



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

IUCN EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE





# Annual Report 2016

IUCN European Regional Office

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# MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

**Luc Bas,**  
Director of the  
IUCN European Regional Office

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It is undeniable that 2016 was a turbulent year for European and international politics in which environmental action was not the central theme, despite the challenges we faced. 2016 saw the UK's unfortunate decision to leave the European Union. The EU regulatory framework has provided a strong level of protection for the UK environment and we will continue to support all of our UK Members to ensure that laws protecting and conserving nature remain intact moving forward. However, with uncertainty comes opportunity. Now is the time for Europe to build on the Paris Climate Agreement and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and work together to bring nature back to the forefront of the political agenda and unlock the resources needed to conserve and restore the ecosystems that support our economies and well-being.

The IUCN European Red List continues to provide us with a better understanding of the status of biodiversity in Europe and the efforts needed to address the major threats to European species. Particular action is needed to combat habitat loss due predominantly to unsustainable agricultural practices, the over-exploitation of resources, invasive alien species and climate change. IUCN actively contributed to the process of the fitness check of the EU Nature Directives, the results of which further underline the urgent need for improved implementation and action to help reverse these trends.

However nature itself often offers the solutions to tackle these challenges. Nature-based solutions use nature and its functions to address some of our most important environmental and socio-economic challenges. There is

now growing interest for nature-based solutions in Europe, mainly from the scientific community, but also at the EU institutions. The European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation has created opportunities for crucial research on nature-based solutions as part of the Horizon 2020 programme, to demonstrate their multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits. We need to build on this momentum and scale-up investments in nature-based solutions and integrate them into the implementation strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe.

In 2016, the IUCN World Conservation Congress reenergised the conservation community, strengthened ambition and set new targets for IUCN and its Members. The IUCN European Work Programme 2017-2020 will help ensure that the ideas, connections and momentum sparked from the IUCN Congress 2016 are translated into concrete action by all parts of IUCN (Secretariat, Members and experts) to spur further change in Europe.

With the contributions and continued commitment of IUCN's Members, Commission experts, National Committees and partners, we continue to work together to maintain healthy ecosystems in Europe and across the globe. Without such collaboration we would not be able to accomplish as much as we do and our voice would certainly not have such a strong resonance. Together with the IUCN Europe team, I look forward to continue to work with all of you to address the many environmental challenges we face and work toward a future that maximises the opportunities and benefits nature-based solutions can offer to both humans and nature. ●

# IUCN AT A GLANCE

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

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Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 16,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

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

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



Flowering Bluebells, Halle forest (Belgium) © Anouska Plasmeijer, IUCN

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

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

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

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises 1,000 staff in 45 countries. ●

# STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

The IUCN European Regional Office (IUCN Europe) covers 38 countries\*, including all of the countries in the European Union, representing a total of 360 Members in 2016. The strength of the region lies in the vast knowledge and expertise of its membership.

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IUCN Europe represents IUCN and its diverse membership at the European Union institutions by providing a policy platform for its Members and supporting resource mobilisation, in order to drive the changes IUCN aims for the region and across the globe. In this context, IUCN Europe works with its global Secretariat and Members to implement an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe and internationally following the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

Being located in Brussels, Belgium, IUCN Europe provides regional and global services to the Union and supports EU partnership opportunities. It also works closely with representatives of the European Commission, Parliament and EU Member States to inform decision-making with the use of IUCN's knowledge, programmes and tools. These decisions have a strong influence in Europe as a whole and globally. By partnering with other organisations, IUCN aims to demonstrate the value of conserving biodiversity and ecosystems and mainstreaming nature into sectoral policies as well as the EU development policies both in mainland Europe and in its overseas territories and outermost regions.

Over the past year, the focus has been on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted in 2015. 2016 focussed on how the UN Member States will implement this ambitious Agenda. As the EU has played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda, a bold plan for implementation in Europe and in its partner countries should be expected. The report "[Sustainability Now! A European Vision](#)" released by the European Political Strategy Centre mid 2016, provided a situation analysis of Sustainable Development in Europe, which will hopefully develop into an updated EU sustainable development Strategy in the next year(s). IUCN Europe liaises with the EU institutions and Member States to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Develop-

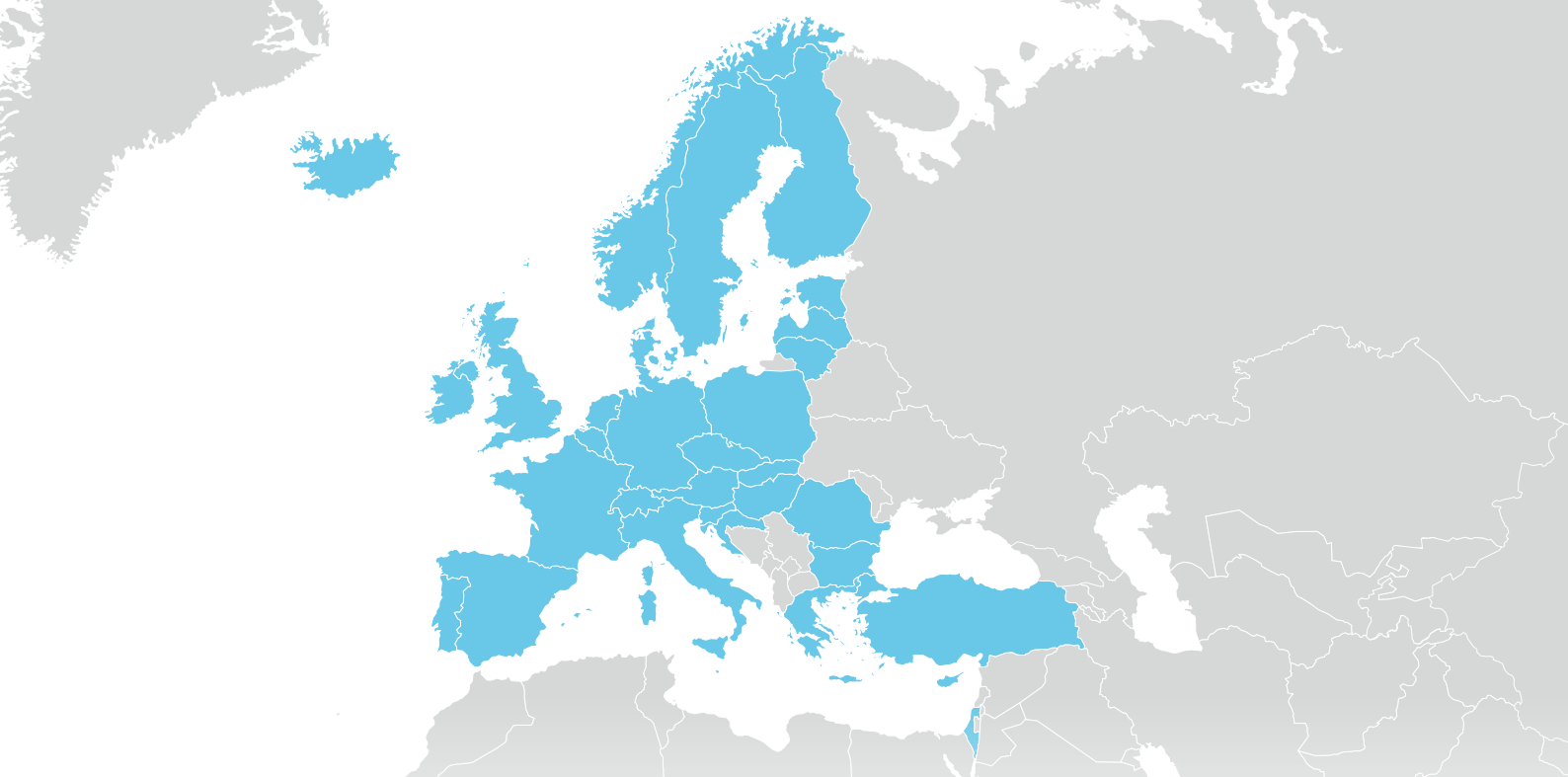
ment within the EU as well as in its external policies and actions.

IUCN recognises the fundamental importance of cities and subnational governments in determining the future sustainability of our planet and the essential role they have in achieving our biodiversity targets in Europe and internationally. An important focus for IUCN's work in Europe in 2016 that will continue to grow in the coming years, was to raise awareness for the role of cities and subnational governments in investing in protecting and restoring ecosystems and to support them to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their urban, peri-urban and land use planning. Another strategic priority is the development of evidence to promote the multiple benefits for society of nature-based solutions and the up-scaling of their use across Europe, in particular to realise the potential for ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and urban green spaces to provide substantial climate change adaptation and mitigation opportunities.

2016 also brought about the adoption of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking by the EU Council. IUCN welcomed this Action Plan as an opportunity to catalyse a coordinated international response that is proportional, holistic, and makes decisions based on strong evidence.

A proposal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the sectors of transport, buildings, agriculture, waste and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) was also released by the European Commission in 2016. It includes a stand-alone policy pillar to account for LULUCF emissions, but still allows flexibility to off-set emissions from other sectors, which could raise concerns about the integrity of the EU 2030 targets. The final proposal will be adopted in 2017 and IUCN has been following the process closely to avoid any decisions that may dilute efforts in other sectors.





Finally, the long-awaited results from the fitness check of the EU Nature Directives brought good news for European environmental organisations. The results concluded that rather than making changes to the Directives, their implementation should be enhanced. These results are fully in line with IUCN's related position from 2015 and IUCN will continue to play an active role in this discussion.

Looking forward, the IUCN European Work Programme 2017-2020 – approved in 2016 after consultations with

IUCN's Members and Commission experts – sets the strategic focus and priorities, defines the targets and establishes IUCN's activities in the region. Focusing on sustainable agriculture, marine conservation, climate change, financing for natural capital, collaboration with cities and subnational governments, wildlife, EU and international biodiversity policies, the programme intends to help implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 over the next four years.

10,810

total number of species  
assessed according to the  
IUCN European Red  
List of Threatened species

6 out of 10

world's largest protected  
areas are European  
Overseas marine  
protected areas

21.8%

percentage of terrestrial  
protected areas inside  
EU28<sup>1</sup>

72.4%

percentage of built-up areas –  
defined as cities, towns and suburbs  
– that provide a home for EU-28's  
population<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> EEA, Sept. 2016 [www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/protected-areas/facts-and-figures/number-and-size-of-protected-areas-1](http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/protected-areas/facts-and-figures/number-and-size-of-protected-areas-1)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics\\_on\\_European\\_cities](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistics_on_European_cities)

# PROGRAMME WORK AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

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## Valuing and conserving nature

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IUCN Europe works in partnership to safeguard species and build healthy protected area systems as a foundation for nature and human well-being. IUCN generates, integrates, and disseminates knowledge for the most appropriate responses to emerging conservation challenges, building individual and institutional capacity to plan and manage biodiversity in the most sustainable and effective ways. IUCN Europe works to improve policies, legal and institutional frameworks and mobilise resources for species conservation and protected area management both regionally and globally.

## EUROPEAN RED LIST



In order to make the European Red List an accurate Barometer of Life, IUCN has focused on assessing underrepresented groups such as invertebrates and plants, which provide the foundation for functional and resilient ecosystems we all depend on. Current work is therefore being undertaken under the [LIFE European Red Lists](#) project that is assessing all bryophytes, pteridophytes, trees, a selection of shrubs, saproxylic beetles and all remaining terrestrial molluscs.



*Poecilimon thessalicus* © Rob Felix



*Bartramia itiphylla* © Michael Luth

The assessments of all grasshoppers, crickets and bush-crickets were published in 2016, expanding the taxonomic coverage of invertebrates in the European Red List. This group of insects, known as Orthoptera, is key for healthy ecosystems and support sustainable food-webs. The assessment revealed that over a quarter of species (28.5%) are threatened in Europe. With this assessment, this brings the total number of species assessed in the IUCN European Red List to almost 11,000 species.

The European Commission has greatly contributed to financing these assessments and securing the continuation of this vital red-listing work.

## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

IUCN is currently working on a project to provide scientific support and advice to the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which focuses on the prevention, early detec-

tion, rapid eradication and management of IAS. This project started at the end of 2016 and counts on the participation of a large group of experts, including the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Invasive Species Specialist Group.

## LARGE CARNIVORE INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE

The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) continued its collaboration with the European Commission in support of their efforts to promote coexistence between large carnivores and humans by developing best practices and engaging with stakeholders. The LCIE participated in the activities of the stakeholder dialogue platform 'EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores,' launched by the European Commissioner for Environment in 2014 together with representatives of nature conservation, hunting, landowner and reindeer

herding interests. Activities included: an annual meeting in Brussels, publications in the newsletter, and contributions to the platform secretariat products such as the leaflet on rural development and a summary of best practices to reduce human-carnivores conflicts. An additional two regional workshops of the platform were also held in 2016. Work also continued on the publication of the Carnivore Damage Prevention Newsletter and a plenary meeting in November saw the approval of an articulated workplan for the next quadrennium.

## EU NATURE DIRECTIVES FITNESS CHECK

In December 2016, the European Commission presented the final results of the fitness check of the Birds and Habitats Directives. The presentation of the results – after being active for over three years – was welcomed by all relevant stakeholders. The conclusions point toward the need to focus on a better implementation of the Directives, which is fully in line with IUCN's **position** on this issue presented in 2015. The European Commission will

follow up with the elaboration of a “Nature Action Plan” to enhance the implementation of the Directives, which will be launched during the first half of 2017. From the beginning, IUCN has followed the process carefully, participating in relevant discussions and providing input as needed. IUCN welcomed these results and will continue to contribute toward the preparation of the Nature Action Plan.

## EUROPEAN RED LIST OF HABITATS

In 2016, IUCN completed its work on the first-ever assessment of all European Habitat Types, in partnership with Alterra and other partners, which assessed the status of all terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats in Europe. **This project** revealed that over a third of all

land habitats are currently under threat, including more than three-quarters of bogs, over half of grasslands, and almost half of Europe's lakes, rivers and coasts. In the marine environment, 19% of habitats were assessed as threatened.

## EUROPEAN HABITATS FORUM

As secretariat of the European Habitats Forum (EHF), IUCN Europe facilitated the exchange of knowledge on EU biodiversity policy among EHF members (22 leading nature organisations), promoted a common view on key policy issues, and provided a coordinated means of

communication between EHF members and EU institutions. In 2016, Sabien Leemans from WWF took the position of Chair of the EHF and Leonardo Mazza from EEB and Sue Collins from Butterfly Conservation Europe were elected as Vice-Chairs.

## IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (the ‘IUCN Green List Standard’) is a new global standard for protected areas. In line with IUCN's core mission of ‘A just world that values and conserves nature,’ the aim of the IUCN Green List Standard is to improve the contribution that equitably governed and effectively managed protected areas make to sustainable development through the conservation of nature and provision of associated social, economic, cultural, and spiritual value.

Three European countries, France, Italy and Spain, have contributed to the development of the IUCN Green List since the pilot phase, when eight sites from these countries were Green-listed in 2014. In 2016, new criteria were set and presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016. IUCN now seeks to engage more European countries and sites in the Green List processes. Initial discussions were held with the European Commission and other stakeholders of the relevance of the IUCN global standard for Natura 2000 sites.



Red Coral, Cerbère-Banyuls, France © Virginie Hartmann (RNMCB)



## SWOS



The end of 2016 marked the mid-term of the implementation of the European Commission funded Horizon 2020

project **Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS)** in which IUCN is a partner. The project's objec-

tive is to develop an operational standardised monitoring service for wetland ecosystems, as well as promote and underpin the consideration of wetlands in the implementation of key policy areas. The main focus of IUCN's work in 2016 was contributing to the identification of the requirements of the service with specific attention to the EU's reporting requirements for peatlands.

## IUCN EUROPE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

### BIOPAMA

At the global stage, BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme) is a clear illustration of the EU's contribution to global biodiversity conservation work and of the EU's development and cooperation philosophy.



Under the BIOPAMA programme, IUCN has been developing capacity in protected areas management for the fifth year in a row in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries. It has also been instrumental in setting up "regional observatories for protected areas and biodiversity" in these regions. Initiated by the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and funded by the European Union 10th EDF, BIOPAMA is implemented in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. BIOPAMA has had a permanent representation in Brussels to liaise with the EU institution and stakeholders.

BIOPAMA was present at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 and organised 30 events during the Congress Forum, reaching a total audience of more than 30,000 onsite and online. The impact of BIOPAMA's events at the IUCN Congress 2016 is detailed in a [report](http://www.biopama.org) available at [www.biopama.org](http://www.biopama.org).

In Brussels, BIOPAMA organised two information sessions at the DEVCO InfoPoint Conference Centre in 2016. The sessions (February and July 2016) aimed at sharing the knowledge and experience in protected areas management gathered through BIOPAMA with the Brussels-based audiences.



Fisherman in Fiji © Richard Wylie

IUCN will continue to strengthen the work undertaken in BIOPAMA for the next six years and with a total budget of € 43,9 million. The programme will also include an action grant mechanism of € 20 million.



ACP Assistant Secretary General for Sustainable Economic Development and Trade introduces the BIOPAMA InfoPoint conference, 4 Feb 2016.  
© BIOPAMA Photo Library/Roxana Bucioaca

## Advancing effective and equitable governance of the use of nature in Europe

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IUCN Europe continues to work with its Members, Commissions and partners to support the effective and equitable governance of nature's use at local, national and regional levels. The IUCN European Regional Office closely follows discussions on the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDG), wildlife trafficking, and agricultural policy in Europe. The Office also does considerable work in its European outermost regions and overseas countries and territories and has begun to actively engage in the marine conservation discussion in mainland Europe.

## AGRICULTURE

Following the IUCN World Congress 2016, IUCN identified agriculture as a key area of focus. IUCN Europe has included this area of work in its European Work Programme 2017-2020. During 2016, a number of discussions with key actors regarding activities on this topic were initiated.

In May, IUCN Europe also actively contributed in relevant events such as the live streaming debate on Sustainable Food Production & Consumption with the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Members of the European Parliament and the private sector.



Ireland Agriculture © pixabay

## MARINE CONSERVATION

In 2016, IUCN Europe began running a project focused both on marine pollution and marine protection. As part of the project, IUCN Europe will develop a report including relevant legislative instruments and targets tackling the issue of marine plastic litter. IUCN is also examining the potential use and application of relevant IUCN knowledge products and tools, such as the Red List of Threatened Species and the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, to support the implementation of key EU policies relevant for the protection of the marine environment for example, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Biodiversity Strategy.



Prionace glauca © Nuno Vasco Rodrigues

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

As one of the 24 consortium members of the EU-funded PharmaSea project, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC)<sup>3</sup> has been engaged in work on “Ethics, Policy and Legal Aspects of Access and Use of Marine Genetic Resources” as part of a broader initiative on biodiscovery research and the development and commercialisation of

new substances from marine organisms. The ELC brings in its knowledge on legal issues associated with the use of marine genetic resources, particularly those related to benefit sharing and synthetic biology. A number of case studies were produced and shared with the PharmaSea consortium in 2016.

<sup>3</sup> **The IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC)** Located in Bonn Germany, is a programme unit of the IUCN Secretariat that coordinates the promotion of environmental law as a tool for sustainable development and resource management



# IUCN EUROPE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

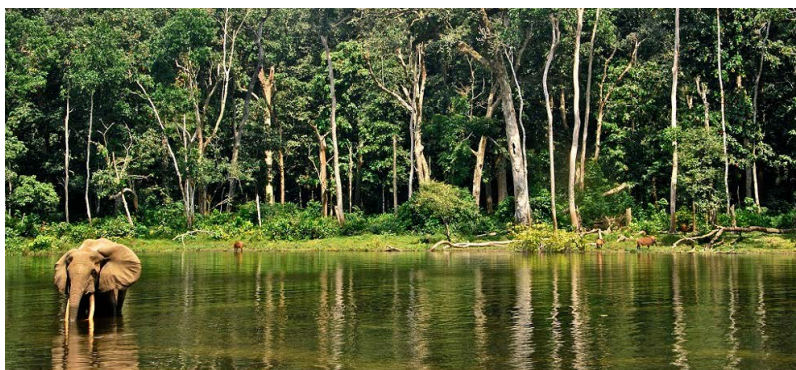
In 2016, the EU gave much needed attention to the global wildlife crisis. Some highlights in which the IUCN Europe Office has been actively engaged in were the Save Wildlife conference (The Hague, 1-3 March 2016), hosted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the adoption of the EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking by the EU Council. IUCN Europe also liaised between its secretariat and EU institutions on global wildlife-related events such as the CITES CoP 17 – where the EU participated for the first time as a Party, together with the 28 Member States – as well as at the Hanoi conference on illegal wildlife trade.

## EUROPEAN OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

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

IUCN's dedicated EU Overseas programme continued to support actions to protect and conserve the incredible biodiversity, promote sustainable development, and implement ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation in the European Overseas.

As an outcome of the ongoing BEST Initiative – financed by the European Commission - ecosystem profiles were released for the 7 regions, where the 34 EU Overseas entities are located: Amazonia, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Macaronesia, Pacific, Polar/Sub-polar and South Atlantic. The profiles identify over 400 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and ecological corridors – places that include vital habitats for species and therefore require enhanced protection – covering a total area of 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, with marine ecosystems representing over 80%. The profiles were elaborated in a local participatory approach, will inform regional investment strategies (to be published in 2017) and will guide future investments in projects promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services in the EU Overseas.



Nouabalé Ndoki National Park © Thomas Bacha

In 2016, 28 new projects received funding totalling over € 3 million through the BEST 2.0 grant facility, managed by IUCN, bringing the total number of projects financed by the programme to 44, with more to come in 2017. They address issues such as management of invasive lionfish, marine spatial planning, establishment and management of marine protected areas, coral reef restoration, offshore pelagic ecological assessments, sea turtle conservation, sustainable fishing, improvement of fisheries management, and seagrass conservation. More information about the grant programme and funded projects can be found on the BEST 2.0 portal: <https://portals.iucn.org/best/>.



Greenland © Daniel Mitchell



## Deploying nature-based solutions

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Europe faces enormous environmental and socio-economic challenges. Adapting to climate change and enhancing our resilience to natural disasters, providing food to more than 500 million people, increasing water and air quality, protecting biodiversity, tackling socio-economic inequality, and dealing with a rapidly expanding urban population are all hurdles that Europe will need to overcome in the upcoming years.

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are interventions which use nature and the natural functions of healthy ecosystems to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time. IUCN Europe works closely with EU institutions, EU member states and other key stakeholders to ensure that the concept of nature-based solutions is well-known, accepted, and reflected in policies across different sectors and levels of government. IUCN Europe is involved in the following projects that focus on putting nature-based solutions at the centre of European development.

## AQUACROSS

In 2016, IUCN entered into the second year of the **AQUACROSS** (Knowledge, Assessment and Management for AQUatic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services aCROSS EU Policies) project, funded by the European Union's Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon 2020. AQUACROSS seeks to advance the application of ecosystem-based management for aquatic ecosystems in an effort to support the timely achievement of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and other international conservation targets.



A major output in 2016 was a report on the “**Synergies and Differences**

**between Biodiversity, Nature, Water and Marine Environment EU Policies.**” This report identifies the most significant threats to aquatic biodiversity and examines the gaps and limitations of existing policy frameworks in the EU for improving aquatic biodiversity protection in Europe. The **Executive Summary** of the AQUACROSS deliverable provides an overview of the results and highlights policy-relevant findings as well as areas in need of further research.

## BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Across Europe, the **IUCN Business and Biodiversity Programme** supported the launch of the first-ever global Natural Capital Protocol, a standardised framework to help business measure their impacts and dependencies on nature. IUCN also contributed to two sector guides on food and beverage and apparel, and led the Coalition's outreach with business, piloting the Protocol with more than 50 leading companies. The Protocol was featured at the Natural Capital: Let's Talk Business Conference in the Netherlands. It was hosted by Platform BEE, an initiative of the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, and resulted in dozens of companies agreeing to incorporate natural capital into their decision making. IUCN called on business leaders to support the Protocol in meetings with the World Economic Forum, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and FIBS -- Finland's leading corporate responsibility network. This theme was also taken up by EU's Business & Biodiversity Platform. Other efforts involved co-hosting a workshop with food and agriculture sustainability leaders in Bellagio, Italy, to explore effective collaborations in production landscapes. An

Action Plan identifying current gaps and opportunities was presented at the Global Landscapes Forum, Global Green Growth Forum and other events in Europe. These efforts mirror IUCN's global approach to engage business on key issues in all regions, in order to scale-up and accelerate IUCN's conservation agenda.



Oostzanerveld, Zaandam, The Netherlands © Hans Veuger

## ADVANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

To strengthen IUCN's work on nature-based solutions in Europe, a major part of 2016 was devoted to developing new project proposals and fundraising with a specific focus on the EU Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation. These efforts culminated in the granting of the following three new projects, which will be implemented in close cooperation with IUCN Members and partners.

## GROWGREEN

(Donor: European Commission DG RTD, Horizon 2020)

The GROWGREEN project aims to demonstrate a replicable approach for the development and implementation of NBS strategies for climate and water resilience in cities across Europe and China. GROWGREEN will provide the basis for a step change in the way that NBS are embedded in the long-term planning, development, operation and management of cities around the world. The project outputs will be promoted directly to policymakers, businesses and the general public in Europe as well as in Latin America, Africa, and Asia and will be designed to create global demand for NBS and to promote European NBS products and services to meet this demand. IUCN will lead the communication, outreach and stakeholder outreach for the project to promote the market uptake of NBS in cities.

## ENABLE

(Donor: Biodiversa)

ENABLE aims to advance knowledge of how to design and implement Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) in a way that maximises its potential to deliver numerous social and environmental benefits. This ambition will be

pursued by developing and testing multi-method assessment frameworks, analytical tools and approaches for evaluating GBI performance. IUCN will lead the project's communication and stakeholder engagement in collaboration with ICLEI and will ensure that project results reach the selected target audiences. IUCN will enhance the visibility of GBI with key stakeholders across Europe and support ICLEI in the capacity building components of the project.

## SUPPORTING TARGET 2 OF THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TO 2020

(Donor: European Commission, DG Environment)

This project seeks to provide the European Commission with the technical support needed to meet Target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (maintain and restore ecosystems and their services). In particular, the project will help to strengthen the knowledge base for assessing the state and values of ecosystems and their services, the implementation of a restoration prioritisation framework, the support to the deployment of green infrastructure, integration of biodiversity proofing into the delivery of the major EU funding instruments, and no net loss.

# IUCN EUROPE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

## WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HUBS

World Environmental Hubs is a global initiative led by IUCN and the Jeju Government to establish a system for evaluating and certifying cities and regions, which place environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and ecosystem services at the heart of urban and regional development. It aims to help subnational governments embrace nature-based solutions as a way of tackling global challenges such as climate change and provide them with a platform for knowledge exchange and learning. The project has three key objectives:

- ① Create awareness of the benefits provided by biodiversity, ecosystem services and investment in NBS;
- ② Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem services are integrated and mainstreamed within urban and regional planning and management;
- ③ Safeguard biodiversity and ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services to respond to societal challenges through the large scale implementation of NBS.

During 2016, IUCN consulted Members, experts and relevant stakeholders to determine the key elements for the design of the WEH standard and establish a global framework for exchange and dissemination of best practices to support the implementation of nature-based solutions to global societal challenges in an urban context.

# IUCN EUROPE EVENTS & MEETINGS

In **March**, the **Save Wildlife conference** took place in The Hague, Netherlands. Hosted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and in close cooperation with The Hague Institute for Global Justice and The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit, the conference brought together 300 representatives from ministers to CSOs, to discuss the challenges of Illegal Wildlife Trade. During the opening session, IUCN challenged the participants to demonstrate their knowl-



Save Wildlife Conference - Ministry of Economic Affairs © Minez-Valerie Kuypers

edge on the status of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, during a Wildlife Quiz. Identifying Wildlife Deals formed a central part of the conference as an innovative approach to seek collaboration between organisations to implement actions on the ground. Working groups concluded about 40 new and existing initiatives that will be followed up with concrete actions and financing. For IUCN, this week was a great experience working as a One Programme, coordinated by the European Regional Office.



James Hardcastle presenting the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas at the EUROPARC Conference 2016 © Valérie Batselaere (IUCN)

The IUCN Europe Office invited members of the European Commission, EU Member States, experts and stakeholders to a reception in **April** on the **IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas**. James Hardcastle from IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme,

presented an overview of this new global standard. The objective of this standard, which begun to gain momentum in Europe, is to increase the number of protected and conserved areas that are effectively and equitably managed and deliver conservation outcomes.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation Forum** in Sevilla, Spain (5-6 May), was co-organised by the Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Junta de Andalucía and the IUCN National Committee of Spain. Luc Bas, Director, IUCN European Regional Office, provided a keynote on nature conservation in Europe as part of the discussion on nature conservation from the "global change perspective".

This year's edition of **European Green Week (30 May-3 June)** focused on 'Investing for a greener future.' IUCN participated in this debate by organising a session on: **'Making money through landscape restoration: how nature-based solutions can make the countryside thrive.'** Organised in cooperation with the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, the event highlighted opportunities related to investing in the restoration of ecosystems. The panellists presented a series of innovative ideas and best-practices to inspire land stewardship and large-scale landscape restoration through innovative partnerships. Particular attention was given to exploring new business models, entrepreneurial thinking, and financing opportunities, but also involvement of all key stakeholders at local and regional levels.



Sustainable food production and consumption © GLOBE EU

As part of **Green Week**, Luc Bas, Director, IUCN European Regional Office, joined a live streaming panel debate on **Sustainable Food Production & Consumption** at the European Parliament. The online discussion – hosted by GLOBE EU's President, Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP – also included panellists Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety; GLOBE EU member Margrete Auken MEP; Hans Herren, President



and CEO of the Millennium Institute; and Christiaan Prins, Director European External Affairs at Unilever.

In **June**, the **European Development Days** celebrated their 10th anniversary, focusing this year on implementation of the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' IUCN, in collaboration with Oxfam and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), organised a high-level auditorium panel consisting of Ministers of State, business directors, heads of international organisations and youth leaders to debate on: '[The Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Can it help us to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals?](#)' The session explored the political and institutional challenges we face managing our food, water, and energy needs in a world facing a growing population and shrinking resources.



EDD's Water-Energy-Food Nexus panel © European Commission

**IUCN Europe welcomed IUCN Director General Inger Andersen to Brussels in June** for a meeting with Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development, to explore opportunities on agriculture-related work. Whilst in Brussels, the IUCN Director General also met with Frank De Wispelaere, Director General for Belgian Development Cooperation and attended the SE4All Board Meeting.

Also during the month of **June**, IUCN's European Regional Director, Luc Bas participated in an advisory [mission to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Białowieża Forest](#) in Poland. Invited by the Polish government, IUCN experts participated in the mission to discuss the recently adopted amendments to the Forest Management Plan for Białowieża Forest District. Following the mission, IUCN submitted a report with recommendations to the Polish authorities.

**The 3rd Open European Day at Resilient Cities in July** was organised by ICLEI and the European Environment Agency to create an exchange between climate adaptation practitioners of cities and with key adaptation players. Chantal van Ham, IUCN's EU Programme Manager nature-based solutions, facilitated a session on "[Towards implementing nature-based solutions.](#)" The session zoomed in on the policy and economic arguments in favour of the implementation of nature-based solutions in cities as well as on financial instruments

available to upscale them further. The session involved a lively exchange between panel and audience on how to overcome the divide between nature and socio-economic challenges and work towards lifting the obstacles to implementing nature-based solutions in cities.



IUCN Congress 2016 World Environmental Hubs © Yoon So Jung

In **September**, the European Regional Office took part in the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** in Hawai'i and organised a meeting with the World Environmental Hubs (WEH) Steering Committee and Working Group to discuss achievements and next steps towards developing the WEHs standard. [The meeting was followed by a WEH Workshop](#) where the initiative was presented to the IUCN constituency as well as subnational success stories related to nature-based solutions. Following the IUCN Congress, WEHs engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a roadmap to determine the key elements for the design of the WEH standard as well as the business case for its operationalisation.



Norbert Kurilla Slovak State Secretary © IISD ENB, Kiara Worth and Diego Noguera

IUCN also welcomed the Slovak State Secretary, Norbert Kurilla, representing the [Presidency of the Council of the EU at the Opening Ceremony of the IUCN Congress 2016](#). Mr Kurilla addressed more than 9,000 participants in a speech in which he looked forward to bringing pragmatic and innovative solutions for conserving and restoring nature back to Brussels to share with the rest of Europe.

During the Members' Assembly of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, [new Councillors were elected to represent the European region](#). Hilde Eggermont, coordinator of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform; Jan Olov Westerberg, Director General of the Swedish Museum of Natural History; Jonathan Hughes, Chief Executive of

the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Michael Hošek, Vice President of the EUROPARC Federation and coordinator of its Central and Eastern Europe section were those chosen for the European programmatic region (EURO). The IUCN European Regional Office looks forward to working closely with Europe's regional councillors to achieve the targets set out in the Global and European Programmes.



IUCN Congress 2016 European regional Councillors  
© IISD\_ENB\_Kiara Worth and Diego Noguera

Luc Bas, Director, IUCN European Regional Office participated in **EEB's Annual Conference**, held 26 **September** in Vienna, Austria. As part of the plenary discussion on translating sustainability principles into concrete policies, Luc Bas spoke as a rapporteur for the breakout session focused on biodiversity.

In **October**, Luc Bas also represented IUCN at the **meeting of the EU Nature and Biodiversity Directors** in Tale, Slovakia. At the meeting, Luc shared the outcomes of the IUCN Congress 2016 and provided input on the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.



IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 © Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU

Following the IUCN Congress 2016, the European Regional Office and the Slovak EU Presidency organised an event to discuss '**Outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 – what do they mean for Europe?**' Norbert Kurilla, State Secretary Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; Inger Andersen, Director General, IUCN; and Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries reflected on how IUCN's priorities and tools are in line with the European Union and can help to achieve some of the EU's goals. They were joined

by Angelo Caserta, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Birdlife Europe; Dr Hilde Eggermont, European Regional IUCN Councillor and Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission for an exchange on how the EU can benefit from the momentum created by the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016.



Summit for Cities and subnational governments at CBD COP 13 © CBD COP13

Finally, in **December** during the Conference of the parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD COP13**) in Cancún, Mexico, the Ministry of Environment of Mexico and ICLEI hosted the **5th Global Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments**. The Summit aimed to strengthen the global contribution of cities and subnational governments to protecting biodiversity and the effective management of ecosystems. IUCN took part in several sessions, and one of these focused on landscape solutions for urban resilience. During this session, Chantal van Ham, IUCN EU Programme Manager for Nature-based Solutions highlighted the important contributions local and regional governments can make to the **Bonn Challenge**. Chantal also chaired a session on the benefits of nature for health and well-being in cities. Trevor Sandwith, Director of the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme highlighted the importance of connecting people with nature and engaging the health industry in order to promote sustainable urban and rural planning. The Pacific Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP), a joint product of BIOPAMA and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was a big component of the activities showcased towards implementation of Aichi Targets, together with work undertaken by the European Union, Samoa, Fiji, Australia and SPREP.



Representatives of the European Commission and SPREP presented the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal ([pipap.sprep.org](http://pipap.sprep.org)) at the CBD COP 13 © SPREP

# IUCN EUROPE'S NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

IUCN Europe's large membership has resulted in several Members within a country or region to organise themselves into National and Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation among Members and with other parts of the Union, as well as to support the participation of Members in the programme and governance of IUCN. All of IUCN's European National Committees and focal points were active throughout 2016, below is a snapshot of their activities for the Committees and focal points who were able to provide summaries.

## BELGIAN IUCN FOCAL POINT

Highlights by the Belgian IUCN National Focal Point (hosted by the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#)) include the organisation of several networking events on biodiversity matters, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. Many of these events were coorganised with IUCN Members, and brought together a great number of scientists, policymakers and practitioners. Examples of such events include the Belgian Ecosystem Services Xmas market; the European OneHealth/Ecohealth Workshop; and the Nature-Based Solutions & Social Innovation workshop by the European initiatives EKLIPSE and BiodivERsA. In 2016, the IUCN Belgian Focal Point also established its [website](#), and contributed substantially to the national implementation of EU legislation on Invasive Alien Species.

## DENMARK

During 2016, Danish IUCN National Committee focused on creating a management tool for the National IUCN Red Listed species in Denmark. The tool aims to capture around 900 species currently not covered by existing management plans. To limit the number of management plans, species will be grouped according to habitat type. In doing so, this will help municipalities in Denmark to better manage the IUCN Red Listed species in their area. To identify interest in the project, the Danish National Committee facilitated a workshop in October, which brought together animal interest groups and research institutions from across Denmark. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, 2017 will include a meeting with the Danish Centre for Environment and Energy – present managers of the Red List – to write

a project description. 2017 will also include identifying streams of financial support with the hopes of completing the project by 2018.

## FINLAND

[IUCN National Committee of Finland](#) was active throughout 2016, convening eight times. In August, the Helsinki Zoo became the latest Finnish Member to join IUCN. The Chair of the National Committee as well as several Finnish Members attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawai'i where the term of Ms Marina von Weissenberg as Council Member and Vice President came to an end. IUCN National Committee of Finland organised a competition to find the best act for biodiversity in Finland. This time the National Committee sought to find an act that, through their work, had inspired, youngsters, senior citizens, the unemployed, or immigrants, to understand the importance of nature conservation. The winner of the Biodiversity Award 2015-2016 will be revealed in February 2017. Finally, IUCN Director General Inger Andersen visited Finland in November and met with National Committee and Commission Members. Finland continues to provide core support to IUCN according to the agreement made between the Finnish Government and IUCN.

## FRANCE

[IUCN French Committee \(IUCN FC\)](#) has been an active contributor to the new French law on biodiversity that was adopted in August 2016, which considers among others, the principle of non-regression in environmental law, biodiversity offsets, and new protection plans for threatened species. IUCN FC actively participated in the



IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 by helping its members with various events and by coordinating the submission of 11 motions that were adopted during the Congress. Following the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, a new publication was released on how nature-based solutions (NBS) can help to address climate change and case studies of NBS in France are currently being compiled. A new three-year phase of the Small-Scale Initiatives programme, funded by the French GEF, has been launched to support African civil society groups actively involved in biodiversity protection and climate change actions. New assessments for the national IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the national IUCN Red List of Ecosystems were also produced in 2016. Following the inclusion of five French protected areas into the IUCN Green List (submitted in 2014), IUCN FC has prepared additional applications of sites to be considered. IUCN FC also brought its expertise to new natural sites proposals to be included in the World Heritage List. IUCN FC has been closely involved in developing the first national strategy on invasive alien species, managed the BEST project activities in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, organised the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival of Nature in France, and signed a new partnership with the French private company “L’Occitane” to work on a biodiversity policy.

## THE NETHERLANDS

In 2016, [IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands \(IUCN NL\)](#) represented 37 Netherlands-based member organisations. The National Committee aims to bring members together by facilitated knowledge exchanges between IUCN Members and other IUCN constituencies. One such occasion was an organised field trip to Armenia, where Dutch IUCN Members shared their knowledge on species monitoring with the local Armenian Member, Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC). This exchange was considered extremely helpful for FPWC who are hoping to improve the overall management of their reserve. IUCN NL also supported Dutch Members in their advocacy work, for example in their efforts to exert pressure on maintaining and enforcing the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and in policy discussions on the future of National Parks in The Netherlands. Finally, IUCN NL continued to work together with several individual IUCN Members from their portfolio of multi-year conservation projects from around the world.

## SPAIN

Every year, [IUCN National Committee of Spain](#) organises the Spanish Committee Forum where Spanish members as well as other IUCN Members meet to discuss nature conservation issues both in Spain and abroad. In 2016,

the Forum focused on evaluating the state of nature in Spain and identifying the international conservation priorities for the next four years. These discussions, along with the motions Spanish Members presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, resulted in the “Letter to Seville”. This document details the IUCN Spanish National Committee’s road map to addressing these issues over the next four years. Also during the course of 2016, the technical office of the IUCN National Committee of Spain collaborated with Spanish Members and the “Fundación Biodiversidad” to develop a Manual of [Good Practices in Nature Conservation in Spain](#). The manual profiles projects and lines of work developed by IUCN’s Spanish Members that can be used as examples of good practice to implement IUCN’s three programmatic areas of work.

## SWEDEN

The primary focus of IUCN Swedish National Committee (IUCN SE) in 2016 was the preparations for, and participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i. During the IUCN Congress, Members of IUCN SE conducted a side event around the theme “People and Nature.” The event showcased citizen science, web-based species reporting portals and how to involve local stakeholders and indigenous peoples in the management of protected areas. At the IUCN Congress, IUCN SE also helped its Members with the new online voting system and supported the Swedish candidate Jan-Olov Westerberg running for IUCN Regional Councillor. Since the IUCN Congress, preparations have been underway to handover the chairmanship of the IUCN Swedish National Committee from the Swedish Museum of Natural History to the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

## SWITZERLAND

In 2016, [IUCN National Committee of Switzerland](#) held a special session for Members and Commission Members on the new Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) methodology. IUCN National Committee of Switzerland also contributed to the preparation of the four year programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The IUCN Swiss National Committee also carefully analysed, discussed and voted on the IUCN Global Programme 2017-2020 both before and during the IUCN Congress 2016 so as to accurately represent the voice of its Swiss Members.

## UNITED KINGDOM

Following its participation in the Helsinki Regional Conservation Forum at the end of 2015, the [IUCN National Committee for the UK \(IUCN NCUK\)](#) spent much of 2016



in preparation for its attendance at, and contributions to, the IUCN World Conservation Congress. However, its three main projects continued to develop as follows. The [IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#) began delivery of its [Peatland Code](#), with the first private sector sign-ups for peatland restoration. It developed an IUCN World Conservation Congress Motion calling for global action for peatland conservation. The IUCN NCUK project “Putting Nature on the Map,” focused on the application of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to designated UK sites, spent the year progressing the recommendations in its [2015 report](#). The third project, ‘[River Restoration and Biodiversity](#),’ published its findings and launched the report at the Centre for Hydrology in England’s Lake

District. IUCN NCUK is also leading two international initiatives for the development of IUCN’s national and regional committees at a regional level and, post-IUCN Congress 2016, globally.

A number of IUCN Members in the UK have individually positioned for the UK to remain a member of the European Union, on the basis that the EU has provided a strong level of regulatory protection and a source of support for the conservation of the environment. The IUCN NCUK will seek to ensure that this level of environmental protection is safeguarded and will contribute nature-based solutions to assist in these challenges during the process of the UK exiting from the EU.



Savoie Lac de Saint-Andre and Mont Granier © Ghislain Mary

# IUCN COMMISSIONS' ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

IUCN works in partnership with six thematic Commissions that consist of over 16,000 volunteer experts. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with crucial knowledge and policy advice on conservation issues.



## COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

The European Members of the [IUCN Commission on Education and Communication \(CEC\)](#) concentrated much of its efforts in 2016 around the IUCN World Conservation Congress. One of the workshops the CEC organised at the IUCN Congress was in partnership with Google Earth and Google Expeditions. It enabled participants to experience New Technologies and discuss how they can be used as gateways to power conservation, nature experience and learning. Another workshop focused on behavioural change, where participants were given models to analyse behaviour and methods to design an effective strategy for behavioural change. The CEC also held a Knowledge Café on "From Awareness to Action - How direct contact to living animals and nature catalyse conservation behaviour." In addition to the IUCN Congress 2016, the CEC became a member of [Action Group 7](#), an initiative to develop ecological connectivity in the whole EU Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP). The [ELENA project](#) – initiated and developed by European CEC Members and their organisations – partnered with IUCN affiliated Member the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL) to hold a "Face to Face with Nature" conference. Held in Laufen, Germany, the conference aimed to educate participants by interacting with living animals. Finally, the CEC collaborated with [#NatureForAll](#), an inclusive IUCN-led coalition of partners that aim to inspire people to connect with nature and take action to support its conservation. Members of the CEC, following their active engagement at the [#NatureForAll](#) pavilion at the IUCN Congress 2016, translated [#NatureForAll](#)'s "Imagine" video into several European languages to help broaden the initiative's reach.



## COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

European Members of the [IUCN Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy \(CEESP\)](#) continued in 2016 to engage in the work of the Union by ensuring that their contributions were reflected in the development of the Implementation Plan of the IUCN European Programme 2013-2016 as well as the IUCN Strategy for South-Eastern Europe. A communication was also developed in 2016 to keep CEESP Members up-to-date on relevant work occurring in the region and highlight opportunities to contribute to achieving IUCN's mission. The Regional Vice-Chair for Europe, Martha Rojas-Urrego, worked with CEESP Members through her participation in the Working Group on the Development of European National Committees, ensuring that Commissions were integrated in this important and influential part of the Union. A specific achievement in this regard, was the inclusion of Commissions in National Committees, as reflected in the handbook for the establishment of new National Committees. This has the potential to multiply opportunities for CEESP Members to contribute to IUCN's collective purpose at national level. The Regional Vice-Chair also ensured that CEESP Members had a say in the development of the new CEESP mandate to be adopted at the IUCN Congress 2016. The new mandate will guide the further evolution of the Commission and increase its relevance in its internal and external contexts. A major focus of CEESP's work in 2016 was on policy development. Through Mrs Rojas-Urrego's appointment as Co-Chair of the IUCN EU Policy Advisory Group, CEESP was able to contribute to ensuring the integration between environment, social and economic aspects of sustainable development and influence the policies of the EU, which have both European and global impacts.





## COMMISSION OF ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) was active on multiple fronts in 2016. CEM's thematic group Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems (SUME) worked with the European Sustainable Use Group to produce the first European networking portal for ecosystem restoration projects. Put on trial in November, it aims to inspire restoration of farmland ecosystem biodiversity, particularly the Grey Partridge as well as pollinators, such as bees and butterflies (<http://esug.sycl.net>).

Serge Garcia of CEM's Fisheries Expert Group was invited to the EU Conference on Economic Advice in Fisheries Management in Malta in February where he made a presentation on Fishery Management, Biodiversity Impact Mitigation and Ecosystem Services. He also presented at the European Parliament Hearing on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Fisheries in November. There he discussed the current issues in the European Parliament Fisheries Committee on MPAs and fisheries.

IUCN Member, Chimbo Foundation attended its first meeting as part of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative's (ASI) Standard Committee. The Committee prepares the documents that provide the standards for all companies seeking certification for their products in the aluminium supply chain.

CEM's Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) thematic group organised a workshop with the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) in Bonn, Germany, on Ecological Engineering. Participants discussed ecological engineering standards and natural infrastructure. A special journal edition is being planned with one abstract submitted on the Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) project results related to bio-engineering and erosion reduction. Finally, the CEM participated and coorganised several sessions at the IUCN Congress 2016 and a peer-reviewed book on Eco-DRR, "Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and adaptation in practice" was launched.



## SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and its specialist groups were active throughout 2016. The SSC has made many interventions with both government and corporations on conservation issues requiring urgent attention, including on: the European Commission's need to give priority to the conservation of European Mink; the possible licensing of diclofenac for veterinary use in Europe; and spring hunting of European Turtle Doves in Malta. In 2016, the SSC prepared a briefing paper for the European Commission decision makers on potential plans for restriction of imports of hunting trophies. The SSC's Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) continues to provide technical support to European institutions, states, and non-governmental organisations, in the implementation of the European Union Regulation on invasive alien species. ISSG's Chair is a member of the Scientific Forum for the implementation of the Regulation, and is working in close collaboration with the IUCN Regional Office in Brussels and with the Invasive Species Programme Officer of the IUCN Global Species Programme to provide support to the European Commission on the issue. The Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) Specialist Group played a key role in initiating and shaping the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife event hosted by the European Parliament in May in Brussels. The event entitled "[Poachers or Protectors? Local communities at the frontline of conservation](#)," aimed at informing the critical influential group of EU decision makers about the vital linkages between rural communities and effective wildlife conservation.



## WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

2016 was a landmark year for IUCN's [World Commission on Environmental Law \(WCEL\)](#). A number of major initiatives reached fruition bringing diverse stakeholders together to promote and strengthen the environmental rule of law across the globe. The 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Environmental Law Congress: Environmental Rule of Law, Justice and Planetary Sustainability assembled 400 participants from April 27-29 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) under the auspices of IUCN and UN Environment. Spearheaded by WCEL, the Congress built upon major international achievements in 2015 to launch the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment (GJIE) as the platform for international convergence of judges and environmental law, and adopted the "IUCN World Declaration on Environmental Law" outlining 13 principles as the foundation for achieving ecological sustainable development. The *Environmental Legal Journey* at the IUCN Congress 2016, combined the resources of WCEL's 10 Specialist Groups to offer over 30 events. WCEL's Specialist Groups (SGs) are the primary drivers of WCEL's work to promote, develop, and implement environmental law in their thematic areas such as climate change, oceans, and protected areas. Specifically in Europe, the WCEL Sustainable Soils and Desertification SG assisted Iceland with drafting its revised Soil Conservation Law. Contributions were also made to a legislative inventory on soil launched by the European Commission and coorganising the French World Soil Day at the French Parliament.



## WORLD COMMISSION OF PROTECTED AREAS

One of the important activities for the [IUCN World Commission of Protected Areas \(WCPA\)](#) expert network in Europe, in cooperation with the IUCN Global Protected Area Programme, is the provision of advice on protected area standards and categories to governments and governmental agencies. In 2016, missions and evaluations helped to shape national systems of protected areas in several countries including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Montenegro and others, in order to meet their management objectives. Throughout the course of 2016, the WCPA in Europe continued to provide expert support to the work of the World Heritage Convention and IUCN World Heritage Programme. Moreover, the mobilisation of inputs and presentations by WCPA Members from Europe resulted in several WCPA events at the IUCN Congress 2016. Preparations for developing a major initiative entitled "Humanity on the Move," which aims to explore the possibilities protected areas can offer in the processes of refugee and migrant integration in Europe, formed another central part of the WCPA's work in Europe in 2016.

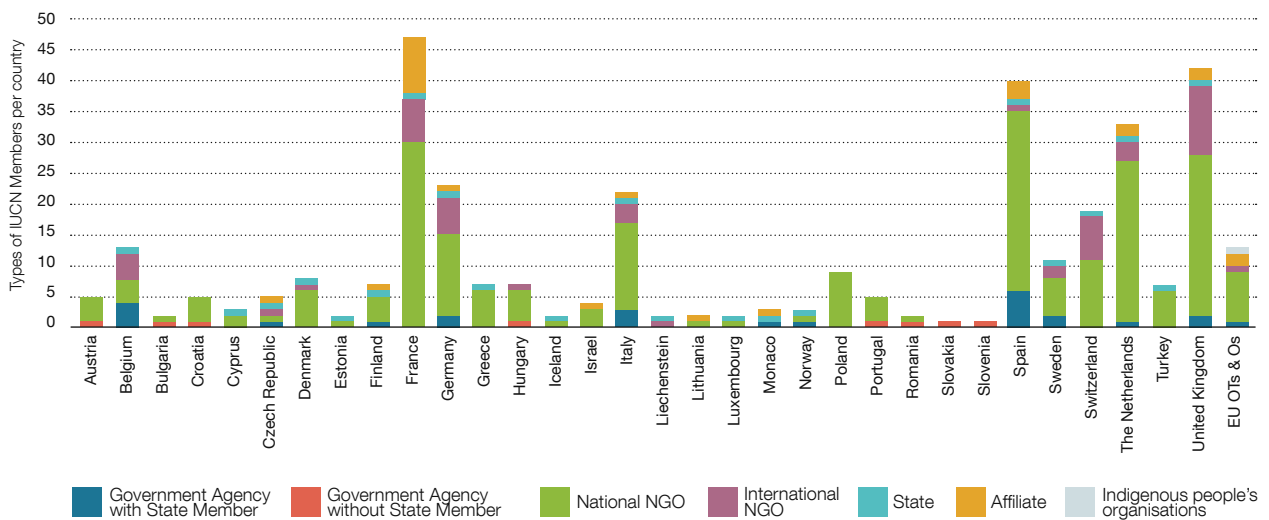


# IUCN EUROPE'S MEMBERS

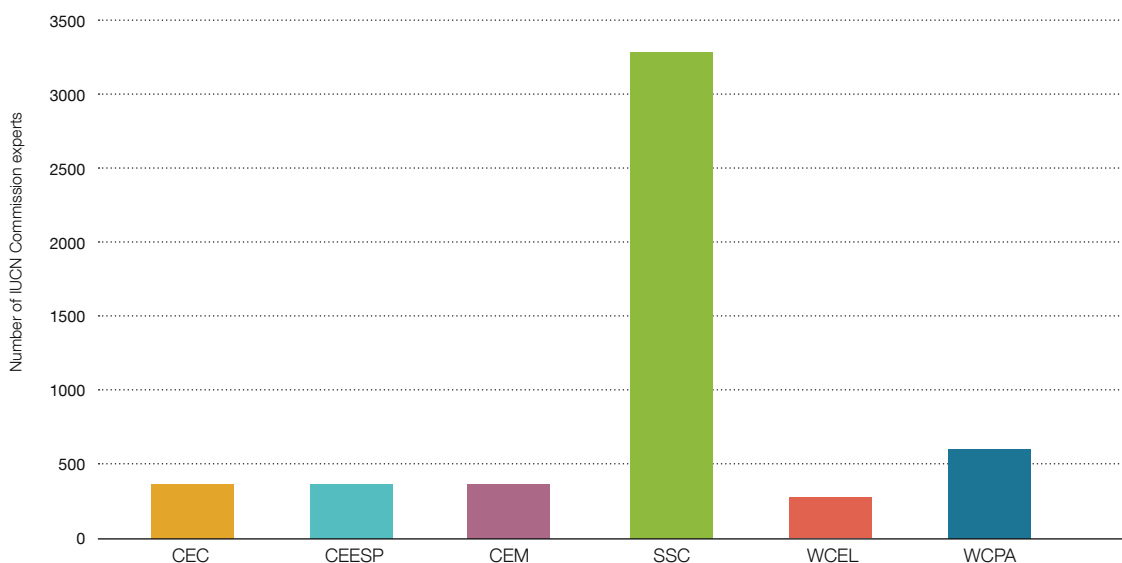
IUCN's Members work together to help find pragmatic solutions to some of the planet's most pressing environment and development challenges. Their participation collectively leads, governs and sets IUCN's strategic agenda. Strengthening IUCN's current membership while continuing to explore new partnerships remains central to IUCN's work.

In 2016, the IUCN programmatic region of Europe was directly responsible for 38 countries with its membership network consisting of 364 Member, 12 of which were new Members.

**Figure 1** Number of IUCN Members per member category per country covered by the IUCN European Regional Office



**Figure 2** Number of experts per IUCN Commission in Europe



## Full list of Members

### Austria

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management  
Hohe Tauern National Park  
Austrian Environmental Umbrella Association  
WWF Austria  
Austrian League for Nature Conservation

### Belgium

Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment  
Confederation of European Forest Owners  
Brussels Environment - Brussels Institute for Management of the Environment  
Agency for Nature and Forests of the Flemish Ministry of Environment, Nature and Energy  
Regional Landscape Kempen and Maasland  
General Directorate for Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of the Walloon Region  
International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey  
European Bureau for Conservation and Development  
Federation of Associations of Hunting and Conservation of Wildlife of the European Union  
World Wide Fund for Nature - Belgium  
Institute of Zoology - University of Liège  
Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp  
Belgian Science Policy Office

### Bulgaria

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation  
Ministry of Environment and Water

### Croatia

Association BIOM  
Croatian Herpetological Society  
Ministry of Environment and Energy  
Croatian Society of Natural Sciences  
Croatian Biological Society

### Cyprus

Terra Cypria, The Cyprus Conservation Foundation  
Federation of Environmental Organizations of Cyprus (NGOs) (FEO)  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

### Czech Republic

Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos  
Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic  
Czech Union for Nature Conservation  
The Krkonoše Mountains National Park  
Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR)

### Denmark

Forests of the World  
Nordic Hunters' Alliance  
The Danish Ornithological Society - BirdLife Denmark  
Copenhagen Zoo  
World Wide Fund for Nature - Denmark  
Danish Outdoor Council  
The Danish Society for Nature Conservation  
Ministry for Food and Environment, Agency for Water and Nature Management

### Estonia

Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia  
Estonian Fund for Nature

### Finland

BirdLife Finland  
Finnish Wildlife Agency  
The Finnish Society for Nature and Environment  
World Wide Fund for Nature - Finland  
Ministry of the Environment of Finland  
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

### France

The Eco Mayors Association  
Awely, Wildlife and People  
Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur Regional Council  
International Wildlife Conservation  
The Endowment Fund for Biodiversity  
PAIOLIVE Society  
Green Area's Agency of Ile-de-France Region  
Center of Discovery of Marine World  
GoodPlanet Foundation  
Tchendukua - Here and Elsewhere  
Federation of National Botanical Conservatories  
Lyon Botanical Garden  
French Federation of Natural Areas Conservatories  
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment  
French Association of Zoos

Federation of the Clubs to Know and Protect Nature  
Noé Conservation  
NAUSICAA, National Sea Centre  
The Cousteau Society  
International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law  
French Association of Professional Ecologists  
Agricultural Research Centre for International Development  
Humanity and Biodiversity  
Foundation of Nature and Discoveries  
Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic  
Tour du Valat  
Federation of Natural Regional Parks of France  
National Forest Office  
Centre for Scientific, Technical and Industrial Culture of the Sea  
Association of Naturalists of the Loing Valley and Fontainebleau Massive  
Association of Friends of the Forest of Fontainebleau  
Pro-Natura International  
Yves Rocher Nature Fund  
Foundation Nicolas Hulot for Nature and Humankind  
Conservatory of Coastal Zones and Lake Shores  
Office pour les insectes et leur environnement  
French federation of alpine and mountain clubs  
WWF - France  
French Society for Environmental Law  
International Foundation for Wildlife Management  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development  
France Nature Environment  
National Natural History Museum  
French Federation of Natural Science Societies  
French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency

### Germany

Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations  
Global Nature Fund  
Zoo Leipzig  
Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management  
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability  
Ecologic Institute  
Association for Otter Protection  
Cologne Zoological Garden

European Nature Heritage Fund - EuroNatur  
 German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation  
 Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union  
 Association of German Recreational Anglers  
 EUOPARC Federation  
 International Council of Environmental Law  
 Federal Agency for Nature Conservation  
 WWF - Germany  
 Frankfurt Zoological Society of 1858- Help for Threatened Wildlife  
 German Wildlife Conservation Association  
 German League for Nature, Animal Protection and Environment  
 German Hunting Association  
 Bavarian Foundation for Nature Conservation  
 Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development  
 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety

#### Greece

Hellenic Botanical Society  
 Society for the Protection of Prespa  
 Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal  
 World Wide Fund for Nature - Greece  
 Elliniki Etairia, for the Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage  
 Ministry of Environment and Energy  
 Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

#### Hungary

World Wide Fund for Nature - Hungary  
 Nimfea Environmental and Nature Conservation Association  
 Goncol Foundation  
 Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society  
 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation  
 National Society of Conservationists - Hungary  
 Ministry for Agriculture

#### Iceland

Landvernd, Icelandic Environment Association  
 Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources

#### Israel

Middle East Nature Conservation Promotion Association  
 Israel Nature and Heritage Foundation  
 Israel Nature and Parks Authority  
 The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel

#### Italy

University of Catania - University Center for the Conservation and Management of Environmental Resources and Agro-Ecosystems (Cutgana)  
 LANDS NGO  
 National Park of Cilento, Vallo di Diano and Alburni  
 Oikos Institute  
 Institute for Environmental Protection and Research  
 Zoological Society La Torbiera  
 Pangea Institute - European Institute for Environmental Education and Training  
 Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (Politecnico di Torino)  
 European Foundation Il Nibbio  
 Environmental League  
 Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Nature Conservation Service, General Directorate for Nature Protection  
 Etna Park  
 WWF - Italy  
 Italian Federation Of Parks And Natural Reserves  
 European Herpetological Society  
 Italian League for the Protection of Birds - (BirdLife Italia)  
 Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area  
 World Underwater Federation  
 National Research Council  
 National Federation Pro Natura

#### Liechtenstein

Office of Environment  
 International Commission for the Protection of the Alps

#### Lithuania

Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
 Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania  
 Luxembourg  
 nature & environment  
 Ministry of the Environment

#### Monaco

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation  
 Directorate of International Affairs  
 Scientific Centre of Monaco

#### Norway

Norwegian Environment Agency  
 World Wide Fund for Nature - Norway  
 Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway)

#### Poland

Natural Heritage Foundation  
 Environmental Law Center  
 Society of Natural "STORK"  
 National Foundation for Environmental Protection  
 Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra"  
 Institute of Nature Conservation of Polish Academy of Sciences  
 Polish Society of Wildlife Friends pro Natura  
 The State Council for Nature Conservation

#### Portugal

National Association for Nature Conservation  
 Association of Defence of the Patrimony of Mértola  
 Fund for the Protection of Wild Animals  
 League for the Protection of Nature

#### Romania

Speleological Association The Explorers  
 Ministry of Environment Waters and Forests

#### Slovakia

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

#### Slovenia

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

#### Spain

Wildlife and Habitat Rehabilitation Group  
 Spanish Herpetological Society  
 L'Escrúçó, Ecologic Organisation  
 Mare Terra, Mediterranean Foundation, Private Foundation  
 Lonxanet Foundation for Sustainable Fishing  
 Lurgaia Foundation  
 Oxygen Foundation

## Oceanids

Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Habitat (CBD-Habitat)  
Foundation for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of Marine Animals

Malaga's City Council

Geological Society of Spain

Department for Environment,  
Provincial Council for Alava

Buddhist Monks Foundation Sakya  
Tashi Ling, Private Foundation

Centre for Continuing Education and  
the Dissemination of Environmental  
Information of Galicia

Spanish Ornithological Society  
(Birdlife)

Spanish Society for Conservation  
Biology of Plants

Biodiversity Foundation

Bearded Vulture Conservation  
Foundation

Loro Parque Foundation

Action for nature

Catalunya-La Pedrera Foundation

Monte Mediterranean Foundation

Malaga Sea School Association  
for Conservation of the Marine  
Environment

Foundation for Man and Nature

Entomological Association of Spain

Spanish Agency for International  
Development Cooperation, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Department of Territory and  
Sustainability, Government of  
Catalonia

Regional Ministry of Environment  
and Land Planning. Government of  
Andalusia

Zoological Park of Barcelona

Ecologists in Action

Balearic Group for Ornithology and  
Defence of Nature

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and  
Environment

Association for the Defense of Nature/  
WWF Spain

League for Natural Heritage Defense

Natural Parks Service, Government of  
Barcelona

## Sweden

The European Association for the  
Conservation of the Geological  
Heritage

The Nordens Ark Foundation

Swedish Species Information  
Centre (SSIC), Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences

Swedish Biodiversity Centre

Coalition Clean Baltic

Ministry of the Environment and  
Energy, Sweden

World Wide Fund for Nature - Sweden

Swedish Museum of Natural History

Swedish Society for the Conservation  
of Nature

Swedish Association for Hunting and  
Wildlife Management

Skansen Foundation

## Switzerland

Swiss Parks Network

Swiss Cetacean Society

World Wide Fund for Nature -  
International

Programme for the Endorsement of  
Forest Certification Schemes PEFC  
Council

The European Outdoor Conservation  
Association

Swiss Association of Scientific Zoos

Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation

SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for  
Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

World Business Council for  
Sustainable Development

Save Our Seas Foundation

European Association of Zoo and  
Wildlife Veterinarians

Swiss Association for the Protection of  
Birds - BirdLife Switzerland

World Wide Fund for Nature -  
Switzerland

World Association of Zoos and  
Aquariums

Our Birds - Society Romande for the  
Study and Protection of Birds

Swiss Academy of Sciences

Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth  
Switzerland

Federal Office for the Environment

## The Netherlands

Naturalis Biodiversity Center

Sovon Dutch Centre for Field  
Ornithology

Friends of the Earth Netherlands

CHIMBO Foundation

Reptile, Amphibian and Fish  
Conservation Netherlands

Artis Royal Zoo Amsterdam

Bears in Mind

Natural Heritage Conservation of the  
Netherlands

Union of Provincial Landscape  
Organisations

European Association of Zoos and  
Aquaria

Netherlands Centre for Indigenous  
Peoples ( NCIV )

Dutch Butterfly Conservation

Foundation Lippe - Biesterfeld Nature  
College

Both Ends - Environment and  
Development Service for NGOs

The Avalon Foundation

Tropenbos International

Society for the Study and Protection of  
Mammals in Nature

The Prince Bernhard Centre for  
International Nature Conservation

Association for Environmental  
Education

Institute for Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Dynamics - University of  
Amsterdam

Institute of Environmental Sciences,  
Leiden University

Foundation for the Preservation and  
Protection of the Przewalski Horse

Waddensea Society

Wetlands International

World Wide Fund for Nature -  
Netherlands

Dutch Zoo Association

Dutch Society for the Preservation of  
Nature Monuments

Birdlife Netherlands

Royal Dutch Society for Natural  
History

Van Tienhoven Foundation for  
International Nature Conservation

The Netherlands Society for Nature  
and Environment

Ministry of Economic Affairs

## Turkey

Nature Society (BirdLife Turkey)

World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF  
Turkey

Turkish Foundation for Combating  
Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the  
Protection of Natural Habitats (Tema  
Foundation)

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs  
of the Republic of Turkey

Turkish Association for Conservation  
of Nature and Natural Resources

## United Kingdom

Department of the Environment &  
Climate Change, Government of  
Gibraltar

Biosphere Expeditions

The Sibthorp Trust

Rainforest Concern

Community Centred Conservation

Blue Ventures Conservation

Wildscreen

Forest Peoples Programme

World Land Trust

A Rocha International

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL: The Global  
Network for Taxonomy

The World Parrot Trust



Bristol Clifton and West of England  
Zoological Society  
Chartered Institute of Ecology and  
Environmental Management  
Plantlife International  
Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural  
History Society  
Scottish Environment Link  
Earthwatch Institute (Europe)  
North of England Zoological Society  
(Chester Zoo)  
British and Irish Association of Zoos  
and Aquariums  
Twycross Zoo, East Midland  
Zoological Society  
The Royal Zoological Society of  
Scotland  
Falklands Conservation  
Marwell Wildlife  
International Fur Trade Federation  
International Institute for Environment  
and Development  
People's Trust for Endangered Species  
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew  
British Ecological Society  
World Wide Fund for Nature - U.K.  
Department for Environment, Food  
and Rural Affairs  
Zoological Society of London  
The Wildlife Trusts  
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
Royal Society for the Protection of  
Birds  
Fauna & Flora International  
BirdLife International  
Natural History Museum, London  
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

## EU Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions

### United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

National Parks Trust of the Virgin  
Islands

### The Netherlands

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance  
Caribbean Research & Management  
of Biodiversity Foundation

### France

Kwata Association  
Spirit of the Ocean  
Southern Province Environment  
Directorate  
Local Group of Observation and  
Identification of the Cetaceans in the  
Reunion Island  
Reunion Society for the Study and  
Protection of the Environment  
FNE Saint Pierre et Miquelon

### Denmark

Inuit Circumpolar Council

## New Members in 2016

### Finland

Helsinki Zoo

### France

Nature Reserves of France

### Italy

Emergenza Sorrisi - Doctors for  
Smiling Children

### New Caledonia

Climate Change and Environmental  
Sustainability Programme, Pacific  
Community

### Poland

WWF Poland Foundation

### Spain

Entretantos Foundation (Among-so-  
many-others Foundation)

### Spain

Regional Ministry of Environment and  
Land Planning, Government of Galicia

### The Netherlands

Rewilding Europe

### Turkey

KuzeyDoğa Society

### United Kingdom

Margaret Pyke Trust, with the  
Population & Sustainability Network

### United Kingdom

Department for Natural Resources,  
Welsh Government

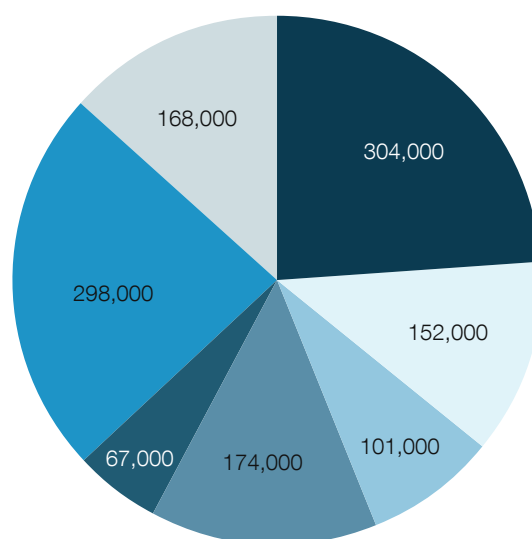
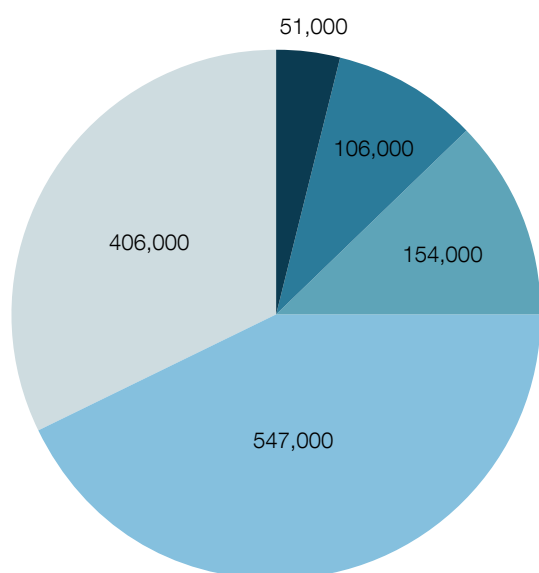
### United Kingdom

The Born Free Foundation

# REGIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016

Income	Euros (€)
Operational funding IUCN	406,000
Donor income - EU	547,000
Donor income EU Member States	154,000
Donor income non-EU	106,000
Other sources	51,000
<b>Total income 2016</b>	<b>1,264,000</b>

Expenditure	Euros (€)
Policies	304,000
Management & leadership	152,000
Admin & Finance	101,000
Natural Capital	174,000
Protected Areas	67,000
Red Lists	298,000
Marine & polar	168,000
<b>Total expenditure 2016</b>	<b>1,264,000</b>



# IUCN European Regional Office

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**Luc  
BAS**

*Director  
IUCN European  
Regional Office*



**Danièle  
KERNOA**

*Office Manager  
& Personal  
Assistant to the  
Director*



**Corinna  
KARLSEN**

*Finance  
Assistant*



**Chantal  
VAN HAM**

*EU Programme  
Manager Nature  
Based Solutions*



**Helen  
KLIMMEK**

*Junior EU  
Programme  
Officer*



**Anouska  
PLASMEIJER**

*EU  
Partnerships  
Officer*



**Alberto  
ARROYO  
SCHNELL**

*European Senior  
Policy Manager*



**Bianca  
VERGNAUD**

*Communications  
Assistant*

## Species & Key Biodiversity Areas Programme

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**Ana  
NIETO**

*European  
Biodiversity  
Conservation  
Officer*



**Mariana  
GARCÍA**

*Junior  
Biodiversity  
Conservation  
Officer*



**Marta  
CÁLIX**

*Biodiversity  
Conservation  
Assistant*

## Protected Areas Programme

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**Roxana  
BUCIOACA**

*BIOPAMA  
Liaison and  
Communications  
Officer*

## Marine and Polar Programme

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**Daniel  
MITCHELL**

*BEST 2.0  
Project  
Officer*



**Sylvie  
ROCKEL**

*Project  
Officer*



**Valia  
QUERAN**

*BEST RUP,  
Project  
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