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IUCN Washington D.C. Office

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Contents

Message from the Regional Director.....	2
IUCN at a Glance.....	3
Strategic Orientation.....	4
Programme Work and Achievements: One Programme.....	6
Strategic Partnerships.....	8
Members and Commissions.....	9
Regional Financial Summary.....	10
Annex 1: US Members as of December 31, 2016.....	11
Annex 2: Canadian Members as of December 31, 2016.....	14

Message from the Regional Director

2016 was a landmark year for the IUCN Washington D.C. Office, as IUCN held the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in the United States for the first time ever. With over 10,000 participants, the WCC was the largest conservation conference ever held in the United States. The Washington D.C. Office was a key office for supporting the WCC, including through fundraising from U.S.-based donors, supporting administrative and finance logistics, and advancing several important new initiatives.

The 2016 WCC saw the launch of the IUCN U.S. National Committee (USNC) and the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC), the culmination of many hours of work by IUCN Washington D.C. staff, members, and partners. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the scale of investment in conservation needs to drastically increase in future years in order to preserve biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This requires new partnership spaces to enable identification of opportunities for synergy and scaling up, as well as innovative finance mechanisms to unleash the private sector as an agent of conservation. CPIC will develop blueprints for return seeking investment in conservation and increase the number of new projects flowing into the investment pipeline. The new U.S. National Committee provides a neutral convening space for IUCN's U.S. Members to discuss their respective priorities and efforts, and identify complementarities and partnership opportunities.

The Washington D.C. Office plays an important role in hosting several IUCN

programs and supporting their engagement with U.S.-based donors. The Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (W-TRAPS) project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by the Washington D.C. Office, was extended to 2020 and given additional funding; the mission of the Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO) project, supported by USAID and implemented by the IUCN Global Gender Programme, was expanded and it was also given additional funding. The Washington D.C. Office supported the Asia Regional Office (ARO) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in receiving two grants from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Overall, the Washington D.C. Office demonstrates a strong commitment to the One Programme approach, maintaining good relationships with U.S. Members, facilitating the work of multiple IUCN Global Programmes, and supporting the six IUCN Commissions. As we review the successes of 2016, we look forward to continuing to work towards a just world that values and conserves nature in 2017.



Dr. Frank Hawkins
Director
Washington D.C. Office
IUCN

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.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. 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.



Our Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature.

Our Mission

To influence, encourage, and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Strategic Orientation

The IUCN Washington D.C. Office is an outpost of the IUCN Secretariat headquartered in Gland, Switzerland, and houses core regional activities (i.e. those directly related to members, partners, and initiatives in North America and Washington D.C.) as well as a collection of IUCN and partner programs with scopes beyond North America. The latter – including staff that share Washington D.C. Office space but are not involved in core regional activities – comprise the following programmes and entities. Their 2016 activities are reported elsewhere.

- The **Biodiversity Assessment Unit**, established in 2001, is a collaborative project between IUCN and Conservation International with the mandate of expanding the taxonomic and geographic coverage of the IUCN Red List.
- **Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)** involves a wide range of ecosystem management activities to increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and the environment to climate change. Functioning globally through IUCN Country Offices (and the Washington D.C. Office), Members, and partners, IUCN promotes the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a part of an overall climate adaptation strategy both at the policy and practice level.
- Staff from the **Global Forests and Climate Change Programme** sitting in the Washington D.C. Office largely focus on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). Forest landscape restoration is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded landscapes.
- The **Global Gender Office** provides innovative approaches, technical support, policy development, and capacity building to ensure gender equality is central to sustainable global environmental solutions.
- The **Global Island Partnership** is a voluntary partnership for all islands, regardless of size or political status, to take bold steps to build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships. It provides a global platform that enables islands to work together to develop solutions to common problems and to take high-level commitments and actions that address these global challenges.
- The mission of the **Global Marine Community: Americas** is to promote communication and build partnerships across the Global Marine Community and to identify and address gaps in the community's work. The Global Marine Community achieves this through multimedia promotion and partnerships, and consists of a diverse and growing group of participants. The Global Marine Community is an evolution of the long-standing D.C. Marine Community funded by the Munson Foundation.
- The **Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)** is a multi-institutional programme of work delivered by a consortium composed of BirdLife International, Conservation International, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC. IBAT helps businesses incorporate biodiversity considerations into key project planning and management decisions by providing a basic risk screening on biodiversity, drawing information on globally recognised biodiversity information from a number of the consortium's Knowledge Products together into an interactive mapping tool. In 2016 the Secretariat, currently hosted in Washington D.C., will move to Cambridge, UK.
- IUCN maintains a formally accredited **Permanent Observer Mission to the UN**.

IUCN is the only international observer organisation in the UN General Assembly with expertise in issues concerning the environment, specifically biodiversity, nature conservation, and sustainable natural resource use.

- Supported by a small Secretariat based in the Washington D.C. Office, the **Sargasso Sea Commission** promotes international awareness and scientific research of the Sargasso Sea. The result of three years of work by the Sargasso Sea Alliance, the Commission operates as a stand-alone legal entity established by Bermudian and US law.

The Washington D.C. Office core staff cover several areas of work, including membership coordination, development, grants management, and engagement with US-based financial institutions, including the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, and the Natural Capital Finance Alliance. The Washington D.C. Office administers and serves US and Canadian Member organisations, and also serves as a liaison resource to IUCN Commissions. As of December 2016, IUCN has 118 Members in North America, and nearly 3,500 individual Commission Members are based in the US and Canada.

The US Government and US-based philanthropies and civil society organisations are critical contributors to global nature conservation and sustainable development. A major function of the Washington D.C. Office is developing strategic partnerships with US-based charitable foundations and US Government agencies. In fact, several of IUCN's Members are also donors. The Washington D.C. Office plays a critical role in managing grants awarded by US-based institutions.

2016 culminated with the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, from 1-10 September. The World Conservation Congress was the largest conservation convention ever held in the US, with over 10,000 participants from 180 countries and 1,380 sessions. The Washington D.C. Office provided support both during and in the lead up to the Congress.

Programme Work and Achievements: One Programme

In 2016, the United States hosted the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, the largest conservation convention ever held in the United States. The WCC assembled more than 10,000 participants, including presidents, ministers, scientists, business representatives and thousands of representatives from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

IUCN members approved 106 resolutions and recommendations aimed at improving the governance, programmes, and policies of the Union, and presented the Hawai'i Commitments: globally transformative and innovative conservation initiatives to meet the critical challenges and opportunities of our time, including the imperative to scale up action on biodiversity and the SDGs.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress also saw the approval of the new IUCN Quadrennial Programme 2017-2020. The IUCN Programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat with and on behalf of IUCN Members. It was developed through a nine month consultation process.

The atmosphere in the Hawai'i Convention Center in September 2016 was of an extraordinary energy for conservation. The enduring legacy of the Congress will be the [Hawai'i Commitments](#) which set the agenda for delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of the IUCN membership. The detailed [Congress report](#) gives full details of the key events, as well as many photos and accounts of specific outputs.

With the election of two Commission Chairs located in the US – Kristen Walker for CEESP and Sean Southey for CEC – we anticipate

more direct engagement with these two commissions and their members.

In elections for the North America and Caribbean Regional Councillors, Sixto J. Incháustegui, Dominican Republic; Rick Bates, Canada; and John Robinson, USA were elected.

The Washington D.C. Office provided extensive support in the lead up to and during the World Conservation Congress. Craig Beatty, Washington D.C. Programme Officer, served on the Motions Core Team, which included representatives from across IUCN. The Motions Core Team developed a new online process for accepting, revising, and voting on motions for the 2016 World Conservation Congress and supported motions through the drafting, revision, and finalization process. The IUCN Washington D.C. Office led two major themes at the Congress, on biodiversity and agriculture and on private finance for conservation (see below).

The D.C. office is working closely with the World Bank on a range of issues related to finance and biodiversity. In order to consolidate our collaboration, the DG signed an MoU with World Bank President Jim Kim at the Paris UNFCCC conference of parties in December 2015. The MoU covers collaboration on general biodiversity issues, including flagship species conservation efforts, use of IUCN-convened data sets for biodiversity risk screening, and collaboration on analysis of the benefits of nature to humanity, with a focus on costs and benefits of different development approaches.

IUCN in Washington has, throughout the year, supported the work of the Expert Group on Biodiversity that is contributing input to the [World Bank Safeguards Review](#).

Significant Events

The Washington D.C. Office held two high level events at the 2016 World Conservation Congress. The first was a High Level Biodiversity and Agriculture Lunch “*Food Systems: The Nexus of Our Planet’s Most Critical Issues*” followed by a panel session “*Feed the planet and conserve biodiversity: yes we can!*” during the Member’s Assembly. The lunch event focused on the following nine themes, each led by a distinguished panellist:

- Increase our knowledge of food systems (Guillermo Castilleja);
- Establish global goals (Jeffrey Sachs);
- Re-direct the sector (Peter Bakker);
- Preserve biodiversity (Braulio Dias);
- Produce more and better food with lower environmental impact (Jeff Seabright);
- Highlight agriculture’s dependence on ecosystems and biodiversity (Norbert Kurilla);
- Promote more nutritious and equitable food production and access to food (Ashok Khosla);
- Facilitate transparency and traceability (Aileen Lee); and
- Harness the power of economics (Pavan Sukhdev).

The Washington D.C. Office also organized a High Level Dialogue “*Private Finance for Public Good*,” leading to the launch of the [Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation](#) (CPIC), with 25 IUCN members joining. The goal of the Coalition is to increase the flow of private finance into conservation through the engagement of the finance community and the development of new projects into the investment pipeline.

The core of the Coalition is formed around a set of working groups, focusing on the following topics: coastal resilience, forest landscape conservation and restoration, green infrastructure for watershed management, sustainable agricultural intensification, and sustainable coastal fisheries.

In addition, the US National Committee was created at the World Conservation Congress, the culmination of a great deal of work by the US office and by some devoted member organisations, including the Wildlife Conservation Society and The Rainforest Trust. The next steps for mobilization of the Committee are Council approval and the election of an executive committee and chair. This is a goal that has long been sought after, dating back to the creation of the IUCN office in the United States.

Strategic Partnerships

The Washington D.C. Office, in partnership with IUCN's Strategic Partnership Unit, manages IUCN's interface with US donors, including the US Government, US foundation, and philanthropic individuals. Our engagement with US institutions is critical for IUCN's work around the world.

IUCN works closely with the US State Department, a Member since 1990, on a number of nature-based sustainable development and conservation objectives. In 2016 this partnership supported work on species conservation, marine ecosystems, ecosystem management, forests, terrestrial protected areas, and wildlife trafficking. The State Department also supported two projects focusing on water, *Strengthening trans-boundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region* and *Measuring, Understanding and Adapting to Nexus Trade-offs in the 3S River Basins*, in the Horn of Africa and the Lower Mekong, respectively.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is also an IUCN Member and a valued partner. Using its Public International Organisation status, IUCN partners with USAID to design programs and develop scopes of work of mutual interest to both institutions. *Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT)* and *Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (W-TRAPS)*, with the IUCN Global Gender Office and Traffic International respectively, and two such partnerships.

An important partnership in Washington D.C. is that with International Union for Conservation of Nature – United States (IUCN-US), a 501(c)(3) organisation that is legally distinct from IUCN. For over 25 years, IUCN-US has been supporting IUCN and its global network of members and partners. Because it is a charity registered in the US, IUCN-US is often indispensable to IUCN and its partners in engaging with other US-based institutions.

The Washington D.C. Office was very active in 2016 in supporting fundraising with U.S.-based donors for the World Conservation Congress. For a list of IUCN donors in 2016, please see the [IUCN 2016 Annual Report](#).

Members and Commissions

IUCN has robust membership in North America. In the United States this network comprises 118 members, including the State Member, six Government Agency members, 67 National NGO members, 31 International NGO members, 11 Affiliate members, and two Indigenous Peoples members. In Canada IUCN has a membership network of 22 members, including the State Member, three Government Agency members, 15 National NGO members, two Affiliate members, and one Indigenous Peoples member.

The IUCN Canadian Committee (CCIUCN) provides a focus for Canadian member organisations to support the IUCN. CCIUCN activities and goals include:

- developing the fullest possible communication and co-ordination among Canadian members of IUCN, and communication between IUCN and Canada and vice-versa;
- mobilizing the scientific and professional skills, practical experience and data of the Canadian official and voluntary bodies necessary to support the above;
- stimulating and fostering conservation and research leading to that end;
- serving as a clearing-house for dissemination of information from IUCN; publishing and disseminating appropriate information to help establish Canadian views in relation to matters raised by IUCN; this is without prejudice to the right of individual organizations to express an independent view, or of Canadian government agencies to give the official scientific and professional conservationist view; and
- assisting national and international conservation activities.

Following approval from the IUCN Council in early 2017, the newly formed United States National Committee will begin working to identify and act on priorities for IUCN's United States-based member.

IUCN Commissions

The **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)** drives change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community.

The **Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)** provides expertise and policy advice on economic and social factors for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The **World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)** advances environmental law by developing new legal concepts and instruments, and by building the capacity of societies to employ environmental law for conservation and sustainable development.

The **Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)** provides expert guidance on integrated ecosystem approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems.

The **Species Survival Commission (SSC)** advises the Union on the technical aspects of species conservation and mobilizes action for those species that are threatened with extinction.

The **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)** promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

Regional Financial Summary

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Period January 1 – December 31, 2016 (US\$)

	Unrestricted	Project Agreement	Total
EXTERNAL OPERATING INCOME			
Membership dues	-	-	-
Retention of staff income tax	-	-	-
Agreements income	40,450	7,914,092	7,954,542
Other operating income	212,311	2,250	214,561
TOTAL EXTERNAL OPERATING INCOME	252,761	7,916,342	8,169,103
INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS			
Framework allocations	1,586,765	-	1,586,765
Cross charges from projects	3,222,587	(3,267,576)	(44,989)
Other internal allocations	292,831	516,552	809,383
Revaluation of internal allocations balances	-	-	-
NET ALLOCATION	5,102,184	(2,751,024)	2,351,160
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Personnel costs and consultancies	4,199,173	2,869,511	7,068,684
Travel and communications	229,675	870,541	1,100,215
Vehicles & equipment - costs & maintenance	44,388	10,703	55,091
Office and general administrative costs	413,530	104,642	518,172
Publications and printing costs	5,438	159,193	164,631
Workshops and grants to partners	4,910	(72,076)	(67,166)
Other operating expenditure	35,108	204,805	239,914
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,932,222	4,147,319	9,079,541
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	422,723	1,017,999	1,440,722
OTHER INCOME (EXPENDITURE)			
Interest income	892	25,000	25,892
Financial charges	(8,833)	(6,543)	(15,377)
Capital gains (losses)	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on foreign exchange	(1,678)	(15,333)	(17,011)
Net movements in provision and write-offs	(8,166)	7,809	(357)
TOTAL OTHER INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(17,784)	10,932	(6,853)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	404,938	1,028,931	1,433,869

Annex 1: US Members as of December 31, 2016

Civil Society and Affiliate Members

Name	Category	Name	Category
American Public Gardens Association	National NGO	Consultative Group on Biological Diversity	National NGO
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists	National NGO	Cornell Botanic Gardens	National NGO
American Society of Primatologists	National NGO	Counterpart International, Inc.	International NGO
Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition	International NGO	Dallas Safari Club	National NGO
Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation	International NGO	Desert Botanical Gardens	Affiliate
Association of Zoos and Aquariums	National NGO	Earth Day Network	National NGO
Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University	National NGO	Ecoagriculture Partners	International NGO
Bat Conservation International, Inc.	National NGO	EcoHealth Alliance	International NGO
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum	Affiliate	Edith Kanakaole Foundation	Indigenous People
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History - New York	National NGO	Environmental Defense Fund	National NGO
Center for Conservation Biology	National NGO	Environmental Law Institute	National NGO
Center for Environmental Legal Studies	National NGO	Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law	National NGO
Center for Humans and Nature, NFP	National NGO	Forest Trends	International NGO
Center for International Environmental Law	National NGO	Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability	National NGO
Center for Large Landscape Restoration	National NGO	George Wright Society	National NGO
Center for Plant Conservation	National NGO	Global Land Cover Facility	National NGO
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park	National NGO	Global Wildlife Conservation	National NGO
Chicago Botanic Garden	Affiliate	Gregory C. Carr Foundation	National NGO
Chicago Zoological Society	National NGO	Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, of the University of Hawaii	National NGO
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	National NGO	Hawai'i Conservation Alliance	National NGO
Conservation Council for Hawai'i	National NGO	Hawai'i Pacific University	Affiliate
Conservation Force, Inc.	International NGO	Honolulu Zoological Society	National NGO
Conservation International	International NGO	InterEnvironment Institute	National NGO
		International Association for Impact Assessment	National NGO
		International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	International NGO
		International Crane Foundation, Inc.	International NGO
		International Primate Protection League	International NGO
		International Primatological Society	International NGO
		International Wildlife Crimestoppers, Inc.	National NGO

Name	Category	Name	Category
Island Conservation	International NGO	Society for Conservation Biology	International NGO
Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability	National NGO	Society for Ecological Restoration	International NGO
Kamehameha Schools	Affiliate	Species360	International NGO
Khaled Bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation	National NGO	St. Louis Zoological Park	National NGO
Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo	Indigenous People	Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.	International NGO
LightHawks	International NGO	Sylvia Earle Alliance	National NGO
Lincoln Park Zoo	National NGO	The Christensen Fund	International NGO
Los Angeles Zoo	National NGO	The Forests Dialogue	National NGO
Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation, Inc.	National NGO	The Garrison Institute	National NGO
Marine Conservation Biology Institute	National NGO	The International Ecotourism Society	International NGO
National Geographic Society	International NGO	The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust	Affiliate
National Tropical Botanical Garden	Affiliate	The Nature Conservancy	National NGO
National Whistleblowers Center	National NGO	The Pew Charitable Trusts	National NGO
National Wildlife Federation	Affiliate	The WILD Foundation	National NGO
Natural Resources Defense Council	National NGO	Tibet Justice Center	National NGO
NatureServe	International NGO	Tropical Resource Institute	National NGO
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Affiliate	Turtle Conservancy	International NGO
Paso Pacifico	International NGO	Turtle Survival Alliance	National NGO
Paul G. Allen Family Foundation	National NGO	United Plant Savers	National NGO
PCI-Media Impact, Inc.	National NGO	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	National NGO
Polynesian Voyaging Society	Affiliate	Wilburforce Foundation	National NGO
Project AWARE Foundation	International NGO	Wildlife Alliance	National NGO
Rainforest Alliance	International NGO	Wildlife Conservation Society	International NGO
Rainforest Trust	National NGO	Wildlife Protection Solutions	National NGO
Rare	International NGO	Woodland Park Zoological Society	Affiliate
Safari Club International	National NGO	World Environment Center	International NGO
Sahara Conservation	International NGO	World Resources Institute	National NGO
San Diego Zoo Global	National NGO	World Wildlife Fund - US	National NGO
Sierra Club	International NGO	Yellowstone to Yukon	National NGO
Smithsonian Institution	National NGO		

US Government Members

Name	Category
US Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs	State Member
US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Government Agency
US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service	Government Agency
US Department of the Interior – National Park Service (USNPS)	Government Agency
US Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Government Agency
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Government Agency
US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	Government Agency

Annex 2: Canadian Members as of December 31, 2016

Civil Society and Affiliate Members

Name	Category	Name	Category
Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums	National NGO	University of Ottawa	
Canadian Association for Humane Trapping	National NGO	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Indigenous People
Canadian Council on Ecological Area	National NGO	Nature Canada	National NGO
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	National NGO	Nature Quebec	National NGO
Canadian Wildlife Federation	National NGO	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	Affiliate
Cree Nation Government	Affiliate	Ontario Nature	National NGO
Fur Institute of Canada	National NGO	Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec	National NGO
Hydro-Quebec Institute for Environment, Development, and Society	National NGO	Toronto Zoo	National NGO
Institute of the Environment,	National NGO	World Wildlife Fund Canada	National NGO
		Calgary Zoological Society	National NGO

Canadian Government Members

Name	Category
Parks Canada Agency	State
Canadian Museum of Nature	Government Agency
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada	Government Agency
Ministère du Développement durable, Environnement et Lutte contre les changements climatiques (Québec)	Government Agency