IUCN Commission Mandates 2017–2020

Approved by the IUCN World Conservation Congress September 2016

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Mandate 2017–2020

1. Mission

To provide expert guidance on integrated approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems, in order to promote effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Consequent to the adoption of the "One IUCN Programme" concept, CEM will work closely with the Regional and Global Thematic Programmes at project, country, regional and global levels. Synergies with other Commissions will be a strong component of the CEM strategy. CEM will also work with other partners of IUCN in order to achieve its Mission in line with the overall mission of the Union.

2. Vision

Healthy, resilient ecosystems that conserve nature and sustain life.

3. Goal

Ecosystem approaches to natural resource management mainstreamed worldwide.

4. Objective

To promote the adoption of, and provide guidance for, ecosystem approaches to the management of landscapes and seascapes and build resilience of socio-ecological systems to address global changes.

5. Priorities and expected results

The Commission on Ecosystem Management has developed detailed plans for the next intersessional period. CEM will focus on working with the other components of IUCN (Members, other Commissions, Secretariat) to carry out the 2017-20 Programme, notably through the following priorities:

1. *Red List of Ecosystems (RLE).* This new development of the 2008–2012 intersessional programme has raised much enthusiasm among scientists and high expectations among policy makers. It is expected that the methodology will be submitted to Council for approval early in the next intersessional programme after which the work for a full coverage of the status of the earth ecosystems applying this methodology may start. Our vision is to create the first Red List of Ecosystems of the World prior to 2020, and so contribute to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 of being able to assess whether "the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, [has been] at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation [has been] significantly reduced."

2. *Resilience of Ecosystems and of the communities that depend on their services.* The Commission on Ecosystem Management/Ecosystem Management Programme (EMP) have developed a number of successful initiatives such as *Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) to Climate Change,* and *Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)* where IUCN has acquired a leading position. This work needs to be consolidated and developed further. Thematic

groups on *ecosystem services* and on *ecosystem restoration* will have to play an important role to support the work in resilience. For example, the work of the *Fisheries Expert Group* provides an innovative view on fisheries, promoting a more balanced harvest across the food-chain to promote more sustainable fisheries and a higher resilience of the fish-stocks.

3. *Specific Ecosystems and Biomes oriented activities.* CEM will support the activities of EMP in islands and drylands. CEM will continue to pay attention to the management of specific ecosystems such as steppes, Mediterranean ecosystems, wetlands, etc.

4. *Emerging issues.* Towards the end of the 2008–2012 programme, the need to address the conservation and sustainable management of oases have been identified, as well as the potential impact of seabed mining on island ecosystems. More attention needs to be paid to the aspects of ecosystem management and the private sector, as well as on urban ecosystems.

The table summarises the contribution of each of these products to the proposed intersessional IUCN Programme 2017–2020:

CEM/EMP product/theme	Valuing and conserving nature	Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges
Red List of Ecosystems	+++		
Resilience of Ecosystems		+	+++
Specific Ecosystems oriented actions	+	++	++
Emerging Issues	+	+	+

6. Structure and organization of the Commission

(a) ***Chair, Deputy Chair and Steering Committee***
The Commission is led by the Chair, who is elected by IUCN Members at Congress. The Chair is supported by a Deputy Chair and Steering Committee, appointed by the Council on recommendation of the Chair.

The Steering Committee provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of CEM's work. The Steering Committee also works to facilitate the establishment of CEM's thematic groups, identify and initiate fundraising opportunities, strengthen partnerships and promote membership. CEM holds two Steering Committee meetings every year, and where possible does so in conjunction with a related workshop.

(b) ***Regional Chairs and Theme Leaders***
Regional Chairs are appointed to achieve a geographical representation that is closely related to the IUCN Programmatic Regions (*which do not necessarily match the IUCN Statutory Regions*), as well gender, ethnic and expertise diversity. Regional Chairs liaise with Commission and IUCN Members in their region, and with the Regional Secretariat focal points. Regional Chairs provide leadership and guide the development and implementation of CEM's work within their region. They also promote establishment of regionally-based specialist groups, facilitate membership growth and foster initiatives for training and capacity building in the region.

Theme Leaders direct efforts by interested Commission members for each of the thematic groups. Thematic groups can be organized around specific ecosystems (e.g. oasis) and instruments and aspects of ecosystem management (e.g. ecosystem restoration).

(c) *Members*

CEM will continue to strengthen its membership to make it more representative in professional, geographic and gender terms. Members will be encouraged to form thematic groups and task forces to implement the CEM programme and address emerging issues. CEM will promote collaborative work with strategically chosen partners.

(d) *HQ and Regional focal points*

CEM and EMP will operate jointly as two sides of the same coin with the Chair of CEM and the Head of the Ecosystem Management Programme ensuring the integration of the EMP/CEM programme with other programmes of the Union and with IUCN's Regional Offices.

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Mandate 2017–2020

VISION

A world that values nature for all.

MISSION

To strengthen the work of the Union through creative, innovative, and effective communication and education, ultimately influencing social and behavioural change for conservation and sustainability.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

CEC recognises that the science and resulting conservation policies supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will only be successful if those that receive the information are aware, knowledgeable, engaged in constructive dialogue and motivated to action by its findings.

The Commission undertakes its Mission through engaging its Members' expertise, research and actions by:

A. sharing best practices in conservation communication for various audiences and regions;
B. building capacity in the areas of education and communication;
C. applying and expanding the use of behavioural change methodologies and research to improve communication;
D. sharing strategies for how best to capitalise on delivery methods such as social media;
E. strengthening intergenerational partnerships that promote knowledge transfer;
F. encouraging engagement from youth and young professionals;
G. supporting projects that introduce children to nature;
H. implementing activities and strategies to reach new or expanded audiences (e.g. urban);
I. working closely with other Commissions and the Secretariat to advance IUCN interests;
J. convening IUCN Members and experts to identify areas of interest and opportunity; and
K. creating a strong and deep global network of volunteers dedicated to raising awareness and engaging new audiences in support of conservation.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

As shown in Table 1, the Commission's work will focus on three priority areas that contribute directly to IUCN's three Programme Areas.

Table 1

CEC Program Priority	Valuing and conserving nature	Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges
#NatureforAll—Implement a global campaign to inspire a love of nature through raising awareness and motivating people (especially youth) to embrace nature and its value, as well as experience and connect with nature, despite the diversity of its actors and interests.	Create a community of practice to support a successful global campaign to inspire new love, appreciation and connection with nature	Leverage the #NatureforAll global campaign to reach and educate larger and more diverse audiences on the important topic of effective and equitable governance of natural resources	Leverage the #NatureforAll global campaign to reach and educate larger and more diverse audiences on the important topic of nature-based solutions and their role in addressing social challenges
Communications Connect—Establish a virtual service centre facilitated by CEC experts to share information, guidance, tools and access to experts to respond to needs for education (e.g. sustainability), communications and behavioural change capacity.	Enable easy access to local, regional and/or leading communications and education experts and/or services to assist in expanding awareness and support for valuing and conserving nature	Enable easy access to local, regional and/or leading communications and education experts and/or services to assist in expanding awareness and support for effective and equitable governance of natural resources	Enable easy access to local, regional and/or leading communications and education experts and/or services to assist in expanding awareness and support for nature-based solutions
Member Engagement—Implement a strategy to ensure that CEC members around the globe reflect the diversity of the Union, represent the skills and expertise in demand for capacity building, and are motivated and equipped to serve the Union.	Engage CEC members worldwide through social media and other avenues to support IUCN's communication, policy and strategies for valuing and conserving nature	Engage CEC members worldwide through social media and other avenues to support IUCN's communication, policy and strategies for promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	Engage CEC members worldwide through social media and other avenues to support IUCN's communication, policy and strategies for nature-based solutions

STRUCTURE

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair elected by the IUCN membership and a Deputy Chair appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The CEC Steering Committee is appointed according to the IUCN Statutes and Regulations and

assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in guiding and coordinating the activities of the Commission. How the Commission is organised to deliver results in the Programme Areas is at the discretion of the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and the Steering Committee as appropriate. The Steering Committee produces a yearly work plan showing areas of cooperation with regional, global and Commission programmes of the IUCN Programme.

The Chair also participates as a full voting member of the IUCN Council.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission has a diverse membership in terms of experience, specialities, disciplines, cultures, languages, geographical regions, ages and gender, bringing a wide range of skills, insights and opportunities to IUCN.

Membership includes leading conservation and environmental communicators with exceptional reach to broad audiences. Social scientists with experience in behavioural science, communications professionals, journalists, community leaders, young professionals and environmental educators are representative of the Commission's members.

Membership is voluntary and by invitation or through application. The broad scope of the Commission requires the extension and strengthening of capacity through increased membership, strategic partnerships, active fundraising and network mobilisation.

CEC member applicants must bring specific knowledge and experience of networks to one of the Commission's strategic areas; the Commission works towards a regional and gender balance in its membership and leadership.

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Mandate 2017–2020

VISION

A world where sustainability, social justice and equity are valued in nature conservation[1] and in development.

MISSION

To contribute to the IUCN Mission by generating and disseminating knowledge, mobilising influence, and promoting actions to harmonise the conservation of nature with the critical social, cultural, environmental, and economic justice concerns of human societies.[2]

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

The Commission undertakes its Mission through engaging its Members' policy and field-based research, expertise and actions to:

A. Identify, analyse and learn from policies and practices at the interface between the conservation of nature and the socioeconomic justice, environmental, cultural, and spiritual concerns of human communities.

B. Promote a holistic approach to nature conservation and environmentally sustainable development across IUCN, recognising complexities and promoting dialogue and collaborative learning based on respect for diverse values, knowledge and experience.

C. Conduct innovative and open research in all appropriate communities and thus provide timely responses to current environmental, economic and social policy issues identified by IUCN Members, Secretariat, Council and Commissions, by relevant international agreements, declarations and processes, and by human societies.

D. Provide advice on the policies and practices of public, private and civil society institutions and organisations regarding the conservation of nature, the promotion of biocultural diversity and the sustainable and equitable use of nature and natural resources.

E. Contribute to the implementation of the IUCN Programme and enhance the capacity of IUCN by promoting the participation of diverse cultures and constituencies and the inclusion of different forms of knowledge, experience and skills.

F. Support the participation and empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities and intergenerational leaders in all levels of conservation and development policy and practice.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

The Commission will contribute to knowledge generation and the implementation of IUCN's three Programme Areas through work focused on eight programme priorities. This work will be advanced through the strength CEESP brings to the Union, incorporating the diverse perspectives, expertise and experience of the CEESP membership.

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[1] Conservation is defined here as the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. [IUCN et al., *World Conservation Strategy*, 1980]

[2] "Human societies" is specifically recognised to include indigenous peoples, local non-indigenous communities and faith-based communities as well as concern for gender and intergenerational equality.

> **Programme Area: Valuing and conserving nature** enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both tangible and intangible values of nature.

1. Diverse values of nature: Promote critical reflection and enable continued learning and dialogue on diverse values and valuation of nature. This will include enhancing the capacity of communities and organisations to recognise the impact of diverse values of nature and their relationship to resource policies and legislation.

> **Programme Area: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources** consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.

2. Effective and equitable governance: Provide leadership and expertise to improve and promote good natural-resource governance principles at diverse levels and by different actors by convening fora for co-learning and by developing knowledge on effective and equitable governance; further develop the '*Natural Resources Governance Framework*' (NRGF) through a modular and regional approach.

3. Rights-based approaches to conservation: Advance the understanding and implementation of a rights-based conservation ethic in order to ensure respect for and promotion of human rights as they relate to nature conservation and environmentally sustainable development.

4. Sustainable and equitable peace, climate justice, and human security: Promote environmentally sound human security by networking and sharing knowledge and expertise within IUCN and with governments, civil society, and scientific and indigenous knowledge holders to understand the challenges and risks posed by conflict and climate change; to develop governance systems that are geared toward building sustainable and equitable peace and climate justice.

5. Gender equality in conservation: Strengthen the understanding of and promote the full achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of conservation and sustainable development policy and practice.

> **Programme Area: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges** expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.

6. People in Nature: Promote learning to improve our understanding of how nature contributes to local livelihoods and well-being. It will focus on material use while recognising that use is embedded within worldviews that include deep-seated cultural norms, values and understandings. It will also consider symbolic interrelationships with nature expressed through cultural narratives, language and traditions, including diverse understandings of sacred and divine aspects of nature and our relationship with natural resources. This work will contribute to valuing and conserving nature through understanding the value of nature to human societies.

7. Economic drivers of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss: Increase understanding of how economic drivers impact environmental policies in order to design and propose robust conservation strategies that dovetail with the objectives of social justice and the Sustainable Development Goals. CEESP will carry out critical analysis of the dynamics of these drivers in order to provide information and advice on the underlying forces within each category of drivers in order to advance alternative policies and solutions.

8. Culture, equity and heritage: Study and increase understanding of the relationships between culture, biocultural heritage and equitable governance in conservation, sustainable development, and environmental and cultural policy. Provide technical advice on evolving norms, policies and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and other protection efforts as well as assessments of proposed natural heritage sites, mixed natural and cultural sites, or cultural landscapes with particular attention to the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous peoples.

STRUCTURE

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair elected by the IUCN membership and a Deputy Chair appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee of CEESP is appointed according to the IUCN Statutes and Regulations and assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in guiding and coordinating the activities of the Commission. How the Commission is organised to deliver results in the programme areas is at the discretion of the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and Steering Committee as appropriate.

The Chair also participates as a full voting member of the IUCN Council.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission has a diverse membership in terms of disciplines, cultures, languages, geographical regions, spiritual traditions, ages and gender, bringing diverse perspectives, values and experiences to bear in debating, analysing and promoting the issues of concern to its Vision and Mission. Membership includes some of the world's foremost conservation and sustainable development practitioners, natural and social scientists, and traditional indigenous community leaders. Experts from major conservation and development organisations and young professionals with proven capacities in sustainable development at the community, national, regional and international levels also provide valuable contributions to the work of the Commission.

Membership is voluntary and by invitation or through application with the support of two existing Commission members. The broad scope of the Commission requires the extension and strengthening of capacity through increased membership, strategic partnerships, active fundraising and network mobilisation.

Species Survival Commission

Mandate 2017–2020

1. Mission

In the intersessional period of 2017–2020, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) will continue to play a leading role in enabling IUCN to be the world's most authoritative voice on behalf of global biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of natural resource use. In particular, SSC and its worldwide network are uniquely placed to enable IUCN to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity of biodiversity, and to ensure that the use of species is both equitable and sustainable, through:

- providing knowledge on status and trends of species;
- undertaking analyses of threats;
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning;
- catalysing action on the ground and in the water; and
- providing advice on ways to reconcile biodiversity conservation with economic development and societal changes.

2. Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to prevent the loss of diversity of life on earth.

3. Goal

The overriding Goal of the Commission is:

SSC will strive to ensure that the species extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility, and addressed by all sectors of society taking conservation action, and avoiding negative impacts worldwide.

4. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2017–2020 SSC, working in collaboration with Members, National and Regional Committees, other Commissions and the Secretariat, will pursue the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN's "One Programme" commitment:

a. Assessing and monitoring the status of biodiversity, especially at the species level
To assess and monitor trends in the status of biodiversity, especially at the species level, and to inform the world of the measures needed to improve the health of the biosphere.

b. Analysing and communicating the threats to biodiversity, especially at the species level
To analyse and communicate the threats to biodiversity at the species level, and disseminate information on appropriate conservation actions widely and effectively at global, regional, national and local levels.

c. Developing policies and guidelines to advance nature conservation
To develop evidence-based and scientifically-supported policies to guide the conservation community on the most critical issues facing the world's wild species, and to provide advice to influence and shape decisions made by governments, international agreements and institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the corporate sector that may affect species.

d. Facilitating conservation planning for species
To provide leadership in scaling up multi-stakeholder species conservation planning and priority setting in order to: i) support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat; and ii) to halt species extinctions by 2020.

e. Stimulating, facilitating, supporting and engaging in conservation action for species
To stimulate, promote and support conservation actions for halting biodiversity decline, preventing species' extinctions, and restoring and conserving intact habitats and ecosystems, both on the ground and in the water.

f. Reconciling biodiversity conservation with economic development and societal changes
To explore options, and provide guidance, on ways to reconcile the needs of nature conservation with the needs of people, particularly those of poor communities that live with wild species, with a view to seeing this reflected in biologically sustainable trade, use and consumption practices.

g. Convening expertise for species conservation
To provide a forum for gathering and integrating the knowledge and experience of the world's leading experts on species conservation science and management, and promoting the active involvement of subsequent generations of species conservationists through the transfer of knowledge and capacity building.

5. Programme Areas

The specific working priorities of SSC are derived from, and focused on, the three ***IUCN Programme Areas.*** Under each of these Programme Areas, SSC has Key Species Results (KSRs):

Programme Area: Valuing and conserving nature enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both tangible and intangible values of nature.

KSR1.   *IUCN Red List taxonomic and geographic coverage is expanded.* Taxonomic coverage of the Red List is expanded so that it better informs biodiversity conservation.
KSR2.   *More IUCN Red List assessments are prepared at national and, where appropriate, at regional scales.* The ongoing development of national and regional Red Lists is catalysed.
KSR3.   *IUCN Red List Index is widely used as an effective biodiversity indicator.* Wide use of the Red List Index (RLI) as an indicator for monitoring trends in the status of different species groups is developed and promoted at multiple geographical scales, from national to global.
KSR4.   *The IUCN Red List is a scientifically rigorous tool for conservation.* The Red List contains the necessary information to make it a reliable tool for informing biodiversity conservation.
KSR5.   *IUCN Red Listing capacity built through expanded training programmes.* Capacity developed to ensure that the IUCN Red List Criteria are applied rigorously and

consistently to increase further the credibility of the Red List and its implementation at the national level.

KSR6. *The IUCN Red List is underpinned by cutting-edge information management technologies.* The information technology infrastructure to support Species Strategic Plan objectives is enhanced.

KSR7. *The IUCN Red List is used effectively to inform policy and action.* The IUCN Red List data and information is increasingly used to inform policy and action in the private and public sectors.

KSR8. *The IUCN Red List is widely communicated and recognised.* The Red List is further developed as a global brand, applicable at multiple geographical scales, from national to global.

KSR9. *The IUCN Red List is sufficiently and sustainably financed.* Funds are secured to ensure the sustainability of the Red List.

KSR10. *Strategic oversight is provided to the IUCN Red List.* Strategic oversight for delivering the Red List is provided by the Red List Committee.

KSR11. *Measuring conservation success.* State-of-the-art methods for measuring and categorising the success of conservation are in place.

KSR12. *Population-level monitoring and analysis.* Monitoring programmes are established for selected species and groups of species.

KSR13. *Invasive species.* Measures to manage invasive species are greatly enhanced through focused efforts involving knowledge, policy and action.

KSR14. *Integrating IUCN Knowledge Products.* IUCN's key biodiversity knowledge products (e.g. Red List and World Database on Protected Areas) are fully integrated to allow interoperability, promote cost-effectiveness and maximise the delivery of information to guide conservation decisions.

KSR15. *IUCN SSC species conservation planning efforts are significantly expanded, especially for priority species.* A method for prioritisation of species planning is developed and more conservation action planning is undertaken to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

KSR16. *IUCN SSC species conservation planning efforts are monitored for impact and effectiveness.* Evaluation approaches are developed and implemented to measure, improve and report on the impact and effectiveness of IUCN SSC's species conservation planning efforts.

KSR17. *Species conservation planning capacity is built through expanded training programmes.* Capacity is developed to expand effective species conservation planning efforts throughout the SSC network and beyond, and ensure that these efforts are considered valuable and accessible to all relevant parties.

KSR18. *IUCN SSC provides rigorous guidance for species conservation planning through the continued development and application of cutting-edge, science-based tools and processes.* IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning features best practices using an adaptive, evidence-based approach, with application of tools and processes that contribute to, and are informed by, emerging scientific and technological advances in conservation biology and related fields.

KSR19. *IUCN SSC species conservation planning is sufficiently and sustainably resourced.* Funding and human resources are secured to ensure the growth and sustainability of IUCN SSC's species conservation planning.

KSR20. *The discipline of 'Species Conservation Planning' is formally embedded in SSC's organisational framework in a way that reflects its increasing importance to SSC's work.* A Species Conservation Planning structure is put in place, catalysing and guiding the governance and implementation of species conservation planning in SSC.

KSR21. *IUCN SSC is recognised as a leader in species conservation action planning.* IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning processes are increasingly adopted or built upon, and evidently guide conservation actions and influence policy.

KSR22. *Applying IUCN standard for identification of sites of global biodiversity conservation significance.* Biodiversity conservation action is improved through the application of the Key Biodiversity Area Standard.

KSR23. *Wildlife Health.* Wildlife health monitoring is in place where needed, and advice given on remedial actions required.

KSR24. *Re-introductions.* Information and advice service is in place to support species reintroductions.

KSR25. *Conservation breeding, and links to ex situ community.* Advice and facilitation is in place to support *ex situ* species recovery programmes.

KSR26. *Global and regional policy for biodiversity conservation.* Global and regional policy mechanisms are influenced to enhance the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation.

KSR27. *Policy and action at national and cross-boundary levels.* Scientific advice from SSC used to drive actions and policies for species and sites at the national level (linking to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and national red lists).

KSR28. *Communicating species conservation.* The effectiveness of IUCN's species conservation work is enhanced through strategic and targeted communications.

KSR29. *Building mutually-beneficial institutional partnerships for SSC Specialist Groups and the wider work of SSC.* Institutional partnerships enable species conservation efforts that are more strategic, sustainable and integrated.

KSR30. *Fostering conservation on land and in water.* Conservation is supported through existing and novel funding mechanisms.

KSR31. *Special initiatives to tackle major conservation crises.* Focused attention is brought to resolving major crises in biodiversity conservation.

KSR32. *Analyses and investigations into pressing conservation issues.* High profile scientific analyses and investigations that have wide implications are completed and published.

Programme Area: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.

KSR33. *Understanding and communicating sustainable use.* Greater common understanding is achieved of the theory and practice of sustainable use of biodiversity, and key linkages to human livelihoods; the importance of species to supporting livelihoods, particularly of the poor, is demonstrated; and innovative, experience-based and adaptive approaches to sustainable use are explored.

KSR34. *Conservation decisions and livelihood impacts.* Livelihood impacts of conservation decisions are analysed and communicated.

KSR35. *Traditional knowledge and species management.* Traditional knowledge is integrated with science in approaches to species assessment and management.

KSR36. *Enabling and implementing strategies for sustainable use.* Any use of living natural resources is legal and sustainable; sustainable use is recognised as a positive tool for achieving long-term conservation; and the importance of species to supporting the livelihoods of the poor is recognised by key stakeholders, leading to improved governance for people and nature.

KSR37. *Human wildlife interaction (including marine).* Livelihoods of people and species conservation are enhanced through improved human-wildlife interactions.

Programme Area: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and economic and social development.

KSR38.   *Biodiversity and climate change understanding.* Impacts of climate change on species and the response of species to climate change are documented, analysed and their vulnerability better understood.

KSR39.   *Biodiversity and conservation practice under climate change.* Approaches for conservation under changing climates are developed, tested and shared.

KSR40.   *Biodiversity and climate change policy.* Biodiversity considerations are taken into account in public and private sector adaptation and mitigation policies and practices at global and regional levels.

KSR41.   *Biodiversity and food production.* Biodiversity considerations are introduced into emerging policies in the food production sector (agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture).

KSR42.   *Maintaining genetic diversity of wild relatives of crops and domesticated animals.* The long-term supply of food resources is secured through the conservation of wild relatives of crops (CWR) and domesticated animals.

KSR43.   *Biodiversity information for public, private and financial sectors increases their commitment to nature conservation.* Biodiversity information is contributed to enhance positive impacts of these sectors on biodiversity and to reduce any negative impacts of their activities on biodiversity.

Under these KSRs SSC has developed a set of measurable ***Time-bound Targets*** to be attained by the end of 2020. Each KSR is also linked to the component of SSC in charge of implementing it (e.g. Steering Committee, particular Specialist Group) and a focal point responsible for reporting and monitoring results, working in all cases with the IUCN Global Species Programme, and in many cases with IUCN Members and the Red List Partner organisations.

6. Structure

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair elected by the IUCN membership and a Deputy Chair appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee of SSC is also appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair in accordance with the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. The Steering Committee assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in setting the strategic direction and providing oversight of the activities of the Commission. The Steering Committee delegates certain aspects of its work to specially designated Sub-Committees, which report to the Chair and the Steering Committee on a regular basis. The bulk of the work of SSC is implemented through its Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces and Working Groups. The roles of these entities are defined in the Bylaws of the SSC.

7. Membership

Membership of SSC is conferred by becoming a member of one of the Commission's sub-groups (e.g. Steering Committee, Sub-Committees, Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces, Working Groups). Membership of these groupings is voluntary and by invitation. SSC seeks to engage cutting-edge experts in all disciplines relevant to the conservation and management of biodiversity. It engages such people with due regard for diversity, be it in terms of gender, age, culture, language, nationality and expertise. By design, SSC members do not hold a common view on most conservation-related issues. Rather, SSC cherishes its diversity and fosters open, respectful, rigorous and evidence-based debate among its members.

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

Mandate 2017–2020

1. Mission

The mission of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is to assure the integrity and conserve the diversity of nature through the promotion of ethical, legal and institutional concepts and instruments that advance environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability (hereafter "sustainability") and to strengthen the capacity of governments, the judiciary, prosecutors, law schools and other stakeholders as they develop and implement environmental law.

2. Vision

WCEL's vision is a just society that values and conserves nature, supported and sustained by effective laws, with vital environmental stewardship systems at all levels of governance, including indigenous and local communities, that affirm the environmental rule of law and work toward ecological sustainability.

3. Goal

WCEL's goal is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to employ environmental law for restoring, conserving and sustaining nature, and assuring that uses of natural resources are equitable and ecologically sustainable, through:

a) advancing local, national, regional and international laws, administrative instruments and customary norms that are grounded in environmental ethics and further ecological sustainability;

b) conducting research to strengthen environmental law and undertaking capacity building to enable governments and stakeholders to actively participate in the international governance debate;

c) supporting the implementation of coordinated laws through institutions that respect the environmental rule of law and ensure effective compliance and enforcement;

d) providing a central world forum for integration of environmental law into all aspects of governance; and

e) creating and promoting partnerships to support implementation and enforcement of environmental rule of law and extending professional and expert networks dedicated to the legal foundations of ecological sustainability.

4. Objectives

WCEL will pursue its objectives in concert with the integrated programme of activities adopted by the World Conservation Congress in the IUCN Programme 2017–2020, and in cooperation with IUCN Members and components of the Union, through the Commission members and Specialist Groups, and in partnership with relevant international entities, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other expert environmental law organisations, law schools, associations of judges and environmental prosecutors, as well as judicial institutes and schools, in order to:

a) promote ethical and innovative legal concepts, legislation, and other legal instruments that conserve nature and natural resources to achieve sustainability;

b) build knowledge and apply scientific, technical and other capacity in all regions to enable governments to draft, enact and enforce environmental law in an effective manner;

c) work closely with the Secretariats of relevant Conventions and agreements that protect and conserve nature to support implementation and enforcement of those conventions and agreements;

d) build capacity and educate governmental officials, including judges and public prosecutors, and stakeholders at all levels on applying law and policy, improving access to information and justice, and facilitating public participation in environmental decision making to ensure that natural resources are managed equitably and sustainably;

e) engage with Members, National/Regional Membership Committees, and WCEL members to create robust environmental law knowledge networks;

f) collaborate with each of IUCN's other Commissions; and

g) collaborate with other components of the Union and Secretariat, especially the IUCN Environmental Law Centre and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, and partner institutions, including UNEP, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) and UNITAR, to provide education, information and knowledge on law and governance necessary to achieve ecological sustainability.

5. Structure

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair elected by the IUCN membership and a Deputy Chair appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee is also appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair in accordance with the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. The small Steering Committee assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in setting the strategic direction and providing oversight of the activities of the Commission.

6. Membership

Membership of WCEL is a fundamental part of its organisation. Before the Jeju Congress it had very few members from Africa and parts of Asia. After almost four years, the membership is much more global, with a great number of new members coming from Less Developed Countries.

7. Priorities

WCEL will implement its objectives through Programme priorities that further the IUCN Programme 2017–2020. WCEL's objectives will be implemented in an integrated way through its 2017 to 2020 Strategic Plan, expert membership, its network of collaborating centres of environmental law, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, the Union's Regional and National Committees and Offices, and other professional partnerships, as well as with UN institutions pursuant to the Union's UN observer status. Other partners include the Organization of American States, GLOBE International, INECE, the International Association of Judges, the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment. WCEL will address the following priorities, contingent on the availability of financial resources and through the voluntary contributions of expertise by its members and partners, in order to:

a) *Strengthen WCEL Specialist Groups* – WCEL will enhance the effectiveness of its Specialist Groups with particular emphasis (a) on priority legal thematic areas, including biodiversity loss; climate change, energy and biofuels; coastal and marine degradation; natural and cultural heritage conservation; desertification; natural resource management; ecosystem protection; agriculture; soils; freshwater and wetlands; mining; and (b) on cross-cutting themes such as environmental ethics, indigenous peoples, protected areas, Arctic and Antarctic polar governance, compliance and enforcement of environmental laws, the judiciary, and national and international financial institutions, and to respond to requests made by the World Conservation Congress.

> These Specialist Groups and themes contribute to ALL THREE Programme Areas (Valuing and conserving nature; Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; and Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges).

b) *Promote the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law* – WCEL will promote and collaborate closely with the Academy as the world's leading network of academic institutions, universities and professors engaged in the research and teaching of environmental law.

> Highest contribution to: Programme Areas 1 and 2

c) *Collaborate with Centres of Environmental Law* – WCEL will continue to recognise, promote and collaborate with Centres, Institutes of Environmental Law and other partners in building coordinated information, research, learning and capacity-building programmes on the legal aspects of biodiversity.

> Highest contribution to: Programme Area 2

d) *Knowledge, capacity building, and technical assistance* – WCEL will collaborate with all components of the Union, especially its Members, Regional Offices, the Environmental Law Centre, the Academy of Environmental Law, and other partners, including UNEP, Convention Secretariats and INECE, to develop international agreements and national legislation, and implementation programmes, particularly in less-developed countries and regions affected by armed conflicts.

> Highest contribution to: Programme Areas 1 and 2

e) *Promote 'good governance' and the environmental rule of law* – WCEL will work with IUCN Members, UN institutions, governments and other stakeholders to encourage and promote 'good governance' and institutions to respect the environmental rule of law.

> Highest contribution to: Programme Area 2

f) *Support the Judiciary* – WCEL will continue to work with the judiciary and relevant institutions, both international and national, including judicial institutes and associations of judges, to establish a global institute of environmental courts and tribunals, to build capacity in the judiciary to provide access to justice, effectively adjudicate environmental issues, and apply and enforce environmental law, and to provide legal reference services and information databanks, including ECOLEX, the Judicial Environmental Portal and INFORMEA, and promote the development and study of environmental jurisprudence.

> Highest contribution to: Programme Area 2

g) *Promote programmatic synergies among MEAs* – WCEL will work with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of more coherent implementation, especially at the national level, governments and stakeholders, and with other conventions, agreements and processes to identify and promote synergies among them and IUCN's mission and Programme.

Highest contribution to: Programme Area 2

h) *Strengthen the legal foundations of Conventions* – WCEL will study and undertake efforts to most effectively enhance the implementation and elaboration of multilateral environmental agreements and conventions related to natural resources, and provide expertise and capacity building for strengthening of national focal points, national implementation laws, including, for example, efforts to implement climate change-related commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Highest contribution to: Programme Area 2

i) *Study and advance the conceptual development of Environmental Law* – WCEL will research the application of new or emerging international and national legal and governance instruments and principles, including the Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development, the Earth Charter, the principle of non-regression and the principle of resilience.

Contribution to ALL THREE Programme Areas

j) *Sustainable Development Goals* – WCEL will study and undertake efforts with key partners to promote the implementation and strengthen the legal aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Contribution to ALL THREE Programme Areas

8. Expected results

WCEL's mission, objectives and priorities will contribute to achieving the IUCN Programme 2017–2020, especially in respect to its three Global Results. Some of the results will be of an **intangible nature**, difficult to measure in mathematical terms. However, WCEL expects that by 2020, it will have measurably contributed to:

a) the integration of environmental law knowledge with the scientific and policy expertise of the other Commissions;

b) enhanced collaboration with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of strengthened implementation of the different and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

c) the development and dissemination of environmental law expertise and networks worldwide;

d) the development of knowledge and expertise of environmental courts and tribunals through new and strengthened institutions, including the *Global Judicial Institute for the Environment*;

e) strengthening of the Early Career Group;

f) the annual colloquia and other programmes of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law;

g) mainstreaming the Union's effective use of environmental law in its Programme;

h) growth of the membership, particularly in countries or regions with few or no members; and

i)   the development of a communication strategy, especially designed for and targeted to the legal profession.

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Mandate 2017–2020

VISION

Protected Areas are recognised and valued both as cornerstones for conserving nature, and as natural solutions to global challenges, providing benefits to human health, livelihoods and well-being.

MISSION

To develop and provide scientific and technical advice and policy that promotes a representative, effectively-managed and equitably-governed global system of marine and terrestrial protected areas, including especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for 2017–2020, aligned with the *Promise of Sydney* adopted at the World Parks Congress 2014, are to:

1. catalyse and support global efforts to expand and effectively manage systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures to achieve the Aichi Targets for halting biodiversity loss, in particular through meeting Aichi Target 11;
2. recognise and mainstream protected areas as natural solutions to global challenges, such as climate change, land degradation, food and water security, health and well-being;
3. make the case for investment in protected area systems, supported by public policy, incentives, capacity development and sustainable funding;
4. inspire all people, across generations, geography and cultures to experience and value the wonder of nature through protected areas and to promote support for conservation of natural ecosystems;
5. use our acknowledged role as a key global knowledge-broker and standard setter for protected areas to support efforts to raise the standards and practices of protected area governance and management globally.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

The Commission will contribute to knowledge generation and the implementation of IUCN's three Programme Areas, working closely with the Global Protected Area Programme and World Heritage Programme on key priorities. This work will be advanced through the expertise that WCPA brings to the Union, incorporating the diverse perspectives and experience of the WCPA membership network.

Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature

(i)   WCPA recognises that to achieve the full potential of protected areas, and to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and particularly Aichi Target 11, as well as the SDGs, there is an urgent need to scale up protection of landscapes and seascapes to include all sites essential for the conservation of nature, especially in the oceans and other under-represented biomes, and to ensure their effective conservation.

(ii) WCPA will work with national partners in the design and completion of systems of ecologically representative and well-connected protected and other conserved areas.

(iii) WCPA will work with national agencies and partners to facilitate the effective management and equitable governance of protected areas, in line with country commitments to Aichi Target 11 and delivery of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

(iv) WCPA will develop and deliver tools, best practice guidelines and standards to build capacity and professionalise protected area management, including recognition of good management through the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

(v) Working with partners and communications experts (such as the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication), WCPA will advocate the value and benefits of well-managed systems of protected areas to build awareness of their multiple biological, social and economic, health and spiritual values to make the case for increased levels of investment in protected area establishment, expansion and effective management.

Programme Area 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources

(i) WCPA will promote the full range of governance types for protected and conserved areas, increased participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; and promote the values of protected areas for human well-being and livelihoods.

(ii) WCPA will provide leadership and expertise to improve and promote good governance in protected area management, including piloting of governance assessments and capacity building.

(iii) Working with the CBD and other partners, WCPA will develop guidance on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in support of Aichi Target 11 and IUCN Resolution 5.035 *Facilitating conservation through the establishment of protected areas as a basis for achieving Target 11 of the* Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (Jeju, 2012).

Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges

(i) WCPA will continue to work towards mainstreaming protected areas as "natural solutions" in addressing climate change, land degradation, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, and human health and well-being.

(ii) WCPA will continue to work with the Rio Conventions to position protected areas as an essential contribution to the objectives of all three conventions, and especially to replicate regional initiatives to incorporate protected areas into climate change and disaster risk strategies and national commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(iii) WCPA will build on priorities from the World Parks Congress and its *Promise of Sydney* to further explore and promote the linkages between healthy ecosystems and human health, especially exploring the linkages between protected areas, health and urban communities.

(iv) WCPA will underpin its work across all three programmes with a strong programme of capacity development and communication and outreach to demonstrate the relevance of protected areas to human welfare and well-being.

STRUCTURE

WCPA is led by the Commission Chair, supported by a Steering Committee and an operational structure including Task Forces and Specialist Groups that will contribute to the realisation of this mandate. They will be supported by the Global Protected Areas Programme and World Heritage Programme in the IUCN Secretariat and will work with IUCN Regional Offices, other Commissions and IUCN Members to realise IUCN's "One Programme" Charter.

MEMBERSHIP

WCPA will continue to develop a globally active and geographically representative network of expert volunteers to support programme implementation. Membership is voluntary and by invitation or application, with review by the regional vice-chairs. Membership includes some of the world's foremost conservation practitioners, including natural and social scientists, protected area managers, academics, young professionals, indigenous peoples and community leaders. The broad scope of work of the Commission requires the extension and strengthening of capacity through increased membership, strategic partnerships, active fundraising, and network mobilisation. The Commission works through specialist groups and task forces, with the collaboration of other IUCN Commissions on matters of mutual concern and interest.

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