

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Commission on Education

To members and prospective members of the Commission on Education of IUCN.

Many of you have raised questions such as: What are the criteria for membership? What is the process for becoming a member? What am I supposed to do as a member? What benefits do I receive by being a member? And a related question: What can I do as a member that I could not have done otherwise?

This booklet is an attempt to answer these and other related questions. It is a supplement to the existing brochure which describes the Commission, its method of working and what it does, in very general terms. I suggest you read the brochure first.

The booklet also represents a first – and hence an incomplete – attempt to describe the structure, function and organization of the Commission and in particular the role played by Regional and National Committees in carrying out the programme of the Commission.

I hope you find it useful and will bring to my attention ways to improve it.

Sincerely,
Albert V. Baez
Chairman, IUCN Commission on Education
January, 1983





The Commission on Education of IUCN is an international group of volunteers dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through a strategy of education which promotes conservation and sustainable development – worldwide. The goal of the Commission is to make policy makers, educators and the general public aware of the need to protect the environment and use its resources wisely, and to motivate participation in activities which will attain this goal to the benefit of present and future generations.

What is IUCN?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) was established in 1948 to promote scientifically-based action directed towards the protection and sustainable use of living resources. It is an independent, international non-governmental organization with 497 members from 111 nations, including 57 sovereign states, 119 governmental agencies and 291 non-governmental organizations. IUCN has six Commissions – Ecology, Education, Environmental Planning, Species Survival, Environmental Policy, Law and Administration and National Parks and Protected Areas, each comprising a body of volunteer experts who make major contributions to the development and execution of the IUCN Programme. Together they constitute a global network of over 1,500 scientists and professionals. IUCN carries out a substantial programme of monitoring, planning, promoting and offering assistance to governments, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. This programme is based upon the authoritative information and advice provided by IUCN members and Commissions with whom they and the IUCN Secretariat (located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland), are in contact.

Other elements of IUCN's structure are the **General Assembly** which meets once every three years, the **Council** which usually meets at least once a year, the **Bureau** and the **Director General**, its chief executive.

The single most significant event for IUCN in recent years was the completion of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) in 1980 and the new direction it provided to the substance of the IUCN programme. It bridges the gap between conservation and development and provides guidelines for all IUCN programme activities.

What is the Commission on Education of IUCN?

The function of the Commission as stated in the Statutes and Regulations of IUCN are:-

- i to bring to the attention of the General Assembly and the Council any matter within their specialized fields of competence they deem advisable relating to the policy and the programme of work of IUCN;

- ii to provide advice within their specialized fields of competence on any matter referred to them by the General Assembly, the Bureau or the Director General;
- iii to undertake tasks within the approved programme of work of IUCN assigned to them by the Council, the Bureau or the Director General, respecting always the agreed policy of IUCN, any guidelines laid down by the Council or the Bureau, and the accountability of the Director General.

The Commission on Education (EduC) was established in 1949, a year after the founding of the Union. The Commission is an international, voluntary group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through educational programmes that promote conservation and sustainable development throughout the world. Its broad aim is to help the general public understand the need to protect the environment and use natural resources wisely, and to motivate participation in activities which will attain this goal to the benefit of present and future generations.

What are the Commission's objectives?

To stimulate the general public and selected groups, through education, to act for environmental improvement by generating an understanding of, and commitment to, environmental ethics and objectives.

In order to achieve this objective, the Commission on Education aims:

- to emphasize the relevance of conservation to the quality of life;
- to assist in developing and implementing activities which would provide educational resources to the priority projects identified by IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);
- to promote educational and training programmes which foster environmental competence through greater awareness, understanding and a system of values consistent with the principles of conservation;
- to stimulate and collaborate with national and international bodies at governmental and non-governmental levels in pursuing such educational programmes; and
- to maintain a worldwide overview of environmental education and training.

What is the Target Population of the Commission?

The Commission on Education's activities are directed towards policy-makers and planners, educators, young people both in and out of school, and the public in general. In order to avoid duplication of efforts with other international organizations it will initially focus on non-formal education. The Commission recognizes that different approaches are needed for different groups and it encourages the appropriate use of a variety of media, including radio, television, films and multi-media presentations.

What are the Commission's Activities 1982-1984?

In the present triennium, the Commission on Education intends to emphasize the following activities:

- Provision of a network for the dissemination of information about international environmental education materials and resources. Existing IUCN materials will be made available to Commission members to be utilized as they are or to serve as bases for developing new materials suited to the needs of different regions or nations. Important environmental issues will continue to be identified and drawn to the attention of educators.
- Promotion of activities supporting the immediate priorities of IUCN and its Commissions. Activities will be encouraged which relate to short-term promotional campaigns of WWF, such as those on the tropical forests, primates and plants. The Commission will also encourage the development of programmes which focus on global commons, global programmes for the protection of genetic resources and dry-lands, and be ready to take part in joint projects with other IUCN Commissions.
- Promotion of an awareness and understanding of the World Conservation Strategy through the preparation of materials adapted to the needs of different target groups. International effort will, for the present, be directed mainly towards decision makers and out-of-school youth and adults, while regional and national efforts may be directed more broadly.

Besides providing a network and promoting activities the Commission executes a programme which is part of the entire approved IUCN programme.

What is the Structure of the Commission?

The Officers of the Commission are the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman. The Commission's Executive Officer co-ordinates the Commission's activities from IUCN headquarters in Gland.

Commission members are currently drawn from 89 countries and are approved by the Chairman and ratified by the IUCN Council to serve on the Commission in their individual capacity for an interval between successive General Assemblies. Members are active in all aspects of environmental education and include policy-makers, scientists, educators, youth leaders, mass communicators, museum directors and others.

What is the Steering Committee?

This is an executive body which makes policy decisions and plans and co-ordinates the work of the Commission. It consists of the officers of the Commission and a small group of members selected by the Chairman.

The current members of the Steering Committee are: V Galushin (USSR), E Laing (Ghana), R Luti (Argentina), M Maldague (Canada), M.A Partha Sarathy (India), E Szalay-Marzo (Hungary), J Pieters (the Netherlands), W Stapp (USA), the Officers A Baez, J Marton-Lefevre, and the Executive Officer N Dajani.

Chairman of national and regional committees of EduC are ex-officio members.

Criteria for selection of Steering Committee members have included, in addition to wide geographical representation and variety in areas of educational experience, continuity of membership, competence in a relevant field, influence in the area of environmental education, time to devote to the Steering Committee work, the ability to travel and attend at least one Steering Committee meeting per year and the ability to work in a team. The term of membership is the same as that for the EduC members expiring at the time of the General Assembly

with the possibility of reappointment by the Chairman.

Further details may be found in the Statutes and Regulations of the IUCN.

What are the responsibilities of Commission Members?

Members are asked to provide the Commission with brief annual reports of their own activities related to environmental education. In addition, members are asked to:

- screen and evaluate potential Commission projects;
- be prepared to assist the Commission in specific tasks, upon request;
- contribute articles to environmental education publications; and
- suggest new projects to be undertaken by the Commission.

What does the Commission provide to its members?

The Commission provide members with:

- a framework within which to carry out international environmental education activities;
- copies of the IUCN Bulletin containing news of the Commission;
- copies of the annual reports submitted by all Commission members;
- a list of names and addresses of all Commission members;
- copies of the completed Commission projects; and
- the services of a clearing-house operated by the Executive Officer in Gland.

Commission members are invited to participate in Commission meetings which are held periodically in different parts of the world. The last two Commission meetings were in Sweden in 1980 and in New Zealand in 1981, and meetings are provisionally planned for 1983 in Cameroon and 1985 in India.

Regional and National Committees

In addition to adhering to the Commission in their individual capacity, members of the Commission are encouraged to form regional or national committees to tackle the wide variety of administrative and educational systems and environmental problems. If, however, already existing bodies at regional or national level carry out activities with objectives which are similar to those of the Commission on Education, Commission members are expected to associate themselves with them and thus act as focal points for the IUCN Commission on Education.

The purpose of regional or national committees is to help in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the IUCN Commission on Education. It is envisaged that the committees should have autonomy and flexibility and should operate on their own initiative, but maintain contact with the Commission through the Executive Officer, principally through periodic reports of activities.

The initiative for the formation of national committees should come from a member of the Commission in the country. Regional committees may be appropriate where distances are relatively small; where there are many shared problems, and where the solutions to these are likely to be similar. A simple exchange of letters with the Executive Officer will suffice to get the process of formation started. An officer of the Commission may be asked to preside at the meeting which formalizes the creation of a regional or national committee.

Members of National or Regional Committees should be chosen from several categories as follows:

- members of the Commission on Education;
- members of IUCN;
- educational and environmental scientists, teachers, researchers and authorities;
- institutions involved in pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education;
- practitioners in the arts mass-media;
- governmental organizations such as national parks, biosphere reserves and other protected areas;
- institutions such as zoos, botanical gardens and museums with an interest in environmental education;

- leaders of youth organizations concerned with environmental education.

The members of these committees should be selected with a view to represent national and regional organizations and the various aspects of environmental education.

The specific mandate, terms of reference, organization and structure of these committees should be decided by each national or regional committee concerned.

The co-ordinator of the national or regional committee should be a member of the Commission on Education. If the co-ordinator is not initially a member, he/she will be invited to become one.

The national or regional committees should seek to implement the objectives of the Commission on Education by carrying out programmes within their country or region. They are encouraged, in particular, to devise projects in line with the World Conservation Strategy.

To carry out the objectives of the Commission on Education and to implement the education components of the IUCN programme, the national and regional committees should engage in activities such as the following:

- carry out or contribute to selected projects of the Commission on Education's programme;
- submit yearly reports of their activities to the Executive Officer;
- propose or initiate other projects relevant to the programme of the Commission on Education;
- gather, co-ordinate and disseminate environmental education information from national, regional and international sources;
- co-ordinate efforts and integrate programmes with, when appropriate, other national and regional committees;
- act, upon request, as an advisory body to national authorities and organizations;
- assist the Commission on Education, whenever possible, in fundraising activities;
- propose additional members to the Commission.

It is imperative that effective two-way consultation between the Commission and the committees on all matters of mutual concern be maintained.

The following is a list of existing Regional and National Committees and their Chairmen:

Regional Committees

East Europe

North West Europe

National Committees

Argentina

Australia

Canada

China

Costa Rica

Czechoslovakia

Hungary

India

Ireland

Mexico

Nepal

Pakistan

Sultanate of Oman

Chairmen

Jaan Eilart

John Smyth

Chairmen

Ricardo Luti

Richard Jones

Louis Lemieux

Heun-pu Wang

Maria Zuniga-Chaves

Jiri Svoboda

Eniko Szalay-Marzso

Mandayam Partha-Sarathy

Ann Quinn

Hector Dominquez-Alvarez

Karna Sakya

Khalid Sheikh

Rawya Al-Busaidy

COMMISSION OFFICERS

**Honorary
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Mrs. Indira Gandhi
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Chairman:

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By funds from:

United Nations Environment Programme

- The Netherlands Government
- World Wildlife Fund
- Ciba-Geigy Foundation



The Commission on Education (EduC) is an international, educational group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through voluntary programmes that promote conservation and sustainable development throughout the world.
