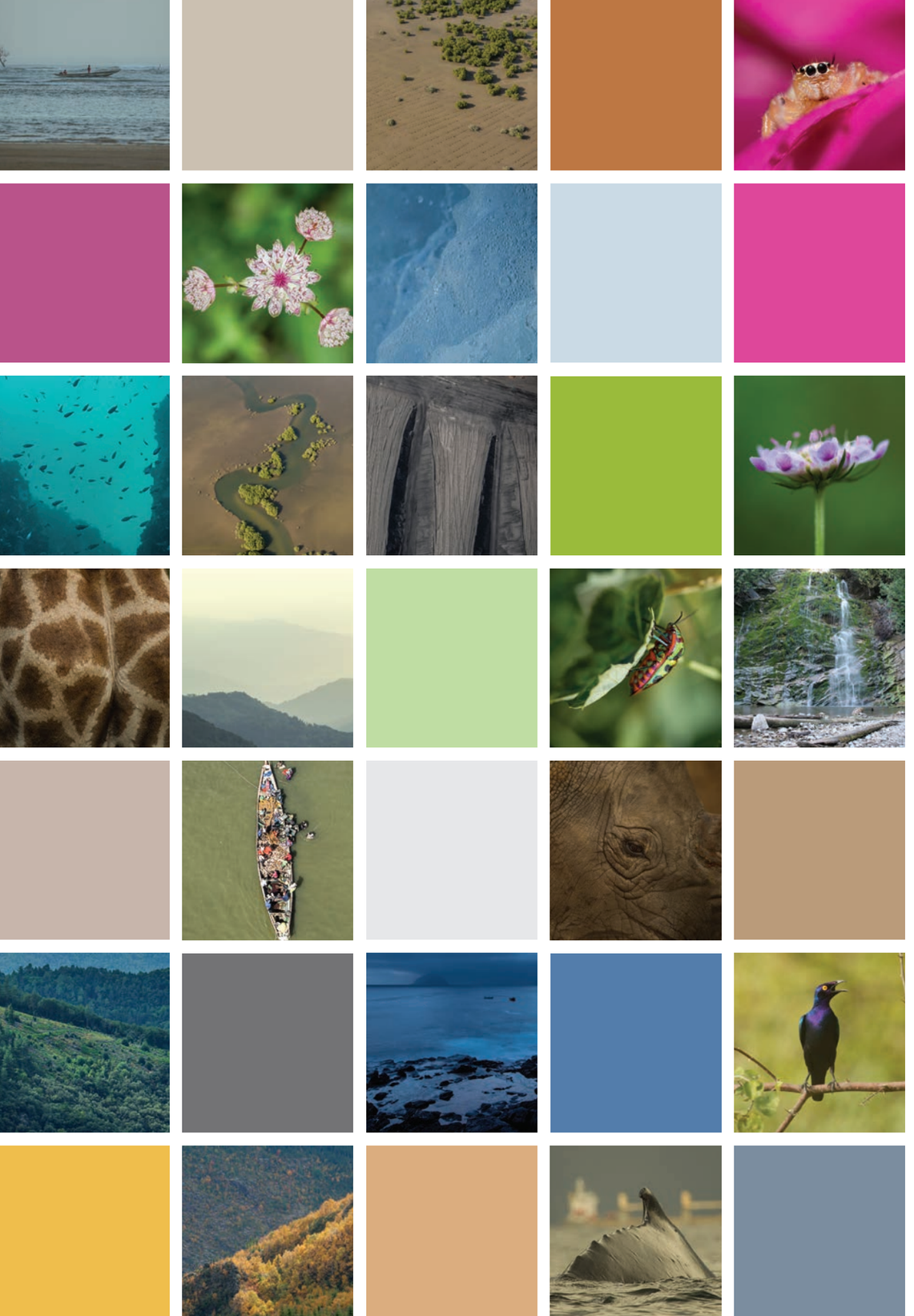
The impact of IUCN **Resolutions** on international conservation efforts

an overview



A Review of the Impact of IUCN Resolutions on International Conservation Efforts

IUCN's Members have issued over 1300 Resolutions since the organisation's founding in 1948. These have been the Union's most effective means of influencing conservation policy, at species, site, national and global levels. They have helped set the international conservation agenda, for example through supporting the preparation of the World Conservation Strategy and contributing to environmental treaties such as

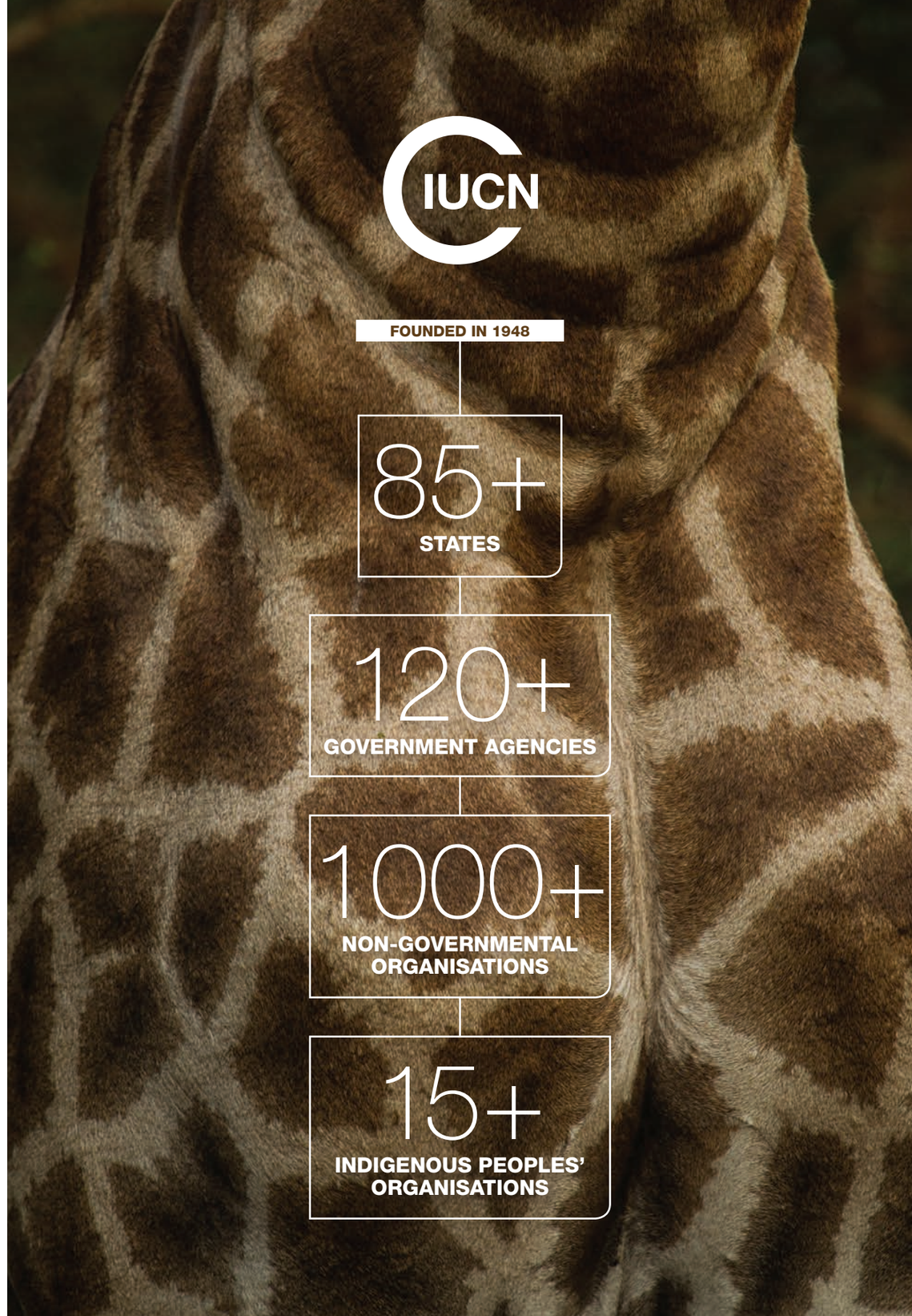
1,305 RESOLUTIONS

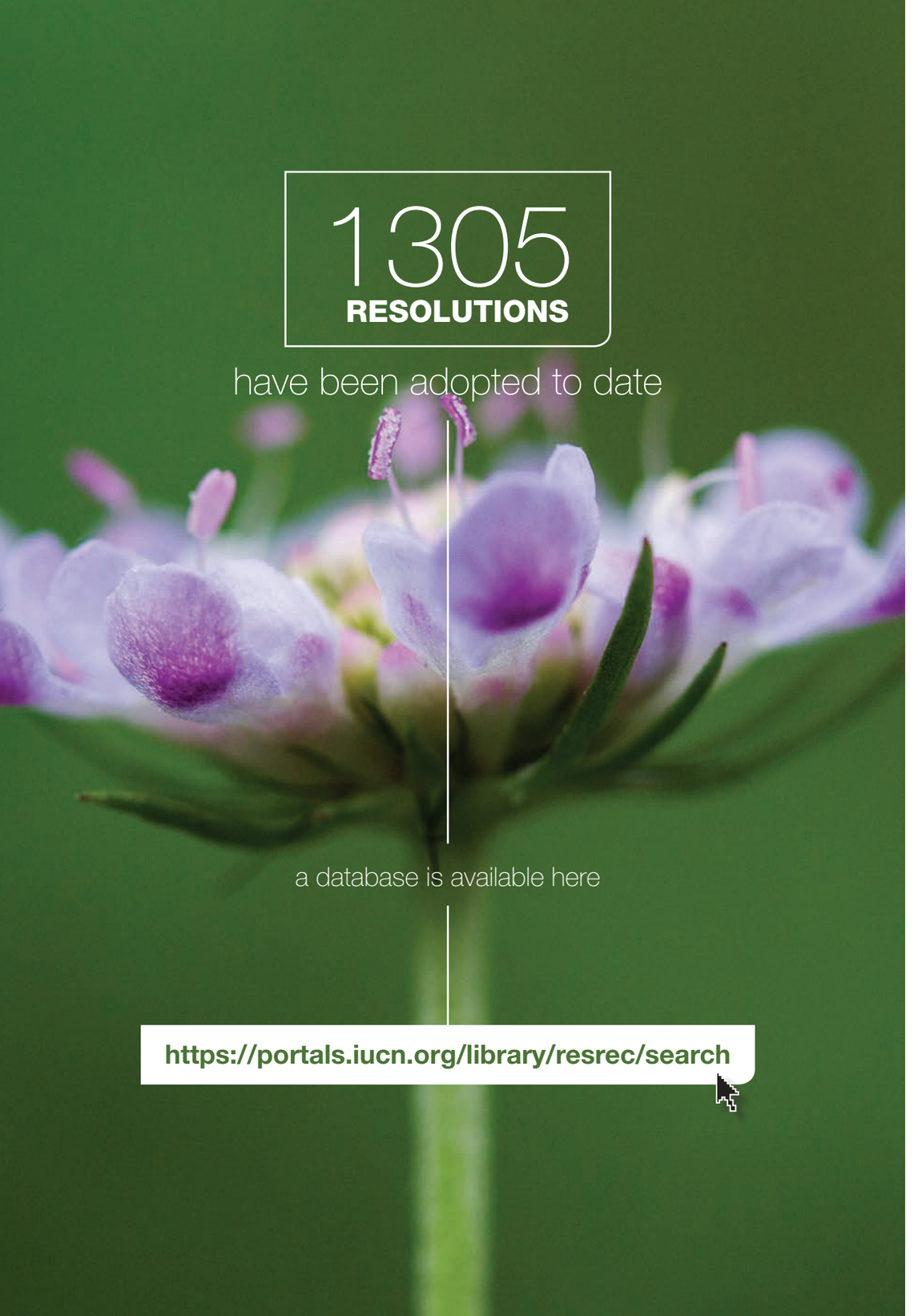
CITES, Ramsar, World Heritage and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Through its Resolutions, IUCN has been a steadfast supporter of Indigenous peoples, gender issues and the recognition of conservation as part of human rights. It has also focused attention on conserving threatened species and protected areas, helping to design effective approaches that are now global standards. The Resolutions process reflects IUCN's leadership in promoting sustainable relationships between people and nature.

As the world's leading union of conservation agencies, including 85+ States, 120+ government agencies, 1000+ non-governmental organisations and 15+ Indigenous peoples' organisations as of November 2017. IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is in a unique position to reflect and promote the priorities of the global conservation community. It is the only environmental organisation with Observer status at the United Nations General Assembly, enabling IUCN to deliver the policy perspectives of its Members at the highest international level of diplomacy. These policies are developed through a unique, open consultative process involving the full IUCN Membership (States and NGOs), with input from IUCN's six Commissions.

Since IUCN's founding in 1948, its Members have convened every two to four years to debate and agree major policy issues and approve the organisation's programme and budget for the subsequent several years. It held 19 General Assemblies between 1948 and 1994, typically with an accompanying Technical Meeting that addressed on-the-ground conservation issues. Beginning in 1996, the General Assembly and Technical Meeting components were combined and re-labelled as the World Conservation Congress. Six such congresses have now been held, in Montreal, Amman, Bangkok, Barcelona, Jeju and Hawai'i. The next Congress will be held in 2020.

As IUCN's mission is to "influence, encourage and assist society", its policy work is key to its ability to have an impact on world conservation. A significant result of each of these 25 convenings of IUCN Members, the experts participating in IUCN's Commissions, and invited partner organisations, has been the policy recommendations from the Members, dealing with the most significant policy measures as identified and elaborated by them. Motions, draft decisions which the World Conservation Congress is requested to take, are presented by IUCN Members on a wide range of conservation issues and when adopted become either Resolutions or Recommendations. IUCN Congress "Resolutions" are aimed primarily at IUCN itself and "Recommendations" are directed to other agencies, third parties or the world at large, though this distinction is sometimes a difficult one to draw. For ease of communication, these will both be called "Resolutions" throughout this document.





This paper briefly highlights some of the major impacts and influences that these Resolutions have had on conservation. It is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to focus attention on some of the most significant issues that the IUCN Membership has addressed, working together with IUCN's six Commissions (on Species, Protected Areas, Environmental Law, Ecosystem Management, Communications and Education, and Environmental, Economic and Social Policy) and supported by IUCN's Secretariat.

IUCN is striving on an ongoing basis to improve the relevance and timeliness of its Resolutions. The most recent comprehensive policy overview was undertaken before the Jeju Congress to identify major policy gaps resulting from developments in the conservation arena. These policy gaps were addressed by new motions proposed and adopted during the 2012 and 2016 World Conservation Congresses in Jeju and Hawai'i, respectively.

Members may find this paper useful in preparing effective Resolutions for future World Conservation Congresses.

1.
Setting the global conservation agenda

IUCN's Members are all independent institutions, agencies and organisations, well able to set their own agendas. But by working together toward a common global agenda, the Membership, Secretariat and Commissions can have a far greater impact than by working alone. As one outstanding example, the Members agreed at the 1978 General Assembly, in Ashkhabad, USSR, to proceed with producing what became the

World Conservation Strategy.

It was published in 1980 and given strong support by the first Resolution of the 1981 General Assembly, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The World Conservation Strategy gave strong legitimacy to linking conservation with development, and was the first document to put the phrase "*sustainable development*" into the international vocabulary. This phrase has now entered the mainstream of development thinking and has had a profound influence on the design and operation of conservation and development practice throughout the world.

From landscape planning to national conservation strategies

But the foundations for the World Conservation Strategy were built much earlier, including at the Edinburgh General Assembly in 1956, which called for **landscape planning based on ecological research** as the starting point for development projects, the call for **environmental impact assessments** in Athens in 1958, and the promotion of **ecological principles for economic development** in Banff in 1972. Following the adoption of the World Conservation Strategy, IUCN Resolutions continued to encourage governments to direct their **development assistance in more environmentally-friendly directions.** For example, the 1984 Madrid General Assembly called for development assistance agencies to implement the World Conservation Strategy and provided guidelines for doing so, and in San José in 1988 Members called for the preparation of **national conservation strategies**, of which dozens were subsequently prepared, often with IUCN technical assistance. The impacts of these Resolutions have helped to put conservation in the mainstream of development.

Recognition of stakeholders for conservation action

Thanks at least partly to IUCN's early adoption of the principle of sustainable development, it is now widely recognised that people are essential partners and key beneficiaries for all conservation action. But this has not always been the case. For some time, Indigenous peoples have felt especially ignored by the conservation community, and indeed have sometimes been displaced when protected areas have been established. But IUCN has long been a champion for the concept of people as part of nature. As early as the 1952 General Assembly in Caracas, Members recognised the importance of **cooperation among public agencies, rural people and the private sector.** Other Resolutions recognising the importance of local communities and traditional ways of life were agreed in Athens in 1958, Kinshasa in 1975, and Christchurch in 1981, which called for heads of governments and others to "take into account the still existing very large reservoir of **traditional knowledge** and experience within local cultures which must provide a significant basis for the evolution of future management policies and planning actions…". At all congresses since 1994, IUCN Members have continued to bring indigenous rights to the forefront of the conservation arena.

In an ultimate witness to their commitment to Indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge, IUCN Members approved in Hawai'i (2016) the establishment of a new Membership category for Indigenous peoples' organisations. Through the effort of several decades' work, IUCN has made a major contribution to ensuring that the world's **cultural diversity is included as part of the mainstream of conservation concerns.**

1994

BUENOS AIRES

Resolution led to the permanent inclusion of an indigenous representative on the IUCN Council.

1996

MONTREAL

- Resolutions on Indigenous peoples, intellectual property rights and biodiversity.
- Indigenous peoples, mineral and oil extraction, infrastructure and development works.
- Indigenous peoples and protected area.

2000

AMMAN

Resolutions on impacts of military activities on the communities of Indigenous peoples in the Arctic, and on Indigenous peoples, sustainable use of natural resources and international trade.

2004

BANGKOK

Resolutions on Indigenous peoples, protected areas and the CBD Programme of Work, and on protection for Indigenous peoples.

2008

BARCELONA

Ten resolutions dealing with local and Indigenous peoples, including on empowering local communities to conserve and manage natural resources in Africa, supporting indigenous conservation territories and other Indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas, implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples, and integrating culture and cultural diversity into IUCN's policy and programme.

2016

HAWAI'I

- Resolutions recognising Indigenous peoples' rights, calling for the protection of indigenous lands, territories and resources, and at the same time reducing the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems.
- IUCN Members created a new membership category for Indigenous peoples' organisations.

Poverty and gender considerations

IUCN has also been a leader in applying conservation principles to address issues of poverty and gender. For example, in San José (1988), Members called for increased efforts to enhance and support **women's participation in conservation** and sustainable development strategies and, in Bangkok (2004), Resolutions covered **poverty reduction, food security and conservation, conserving nature and reducing poverty** by linking human rights and the environment, and **the role of conservation organisations in poverty reduction and development.** Furthermore, the 2008 Congress in Barcelona called for mainstreaming gender equity and equality within the Union and addressed conservation and poverty reduction. These issues are now standard operating procedure for IUCN, indicating a strong impact on the design and implementation of conservation interventions. They also form the basis for IUCN partnerships with various United Nations organisations and government agencies.

International programmes and institutions

IUCN Resolutions have also led to the establishment and support of many international programmes and institutions, including

support for **the International Whaling Commission**	(Lucerne, 1966)
support for the **UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme**	(Banff, 1972)
a call for the establishment of **ICIMOD (International Center for Integrated Mountain Development)**	(Ashkhabad, 1977)
establishment of the **Botanical Gardens Conservation Secretariat**	(San José, 1988)
creation of the **World Conservation Monitoring Centre**	(San José, 1988)
establishment and support of the **Global Biodiversity Forum**	(Buenos Aires, 1994)
active participation in the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**	(Amman, 2000 and Bangkok, 2004)
strengthening of the **International Covenant on Environment and Development**	(Barcelona, 2008)
promotion of a **Legally binding Global Mercury Treaty** to protect wildlife, ecosystems and health	(Jeju, 2012)
and establishment of the **Global Judicial Institute for the Environment**	(Hawai'i, 2016)

Each of these initiatives has played an important role in spreading IUCN's mission across numerous sectors and all parts of the world. While IUCN was not acting alone in these initiatives, its impact helped to accelerate the establishment and effective functioning of them.

SETTING THE CONSERVATION AGENDA

IUCN has long been instrumental in setting the global conservation agenda. In 1980, IUCN, UNEP and WWF published the World Conservation Strategy, a seminal document that stressed the interdependence of conservation and development, and first coined the term "sustainable development". This publication emphasized that **humanity, as a part of nature, has no future unless nature and natural resources are conserved. Conservation cannot be achieved without development to alleviate the poverty and misery of millions of people.**
In 1991, *Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living*, was published to expand on and emphasize the *World Conservation Strategy.*

Oriented towards practical action, this document set out a world strategy for a kind of development that would provide real improvements in the quality of human life while simultaneously conserving the vitality and diversity of the Earth. These documents have been the foundation of conservation efforts since.

2.

Supporting the development of international conservation law

While law is the responsibility of governments, IUCN has performed a key function in developing much of the international legislation that today governs the relationships among governments in the field of conservation. IUCN's Environmental Law Centre and the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law were well placed to support the development of such legislation, and have played active parts in doing so. As early as 1954 (long before Rachel Carson's 1962 classic book, *Silent Spring*, popularized the concern), IUCN identified the importance of dealing with the effects of pesticides on mammals, birds and insects, further strengthened in 1981 in Christchurch and in Buenos Aires in 1994; these ultimately led to the **Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**, and governments throughout the world enacted national legislation on pollution control, often with the advice of the Environmental Law Centre. The impact has been a significant reduction in at least some forms of pollution, and IUCN continues to monitor the situation. In Jeju in 2012, IUCN Members voted their support for a **legally-binding Global Mercury Treaty** to protect wildlife, ecosystems and health.

International Conventions

At the 1966 General Assembly in Lucerne, IUCN laid the groundwork for the **World Heritage Convention**, when the idea of a "Trust for World Heritage" to designate outstanding areas considered as universally valuable was first expressed on the international stage. IUCN went on to draft the Convention with UNESCO and has since continued to play an important role in its implementation as its formal Advisory Body on nature. As such, IUCN evaluates natural and mixed sites nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage list, and it also monitors the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, thereby actively sustaining the international efforts to conserve natural areas of outstanding universal value. As recently as the 2012 Congress in Jeju, IUCN Members reiterated the importance of strengthening the World Heritage Convention and its priorities.

The General Assembly in Warsaw, in 1960, built the foundations for the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**, another convention to which IUCN has made substantial and continuing contributions, drawing especially on the expertise of the Species Survival Commission (SSC). At the 1972 General Assembly, in Banff, Canada, the support to the World Heritage Convention was further strengthened, and the **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention)**, which IUCN helped to draft, was strongly supported through IUCN offering to host the Secretariat (an arrangement that is still in effect today).

The main elements of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, which entered into force on December 1993, were identified at the Christchurch General Assembly in 1981, which called for IUCN's Secretariat to analyse the technical, legal, and economic and financial matters relating to the conservation, accessibility and use of genetic resources with a view to providing the basis for an international

arrangement and for rules to implement it. Numerous subsequent Resolutions added further support to the emerging Convention on Biological Diversity, which has become a heartland issue for many IUCN Members, and for the organisation as a whole. For example, Resolutions in Madrid (1984) on wild genetic resources and in San José (1988) on threatened species habitat protection and on development of international environmental law both contain details on elements of what eventually evolved into the CBD. The Resolution in Bangkok (2004) on the Durban Accord emanating from the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress reflects its incorporation into the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas, a foundation that continues to influence international policy on protected areas to date, including the recognition of governance diversity and quality, and of mainstreaming protected areas into processes for sustainable development.

Once the CBD entered into force, IUCN Members also supported its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Bangkok, 2004), which IUCN helped to draft. And at the 2012 Congress in Jeju, Members welcomed and expressed support for the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. The CBD is now the leading international instrument for addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting equitable sharing of the benefits from trade in genetic resources, and ensuring that any trade in genetically modified organisms is subject to the appropriate oversight.

International agreements

Also at the Christchurch General Assembly, IUCN further promoted the Law of the Sea, with numerous other Resolutions dealing with specific aspects of marine conservation. These included deep sea mining and establishment of protected areas of the deep sea, Antarctica Environment and the Southern Ocean, the environmental law of sea, the **Polar Bear Convention** (Banff, 1972, and for which IUCN's Polar Bear Specialist Group is the technical advisor), and many others. The support for legal protection of the oceans has continued to grow, with the first Resolution dedicated to the High Seas (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ) being adopted in Bangkok (2004). This comprehensive Resolution set the stage for a series of meetings and negotiations aiming to adopt a new implementing agreement of the 1984 **Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** about biodiversity. The three IUCN Congresses since Bangkok have also issued marine-related Resolutions with legal implications for improving the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions. In 2017, the UN General Assembly will open official negotiations for this new UNCLOS implementing agreement.

Back on land, IUCN supported the **African Charter for Protection and Conservation of Nature** (Nairobi, 1963), the **World Charter for Nature** (Kinshasa, 1975 and Madrid, 1984), the establishment of an international database on environmental law (Banff, 1972 and Barcelona, 2008), the **ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** (Montreal, 1996), and the **International Covenant on Environment and Development** (Montreal, 1996 and Barcelona, 2008). IUCN's Environmental Law Centre contributed to the drafting of many of these, typically with support and inspiration from the World Commission on Environmental Law. The actual impact of these initiatives has been mixed, but they remain available when the conditions are conducive to their full implementation.

In recent years, IUCN Members have continued to support the implementation of international environmental agreements and their obligations, including the **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** (Barcelona, 2008, Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016), the **Barcelona Convention** (Barcelona, 2008), the **Bern Convention** (Hawai'i, 2016), the **World Heritage Convention** (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016), and the **Convention on Biological Diversity**, among others.

Jeju and Hawai'i saw further codification of international law, including the application of the principle of non-regression in environmental decision-making processes, and recognition of humanity's right to a healthy planet. Since the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona (2008), IUCN has increasingly considered the problem of environmental crime with various Resolutions adopted on improving capacity to enforce legislation related to wildlife crime, and increasing international cooperation on this topic (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016).

In summary, the impact of IUCN on establishing the international legal framework for conservation has been substantial, and this framework has helped establish IUCN's own priorities for action.

3.

Identifying emerging issues in conservation

Conservation is a constantly evolving field, and the IUCN meetings of Members provide an excellent opportunity to identify emerging issues that may not yet have appeared on the global conservation agenda, the consciousness of the public, or even the attention of governments. Resolutions provide an opportunity to identify such issues and at least begin to generate the necessary actions. Notable among such issues are:

Recognising the **watershed** as a particularly useful scale for conservation management (Caracas, 1952);

Calling attention to **climate change** and its impact on conservation (Warsaw, 1960) several decades before this was generally recognised as a major issue;

Calling for **conservation of marine resources**, including krill (Banff, 1972 – note that the loss of krill has only recently become a major international concern);

Phasing out the concept of maximum sustainable yield of individual species and replacing it with **ecosystem management** (Kinshasa, 1975);

Addressing **energy and conservation**, including greater emphasis on renewable forms of energy (Kinshasa, 1975, long before alternative forms of energy became an urgent priority);

Pointing out that **renewable energy** may not always be benign in its effects on nature (Christchurch, 1981), an issue that is now receiving increasing attention;

Promoting protection of **mangroves** (Christchurch, 1981), now recognised as a major concern in terms of the multiple ecosystem services these forests provide;

Identifying some of the **environmental consequences of nuclear war** (San José, 1988);

Identifying the importance of addressing **conservation and international trade** (Buenos Aires, 1994);

Recognising the **growing importance of the private sector** in supporting conservation (Montreal, 1996), with a call for a productive relationship between IUCN and the private sector;

Raising awareness of the threat of biodiversity loss due to **invasive alien species** (Amman, 2000);

Reducing **undersea noise pollution** (Bangkok, 2004);

Promoting **conservation in cities** (Bangkok, 2004);

Providing guidelines regarding research and **scientific collecting of threatened species** (Barcelona, 2008);

Expanding conservation action to **the landscape scale** (Barcelona, 2008), addressing the European Green Belt Initiative, ecological connectivity in the alpine region, and enhancing ecological networks and connectivity between conservation areas; and

Requesting a comprehensive scientific review of the impact of **systemic pesticides** on biodiversity (Jeju, 2012).

More recently, some new conservation issues have been identified and IUCN is assuming a leading role. Among them are:

calling for the development of IUCN **policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology** (Hawai'i, 2016), an emerging issue that stills lacks concrete definitions as outlined in a decision by the CBD COP13;

developing and adopting IUCN **general policy on biodiversity offsets** (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016) to provide a framework to guide the design, implementation and governance of biodiversity offset schemes and projects;

identifying **unselective, unsustainable and unmonitored (UUU)** fisheries as a severe threat to marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems with significant implications for long-term food security (Hawai'i, 2016);

promoting an increased focus on transboundary conservation, for biological connectivity and regional development, but also for fostering peace and reconciliation, and addressing the needs of human migrants (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016);

supporting the inclusion of sacred natural sites and the cultural and spiritual significant of nature as part of the full spectrum of protected and conserved areas (Barcelona, 2008; Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016)

recognising the role of nature and of protected areas in contributing to human health and well-being, and the need to connect an increasing urbanising world population to nature through enhanced access (Jeju, 2012, Hawai'i, 2016); and

supporting **privately protected areas**, with a forward-thinking call for private lands that are voluntarily managed as protected areas to be recognised in formal legislation (Hawai'i, 2016).

Increased attention has been given in recent years to topics related to **development and conservation.** Resolutions in Hawai'i (2016) stressed the importance of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encouraged Members and governments to continue their work on development issues in light of the integrative nature of the new Agenda. In addition, important decisions were taken on the intersection of development and conservation work, addressing issues such as mitigating the impacts of oil palm expansion and operations on biodiversity, and on environmentally damaging industrial activities and protected areas. There has been a growing body of resolutions that acknowledge that many industrial and development processes are highly destructive of nature, and while fostering increased engagement with development sectors, also require that IUCN upholds limitations on environmentally damaging activities that affect protected and conserved areas, community conserved areas, and territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples (Barcelona, 2008; Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016)

Resolutions have also supported issues that were already well recognised, but receiving inadequate attention. An outstanding example at the Barcelona Congress was marine conservation, which was the subject of no less than 24 Resolutions, covering topics such as fisheries management, species in need of conservation, conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions, establishing marine protected areas, and conservation of mangroves and coral reefs. This trend continued in Jeju and Hawai'i with key Resolutions on the danger of biofouling, the mitigation of adverse effects from recreational diving, and the growing problem of marine debris. These Resolutions have helped place IUCN in the middle of the growing international effort to conserve the world's oceans and their biological riches.

The actual impacts of these Resolutions have varied, but many of them helped to mobilize broad support among the IUCN Membership for new approaches to conservation action (many of which are now in the mainstream) and emerging issues that required the greater attention they are now receiving.

IUCN
AT A GLANCE

THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

THE GLOBAL AUTHORITY ON THE STATUS OF THE NATURAL WORLD
and **THE MEASURES NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD IT**

A UNIQUE DEMOCRATIC UNION WITH MORE THAN

OVER **1,300** **STATES, GOVERNMENT AGENCY NGO AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MEMBER ORGANISATIONS** in some **170 COUNTRIES**

10,000 EXPERT VOLUNTEERS

providing conservation data and assessments, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise

over **850 STAFF** in more than **50 OFFICES WORLDWIDE**

HUNDREDS OF PARTNERS

in **governments**, **NGOs** and **scientific business, indigenous** and **local communities**

TRUSTED REPOSITORY

of best practices, international guidelines and standards, and conservation tools, such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the world's leading resource on the conservation status of plants, fungi and animals.

IUCN RED LIST Guiding Conservation for 50 Years

LARGE AND DIVERSE PORTFOLIO

of conservation projects worldwide,
combining the latest science with the traditional
knowledge of local communities

OFFICIAL OBSERVER STATUS
at the United Nations General Assembly

FUNDING FROM

governments, **bilateral** and **multilateral agencies**, **Member organisations** and **corporations.**

4.

Mobilising specific conservation actions

IUCN has long been recognised as a leader in the conservation of species, ecosystems and protected areas, with especially strong Commissions of volunteers in these fields and numerous Members as well as strong, technical Secretariat teams dealing with them. But IUCN Members have been active in **other areas** as well, for instance, in the conservation and management of **water**, **forests**, **marine** and the **public sector**.

Resolutions have offered Members an opportunity to bring attention to principles of wildlife management and biodiversity conservation, such as:

RESOLUTIONS
Guidelines for captive management (Kinshasa, 1975)
Numerous resolutions on **species affected by trade**, such as the CITES ivory quota system (San José, 1988)
Control of invasive alien species (for example, on carnivorous snails for biological control, San José, 1988)
Introduction, translocation and re-introduction of wild species (Buenos Aires, 1994)
Sustainable use of wild living resources (Buenos Aires, 1994; Montreal, 1996; Amman, 2000; Bangkok, 2004 and Barcelona, 2008)
Elimination of the **illegal use of poisoned bait** as a method for controlling predators in the European Union (Barcelona, 2008 and Hawai'i, 2016)
Closure of domestic markets for elephant ivory (Hawai'i, 2016), leading to an important decision by CITES and actions by a variety of countries
Setting global standards for how we assess the conservation status of species and ecosystems (Jeju 2012) or more recently for the identification of sites of biodiversity conservation significance, the Key Biodiversity Areas standard (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai'i, 2016) and for the classification of the impact of invasive alien species (Hawai'i 2016).

Species

Plants, too, have received considerable attention, for example at the 2000 Amman World Conservation Congress, which mandated IUCN's preparation of a Global Programme for Plant Conservation. This constituted the basis for the **Global Strategy on Plant Conservation** adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002. An updated version supported by IUCN was adopted by the CBD in 2010. In terms of impacts, many of these principles, such as sustainable use and standards for introduction and translocation, are now standard operating procedures for many countries.

Numerous Resolutions have also addressed individual or group of species needing conservation action. These are too many to list, but examples, among many that could be cited, include: kouprey (Caracas, 1952); lowland gorillas (Warsaw, 1960); birds of paradise and blue whales at the Nairobi General Assembly in 1963; giant panda (San José, 1988); sturgeon (Montreal, 1996); Western black rhinoceros (Amman, 2000); the Australian population of salt water crocodiles (Madrid, 1984, a population that has now strongly recovered); Fungi (Jeju, 2012); Sharks and Rays (Jeju 2012 and Hawai'i 2016); Giraffes (Hawai'i 2016); and Vicuña (Hawai'i 2016). Tigers were singled out at the New Delhi General Assembly in 1969, which **helped lead to India's Project Tiger**, which was launched in 1972 and has been credited with saving the Bengal tiger. Continued awareness led to the establishment of the **Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme** in 2014, which now mobilises significant funding towards the goal of doubling wild tiger populations by 2022.

IUCN responded to the **rapid die-off of vultures** in South Asia (Bangkok, 2004 and Hawai'i, 2016) and was instrumental in calling the world's attention to **the amphibian crisis** and how to address it (Barcelona, 2008 and Jeju 2012), making this a top global conservation priority. In Bangkok, IUCN also called for urgent measures to secure the survival of the **western grey whale**, listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Over the last 12 years, an IUCN-led independent panel of scientists has been advising Sakhalin Energy, one of the largest companies operating near Sakhalin Island, the summer feeding ground of the whales. A report released at the Hawai'i World Conservation Congress shows that Sakhalin Energy's important efforts to limit the impact of its operations on whales and the fragile environment, did indeed have a positive impact. The western grey whale population has grown 3-4% annually, from an estimated 115 animals in 2004 to 174 in 2015.

Protected areas

It was early recognised by IUCN Members that international cooperation could provide essential support for the national agencies that were seeking to establish such areas.

At the 1958 Athens General Assembly, Members agreed that IUCN should promote the establishment of a **United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves**, and take responsibility for compiling the list: it is now known as the World Database on Protected Areas, and includes over 230,000 sites. IUCN's Protected Areas Programme works with UN Environment's World Conservation Monitoring Centre in maintaining this list and publishing regular Protected Planet reports to track progress in achieving national and international targets. www.protectedplanet.net

Many fundamental principles that are now broadly accepted in protected area management were brought to public attention by IUCN Resolutions, including:

RESOLUTIONS
Using **ecological criteria for establishing boundaries** of protected areas (Banff, 1972)
Establishing **categories of different types of protected areas** (New Delhi, 1969, updated at Bangkok, 2004 and following it's 2008 revision, in Jeju, 2012)
Recognising **private protected area systems** (San José, 1988)
Promoting the use of management effectiveness assessment (Buenos Aires, 1994)
Promoting **transboundary protected areas** (Bangkok, 2004)
Providing best practice protected area **guidelines for ecological restoration** (Barcelona, 2008)
Recognising the value of **community conserved areas** (Bangkok, 2004) and municipal protected areas (Barcelona, 2008)
Recognising and conserving **sacred natural sites** in protected areas (Barcelona, 2008)
Respecting, recognizing and supporting Indigenous peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (Jeju, 2012)
Calling for an increase in **marine protected area coverage** to allow for effective marine biodiversity conservation (Hawai'i, 2016).

Among the many individual protected areas or protected area systems where IUCN Resolutions have provided support are: Killarney National Park, Ireland (Edinburgh, 1956); Japan's national parks (Warsaw, 1960); the national parks of Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa and Sabah (all at the 1963 General Assembly in Nairobi, which also passed Resolutions on individual protected areas such as Abruzzo, Gran Paradiso and Gombe Stream); Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Lucerne, 1966, now a World Heritage Site); Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda (New Delhi, 1969); the Great Barrier Reef (now a World Heritage Site) and the Firth of Thames, New Zealand (now named a Ramsar Site – both from Christchurch, 1981); and tropical rainforest in Queensland (Madrid, 1984, now a World Heritage Site). More recently, IUCN's work in this area was rewarded at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i when President Obama quadrupled the size of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, making it the second largest protected area in the world.

Of major interest was a Resolution at the Banff General Assembly (1972) which proposed a transboundary protected area between the US and Canada, leading to the Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshin-Alsek transboundary World Heritage Site, the world's largest such protected area and an important example of connecting individual protected areas to create much larger contiguous areas that can support wide-ranging species and potentially adapt to changing climatic conditions. Many subsequent Resolutions promoted transboundary protected areas and conservation corridors, with an outstanding example being the Barcelona Resolution (2008) on the Great Ecological Connectivity Corridor that would include the Cantabric Range, the Pyrenees, the Massif Central and the Western Alps of western Europe.

While it is vital to establish new protected areas, it is also crucial to ensure their effective management. Having been introduced in resolutions from as early as 1994, management effectiveness assessment now underpins protected area policy and practice globally. Effectively managed systems of protected areas have been recognised as critical instruments in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals. In Jeju (2012), an IUCN Resolution called for a mechanism to monitor and evaluate management effectiveness in marine protected areas and for development and testing of a certification scheme. Also in 2012, an IUCN resolution proposed the establishment of IUCN Green List of Protected Areas, the development of which was already welcomed in a Decision of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2016. In 2016, IUCN Members asked for better recognition and regulation of the high-risk careers of park rangers, working at the front line of conservation. The impact of IUCN on protected area establishment and effective management can be seen by the rapid growth of protected areas in virtually all countries of the world, often based on the principles indicated above. IUCN resolutions have also facilitated IUCN convening the world's most influential gatherings of protected area professionals, through the series of IUCN World Parks Congresses that began in 1958 and have been repeated approximately every ten years since. Many of the outputs of these Congresses have been translated into new IUCN resolutions as the basis for their implementation worldwide.

Forests

Several decades ago, IUCN Members recognised the outstanding biological, ecological, climatological, economic, social and cultural value of natural forests. At the 1972 World Conservation Congress in Banff, Canada, a Resolution focused global attention on the need to conserve tropical rainforests; recognised as ecosystems crucial to both species and climate, this issue has been raised again and again at almost every Congress since. In 1990 at the Perth Congress, Members adopted a Resolution calling for better legal instruments for the protection and sustainable management of forests.

Since that time, many IUCN Resolutions have brought to the public attention essential principles that are now broadly accepted in forest ecosystem management, including:

RESOLUTIONS

- Monitoring **illegal international trade in forest products** (Montreal, 1996)
- Advancing **boreal forest conservation** (Bangkok, 2004)
- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)** (Barcelona, 2008)
- Fostering **economic valuation and development of financial mechanisms** for the payment for ecosystem services in areas of extreme poverty (Jeju, 2012)
- Promoting **Atlantic Forest in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay**, as a priority biome for conservation (Jeju, 2012)
- Protecting **primary forests**, including intact forest landscapes (Hawai'i, 2016).

IUCN has been a key player in advancing the **forest landscape restoration** (FLR) approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity while improving human well-being. As one of the greatest opportunities to enhance degraded terrestrial ecosystems while contributing to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, FLR has been at the forefront of the sector. IUCN Resolutions have helped establish restoration approaches both globally and regionally, including responding to **deforestation and land degradation related to climate change and desertification** (Barcelona, 2008) and **supporting FLR in Africa** (Hawai'i, 2016).

A Resolution adopted in Jeju (2012) called for promoting the **Bonn Challenge** on restoration of deforested and degraded lands, a campaign launched in 2011 by IUCN and Germany. Total pledges reached 100 million hectares at the 2016 Congress and has since surpassed 150 million hectares. IUCN is a member of the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration and leads its Secretariat; it is one of the key players in building global political support for restoration as well as providing policy and technical support to the definition and implementation of Bonn Challenge commitments in countries around the world. IUCN and the World Resources Institute have developed the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), a tool that can provide vital support to countries seeking to accelerate or implement restoration programmes and landscape-level strategies. ROAM is becoming a relevant and widely-used forest landscape restoration assessment tool.

Marine

The marine environment is receiving ever increasing attention. Some 200 Resolutions have been adopted by IUCN Members concerned about the marine environment. From deep sea mining to marine debris, to saving the coral reefs and numerous aquatic species, IUCN Resolutions have led to important and critical global and international decisions.

As far back as 1963, the first Resolution on marine turtles was adopted, calling for research into potential conservation measures. In 1972 in Banff, the plight of marine resources in general was raised, highlighting the need for improvements in fisheries management. Two decades later this led to the ecosystem approach to fisheries that was adopted by the FAO.

However, the first comprehensive Resolution about marine conservation was adopted in Amman in 2000, when IUCN Members called for ratification of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as the creation of a representative network of marine protected areas (MPAs), including in the High Seas. At the Barcelona Congress (2008) another key resolution for accelerating progress to establish marine protected areas and creating marine protected area networks was instrumental in preparing CBD Aichi Target 11 (Nagoya, 2010). A Resolution in Jeju (2012) to facilitate protection through the establishment of protected areas as specified by Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 further strengthened this, as did a Resolution adopted in Hawai'i (2016) which set the scene for the post-2020 targets.

Since IUCN's early congresses, Resolutions have addressed a diverse array of marine issues and helped to advance the marine cause, including:

RESOLUTIONS

Addressing **bycatch** or **incidental take** (Ashkhabad, 1978; Montreal, 1996; and Amman, 2000), which has led to improved fishing techniques to avoid catching non-targeted species

Deep sea mining (Madrid, 1984)

Ocean disposal of radioactive wastes and liability and compensation for **oil spills from vessels** (both in Madrid, 1984)

Protecting **seamounts** in the high seas (Bangkok, 2004)

Undersea noise pollution (Barcelona, 2008), which has resulted in publication of a resource guide for managing environmental risk associated with geophysical and other imaging surveys

Protecting coastal and marine environments from mining waste (Hawai'i, 2016)

Reducing and preventing **marine debris** (Hawai'i, 2016).

Climate change has been an important issue in the marine community, with IUCN Members first highlighting the relationship between climate change and the conservation of marine natural systems at the Amman Congress in 2000. In Barcelona (2008) a Resolution addressing many aspects of ocean and climate issues, including acidification, eventually led to global recognition of the role of oceans in climate change. The culmination of this work was seen with the **Paris Agreement**, negotiated at the UNFCCC COP21 climate change conference in Paris. This work progressed further with a Resolution adopted in Hawai'i (2016) that called for taking greater account of the ocean in the climate regime.

Not only have IUCN Resolutions raised specific marine issues, but they have also brought to the public awareness specific regions needing attention, for example the polar region and the Mediterranean. The Antarctic has been of concern since 1978, when a Resolution in Ashkhabad urged states to accede to the **Antarctic Treaty** and to ratify the **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).** The Madrid Congress (1984) adopted a Resolution that comprehensively addressed all Antarctic issues and encouraged widespread support for the conservation work in this region. Further inputs that strengthened the Treaty emanated from Resolutions adopted in Perth (1990), Buenos Aires (1994), Amman (2000) and Bangkok (2004). Likewise, IUCN was key in promoting conservation in the Arctic region. A Montreal (1996) Resolution became the basis of IUCN's work with the Arctic Council, and was followed by others in Amman, Barcelona and Jeju that called for intensified, coordinated work to promote sustainable development in the Arctic region.

The Mediterranean region has received similar attention as a result of numerous IUCN Resolutions. Building on Resolutions adopted in Montreal (1996) and Amman (2000), IUCN Members at the Bangkok Congress in 2004 called for the creation of the Mediterranean network of MPAs, supporting the launch of MedPAN (Mediterranean Protected Areas Network), a major actor in Mediterranean marine conservation. The Barcelona Congress gave rise to a Resolution promoting integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean in support of the Barcelona Convention and another one on **improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea.** This latter Resolution strengthened marine governance in the newly created network for the Mediterranean.

Water

Only 3% of the earth's water is freshwater, two-thirds of it frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps. The growing global population faces considerable challenges to safeguard and protect clean and healthy water sources.

IUCN has long been a champion of equitable water management, and over the years many World Conservation Congress Resolutions have brought this and many other concerns to the public eye, including:

RESOLUTIONS
Run-off and evaporation (Athens, 1958)
Environmental effects of acid rain and snow and other acid deposition (Christchurch, 1981)
Future water resource developments needed to safeguard the natural **water regimes of rivers, floodplains and wetlands** (Buenos Aires, 1994)
Drought and flood mitigation strategies (Amman, 2000)
Public access to land and water (Montreal, 1996)
Protecting the Earth's waters for public and ecological benefit (Bangkok, 2004).

IUCN does not act alone in the water sector, but many of its Resolutions have helped shape the current and future focus of the global water community. One noteworthy example is the **Water and Nature Initiative (WANI)**, led by IUCN's Water Programme from 2001–2012. More than 200 IUCN Members and partners worked together to develop, implement and scale up sustainable water resource management in more than 25 countries in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania. The **WANI toolkit** (https://www.iucn.org/theme/water/resources/wani-toolkits), a series of eight publications on various facets of water management such as environmental flows and payments for watershed services, supports learning on mainstreaming the ecosystems approach in water resource management. Translated into a myriad of languages, the series attests to the far-reaching impact this initiative has had.

IUCN has consistently supported and fostered both the implementation of **integrated water resources management (IWRM)** and its conceptual development. Promoted in a Resolution adopted at the Barcelona Congress (2008), IUCN has both developed programmatic implementation and financing of IWRM. It also applied an ecosystems approach to IWRM through the Water and Nature Initiative. As a founder of the World Water Council, IUCN has consistently remained at the development edge of IWRM as a conceptual framework for water resource management globally.

Policies on water resource management are essential, but often lengthy in coming. IUCN Resolutions have also been instrumental in raising local awareness of the need to increase conservation efforts for specific bodies of water. IUCN Members have called for restoration of Lake Pedder in Tasmania, Australia and the Tatshenshini-Alsek River System in Canada and the USA (both in Buenos Aires, 1994), protection of the Macal River Valley in Belize (Amman, 2000), and conservation of Chilean Patagonia (Jeju, 2012), among others. Reiterating a call for environmentally sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin (Montreal, 1996), a Resolution was adopted in Bangkok (2004) to promote responsible management of **water resources in the Mekong Delta.** One of first international projects to document the negative impacts of the extreme hydrological manipulation of the Mekong Delta, IUCN was involved in drafting the 2013 Mekong Delta Plan that has set the basis for a complete rethink of land and water use in the delta.

IUCN Members have long been aware of the potential effects that dams can have on the environment and several Resolutions have dealt with this sensitive issue. **Dam construction, irrigation and water diversions** were the subject of a Resolution adopted in Buenos Aires (1994), and led to the **World Commission on Dams** (WCD), a multi-stakeholder body initiated by the World Bank and IUCN in 1997 and formally established in 1998. The WCD was tasked to review the development effectiveness of large dams and assess alternatives for water resources and energy development, as well as develop internationally acceptable criteria, guidelines and standards. In Amman (2000), IUCN Members urged governments at all levels to support WCD recommendations. In Jeju (2012), IUCN engagement with dams was renewed with a Resolution on **dams and hydraulic infrastructure** when it called upon governments and states to commit to an international policy framework on dams, including the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP). IUCN currently sits on the governance committee of the HSAP.

Private sector

For decades, IUCN Members have recognised the essential role the business sector must play in supporting conservation and sustainable development. Back at the Perth General Assembly in 1990, a Resolution raised awareness of the need for environmental standards and a 'code of conduct' for the corporate sector.

Several years later, in Buenos Aires (1996), Members voiced their desire for IUCN to take a leading role in this sector when they called for a productive relationship between IUCN and the private sector. Further strengthening this, Members agreed that IUCN should take measures to influence private sector actions in favour of biodiversity (Bangkok, 2004).

IUCN has continued to influence the business sector, for example, by:

RESOLUTIONS

- Encouraging **transnational corporate compliance** in all operations, whether in the home country or offshore (Montreal, 1996)
- Urging all governments and financial institutions impacting biodiversity to protect and **respect all protected areas**, including international designations (Amman, 2000)
- Developing **guidelines for conservation organisations working with the private sector** (Barcelona, 2008)
- Reducing the **impacts of infrastructure and extractive industries on protected areas** (Barcelona, 2008)
- Recognising **green growth as a sustainable strategy** for nature conservation and economic development (Jeju, 2012)
- Strengthening **corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting** (Hawai'i, 2016)
- Adopting and encouraging implementation of the first **global policy on biodiversity offsets** (Hawai'i, 2016).

Of particular global importance is the Resolution passed in Barcelona in 2008, which included a call to consider certification of the extractives industry. Talks with the industry gained traction and at the 2012 Congress, Nespresso and other major aluminium producers and users announced they would join leaders from different sectors under the umbrella of the **Aluminium Stewardship Initiative** (ASI) to create a new Performance Standard for the industry. IUCN was asked to lead the standard-setting process, which it completed in December 2014. Now an independent organisation, ASI plans to launch a robust certification programme for the industry in 2018.

Another IUCN engagement today can be traced back to a 2004 Resolution adopted in Bangkok that highlighted the threats from Olympic Games and other major sporting events to protected areas and biodiversity. This Resolution underscores the establishment of a multi-year engagement between IUCN and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which aims to support the integration of biodiversity into the Candidate Cities' bids, and the development of guidelines on the mitigation of biodiversity impacts in all sport venues and events.

A number of Resolutions adopted in Hawai'i (2016) will undoubtedly impact the way the corporate sector does business in the future. One Resolution called on businesses to contribute actively to the implementation of the **CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets**, and to integrate biodiversity into their strategies and activities with the aim to transform their economic models. Another Resolution called for a discussion paper and draft IUCN policy on **natural capital**, and active participation by IUCN Members, Commissions and partners in the conceptual development and practical implementation of natural capital approaches. IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme is leading IUCN's response in both instances.

Also in Hawai'i, for the first time, Members called on business to respect all land and seascapes classified under any of IUCN's categories of protected areas as 'off limits' for damaging industrial activities – such as mining, oil and gas, agriculture – and infrastructure developments – such as dams, roads and pipelines. Prior to this, only World Heritage sites have been formally recognised as no-go areas.

Most notable, however, is the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress outcome document known as the **Hawai'i Commitments**, which identified private sector engagement as one of the top five challenges requiring urgent action. This declaration will certainly influence IUCN Members and further engage business to help conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, while ensuring that their use of natural resources is more equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Climate change

In the 1960s, global-level recognition of the linkages between human activities, the climate and nature was limited. At the IUCN General Assembly in Warsaw, Poland (1960), IUCN was among the first international organisations to flag the “impact of man and modern technological development on nature and natural resources”. IUCN Members expressed deep concern about these impacts and called for more research on the “interrelationships of the climate, soil, vegetation and fauna”.

By the 1980s the scientific community had reached a consensus that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were driving global warming. In San Jose, Costa Rica in 1988, IUCN built on this wide agreement amongst scientists with a Resolution calling for cooperation among international environmental organisations including the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (which later established the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change) for research into and analysis of the greenhouse effect, and the development of practical solutions to mitigate the consequences of global warming and minimise negative environmental impacts.

At the IUCN General Assembly in Perth, Australia (1990), IUCN Members called on national governments to begin negotiations on an effective “Framework Convention on Climate Change”. They also urged developed countries to reduce their emissions by at least 20 per cent by the year 2000 and all countries to end deforestation by 2010 and take measures to optimise the carbon storage capabilities of forests. Two years later, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, also known as the Earth Summit, 165 countries signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which aimed to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent human-caused climate change.

With a foundation in place, IUCN continued to bring climate-related issues to the spotlight. Acknowledging that forests, oceans and other natural systems all play an important role in enhancing adaptation strategies, work has spanned all sectors:

RESOLUTIONS

- Climate change and biodiversity (Montreal, 1996)
- Climate change mitigation and land use (Amman, 2000)
- Climate and energy (Amman, 2000)
- Climate change and human rights (Barcelona, 2008)
- Adaptation to climate change of coral reefs and marine ecosystems and people that depend on them (Barcelona, 2008)
- Deforestation and land degradation related to climate change and desertification (Barcelona, 2008)
- Ecosystem management for disaster risk reduction (Jeju, 2012)
- Food security, ecosystem restoration and climate change (Jeju, 2012)
- Protected areas as natural solutions to climate change (Jeju, 2012 and Hawai‘i, 2016).

The importance of cross-sectoral work was underlined in a Resolution adopted at the 2012 World Conservation Congress (Jeju) that has been guiding IUCN’s climate change work since. This Resolution advocated **nature-based solutions** to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and emphasised their potential to contribute towards addressing this global challenge. Nature-based solutions are a sustainable and cost-effective way to mitigate and adapt to climate change, secure water, food and energy supplies, reduce poverty and drive economic growth. IUCN works on nature-based solutions to climate change at global, national and local levels including through Forest Landscape Restoration (including the Bonn Challenge), various REDD+ projects, the Blue Carbon Initiative, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, eco-disaster risk reduction, and climate change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs). Nature-based solutions are an integral part of a lasting climate solution.

The culmination of decades of negotiations for a legal instrument applicable to all Parties to reduce GHG emissions came in 2015 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, when 195 countries adopted the landmark **Paris Agreement** with the aim of enhancing global action to address climate change. At the 2016 World Conservation Congress (Hawai‘i), IUCN Members were proactive in uniting high-level decision makers from government and business with climate and nature science experts to discuss and decide how to move the Paris Agreement into action.

While this brochure has given only a small taste of

the impact of IUCN's Resolutions,

it has also demonstrated that IUCN has long been at the forefront of the conservation movement, indicating important new ways of finding progress in an increasingly complicated world, seeking international cooperation through environmental conventions, and recommending effective approaches to seeking a healthy environment that can enhance human well-being.

PREVIOUS IUCN CONGRESSES AND MEMBERS' ASSEMBLIES

2016	Hawai'i, USA	**Mr. Xinsheng Zhang**, re-elected President	**[China]**
2012	Jeju, Republic of Korea	**Mr. Xinsheng Zhang**, elected President	**[China]**
2008	Barcelona, Spain	**Dr. Ashok Khosla**, elected President	**[India]**
2004	Bangkok, Thailand	**Mr. Valli Moosa**, elected President	**[South Africa]**
2000	Amman, Jordan	**Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse**, re-elected President	**[Ecuador]**
1996	Montreal, Canada	**Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse**, elected President	**[Ecuador]**
1994	Buenos Aires, Argentina	**Dr. Jay Hair**, elected President	**[USA]**
1990	Perth, Australia	**Sir Shridath Ramphal**, elected President	**[Guyana]**
1988	San José, Costa Rica	**Dr. Monkombu Swaminathan**, re-elected President	**[India]**
1984	Madrid, Spain	**Dr. Monkombu Swaminathan**, elected President	**[India]**
1981	Christchurch, New Zealand	**Professor Mohamed Kassas**, re-elected President	**[Egypt]**
1978	Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan	**Professor Mohamed Kassas**, elected President	**[Egypt]**
1975	Kinshasa, Congo (DRC)	**Dr. Donald Kuenen**, re-elected President	**[Netherlands]**
1972	Banff, Canada	**Dr. Donald Kuenen**, elected President	**[Netherlands]**
1969	New Delhi, India	**Dr. Harold Coolidge**, re-elected President	**[USA]**
1966	Lucerne, Switzerland	**Dr. Harold Coolidge**, elected President	**[USA]**
1963	Nairobi, Kenya	**Dr. François Bourlière**, elected President	**[France]**
1960	Warsaw, Poland	**Professor Jean Baer**, re-elected President	**[Switzerland]**
1958	Athens, Greece	**Professor Jean Baer**, elected President	**[Switzerland]**
1956	Edinburgh, UK	**Professor Roger Heim**, re-elected President	**[France]**
1954	Copenhagen, Denmark	**Professor Roger Heim**, elected President	**[France]**
1952	Caracas, Venezuela	**Dr. Charles Bernard**, re-elected President	**[Switzerland]**
1950	Brussels, Belgium	**Dr. Charles Bernard**, re-elected President	**[Switzerland]**
1948	Fontainebleau, France	**Dr. Charles Bernard**, elected President	**[Switzerland]**

World Conservation Congresses began in 1996 in Montreal. Previously, IUCN Members convened during General or Members' Assemblies.

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