looking ahead, IUCN will scale up efforts to promote business uptake and investment in nature-based solutions, including supporting case studies. Increasing evidence shows nature-based solutions can help business reduce risk and secure supply chains, while addressing threats such as climate change.

In partnership with the Natural Capital Coalition, on behalf of Economics for Nature, IUCN will support the African Forum on Green Economy. This event will be one of many throughout 2020 where IUCN will highlight the urgent need for business engagement on biodiversity issues.

As part of its partnership with the International Olympic Committee, IUCN will release its next reports focusing on sports events and urban biodiversity. IUCN will continue to highlight recommendations from the independent scientific and advisory panels, including a report examining Rio Doce's restoration in the context of climate change.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille will feature more than a 100 sessions on business, including a CEO Summit in partnership with Business for Nature and a Business and Nature Hub in collaboration with several IUCN Members and partners.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Brownlie, S. (2019). *Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

May, P., et al. (2019). *Issue Paper 1: Alternative livelihoods in the rural landscapes of the Rio Doce Basin after the Fundão Dam failure*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

Sánchez, L.E., et al. (2019). *Issue Paper 4: A framework for assessing environmental and social impacts of disasters*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

## AREAS OF WORK

VALUING BIODIVERSITY

PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

INVESTING IN NATURE



# CLIMATE CHANGE

**The climate crisis is one of the gravest threats facing humanity today. Healthy ecosystems such as forests, drylands and mangroves can contribute to climate change mitigation by absorbing and storing carbon. They can also help vulnerable communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.**

IUCN advances nature-based solutions to climate change through the conservation, management and restoration of the world's ecosystems. Our work also includes assessing the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems and promoting climate policy and action that is ambitious, inclusive and mindful of the most vulnerable.



IUCN Acting Director General Dr Grethel Aguilar speaking at a COP25 high-level side event, Nature-Based Solutions on the Ground (SDG 15): UN Support to People and Landscapes.

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

IUCN actively supported the nature-based solutions track of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, jointly launching a report with Oxford University that provides recommendations to strengthen the incorporation of nature-based solutions in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The report received widespread recognition, including over 2,300 downloads between September and December 2019. IUCN was invited to share the findings of the report at a joint session of the UN General Assembly Second Committee and the UN Economic and Social Council at the UN headquarters in New York.

IUCN also co-launched ECCA30 at the Climate Action Summit, a regional Bonn Challenge initiative to restore 30 million hectares of degraded land in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by 2030, and published practical guidance on estimating the carbon mitigation potential of forest landscape restoration efforts. The Bonn Challenge, launched by Germany and IUCN in 2011, was recognised in the compendium on nature-based solutions released at the Summit.

Together with the Ministry of Environment of Chile, which held the UNFCCC COP25 Presidency, IUCN created a virtual course on nature-based solutions for development, which had nearly 800 subscribers from Latin America. In Jordan, IUCN's field-level implementation of nature-based solutions reduced erosion caused by extreme flash floods and created 800 jobs in low-income communities. In Guatemala, IUCN worked with the government to initiate a Green Climate Fund project, aimed at building resilience in highland ecosystems and supporting livelihoods through better watershed management.

IUCN's work to build coastal resilience in Mozambique, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam included conducting climate change vulnerability assessments and initiating adaptation plans to build the resilience of wetland communities. The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management led the publication of the core principles for successfully implementing and upscaling nature-based solutions, which has rapidly become a highly referenced document, providing the scientific basis for the development of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) work over the past year included IUCN's launch of the online platform 'SolucionesAbE', which provides practitioners with tools and resources to support the governance and implementation of EbA in Mesoamerica. In Bhutan, IUCN supported the scaling up of EbA in mountain ecosystems, leading to the government creating a National EbA Task Force. The IUCN-led Friends of EbA network grew to over 70 members and produced evidence of the effectiveness of EbA across 13 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Blue Carbon Initiative Scientific Working Group, coordinated by Conservation International, IUCN and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, supported the launch of the Nordic Blue Carbon network, to highlight the capacity of blue carbon to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE RISKS

IUCN experts conducted the first-ever global assessment of the 19,000 glaciers located in 46 World Heritage sites, which revealed that glaciers are set to disappear completely from almost half of these sites if business-as-usual emissions continue. The study was covered by news agencies and top media organisations across the world, further highlighting the importance of IUCN's work and generating greater visibility for this critical issue.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ provided evidence of the threat climate change poses to the world's species, while other IUCN assessments highlighted the risks primates face from climate change. IUCN also identified climate-resilient native tree species for forest restoration in Indonesia that provide food and habitat for threatened East Bornean orangutans.

At UNFCCC COP25, IUCN launched a landmark assessment on ocean deoxygenation that further establishes the risk climate change poses to the world's ocean.

## INCLUSIVE CLIMATE POLICY AND ACTION

IUCN's research on the links between climate vulnerability, state fragility and gender inequality in developing countries helped establish a new programme on climate change at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The research also contributed to the UN Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace.

IUCN supported the launch of the Dominican Republic's Climate Change Gender Action Plan and published five briefs on gender equality as a driver for building climate change resilience in the Amazon. The Union continued to support the implementation of UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan and its Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. IUCN also contributed to the selection and awarding of the UN Equator Prize for climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

## UPCOMING WORK

As the global momentum on nature-based solutions grows, IUCN will continue to make the case for their more substantial inclusion in future NDCs and long-term low-emission development strategies in 2020 and beyond.

Building on its initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge and the Global Mangrove Alliance, IUCN will work to further scale up its global ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation efforts in support of the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. IUCN will continue to actively work with governments at national and regional levels, expanding its portfolio of Green Climate Fund and other climate-finance supported projects, to advance the implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change on the ground.

IUCN will continue to assess the impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems and species and work to make climate policy and action more inclusive and equitable.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Seddon, N. et al. (2019). *Nature-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions: Synthesis and recommendations for enhancing climate ambition and action by 2020*. Gland, Switzerland and Oxford, UK: IUCN and University of Oxford.

König, S. et al. (2019). *Estimating the mitigation potential of forest landscape restoration: Practical guidance to strengthen global climate commitments*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Iza, A. (ed.) (2019). *Gobernanza para la adaptación basada en ecosistemas*. Gland, Suiza: UICN.

Cohen -Shacham, E. et al. (2019). *Core principles for successfully implementing and upscaling Nature-based Solutions*. Environmental Science & Policy. V. 98, 20-29.

## AREAS OF WORK

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



IUCN experts revealed that glaciers will disappear from almost half of World Heritage sites if business-as-usual emissions continue.

# ECOSYSTEMS

**People all over the world depend on the services provided by ecosystems, including food, fuel, clean water and air, and protection from natural hazards. Ecosystem management is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that addresses the increasing threats to ecosystem health.**

IUCN develops and disseminates scientific tools and practical approaches that support ecosystem management and policy change for the benefit of both biodiversity and people.



IUCN delegation at UNCCD-COP 14 in New Delhi with Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary. Left to right: Head of the IUCN India Office Vivek Saxena; Mr Thiaw; Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director, IUCN Policy and Programme Group; Jonathan Davies, Coordinator, Global Drylands Initiative.

## HUMAN RESILIENCE THROUGH ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

The concept of nature-based solutions, as developed by IUCN, is a practice-oriented approach that applies ecosystem management to solve social challenges. In 2019, IUCN drafted the global standard for implementing nature-based solutions, involving the expertise of more than 800 individuals, and funded by the France-IUCN Partnership. Together with partners, IUCN released the Adaptation, Livelihoods and Ecosystems Planning Tool to support the design of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches, as well as a catalogue of EbA tools for practitioners and policy makers.

The Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) network, convened by IUCN and funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU IKI), grew to 70+ members, making it the largest network for EbA. FEBA collaboratively accelerated learning on EbA for a range of actors, from civil society to policy makers, and advocated for the integration of EbA into diverse international policy processes. IUCN expanded its EbA work in over 65 countries, and demonstrated the effectiveness of EbA for governments to advance sustainable development through enhancing or restoring ecosystem integrity.

IUCN provided technical and policy support to 80 countries for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR), and 19 countries to develop specific national eco-DRR actions, with support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund. With funding from the Global Environment Facility, IUCN supported 81 countries in establishing their national voluntary targets for Land Degradation Neutrality and 10 countries in mobilising implementation funds and action. At least 600 million people will benefit directly from the implementation of these targets.

## CRITICAL THREATENED AND NEGLECTED ECOSYSTEMS

Rangelands – such as grassland biomes – occupy about half of the land on Earth, with around 2 billion people directly dependent on them. IUCN launched the Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD) initiative in Kenya, Jordan and Egypt, to strengthen governance and restore 800,000 hectares of degraded lands.

IUCN tested a new participatory methodology to assess rangeland and grassland health in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Niger and Uruguay, funded by the Global Environment Facility. The methodology integrates scientific and local knowledge to improve assessment of rangeland ecosystem health and restoration.

Mangrove ecosystems have one of the highest degradation rates globally with two-thirds of global cover lost in the last century. IUCN continued to

coordinate the Global Mangrove Alliance, which provides a platform for organisations to work collaboratively to halt mangrove degradation and increase mangrove cover by 20% by 2030 to support human well-being through climate regulation, disaster risk reduction, food security and poverty reduction.

Through the support of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety's International Climate Initiative (BMU IKI), IUCN worked to build resilience in mountain ecosystems and communities in the Andes and Himalayas and on Mount Elgon, supporting knowledge sharing across global mountain ranges to solve shared problems related to climate change.

## MANAGING RISKS TO ECOSYSTEMS

IUCN continued to develop the Red List of Ecosystems – a global standard for assessing and monitoring ecosystem risks. Through funding from the MAVA Foundation, IUCN released a prototype of a global Red List database at the ecosystem level. IUCN also tested the application of the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) to inform a national mangrove management plan in Tonga (funded by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund); post-disaster mangrove restoration in the British Virgin Islands (funded by the Darwin Initiative); and community resilience to disasters in Mozambique (funded by the Swedish International Development Agency). The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) led the RLE steering committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July 2019. Members of the CEM-RLE Thematic Group are the main authors of the RLE global standard.

IUCN supported 81 countries in establishing their targets for Land Degradation Neutrality and 10 countries in mobilising implementation funds and action.

## UPCOMING WORK

The IUCN Council at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 will adopt IUCN's new Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions. IUCN plans to mobilise nature-based solutions globally as part of the pathway to sustainable development.

The application of ecosystem management approaches in agriculture will be an area of focus in 2020. IUCN will launch the *Common Ground* report on agriculture, bringing conservation and agriculture communities together to identify a common agenda for sustainable food systems.

IUCN scientists will finalise and implement a new method for classifying global ecosystems, which shall serve as the scientific basis for further developing the Red List of Ecosystems database. The system will consolidate local, national and regional assessments to provide global-level risks for specific ecosystems and enable new global assessments for highly threatened ecosystems.

IUCN and the UN Environment Programme will jointly launch the EUR 20 million Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in 2020 supported by BMU IKI. The multi-year fund will strengthen knowledge and political will for nature-based solutions by providing targeted and rapid support for innovative approaches to ecosystem-based adaptation.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Gichuki, L. et al. (2019). *Reviving land and restoring landscapes: Policy convergence between forest landscape restoration and land degradation neutrality*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Keith, D. A. et al. (2019). *Earth's Ecosystems: a functional-based typology for conservation and sustainability*.

Bland, L.M. et al. (2019). 'Impacts of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems on Conservation Policy and Practice'. *Conservation Letters*, V.12, Issue 5.

Alaniz, A.J. et al. (2019). 'Operationalizing the RLE in public policy'. *Conservation Letters*. V.12, Issue 5.

Rowland, J.A. et al. (2019). 'Ecosystem indices to support global biodiversity conservation'. *Conservation Letters*. V.13, Issue 1.

Lee, C. K. et al., (2019). *Redistr: tools for the IUCN Red Lists of ecosystems and threatened species in an R package for RLE assessments* *Ecography*. V.42, Issue 5.

## AREAS OF WORK

[ENHANCING RESILIENCE AND REDUCING RISKS](#)

[ADAPTING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT FOR NEGLECTED ECOSYSTEMS](#)

[ASSESSING ECOSYSTEM STATUS](#)



# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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

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

Seamounts contain incredible biodiversity and are often found in areas beyond national jurisdiction. IUCN is helping shape a new treaty under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that will help protect marine life found in areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as these gorgonians and ophiurans found on a seamount in the Indian Ocean.

## ENHANCING GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

IUCN experts on international environmental law, marine protected areas, environmental assessment processes, marine scientific research and marine genetic resources supported the development of a new treaty under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The treaty is designed to close governance gaps and enhance cooperation to preserve the health of the oceans in areas beyond national jurisdictions.

IUCN continued to facilitate access to legal and policy data concerning the environment. Jointly with FAO and the UN Environment Programme, IUCN further developed the ECOLEX database, the most comprehensive information source for environmental law globally. IUCN also supported the development of the eLENS, a new portal that combines legal data with information from satellite technology to support compliance with environmental law.

Since 2003, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law has built environmental law education capacity and supported the field's conceptual development, with the aim of developing solutions to the most pressing environmental challenges. The 17th IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in Kuala Lumpur brought together legal scholars and other legal professionals from environmental law faculties and research centres around the world to advance understanding of how law can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS

IUCN further developed WILDLEX, an information-sharing platform designed to strengthen legal frameworks and improve the capacity of judiciary and legal practitioners to address wildlife crime. This work was supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Save Our Mangroves Now!, a joint commitment of BMZ, IUCN and WWF, released a comprehensive assessment detailing the legal and institutional frameworks affecting mangroves and their impact on stakeholders' behaviour and the natural environment.

Throughout the year, IUCN worked with experts to review legal and policy frameworks relating to plastic pollution, a global problem that threatens our environment, people's health and economies. With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), experts from Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam gathered in Bonn, Germany, where they developed innovative ideas on legal frameworks and policy tools to address plastic pollution.

The IUCN Incubator for Nature Conservation supported governments in the development of innovative financing mechanisms for 10 protected areas worldwide. IUCN's work to analyse the enabling frameworks for the successful implementation of financial mechanisms for protected areas was showcased at the third Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas in Lima, Peru.

Supported by the German International Climate Initiative, IUCN launched CLIMA, a tool to assess governance frameworks for implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, as well as online courses on governance for ecosystem-based adaptation and integrated planning for climate change and biodiversity conservation.

## ENABLING RULE OF LAW

IUCN provided training for civil society organisations in Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Myanmar and Guyana. Responding to specific needs in each country, this training addressed issues such as illegal trade of forest products, conflicts between protected area law and mining law, and wetlands conservation.

## UPCOMING WORK

Legal information management systems, environmental law literacy and capacity development, wildlife crime, protected areas, oceans and water governance, as well as climate change will be key areas of focus for the programme in 2020.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Iza, A., (ed.) (2019). *Gobernanza para la adaptación basada en ecosistemas*. Gland, Suiza: IUCN.

Slobodian, L. N. & Badoz, L., eds. (2019). *Tangled roots and changing tides: mangrove governance for conservation and sustainable use*. WWF Germany, Berlin, Germany and IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Lausche, B. (2019). *Integrated planning. Policy and law tools for biodiversity conservation and climate change*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

[GLOBAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS](#)

[NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS](#)

[LOCAL ACTIONS ENABLED BY RULE OF LAW](#)



The IUCN Incubator for Nature Conservation supported governments in developing innovative financing mechanisms for ten protected area sites worldwide.

# FORESTS

**Forests stabilise the climate, support and protect biodiversity, and sustain economies and communities. Effectively protecting and managing forests and restoring degraded and deforested lands can make forests more valuable for people and the planet.**

IUCN works with countries and decision makers to build resilient landscapes, protect forests, uphold the rights of forest communities, engage investors and implement effective land-use policies. This work supports global efforts to meet commitments on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.

Community restoration projects support the Rwanda government's pledge to restore two million hectares as part of the Bonn Challenge.

## THE BONN CHALLENGE AND FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

IUCN, the World Bank, UNECE/FAO and the World Resources Institute launched ECCA30 – a bold regional initiative that aims to bring 30 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia into restoration by 2030, in support of the Bonn Challenge global restoration target.

Regional Bonn Challenge ministerial dialogues supported by IUCN brought together countries from Asia, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), resulting in new commitments and regional action on forest landscape restoration. Overall, 2019 saw four million hectares of deforested and degraded land added to the Bonn Challenge, bringing total commitments to 172.5 million hectares. Total pledges now come from 62 governments and organisations. Scotland became the first pledger from Western Europe.

IUCN continued to support countries in applying the Bonn Challenge Barometer – a comprehensive reporting framework for pledges, endorsed by over 40 countries and by regional blocks such as the Central African Forest Commission and ECOWAS. In 2018–2019, the Barometer was applied in 13 countries, identifying 43.7 million hectares under restoration. Within the five focus countries, over 354,000 jobs were created, with an average investment of at least USD 235 per hectare and 1.38 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered. Restoration included silviculture, natural regeneration and agroforestry as the predominant strategies (87%).



IUCN entered into multi-agency projects including the Global Environment Facility-funded Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation; the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)-funded Scaling Forest Landscape Restoration in Support of the AFR100 project in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Togo; and the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)-funded Catalysing Private Sector Commitment to the Bonn Challenge project. Significantly, the latter focused, for the first time, on restoration assessments in smallholder landscapes in the supply chains of three large agro-businesses in Ghana, Peru and Tanzania, opening the door to forest landscape restoration in the private sector.

## LINKING FORESTS AND RESTORATION TO INTERNATIONAL TARGETS

IUCN successfully promoted links between restoring forest landscapes and the Sustainable Development Goals, Land Degradation Neutrality targets and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. By producing and promoting guidance on each of these targets at international fora, IUCN encouraged governments to embrace forest landscape restoration as a nature-based solution for achieving international targets.

## ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS

With support from BMU, IUCN worked with partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda under the Stabilizing Land Use initiative to build or enhance multi-stakeholder governance structures leading to policy changes that improve equitable natural resource governance in six target landscapes.

## PRIMARY FORESTS

The Primary Forests Task Force, established to implement Resolution 045 from the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, drafted policy to position primary forests as a global conservation priority. This new draft policy will be presented to the IUCN Council in early 2020.

## GLOBAL RESTORATION MOVEMENT

IUCN worked closely with El Salvador, informing the government and contributing to the drafting of the declaration of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030). IUCN is an active member of the consortium for the Decade's implementation, along with the UN Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the Global Landscapes Forum.

## UPCOMING WORK

To strengthen our partnership with the German government and the Bonn Challenge, IUCN will embed staff in Bonn, solidifying it as an international forest city with IUCN as a major global partner. Working with Germany, IUCN will promote the achievement of the 2020 Bonn Challenge milestone.

A ministerial roundtable on forest landscape restoration for Eastern and Southeast Europe is envisaged for 2020, providing a platform for countries to further pledge to the Bonn Challenge and join the ECCA30 initiative.

As international attention around the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration grows, IUCN will lead by providing a sound scientific underpinning and building a Member-based community of action that will launch at the IUCN Congress 2020. IUCN will also support countries in the application of tools such as the Bonn Challenge Barometer.

IUCN will grow its knowledge base around forest landscape restoration assessments with the private sector, culminating in a community of practice and a user's guide for business (2021). This project will also pilot an IUCN-wide GIS management system.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Blomley, T. & Walters, G. (eds) 2019. *A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Dave, R. et al. (2019). *Second Bonn Challenge progress report. Application of the Barometer in 2018*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Imbach, A.A. & Vidal, A. (2019). *How inter-institutional networks transform landscapes: Lessons from Latin America on advancing forest landscape restoration*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTS

SLOW DEFORESTATION AND PROMOTE

PRIMARY FORESTS



IUCN continued to support countries in applying the Bonn Challenge. In five countries, over 354,000 jobs were created and 1.38 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered.

# GENDER

## Improving gender equality contributes to more effective and equitable conservation and environmental outcomes.

IUCN works to identify and overcome inequalities between women and men that act as barriers to meeting conservation goals and to enable better natural resource governance.

A woman from the indigenous community of Uaxactún, working on the xate harvest in the Selva Maya rainforest, Guatemala. IUCN supported the development of protected area management plans to improve gender mainstreaming and better protect the Selva Maya from unsustainable agriculture and illegal logging.

## INFLUENCING GLOBAL POLICIES AND STANDARDS

Building on its record of informing gender-responsive environmental policy, IUCN partnered with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification to help ensure that efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality targets will benefit women and men equally. IUCN also partnered with the Ramsar Secretariat to strengthen capacities on gender and wetlands and informed gender-responsive planning towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## SUPPORTING NATIONAL GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION

In Mozambique, IUCN assisted community and district constituencies to effectively support improved coastal resilience, which included training women leaders on conservation finance. In Iraq, IUCN trained authorities, primarily women, on how to use geographical information software and technology for biodiversity research and monitoring, while women in the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon received training to increase their participation in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.



The Selva Maya is the second largest tropical forest in the Americas, with 20 ecosystems and numerous protected areas. To help better protect the Selva Maya from unsustainable agriculture and illegal logging, IUCN worked with over 100 stakeholders – including women leaders, indigenous community members and technicians from institutions that manage protected areas – to produce gender-responsive regional protected area and forest reserve plans.

In Honduras and El Salvador, IUCN trained 442 people – approximately half of whom were women – in environmental legislation, management planning and gender-responsive approaches to improve the region's coastal biodiversity. This training ensured that women account for at least half of rural savings bank associations and improved women's leadership in relevant board positions (now 43%).

The government of the Dominican Republic launched its Climate Change Gender Action Plan, developed with IUCN, to guide its Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement. More than 800 people at IUCN's third Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas signed the Congress's first Declaration of Women, laying the groundwork for a gender-responsive agenda at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020.

## GENERATING KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

IUCN partnered with the UN Environment Programme and the governments of Mexico, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kenya to provide guidance to governments on incorporating gender-responsive statistics in their work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. IUCN also collaborated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to document global evidence outlining why and how gender equality improves sustainable fisheries management.

Through the Mangroves for the Future programme in Asia, IUCN helped integrate gender-responsive best practices into mangrove management and restoration. IUCN also partnered with the African Development Bank and Climate Investment Fund to develop training materials for Bank staff on managing gender-inclusive climate change projects, based on successful case studies from Ghana and Morocco.

## UPCOMING WORK

As the international community mobilises towards the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, IUCN will continue its work to ensure that environmental projects not only avoid exacerbating inequities but proactively improve gender equality.

In 2020, IUCN will release a major study and knowledge platform on gender-based violence and environment linkages, which will mobilise partners to address patterns of gender inequality and violence related to natural resources and the environment. IUCN will continue to provide evidence demonstrating how gender equality can improve nature-based solutions by co-publishing qualitative and quantitative findings from pilots in Ghana, Indonesia and the Philippines on women's empowerment, access to finance and sustainable fisheries.

With support from the Green Climate Fund, IUCN will support Pakistan in developing a gender-responsive climate change action plan.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

UN Environment Programme & IUCN. (2018). *Gender and environment statistics: Unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs*. Nairobi, Kenya: UN Environment Programme.

J. Siles, et al. (2019). *Advancing Gender in the Environment: Gender in Fisheries - A Sea of Opportunities*. IUCN and USAID. Washington, USA: USAID. 68pp.

MFF, SEI & SEAFDEC (2018). *Gender in coastal and marine resource management: A regional synthesis report*. Bangkok, Thailand: MFF, 70pp.

## AREAS OF WORK

DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION ON GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS



IUCN collaborated with USAID to document global evidence outlining why and how gender equality improves sustainable fisheries management.

# GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS

**Human rights-based approaches and solutions that support social equity and inclusion are fundamental to effective natural resource management and conservation.**

Social justice, equity and inclusion anchor IUCN's vision of a just world that values and conserves nature. IUCN works to advance the rights and roles of indigenous peoples in conservation, strengthen natural resource governance and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

IUCN helped facilitate Bedouin pastoral groups' management of rangelands, in collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Arab Pastoral Communities Network.



## ADVANCING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

In 2019, IUCN expanded its work with Indigenous Peoples' Organisation (IPO) Members in support of their self-determined strategy for working together and with IUCN. IPO Members expressed an interest in sharing knowledge and strengthening their institutions. In response, IUCN organised a learning exchange with Members and partners in Tecpán, Guatemala. The exchange enabled indigenous participants to share knowledge and build synergies on their approaches to influencing international environmental policy, securing sustainable finance, managing territories and developing local enterprises. The exchange has influenced IUCN's continued support for IPO Members, including its joint work to inform relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In Central America, with support from the Ford Foundation, IUCN conducted an impact assessment on territorial dynamics created by extractive industry expansion in the territory of the Q'eqchi' Maya People. These analyses contribute to legal indigenous management of these lands, recovering an area of nearly 25,000 hectares benefitting 40 communities. In Honduran Moskitia, the development of an indigenous fishing protocol is mobilising traditional knowledge to strengthen fish stock monitoring towards improved management of the region's marine fishery resources. A governance committee was also created to advise the Indigenous Territorial Councils on protecting and managing the region's hydrobiological resources and to implement a small grants and business plan programme. The initiative is spearheaded by the Agency for the Development of La Moskitia and IUCN IPO Members as co-executors, with the Ministry of Environment of Honduras acting as the environmental authority.

## PROMOTING IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Securing rights and sharing power and responsibilities through strengthened natural resource governance benefits people and biodiversity. In 2019, IUCN applied its Natural Resource Governance Framework to inform action on resource governance. In Tanzania, assessments conducted using the framework helped establish water resource management platforms in 90 villages, supported land tenure management and resilience in 17 villages and shaped equitable production and market chains in 16 cooperatives.

In Uganda, four civil society organisations used IUCN's framework to advance 30 compensation claims by land-rights holders, halt land evictions and prevent the conversion of the Budongo forest into sugar cane plantations. In Mozambique, IUCN supported multi-stakeholder platforms and natural resource governance approaches that improved both local livelihoods and conservation results. Four thousand households increased their incomes through honey production and agricultural productivity improvements, while 46 hectares of degraded forests were replanted. In Burkina Faso, IUCN support led to the development of grievance mechanisms in 32 municipalities to support local natural resource governance, with 53 grassroots organisations and 17 local economic operations making use of these instruments to date.

In West Asia, IUCN collaborated with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Arab Pastoral Communities Network to support investment in the development of Bedouin pastoral groups to rehabilitate rangelands by documenting and strengthening traditional knowledge on rangeland management. In Europe, IUCN worked with the European Commission to convene a dialogue between farmers and environmental stakeholders, with the results presented to government authorities in their preparation of national agricultural plans. In the Amazon, IUCN collated five years of experience into publications to transfer knowledge on best practices and strengthen the capacities of the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2020, IUCN will launch its full publication of the Natural Resource Governance Framework, providing a robust and inclusive approach to assessing and strengthening natural resource governance at multiple levels and in diverse contexts.

IUCN is working with Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members to convene an Indigenous Peoples' Summit at the 2020 World Conservation Congress. The Summit will bring together indigenous peoples from around the world to raise awareness of measures needed to secure the rights of indigenous peoples and their roles as stewards of nature.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN ROWA (2019). *Water, energy and food security Nexus in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia: Assessment of current policies and regulatory and legal framework*. Amman, Jordan: IUCN.

Lederman, M., Arguedas, S., Luz, L. y REDPARQUES – Proyecto IAPA (2019). *Ríos de aprendizajes: buenas prácticas en Áreas Protegidas amazónicas con Enfoque de Paisaje*. Quito, Ecuador: Unión Europea, UICN, FAO, WWF, ONU Medio Ambiente.

Ramos, A., Kurashima, N., Dzul, A.C., Rodriguez, D., Elias & J. C., Springer, J. (2019). *Peer-to-peer learning for enhancing capacities: An international indigenous knowledge exchange*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

**PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**  
**STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE OF**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**



In Burkina Faso, IUCN's support led to the development of grievance mechanisms to support local natural resource governance used by 70 local groups to date.

## MARINE AND POLAR

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

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



IUCN released the largest peer-reviewed study to date on ocean deoxygenation at COP25 in Madrid. Over 900 news articles featured the study. From left to right: John Baxter (co-author), Lisa Levin (Scripps Oceanography), Peter Thompson (UN Special Envoy for Oceans), Minna Epps (IUCN), Dan Laffoley (co-author).

### CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS

Ocean deoxygenation is expected to impact a wide range of marine organisms and alter the balance of life in the oceans. In December 2019, IUCN released the largest peer-reviewed study conducted so far on this topic, featuring the work of 67 scientific experts from 51 institutes. The report, which called for drastic cuts to carbon emissions, was covered extensively by prominent media outlets worldwide, generating over 900 online articles on the topic.

IUCN took its expertise on another climate change threat, ocean acidification, to the Latin American and East African regions to rally practitioners around the establishment of regional action plans as part of a cross-sector network to address this growing threat.

### DELIVERING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR COASTS

IUCN continued to roll out the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility to encourage private investments in projects that protect, restore and enhance coastal and marine ecosystems and support climate change adaptation and mitigation. IUCN advanced the initiative by engaging with diverse stakeholders, from impact investors to development banks, and by promoting "blue" investments such as blue bonds and blue infrastructure finance.

IUCN contributed to biodiversity conservation in marine and coastal areas by facilitating the adoption of management instruments across the borders of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, covering fishing activity, as well as regulatory and management frameworks for mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass meadows. IUCN also helped design a biological corridor initiative for the Cuyamel Omoa-Punta Manabique protected area in Guatemala, ensuring protection for the manatee, the yellow nape parrot and several species of corals and fish.

IUCN led national consultations to develop a proposal for the implementing phase of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme. The programme, which is set to begin in 2020, focuses on improving fisheries management, expanding marine protected areas and building coastal resilience in the eight countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.

The IUCN Environmental Law Centre, for the Save Our Mangroves Now! project, completed the first-ever global study detailing the legal and institutional frameworks governing mangroves and offering solutions that address governance gaps and weaknesses. These findings will be disseminated throughout 2020 to inform decisions, strategies and actions.

IUCN and partners produced a film focusing on sustainable marine aquaculture in the coastal communities of Zanzibar.

Financed via the France-IUCN Partnership, the film highlights the benefits of coordinating aquaculture activities and conservation efforts in the intertidal zone.

The Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management contributed to Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) guidelines for fisheries, together with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization, and to the Thematic Consultation on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

## PRESERVING THE DEEP SEA

IUCN continued to support the UN Intergovernmental Conference's efforts to establish a new treaty to safeguard ocean life beyond national boundaries. The Union helped remove bottlenecks in the development of the treaty by working with governments from Africa and the Pacific region to foster consensus on difficult issues such as the sharing of the benefits of marine genetic resources.

## MARINE PLASTICS

IUCN's Close the Plastic Tap programme generates knowledge and supports practical action to reduce plastic in the marine environment through the development of tools and policy guidance. In 2019, through projects in Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean and Baltic seas, the multi-partner programme helped improve how sources of plastic pollution are assessed, notably with the development of the *Plastic footprint calculator*. IUCN collaborated with the UN Environment Programme to develop a plastic leakage hotspot methodology and launched policy, legal and economic assessments to identify these hotspots and remediation options. Through small grants, IUCN also promoted small-scale circular economy initiatives that address plastic leakage in five countries.

IUCN developed the *Plastic footprint calculator*, helping improve how sources of plastic pollution are assessed.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will be launching the Plastic Waste-Free Island initiative, an ambitious programme to address plastic waste in six island states in the Pacific and Caribbean. The project aims to demonstrate methods of adding value to plastic waste, through its transformation into new products, and to promote solutions for better waste disposal that lead to reduced leakage of plastic into the environment.

In the coming year, IUCN's REGENERATE project will provide the government of The Maldives with technical assistance for the development of marine biodiversity datasets, ecological assessments and marine protected area management plans, as well as assistance for building national capacity to assess Endangered and Critically Endangered species.

IUCN will host an Ocean and Islands Pavilion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille to bring together marine practitioners around a diverse programme of events featuring IUCN Members and Commissions.

IUCN will use its expertise to undertake project assessment work for the Blue Action Fund, a multi-country grant platform for marine protected area and sustainability projects in developing countries.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Laffoley, D. & Baxter, J.M. (eds.) (2019). *Ocean deoxygenation: Everyone's problem - Causes, impacts, consequences and solutions*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Slobodian, L. N. & Badoz, L., eds. (2019). *Tangled Roots and Changing Tides: mangrove governance for conservation and sustainable use*. WWF Germany, Berlin, Germany and IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Boucher, J., Dubois, C., Kounina, A. & Puydarrieux, P. (2019). *Review of plastic footprint methodologies: Laying the foundation for the development of a standardised plastic footprint measurement tool*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Garcia, S.M. & Rice, J. (IUCN-CEM-FEG). *Assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries*. Montreal, Canada: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## AREAS OF WORK

[GLOBAL COASTS](#)

[GLOBAL THREATS](#)

[GLOBAL COMMONS](#)



# PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

**Protected and conserved area systems – including national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas and nature reserves – are one of the best ways of halting biodiversity loss. They safeguard nature and cultural resources, improve livelihoods and support sustainable development.**

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

Corals in Tun Mustapha Park, Malaysia, one of Malaysia's largest marine protected areas and a candidate for inclusion on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. In 2019, nine sites representing a total area of 6052 km<sup>2</sup> were admitted to the IUCN Green List.



## TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2020 PROTECTED AREA TARGET

Protected Planet, a joint project between IUCN and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, tracks progress towards global biodiversity targets. By the end of 2019, protected areas covered 15% of land towards the 17% global target and 7.63% of the ocean towards the 10% global target. Within national waters, 17.72% of marine and coastal areas were protected, exceeding the 2020 target of 10%. In 2019, IUCN continued to support national governments' efforts to report comprehensively on protected areas in order to ensure the best possible estimates are available in 2020.

Following the definition adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on “other effective area-based conservation measures”, IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) published new technical guidance and conducted training to support the recognition of, and reporting on, these areas.

## THE IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

In 2019, nine sites representing a total area of 6052 km<sup>2</sup> were admitted to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas – the first global standard recognising best practice in area-based conservation. A total of 50 countries committed to meeting the IUCN Green List Standard, and several networks, including the Asia Protected Area Partnership, included the Green List programme amongst their priorities. IUCN also provided guidance to enable two Mexican World Heritage sites in the Selva Maya, a tropical forest region in Central America, to establish a common framework for management effectiveness, based on the Green List Standard.

WCPA and regional partners convened the third Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas in Lima, Peru in October 2019, and celebrated Green List success in the region, including in Peru, Colombia and Mexico. A delegation from the Caribbean also participated, supported by IUCN’s Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme.

## PROTECTED AREA GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

IUCN’s BIOPAMA programme, a collaboration between IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, established new Regional Observatories in Eastern/Southern Africa and in West Africa in 2019. Hosted by regional partner institutions and housing the Regional Reference Information Systems, the observatories make protected and conserved areas more effective by supporting monitoring and capacity development for improved decision making.

BIOPAMA launched new programmes for medium and small technical grants, channelling EUR 9.2 million into improved effectiveness of protected and conserved areas across 79 countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. In the Caribbean, BIOPAMA supported 16 countries in preparing their Sixth National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In Africa and the Pacific, BIOPAMA provided training on protected and conserved area governance and management tools.

The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), IUCN's regional protected areas initiative, has grown to include 21 members from 17 countries, and is now a key platform for the exchange of best practices across the continent. In 2019, APAP continued to promote the uptake of the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, built capacity in key technical fields through regional workshops, and offered a master class on human-elephant conflict.

IUCN continued coordinating the Protected Areas theme for PANORAMA, a partnership focused on sharing replicable solutions across a range of conservation topics. In 2019, PANORAMA reached over 550 documented solution cases from around the world. The German Ministry of Environment (BMU) committed to funding the PANORAMA partnership secretariat over the next four years.

Supported by the France-IUCN Partnership, IUCN offered two new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on protected area management and governance, reaching more than 15,000 students. In 2019, a MOOC on new technologies was added to the series, for a total of six MOOCs and 37,032 participants since 2015.

IUCN organised several events aimed at engaging young people in conservation through its #NatureForAll specialist group, hosted by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the WCPA. In July 2019, #NatureForAll organised an eight-day immersive environmental education programme for 2,000+ scouts from around the world, at the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA, together with six IUCN Members (US National Park Service, Parks Canada, Ocean Wise, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, PCI Media). In October 2019, #NatureForAll – in partnership with the six IUCN Commissions – engaged in the third Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas in Lima, Peru, resulting in the establishment of RELLAC-Joven, a network of youth and young professionals working on protected area management in Latin America.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN and partners will publish *State of Protected Areas* reports for the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa and the Pacific detailing the progress of these regions towards achieving biodiversity targets.

Recent support from the Republic of Korea and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation will enable the Green List programme's rapid expansion in South America and Asia. IUCN will also prepare a Green List business plan to sustain and expand the continued growth and management of the programme.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

IUCN WCPA (2019). *PARKS. The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation*, Volumes 25.1, 25.2. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

WCPA Task Force on OECMs (2019). *Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Day, J., Dudley, N., Hockings, M., Holmes, G., Laffoley, D., Stolton, S., Wells, S. & Wenzel, L. (eds.) (2019). *Guidelines for applying the IUCN protected area management categories to marine protected areas*. Second edition. Gland. Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

[GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS](#)

[PANORAMA – SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET](#)

[BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME \(BIOPAMA\)](#)



In 2019, nine sites representing a total area of 6,052 km<sup>2</sup> were admitted to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

## SPECIES

**Animals, plants and fungi are crucial for a healthy planet, but growing anthropogenic pressures threaten their survival. Overexploitation of natural resources, habitat destruction, invasive species, illegal wildlife trade, pollution and climate change are among the greatest threats to life on Earth.**

IUCN is at the forefront of the global fight to save species from extinction. IUCN experts, including over 9,000 Species Survival Commission members in 174 countries, and tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas inform and guide conservation action worldwide.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ broke through the 100,000 species barrier in 2019, with 15,563 new species added to the list. The improvement of the Guam rail, previously declared Extinct in the Wild, provided hope in the midst of a biodiversity crisis.

### KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ broke through the 100,000 species barrier in 2019. As of the end of 2019, the IUCN Red List included assessments for 112,432 species, of which 30,178 have been found to be threatened with extinction. The addition of 15,563 species to the IUCN Red List in 2019, including 7,962 trees, contributed substantially towards the Barometer of Life goal to assess 160,000 species by 2020. While IUCN Red List updates highlighted the increasing risk of extinction for many species, they also revealed the encouraging impact of conservation efforts, such as the recovery of the Guam rail (*Hypotaenidia owstoni*).

These IUCN Red List assessments were carried out in collaboration with our Red List Partners, with the support of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. Much of the progress over the past year has been possible thanks to the Toyota Motor Corporation through the IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership, which supported 9,150 species assessments in 2019.

### POLICY AND PLANNING FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

Expertise from the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and updated IUCN Red List information supported the implementation of multilateral agreements focused on species conservation, including the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Data from the IUCN Red List also underpinned the statistics used in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment, revealing the alarming ongoing decline in biodiversity. IUCN continued to emphasise the importance of planning as a conservation discipline, releasing a number of new IUCN SSC Species Conservation Plans. The National Geographic Society and Fondation Segré supported the implementation of these plans through their Recovery of Species on the Brink of Extinction initiative in partnership with the SSC.



## SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTION

At the fourth SSC Leaders' Meeting, hosted by the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi, IUCN issued the Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action. The Call urges governments, international agencies and the private sector to halt species decline and prevent human-driven extinctions by 2030, and to improve the conservation status of threatened species and ensure recovery by 2050.

IUCN continued to award grants supporting conservation action for threatened species. To date, IUCN Save Our Species and the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme have supported 172 projects protecting almost 500 species across 76 countries.

In 2019, the IUCN Save Our Species portfolio grew to 33 active projects. In addition to new initiatives to conserve the snow leopard, goitered gazelle, Burmese roofed turtle, Asian elephant and all gibbon species, the team expanded ongoing initiatives for lemurs in Madagascar and for large carnivores and the prey species they depend upon in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme continued to fund multiple projects across Asia to improve tiger conservation. Additionally, a study funded by the programme highlighted the importance to tigers of high-altitude sites in the Himalayas. The programme also brought together in Bangkok civil society organisations in a workshop on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence.

IUCN's species conservation action work was made possible thanks to our donors, including German Cooperation (BMZ) and KfW Development Bank, European Commission, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, Global Wildlife Conservation, Fondation Segré and the National Geographic Society.

## UPCOMING WORK

IUCN will develop a Global Species Action Plan to assist governments, civil society and others in achieving the high-level goals and action targets for 2030 in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

There will be two updates to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ over the course of 2020. IUCN will continue to add species assessments and reassessments to the Red List, working towards the Barometer of Life goal to assess at least 160,000 species by 2020. The IUCN Global Reptile Assessment will be published, and consultations will continue with the wider IUCN membership on a new method to assess the recovery of species on the IUCN Red List.

IUCN Save Our Species has selected new projects to fund under all of the current initiatives, and second-phase projects for the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme will commence.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Rivers, M.C., et al. (2019) *European Red List of Trees*. Cambridge, UK and Brussels, Belgium: IUCN.

Lee, A.T.K., et al. (2019). *Reforesting for the climate of tomorrow: Recommendations for strengthening orangutan conservation and climate change resilience in Kutai National Park, Indonesia*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Hodgetts, N., et al. (2019). *A miniature world in decline: European Red List of Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts*. Brussels, Belgium: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

KNOWLEDGE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

POLICY AND PLANNING FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTION



In 2019 the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ broke through the 100,000 species barrier, with continued support from the IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership and Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.

# WATER

**Water crises have been among the top global risks in the past decade. From too much water leading to extreme rainfall and floods, to not enough leading to devastating droughts and wildfires, water affects everyone.**

IUCN promotes sustainable water resource management to safeguard biodiversity, helps build better water governance in transboundary basins to avert water conflict, and supports investment in natural water infrastructure for climate change adaptation.

Landless farmers fishing in the Teesta River, shared by Bangladesh and India. The river is heavily silted and has changed its course several times, engulfing thousands of hectares of productive agricultural land. IUCN's BRIDGE programme supports the capacities of countries sharing a river or lake basin, such as the Teesta Basin, to implement effective water management strategies.

## **WATER GOVERNANCE**

In the African Sahel region, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IUCN's Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) programme helped facilitate the implementation of the Lake Chad Water Charter, directly addressing the challenge of receding water levels and providing conflict management and transboundary water cooperation tools to 300 people in the Lake Chad basin. IUCN also facilitated cooperation between governments, civil society and river basin managers to support transboundary water management.

BRIDGE's support of the Peru-Ecuador Binational Commission strengthened transboundary water diplomacy in the Andes region through improved management of the nine river basins shared between the two countries. In the Lake Titicaca basin, BRIDGE helped empower 84 women from Bolivia and Peru with technical and legal knowledge to enhance grassroots communities' capacity to manage the transboundary lake, severe pollution and decreasing water levels.

In the Ganges-Bhramaputra-Meghna basin, which is shared between Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, IUCN led three workshops aimed at helping civil society organisations play a greater role in sustainable transboundary water management.



## SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Together with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, IUCN coordinated the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus, organising workshops for government representatives and members of local river basin organisations to help foster water cooperation and dialogue between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In response to the alarming trend in wetland loss revealed in the Ramsar 2018 Global Wetland Outlook, IUCN and the Convention's international organisation partners – BirdLife International, WWF, Wetlands International, the International Water Management Institute, and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust – sent an open letter to the Parties to the Convention calling for a Wetland Decade under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030). IUCN's Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative supported research and community dialogues to assess the climate change vulnerability of communities and ecosystems. The Initiative's strategic plan plays an important role supporting the development of adaptation plans and enhancing wetlands' ecosystem services.

In coordination with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, IUCN led sessions at World Water Week in Stockholm related to plastic pollution. As part of the Climate Bonds initiative, IUCN helped define new criteria for hydropower projects focused on monitoring the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples affected by such projects.

## INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN AFRICA

The IUCN-led SUSTAIN-Africa initiative supports sustainable and inclusive growth to improve water and food security and climate resilience. In collaboration with local NGOs, work under the SUSTAIN initiative led to the establishment of the Kalambo Nature Forest Reserve, encompassing an area of 60,000 hectares. The reserve forms an ecological corridor that enables movement of wildlife from Kalambo Game Reserve in Zambia through to other protected areas in Tanzania and supports local communities by creating new opportunities for tourism and development.

In Mozambique, 10 of the 40 farming and fishing producer clubs set up by SUSTAIN legally registered as associations and were granted Land User Right Certificates by the government of Mozambique, providing recognition and protection of their land rights. The newly-formed associations are now in a better position to protect and conserve the land they are responsible for and to invest in processes that will ensure higher long-term yields.

## UPCOMING WORK

In 2020, key objectives will be to implement nature-based solutions and to support freshwater biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

Through the BRIDGE programme, IUCN will continue to build and strengthen transboundary cooperation in lake and river basins in Africa, Mesoamerica, South America and Asia. IUCN will also expand work on water and integrated landscape development to support inclusive green growth.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Brunner, J., Carew-Reid, J., Glémet, R., McCartney, M. & Riddell, P. J. (2019). *Measuring, understanding and adapting to nexus trade-offs in the Sekong, Sesan and Srepok transboundary river basins*. Ha Noi, Viet Nam: IUCN.

Riddell, P. (2019). *Water use and Nexus opportunities in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam: An overview*. Hanoi, Viet Nam: IUCN.

Meyer, K. (2019). *Building an enabling environment for water, energy and food security dialogue in Central Asia*. Belgrade, Serbia: IUCN.

Siddiqui, S., Chohan, S. & Sinha, V. (2019). *Governance of the Ganges River Basin: A comparative analysis of water agreements and the UN Watercourses Convention*. Bangkok, Thailand: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

[ENHANCING GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE](#)

[IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT](#)

[INVESTING IN NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE](#)



Work under the SUSTAIN initiative led to the establishment of the Kalambo Nature Forest Reserve, encompassing an area of 60,000 hectares.

# WORLD HERITAGE

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

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



IUCN delegation to UNESCO's 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan. IUCN is the official advisory body on nature under the World Heritage Convention. Left to right: Junya Yamaguchi, Juan Carlos Barrientos, Elena Osipova, Katherine Zischka, Mizuki Murai, Tilman Jaeger, Peter Shadie, Youssouph Diedhiou, Thierry Lefebvre, Cyril Kormos, Jamili Nais.

## ADVISING THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

IUCN's recommendations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee included 55 monitoring reports on World Heritage sites facing threats, as well as evaluations of nine proposed new sites and one extension.

The Committee followed IUCN's advice to list four new sites, resulting in the French Austral Lands and Seas becoming the largest World Heritage site on Earth. As a result, natural World Heritage increased by over 69 million hectares in 2019, and now covers 369 million hectares globally, up by 23% from 2018.

IUCN recommended delaying the inscription of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China site until all proposed phases of the site were clear and a number of additional conditions had been met. While the Committee decided on balance to inscribe the first phase of this site, IUCN's advice catalysed a number of significant new commitments from China that will strengthen protection of the site and the Asia-Australasia Flyway.

The Committee followed IUCN's advice to list Mexico's Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California as a World Heritage site in danger, due to the looming extinction of the vaquita – the world's smallest porpoise. IUCN firmly advised against the Rufiji dam development inside Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve and commissioned two independent reviews of the project's environmental assessments. Both reviews demonstrated that these assessments failed to meet acceptable standards, posing a real risk of Selous losing its World Heritage status should this project go ahead.

## IUCN WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses and tracks the conservation outlook of all natural World Heritage sites. In 2017, the *IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2* identified climate change as the fastest-growing threat to natural World Heritage, and in 2019, IUCN issued the first study on World Heritage glaciers. Documenting 19,000 glaciers present in 46 natural World Heritage sites (of the total 247 sites in April 2019), the study predicts that glaciers will disappear from almost half of the sites if business-as-usual emissions continue.

IUCN held a workshop in Kazakhstan to identify conservation priorities for three World Heritage sites in Central Asia, following a methodology developed with the IUCN French National Committee for building action based on the IUCN World Heritage Outlook.

It brought together managers of protected areas in the region, as well as global and regional experts from UNESCO and IUCN.

## FILLING GAPS ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

In a new study funded by the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea, experts from IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas identified 18 volcanic sites as the most likely candidates for future World Heritage status. The report, launched at the World Heritage Committee meeting in July, shows that the Southwest and Western Pacific, South America and North America are volcano-rich regions with currently little or no World Heritage volcanoes.

IUCN provided training to managers of potential new sites in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan as part of a five-year initiative by the African World Heritage Fund to increase Africa's World Heritage inventory. IUCN also provided technical advice for the potential World Heritage nomination of the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala.

## WORLD HERITAGE AND THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

IUCN, in partnership with Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), convened an expert workshop on the World Heritage Convention's contribution to global biodiversity conservation beyond 2020. The workshop brought together some 20 experts on World Heritage and environmental policy from a range of organisations, including UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and the cultural advisory body International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, as well as governments. This collaboration resulted in a statement being submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December to help ensure World Heritage adds value to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## UPCOMING WORK

After gathering input from hundreds of experts worldwide, IUCN will launch the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3 – IUCN's flagship knowledge product on natural World Heritage – at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China. Supported by the MAVA Foundation, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will include over 250 updated online site assessments.

IUCN will provide its yearly advice to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. This advice will include over 60 monitoring reports on sites facing threats and evaluations of candidate sites in Ethiopia, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovenia and Thailand.

As part of the World Heritage Leadership programme, funded by Norway and jointly run with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, IUCN will continue updating manuals and providing training on World Heritage management, resilience to climate change and disasters, and environmental impact assessments. Together with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, IUCN will publish Tabe'a III – the third study on Arab natural World Heritage.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Bosson, J.B., Huss, M. & Osipova, E. (2019). *'Disappearing World Heritage glaciers as a keystone of nature conservation in a changing climate'*. Earth's Future, 7 (4): 469–479

Casadevall, T. J., Tormey, D. & Roberts, J. (2019). *World Heritage Volcanoes: Classification, gap analysis, and recommendations for future listings*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

## AREAS OF WORK

ADVISING THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

IUCN WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

WORLD HERITAGE LEADERSHIP

BENEFITS OF NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE



The World Heritage Committee followed IUCN's advice to list four new sites. Natural World Heritage sites now cover 369 million hectares globally, up by 23% from 2018.

# SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

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

IUCN advances science and economic knowledge for effective conservation action. IUCN generates and analyses conservation data, provides rigorous standards to assess the state of the world's biodiversity and conservation areas, provides guidance in the form of tools and methodologies for conservation and restoration efforts, and works with other scientific networks.

## ASSESSING THE STATE OF NATURE AND CONSERVATION

IUCN maintains the global standards for assessing the risk of species extinction and ecosystem collapse – the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the Red List of Ecosystems, respectively – as well as for assessing important sites – the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Planet.

Assessments for 15,536 additional species were published in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ in 2019. These new assessments highlighted the perilous state of freshwater fishes globally, as species continue to be threatened by the loss of free-flowing rivers, habitat degradation, pollution, invasive species and climate change. These assessments also included all known eucalypt species worldwide. The Red List of Ecosystems continued to expand in 2019. Two articles on implementing the Red List of Ecosystems in public policy were also published.

The Protected Planet Report, a partnership between IUCN and the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, tracks progress towards achieving global biodiversity targets. In 2019, terrestrial coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas was at 44%, freshwater coverage at 41% and marine coverage at 46%. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are globally important sites for biodiversity. The KBA Partnership, managed by 13 KBA Partners including IUCN, has been engaging countries around the world to encourage them to form KBA National Coordination Groups and to identify, map and conserve KBAs. Nine KBA National Coordination Groups have been established, and training focused on applying KBA criteria has been provided in 14 countries. More than 16,000 sites are

now recognised as KBAs and will be incorporated in plans for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

IUCN continued to develop methods for establishing specific science-based biodiversity targets to advance countries' and non-state actors' progress towards global biodiversity targets, such as the post-2020 target of halting net biodiversity loss by 2030. IUCN supported the development of a Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric, which is now well-advanced, as part of a project funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by Conservation International. Parallel work is underway to support development of science-based ecosystem targets and genetic diversity targets.

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) is an authoritative tool that provides geographic information about global biodiversity to support decision making. It is maintained through a partnership between BirdLife International, Conservation International, IUCN and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In January, the partnership launched IBAT 3.0, an upgrade that brings together three previously separate platforms: IBAT for Business, IBAT for World Bank Group and IBAT for Research and Conservation. Interest in the tool is growing, and over the course of the year more than 400 people attended IBAT webinars, over 3,000 people received IBAT newsletters, and the number of paying IBAT subscribers grew to 74, resulting in a revenue of over USD 1.1 million. New subscribers included African Development Bank, AC Energy, Petronas, Enel, L'Oréal, Veolia, and Votorantim Cimentos.

## Four knowledge products are based on IUCN standards:



### IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Assessing risk of species extinction



### Red List of Ecosystems

Assessing risk of ecosystem collapse



### World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Sites of global importance for biodiversity



### Protected Planet

World Database of Protected Areas

## Some examples of other products and tools maintained by IUCN include the following:



### Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

Authoritative biodiversity data for businesses and others



### IUCN World Heritage Outlook

Conservation status of natural World Heritage Sites



### IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

Global standard of best practice for area-based conservation



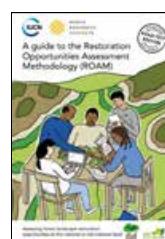
### PANORAMA

Cross-sectoral, global solutions for a healthy planet



### ECOLEX

Gateway database to environmental law



### Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology

Proven flexible approach to assess restoration potential



### Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT)

System for classifying invasive alien species based on their impacts



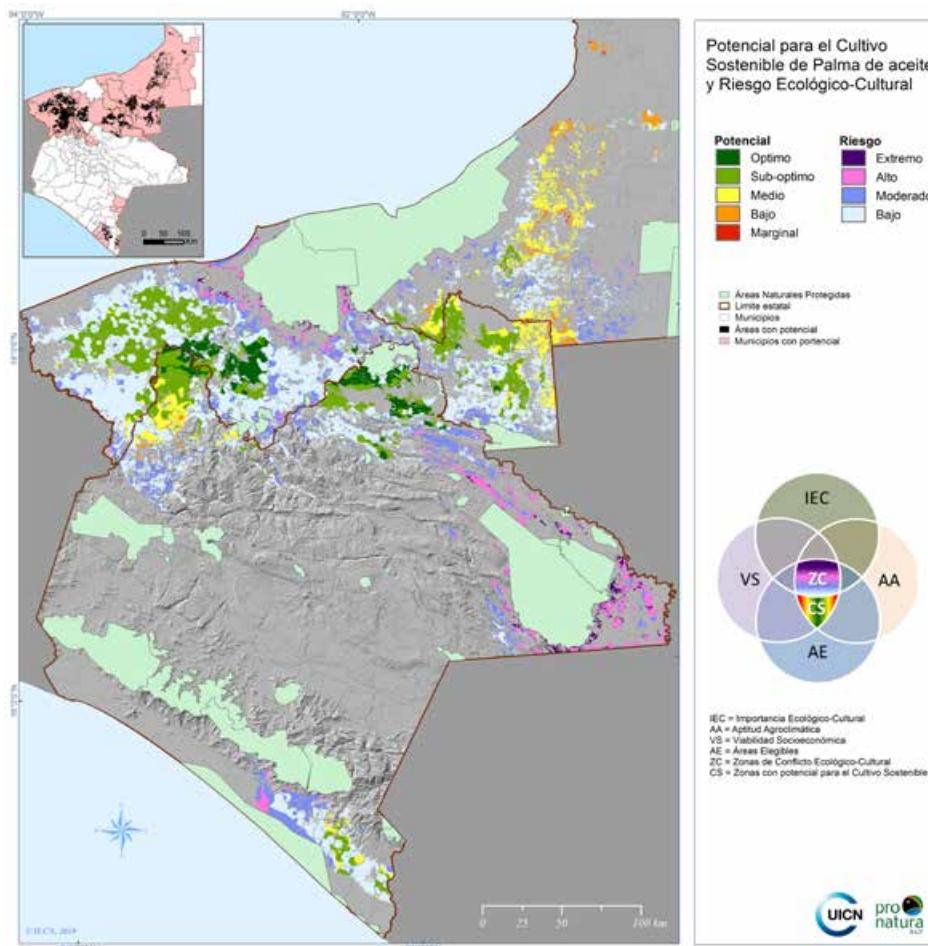
### Guidelines for assessing species' vulnerability to climate change

Guidance for using climate change vulnerability assessments and related data

## VALUING BENEFITS FROM NATURE

IUCN is closely involved with efforts to advance the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (UN SEEA), an international statistical system that integrates environmental and economic data to provide a more comprehensive view of the interrelationships between the two. In 2019, IUCN experts contributed to the revision of the UN SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting framework, examining the potential use of concepts and data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the Red List of Ecosystems and leading the working group on valuation and accounting.

IUCN supported the development of policy instruments for improved economic well-being and environmental sustainability of marine-coastal resources in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. This included a ministerial agreement in Guatemala to allow the participation of an estimated 3,000 artisan fishermen in working groups with fishing authorities; a co-management agreement for the Garita Palmera mangrove area in El Salvador; a regulatory agreement for mangrove areas within the territorial reserves of Guatemala; and an agreement for the establishment of a governance committee of the Karataska Lagoon System's Fisheries Management Plan in the Honduran



IUCN worked with Pronatura Sur and the states of Chiapas, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Tabasco in Mexico to develop a territorial planning tool and zoning map proposal for the sustainable cultivation of oil palm.

Caribbean. Demonstrating that conservation actions deliver direct economic benefits to local communities was essential for the adoption of these policy options.

In Costa Rica, IUCN supported the design and pilot implementation of a LandScale assessment of the area where the public-private partnership Water Fund Agua Tica is promoting landscape restoration. The LandScale is a tool for assessing trends in landscape sustainability, using a holistic approach, to inform private and public decision making for investment and management. In Mexico, IUCN developed a territorial planning tool and zoning map for sustainable cultivation of oil palm, integrating social and environmental safeguards. The tool contributes to Mexico's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and to the New York Declaration on Forests.

As a founding member of both the Green Economy Coalition and the Natural Capital Coalition, IUCN has continued to support governments, businesses and other organisations to identify, measure, value and govern natural capital and its contributions to economies and well-being. In collaboration with WWF-France and WWF-Gabon, IUCN launched a national pilot in Gabon to develop Natural Capital

Accounts with the goal of strengthening policy decisions related to nature conservation.

IUCN continued the development of footprint tools that measure the impact of the consumption of domestic and imported goods and services on biodiversity. These analyses will inform science-based targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 goals and environment-related targets of the SDGs.

## PUBLISHING SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION ACTION

IUCN regularly publishes technical and scientific literature that has gone through an independent peer review process. Over the course of the year, the IUCN Publications Committee considered 29 concept notes for planned publication by the IUCN Secretariat, and the Editorial Board cleared 18 publications to be assigned ISBNs. A total of 45 publications with ISBNs were published, and there were no less than 1,085,391 downloads for all publications from the IUCN Library Portal in 2019.

As a key example, the rapidly-developing field of synthetic biology poses both substantial risks and opportunities for biodiversity conservation. In 2018, IUCN established a

Task Force on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation, which in 2019 published an authoritative assessment on the subject, *Genetic frontiers for conservation: An assessment of synthetic biology and biodiversity conservation*. This assessment will inform the development of an IUCN policy on the issue, as mandated by IUCN Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 (WCC-2016-Res-086). The publication was supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Luc Hoffmann Institute of the World Wildlife Fund and the French and Swiss Governments.

A selection of IUCN publications published in peer-reviewed academic journals from 2019 is listed at the end of this section.

## UPCOMING WORK

The first report in IUCN's flagship series will be published in 2020, focusing on the interlinkages between conflict and nature. The series will provide evidence of the importance of nature to economic and social well-being, and recommend policy options for unlocking nature's benefits.

In partnership with WWF-France and coordinated by Expertise-France, IUCN will implement the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Biodiversity Facility in 16 developing countries, applying the STAR metric to address the root causes of biodiversity loss and to fully integrate biodiversity considerations into key economic sectors.

IUCN Members will review the Union's new benchmark for success in species conservation, to be implemented within the umbrella of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, currently being finalised under the working title of the Green List of Species.

As part of the Bonn Challenge Barometer, IUCN is developing sectoral economic models for forest landscape restoration, which will facilitate understanding of its economic benefits at national and regional levels. IUCN is also developing a deforestation footprint calculator to assess the impact of national consumption on deforestation.

Other ongoing work includes developing business cases to showcase how forest landscape restoration can support sustainable supply chains and strengthen private investment; applying the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology to identify areas of opportunity for forest landscape restoration in Belize; and conducting a cost-benefit analysis of marine litter in fisheries as part of IUCN's MARPLASTICCS project.

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Brooks, T.M. et al. (2019). *'Measuring terrestrial Area of Habitat (AOH) and its utility for the IUCN Red List.'* Trends in Ecology & Evolution 34(11): 977–986.

IUCN (2019). *Genetic frontiers for conservation: An assessment of synthetic biology and biodiversity conservation. Synthesis and key messages.* Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Kroetz, K. et al. (2019). *'Systematically incorporating environmental objectives into shale gas pipeline development: a binary integer, multi-objective spatial optimization model.'* Environmental Science and Technology 53: 7155–7162.

Nello, T. et al. (2019). *Análisis económico de acciones para la restauración de paisajes productivos en Honduras.* San José, Costa Rica: IUCN-ORMACC.

Nicholson, E. et al. (2019). *'Scenarios and models to support global conservation targets.'* Trends in Ecology & Evolution 34: 57–68.

Rapacciuolo, G. et al. (2019). *'Species diversity as a surrogate for conservation of phylogenetic and functional diversity in terrestrial vertebrates across the Americas.'* Nature Ecology & Evolution 3: 53–61.

Simmonds J.S. et al. (2019). *'Moving from biodiversity offsets to a target-based approach for ecological compensation.'* Conservation Letters. 13:e12695.

Tibesigwa, B. et al. (2019) *'Naturally available wild pollination services have economic value for nature dependent smallholder crop farms in Tanzania.'* Scientific Reports 9(1): 3434.

Visconti, P. et al. (2019) *'Protected area targets post-2020.'* Science 364: 239–241.

## AREAS OF WORK

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

[CONNECTING TO PEER NETWORKS](#)

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

[FLAGSHIP REPORT](#)

IUCN published *Genetic frontiers for conservation*, an authoritative assessment of the rapidly developing field of synthetic biology.

# GLOBAL POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

In 2019, IUCN continued to emphasise that nature must be placed at the centre of national development strategies. IUCN called for concrete action to achieve global targets, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and for governments to set bold targets for post-2020. Our global policy objectives are driven by IUCN Resolutions, decided by our Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held every four years.

## **Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)**

IUCN participated in events at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly on topics such as youth and sport, food systems, sustainable finance and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. IUCN had a strong presence in the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Clean Seas tent, informing delegates about our work on a plastic footprint inventory.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-096](#), [WCC-2016-Res-049](#)

## **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – IPBES 7**

IUCN's delegation to the seventh IPBES Plenary engaged successfully to provide final inputs to the 2019 Summary for Policymakers of the Global Assessment report. As a key example, information from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and about coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas was used extensively in the IPBES Global Assessment. IUCN also co-organised

Stakeholder Day, which provided an opportunity for organisations to receive updates on the IPBES process and prepare for the upcoming plenary session.

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

## **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) session strengthened IUCN's position as the leader on nature-based solutions. Countries recognised the interplay between disasters, climate change and environmental degradation and the key role that nature plays in achieving the Sendai Framework's global targets. Encouraged by IUCN, countries and stakeholders called for better integration of DRR in the adaptation agenda, better consideration of the role of ecosystems and their services, and improved reporting on ecosystem losses and nature-based solutions.

**IUCN Resolution:** [WCC-2012-Res-058](#)

## **World Heritage Committee**

As the World Heritage Committee's advisor on nature, IUCN recommended action for 55 sites facing threats. The Committee followed IUCN's advice to danger-list the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California site in Mexico due to the looming extinction of the vaquita – the world's smallest porpoise species. The Committee also followed IUCN's advice to extend an existing site and inscribe four new sites, including the French Austral Lands and Seas – now the largest of all World Heritage sites. IUCN's evaluation of a site of importance to migratory birds in the Yellow Sea region resulted in China



Jane Smart, Global Director, IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Group and Director, Global Species Programme, and Sonia Peña Moreno, Coordinator, Global Biodiversity Policy and Governance, at the 1st Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

committing to future extension and collaboration with countries in the East Asia-Australasia Flyway.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2012-Res-046](#), [WCC-2012-Res-047](#), [WCC-2016-Res-031](#)

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

Led by its permanent observer mission to the UN, IUCN participated in the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was convened under the theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*. IUCN intervened in the plenary panel *Progress, gaps and obstacles: are we on track for leaving no one behind?*, delivered a formal statement highlighting the critical role of nature-based solutions in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals, and hosted two events: *Mangroves in Manhattan and Nature Governance, Peace and Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019* featured IUCN's Red List Index, as well as coverage of IUCN Key Biodiversity Areas.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-056](#), [WCC-2016-Res-062](#), [WCC-2016-Res-096](#), [WCC-2016-Rec-107](#)

### **Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**

IUCN continued to provide technical input to support the negotiation of a new treaty on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. IUCN prioritised the development of a robust, ambitious agreement that would provide binding conservation obligations and workable frameworks for marine protected areas, equitable sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments. IUCN's input received significant uptake and is helping shape the evolving draft treaty.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2012-Res-074](#), [WCC-2016-Res-047](#), [WCC-2016-Res-050](#)

### **CITES COP18**

IUCN provided scientific advice at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). An IUCN/TRAFFIC assessment guided decisions about the extent to which trade in certain species should be restricted. IUCN reports on the conservation status of rhinos, lions and great apes informed decisions aimed at ensuring these species are not threatened by international trade. IUCN experts on sharks, seahorses and eels advised on regulatory measures for improving the sustainability of trade in these species.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [GA 1978 RES 024](#), [GA 1978 RES 025](#), [GA 1984 RES 029](#), [GA 1994 REC 049](#), [WCC-2008-REC-110](#), [WCC-2016-Res-025](#), [WCC-2016-Res-093](#)

### **UN General Assembly & Climate Action Summit**

At High-Level Week, which launched the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, IUCN co-organised a well-attended *Knowledge Dialogue on Nature-based Solutions*

*for Climate Change* with the government of France and the Wildlife Conservation Society. In the same week, the UN's Climate Action Summit included a dedicated thematic action track on nature-based solutions. Led by China and New Zealand, and supported by IUCN and others, this track resulted in the release of the *Nature-based Solutions for Climate Manifesto*, which calls for inclusion of nature-based solutions in national climate policy instruments, including in Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, and enhanced financing for their implementation.

**IUCN Resolutions:** [WCC-2016-Res-062](#), [WCC-2016-Res-099](#)

### **UN Convention to Combat Desertification COP14**

At the Conference to Combat Desertification, IUCN emphasised the importance of nature-based solutions and addressing anthropogenic drought through ecosystem restoration. During the conference, IUCN launched the report *Reviving land and restoring landscapes*, which provides evidence that connecting forest landscape restoration initiatives under the Bonn Challenge with Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets helps countries achieve their land restoration goals more efficiently. IUCN made a significant contribution to UNCCD's Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality, which as a result aligns with IUCN standards. IUCN financed 81 countries in LDN target-setting exercises.

### **UN Convention on Biological Diversity – post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

IUCN called for decisive action at all levels through a strong post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In line with IUCN's advice, there is now greater support for a framework that constitutes a unified global action plan aimed at achieving no *net loss* of biodiversity by 2030 and *net gain* by 2050 through restoration and recovery.

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

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

At the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP25 in Madrid, IUCN underscored the urgent need to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the critical role of healthy ecosystems in providing nature-based solutions for tackling climate change. IUCN also stressed the need to include ecosystems in a concrete and quantifiable manner in future Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. IUCN was strongly engaged in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to support the acceleration of climate ambition and action on the ground, and supported the work of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and the Lima Work Programme on Gender. IUCN launched the *Ocean Deoxygenation* report, which drew attention to the impacts of climate change on the world's ocean, generating over 900 news articles around the world featuring the study.

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

# SECRETARIAT SERVICES

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

IUCN continued to strengthen its accountability and oversight framework to be more efficient, responsive, objective and transparent. Further progress was made towards an integrated approach for improving how IUCN's priorities are set, how our resources are mobilised and accounted for, and how our performance is monitored, evaluated and reported. This work complemented initiatives that strengthened IUCN's enterprise risk management framework, internal control systems, ethics and compliance mechanisms, information technologies, and assurance functions. For example, in 2019 the Secretariat began actively maintaining its enterprise-level and unit-level risk registers worldwide to enable leadership to make risk-informed decisions.

## COMMISSION SUPPORT

In 2019, IUCN's new Commission system went live. Compliant with current data protection legislation and available in English, French and Spanish, the

system enables Commission leaders to manage their membership directly and processes invitations and applications to join IUCN Commissions. The Commission Support Unit continued to provide support and training in communications and administrative matters.

## FINANCE

IUCN continued to improve finance processes and increase efficiency throughout 2019. A time management system was developed and piloted, which was ready to go live for the start of 2020. The system provides an efficient tool for managing staff time and improves compliance with donor requirements. IUCN's core financial system was also upgraded – the first upgrade since the system's initial implementation in 2011. The upgrade provides new functionalities that will extend the system's life by at least five years. As part of IUCN's increased focus on risk management, the Union introduced a foreign exchange hedging strategy and continued work to implement a global banking strategy and e-banking platform.



IUCN Global Director Union Development Enrique Lahmann, IUCN Acting Director General Dr Gretel Aguilar, and Marc Strauss, Secretary General, Major International Events for France's Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, discussing plans for the IUCN Congress in Marseille.

## GENERAL SERVICES

IUCN continued work throughout 2019 to decrease its energy consumption. Between 2011 and 2019, the IUCN Conservation Centre in Gland, Switzerland, reduced energy consumption by 63%, and IUCN's data centre decreased energy consumption by 17% last year alone. The energy sources that supply the Centre are certified 100% local and sustainable.

## GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

IUCN launched its campaign to promote the IUCN World Conservation Congress with media, IUCN Members, and potential participants and sponsors, creating a new IUCN Congress website and a promotional video that reached 2.2 million viewers. IUCN's media relations efforts resulted in 75,000 articles mentioning IUCN, and social media reached almost 10.3 million people, with Twitter and Facebook audiences growing by 19.3% and 4.6% respectively, compared to 2018. IUCN's website received over 9.5 million page views, a 30% increase from 2019. IUCN Issues Briefs – plain-language summaries explaining complex conservation issues – were the most-accessed web content, with views increasing by 400% since 2019.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

IUCN's 2019 Employee Engagement Survey results showed that employee engagement, belief in our organisational values and pride in working for our organisation registered higher than global benchmarks, highlighting our people's continued commitment to IUCN's vision and mission. IUCN released its first Pay Gap Report to understand and address non-inclusive and legacy practices that lead to pay disparities across levels and groups. People-centric policies and initiatives were implemented to develop emerging leaders, continuously review staff compensation, and reinforce the Code of Conduct to safeguard staff through protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

IUCN launched a new platform for membership management across IUCN Commissions and a new release of the Project Portal, making staff workflows more efficient. Major software, applications and systems were upgraded, and security audits performed on IUCN's major systems revealed no critical issues. IUCN also implemented a new global desktop configuration to securely manage computers in small IUCN offices. Improved contracts were renegotiated with key suppliers, and new central data storage equipment was installed for all IUCN offices, resulting in a 60% reduction in energy use.

## LEGAL

IUCN continued to improve safeguards and protection of personal data by promoting data protection awareness and training to the Secretariat, also reaching out to IUCN's Commissions and Council. To strengthen governance processes, the IUCN Council and Secretariat continued to draft proposed amendments to IUCN Statutes and Regulations. In March 2019, IUCN Members adopted a revised motions process, which was implemented ahead of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020.

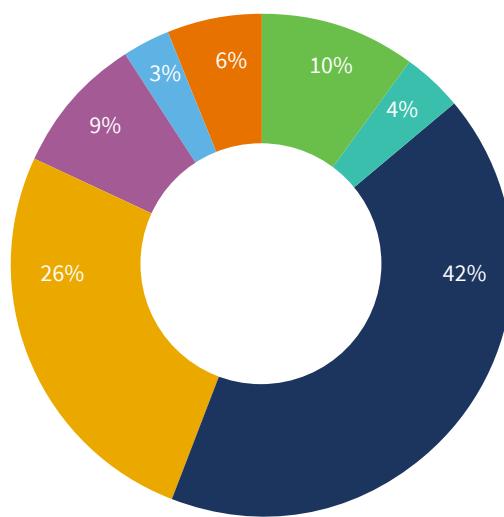
## PROGRAMME QUALITY

IUCN launched the Programme and Project Portal 2.0 – a new version of its project cycle management application for all Secretariat projects. The update offers a modern user experience for project managers and eliminates the need for paper-based project screenings and approvals throughout the project cycle. Online workflows facilitate greater productivity, enhance safeguards and ensure accountability for resources entrusted to the Secretariat for conservation objectives. IUCN also updated its Project Guidelines and Standards to offer greater agility and improved processes and to incorporate best practices in project management and partnerships for development.

## UNION DEVELOPMENT

Preparations for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 continued, with 11 Regional Conservation Fora held across the world. At the Fora, IUCN Members discussed critical issues in sustainable development and conservation and prepared motions for debate by IUCN Members at Congress. IUCN also finalised a new membership strategy, which includes plans for strengthening Committees' involvement in building Member engagement and for a review of the IUCN National Committees.

# THANKING OUR MEMBERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS



**IUCN's total 2019 income amounted to CHF 128,440,896m**

Membership – 12,765,315	(10%)
International NGOs – 4,644,089	(4%)
Government agencies – 54,493,197	(42%)
Multilateral agencies – 33,081,700	(26%)
Foundations – 11,119,311	(9%)
Corporations – 4,177,774	(3%)
Other income – 8,159,511	(6%)

**IUCN wishes to acknowledge the support of all its donors and partners for their continued core support and programmatic engagement in 2019.**

## Top 20 contributors in 2019:

Government of Germany  
European Union  
Global Environment Facility  
Government of Sweden  
United States of America  
Government of France  
Government of Norway  
Republic of Korea  
Government of Switzerland  
MAVA Foundation  
Government of the Netherlands  
Fondation Privée Genevoise  
World Bank  
UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency  
Toyota Motor Corporation  
Conservation International  
United Nations Development Programme  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
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**IUCN is grateful to its growing membership for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Union.**

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

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, HM Queen Noor Al Hussein, HRH Prince Carl Philip of Sweden, Dr Luming Ai, Gregory Carr, Dr Sylvia Earle, Andrew Forrest, Soichiro and Reiko Fukutake, Dame Jane Goodall, Richard Leakey, Frank Mars, Niu Gensheng, Laura Turner Seydel, David E. Shaw, Dr Richard Sneider, Jon Stryker, Adam and Jessica Sweidan.

“Acknowledging that IUCN sets the international quality standards for nature conservation, it is only logical that one of the leading financing institutions for biodiversity protection deepens its ties with IUCN.”

**Roland Siller**, KfW Management Committee

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Financial statements: [The 2019 audited financial statements](#), which complement this report, can be accessed on the IUCN website.

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**DISCLAIMER** This Annual Report covers the year 2019, before the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Actions to address the pandemic and its causes are therefore reflected in forward-looking sections, but not in IUCN’s outputs, as these are limited to 2019.

Names, frontiers, boundaries and other designations of geographical entities used and shown on maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion, official endorsement or acceptance by IUCN and participating organisations concerning any authorities and legal status of country, territory and area.

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working for  
a just world  
that values and  
conserves nature



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