IUCN Commission Mandates 2021–2024

Approved by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021
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Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Mandate 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

VISION
A world committed to protecting nature now and into the future.

MISSION
To strengthen the work of the Union through creative, innovative, participatory, responsive, and effective communication and education, as tools to effect positive social and behavioural change for the well-being of people and planet.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES
The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) recognises that knowledge is only useful in influencing conservation policies and actions if people are engaged in constructive dialogue and motivated to action by its findings.

The Commission undertakes its mission through engaging its members’ expertise, research and actions, including indigenous and traditional knowledge, to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IUCN Programme, the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and other emerging needs and priorities of IUCN.

It is envisioned that the following priority interventions will be undertaken within the entire framework of the IUCN Union, including working with the other five Commissions, the global Secretariat, and all categories of IUCN Member organisations. We will work to:

1. Support the Nature 2030 IUCN Programme as approved at the World Conservation Congress with a particular focus on ensuring communications, advocacy, education and social and behavioural change communications are integral elements of effective delivery;

2. Support the Union in helping create a global culture of conservation and care by sharing strategies and best practices and building capacity in conservation communication;

3. Strengthen the strategic work of the Union on nature education for sustainability, formal, non-formal and informal;

4. Apply and expand the use of behavioural change methodologies and research to improve conservation outcomes;

5. Strengthen partnerships that promote knowledge transfer across generations, genders, cultures, organisations and geographies, and in as many languages as possible;

6. Engage youth and young professionals to promote an inclusive youth-led movement for nature;

7. Leverage the power of the Union to implement activities and strategies to inspire diverse audiences (including but not limited to women and girls, urban communities, the private sector, universities and schools, journalists, legislators) to
connect with nature and act in favour of biodiversity conservation and nature-based climate solutions;

8. Celebrate CEC members’ success through an award system that recognises excellence in communication and education for conservation and sustainable development; and

9. Keep members abreast of the work of the Union and the opportunities to engage and collaborate.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Reimagine Conservation – Communication, social and behavioural change communications, and public awareness

- Support the Nature 2030 IUCN Programme’s commitment to Reimagine Conservation, by building and supporting initiatives that help connect people with the planet, at all levels. This will involve supporting the Union in designing and implementing a strategy to create a global culture of conservation and care.

- Champion collaborative processes with CEC members and the Union to develop tools for nature conservation:
  - Develop, adapt and share tools to support the Union in designing and implementing social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) campaigns;
  - Leverage the Union to design and implement public-facing campaigns for nature conservation, strengthen advocacy, and enhance IUCN communications; and
  - Create specific thematic strategies and programmes based on particular needs of the Union. These may include, but are not limited to, critical issues such as health and environment intersections; nature resource crime and the illegal trade in wildlife; and supporting environmental defenders.

#NatureForAll

- Lead the #NatureForAll global initiative in a continued partnership with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to connect people with nature and inspire broad-based public and cross-sectoral love, support and action for its conservation:
  - Connect, activate and facilitate strategic collaborations among the 450+ (and growing) #NatureForAll partner organisations;
  - Codify and disseminate partner resources to amplify their impact and scale up successful approaches;
  - Collaboratively develop tools and resources to support decision makers and UN-led campaigns to mainstream the connection between people and nature in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the SDGs, and other policies and programmes at all scales; and
  - Support local traditions, festivals, art and culture to help create a global movement for nature across generations, sectors and geographies.
Nature Education for Sustainability

- Champion collaborative processes with CEC members and the Union to develop a strategic approach to consolidate global work on education such as seeking to have nature fully integrated into all education approaches, formal non-formal and informal:
  - Develop, adapt and share methods to support the Union in designing and implementing educational tools and approaches that support nature conservation;
  - Support educational approaches globally as to make environment and sustainability issues form the core of experiential and service-based learning, citizen science and other informal approaches to nature education; and
  - Encourage, facilitate and create opportunities for CEC experts to share information, guidance, tools, and best practices in education for sustainable development (ESD) and conservation.

Youth mobilisation and intergenerational partnerships

- Work with the Union to connect and mobilise diverse youth across the world to advocate and act for nature conservation:
  - Build on the IUCN One Nature – One Future Global Youth Summit and Union-wide activities to enhance opportunities for youth to engage, innovate and build an inclusive youth-led movement for conservation;
  - Empower existing youth networks, young conservation leaders and young professionals to impact conservation policy; and
  - Foster mentorship, build capacity and enhance learning opportunities by and for youth.

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. The Chair, Deputy Chair, and Steering Committee are dedicated to creating a strong and deep global network of CEC members who are actively engaged in using creative, innovative, responsive, and effective communication and education as tools to effect positive social and behaviour change for the well-being of people and planet. The Steering Committee will strive to promote transparency and inclusive and participatory processes, and recognise regionally distinct approaches to programming, governance and collaboration.
MEMBERSHIP

The Commission has a diverse membership in terms of experience, specialties, 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 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

VISION
A world where sustainability, social justice, diversity and equity are valued in nature conservation¹ 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 by engaging IUCN Members, CEESP members and other stakeholders on 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, socioeconomic concerns, environmental justice, as well as cultural and spiritual concerns of human communities.

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

C. Conduct innovative research at multiple scales that provides timely responses to current environmental, economic and social policy issues identified by IUCN Members, staff, Commission members and partners in the field, such as environment and human health, population, migration, climate change and environmental human rights defenders.

D. Provide advice on the policies and practices of public, private and civil society institutions and organisations regarding conservation of nature, social and environmental justice, promotion of biocultural diversity, valuation and accounting for nature, sustainable and equitable governance, and 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, as well as the inclusion of different forms of knowledge, experience and skills.

F. Support and advocate for the full and effective participation and empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, intergenerational leaders and communities of faith in all levels of conservation and development policy and practice.

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 PRIORITIES

The Commission will contribute to knowledge generation and the implementation of IUCN’s Programme through work focused on eleven 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.

1. Health and well-being: Collate information and insights on the economic, political social and environmental implications of COVID-19 and other health crises. Disseminate principles and best practices for rescue, recovery and rebuilding to strengthen environmental and natural resource management for health and wellbeing, including the important role that IPLCs play in the prevention of ecosystem degradation for human health and well-being.

2. Rights-based approaches: Advance the understanding and implementation of a rights-based conservation ethic in order to ensure respect for and promotion of environmental, land and resource rights as well as cultural and human rights as they relate to nature conservation and environmentally sustainable development. Co-generate knowledge and appropriately support action that local people, government and conservation organisations and others can use to better understand and act upon their rights and responsibilities.

3. Environmental human rights defenders: Raise awareness of – and advocate for an end to discrimination against – indigenous peoples and local communities seeking to defend ecosystems, rights and culture through the development of dialogues, coalitions and legal support.

4. People and nature: Promote learning to improve our understanding of how nature contributes to local livelihoods, human health and well-being. This includes understanding material use while recognising that use is embedded within worldviews that include deep-seated cultural norms, values and understandings. It considers symbolic interrelationships with nature expressed through cultural narratives, language and traditions, including diverse understandings of sacred and divine aspects of nature and peoples’ relationship with natural resources. This includes diverse approaches to conservation and the importance of recognising the validity of different approaches if these are sustainable and supported by communities. This work will contribute to valuing and conserving nature through understanding the value of nature to human societies and support further development, implementation and learning for the People in Nature Knowledge Product.

5. Effective and equitable governance: Provide leadership and expertise to enable improved natural-resource governance, including through promoting principles of ‘good’ governance at diverse levels and by different actors that recognises and supports the diverse leadership and expertise of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth. This will include convening fora for co-learning, by developing and sharing knowledge on effective and equitable governance, together with further development, implementation, and learning from use of the Natural Resources Governance Framework (NRGF) knowledge product. This includes research and understanding around issues of illegal wildlife trade, crime, and illicit financial flows and corruption.

6. Gender equality in conservation: Strengthen the understanding of and promote the full achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment in conservation and sustainable development policy and practice, including gender-based violence and environmental linkages.
7. **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.

8. **Environment and peace:** Promote the prevention, management and resolution of social conflict as key for conservation through the establishment of inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms aimed at addressing social conflicts around conservation, resource use, environmental change and development activities that impact environments and ecosystems. Share and contribute knowledge that increases understanding on environmental policies and action that reduce conflict and improve security, especially in a context of environmental change. Contribute to current knowledge about the scale of impacts and interlinkages between environmental change, human and species migration and displacement and conflict.

9. **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 cultures, as well as their relationship to resource policies and legislation.

10. **Re-Thinking nature and economics:** CEESP will bring together a diverse set of economists to discuss, debate, and analyse the costs and benefits of sustaining natural ecosystems, the economic drivers of biodiversity loss, and to deepen knowledge around alternative economic models, such as circular and indigenous economies. Through this process, CEESP will increase the understanding of how these economic approaches influence and impact environmental policies and people in order to design and propose robust conservation strategies that dovetail with the objectives of social and environmental justice, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

11. **People and oceans:** Promote understanding and integration of the voices, visions, rights, and livelihood needs of coastal peoples and island nations into policies and practices related to the conservation and management of the oceans, especially through great attention to governance and social dimensions of marine protected areas, rights of small scale fishers and indigenous peoples on ocean governance and fisheries management, as well as equity and just issues in the blue economy.

**STRUCTURE**

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair, elected by the IUCN membership, and by 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 provide valuable contributions to the work of the Commission.

Membership is voluntary and by invitation or through application, usually with the support of a professional reference or 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.

MEMBERS

CEESP 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, task forces and regional nodes to implement the CEESP programme and address emerging issues. CEESP will promote collaborative work with strategically chosen partners.

CEESP AND THE SECRETARIAT

CEESP and the Global Programme on Governance and Rights (GPGR) will operate jointly as two sides of the same coin with the Chair of CEESP and the Head of the Global Programme on Governance and Rights ensuring the integration of the CEESP/GPGR programme with other programmes of the Union and with IUCN’s Regional Offices.
Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Mandate 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

Under the Union’s “One Programme Charter”, the Commission on Ecosystem Management’s (CEM) network of volunteer conservation scientists, experts, and managers, will contribute to the Union’s work through an array of thematic groups, specialist groups and task forces. Collectively, these volunteer specialists will provide the scientific and authoritative advice to IUCN’s Programme as it relates to the management, restoration, and sustainable use of the world’s ecosystems. All Commission contributions shall be in the context of the Ecosystem Approach as adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

With the adoption of the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, the Commission will work closely with IUCN’s regional and global programmes at project, country, regional and global levels.

Promoting synergies and collaborations with other Commissions and partners will be a strong component of the CEM strategy.

1. Mission
To develop and share expert guidance on ecosystem-based approaches to management and sustainable use of natural and modified ecosystems to achieve biodiversity conservation, address climate change impacts, contribute to human well-being and promote sustainable development.

2. Vision
Productive and resilient ecosystems worldwide that contribute to human well-being, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

3. Goal
Ecosystem-based approaches to management of socio-ecological systems and natural resource management mainstreamed worldwide.

4. Objective
To promote the adoption and provide guidance for ecosystem-based approaches to the management of landscapes and seascapes and enhance the resilience of or transform ecosystems as deemed necessary to address global changes.

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1 Endorsed by the IUCN Council (76th Meeting, May 2011) and adopted by the Members at the 2012 World Conservation Congress (Decision 19).
5. Focus
In pursuit of our goal and objective, the Commission in collaboration with relevant Secretariat programmes, other Commissions, and partners, will work aligned with the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, through the following:

- **Knowledge products** that respond to needs related to assessment of risk, management, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems will be developed and shared as a contribution to the development of Nature-based Solutions.
- **Advice, guidance and tools will be provided to indigenous peoples and local communities** to empower their management, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems to meet local needs and foster their well-being.
- **Science-based authoritative advice and guidance** will be made available to policy makers and implementing authorities from local to global levels that pertain to the governance, management, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems.

6. Priorities to deliver the IUCN Programme 2021–2024
The Commission on Ecosystem Management’s plans for the next intersessional period are framed around six main priority areas that are aligned with, and will contribute to, the IUCN Programme 2021–2024. Around these main areas, the Commission includes specific relevant themes that have worked previously and where the Commission has expert knowledge. The six main priority areas for 2021–2024 are:

a. **Ecosystem Risk Assessment** – The **Red List of Ecosystems** will continue to serve as the Commission's flagship commitment to ecosystem risk assessment and documentation of the status of the world’s ecosystems. Specifically, the Commission will:
   - Continue to support national and regional ecosystem assessments.
   - Continue to develop a Global Typology of Ecosystems to facilitate communications and understanding of the status of ecosystems and support the global Red List of Ecosystems.
   - Assess the efficacy of an array of possible subsidiary benefits from the assessments, including:
     - Links between human health and well-being and the status of ecosystems.
     - Reporting on 2030 CBD Targets and Sustainable Development Goals; the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and other relevant international related agreements.
     - Links between natural capital accounting and ecosystem risk assessments.

b. **Ecosystem Restoration** – The Commission will support efforts to restore ecosystems, particularly in relation to achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, as well as restoration goals advanced through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, other UN conventions, and the Bonn Challenge. Emphasis will be on:
   - Promoting international standards for the practice of ecological restoration.
   - Facilitating communication, capacity building and knowledge sharing through webinars, workshops, and discussion fora.
   - Providing guidance and technical support to policy makers and ecosystem managers regarding the design, implementation and monitoring of restoration projects, programmes, and policies.
c. **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** – The Commission will continue promoting the development and implementation of Nature-based Solutions to address global, societal challenges. Specifically:

- Advice and assist the application in the development of a standard approach to NbS that can be globally.
- Facilitate the development of guidelines that support the application of standards, protocols, and other parameters of NbS worldwide.
- Compile, manage, and share lessons learned from the application of NbS at the local, national, and international levels.

d. **Cultural Practices and Ecosystem Management** – The Commission will continue to ensure that values and roles of culture and cultural practices support biodiversity conservation, nature’s contributions to people, ecosystem management and transformative change. As a priority the Commission will provide expert knowledge and guidance by:

- Showing good practices for incorporating, maintaining and enhancing cultural diversity in relation to ecosystem management.
- Assessing how different cultures contribute to climate change, and how their cultural knowledge and practices are impacted by it; and ways to incorporate cultural practices into Nature-based Solutions.
- Working to understand the cultural underpinnings of transformative change, and how previous transformations have been helped or hindered by cultural beliefs and practices in contribution to the post-2020 biodiversity agenda.

e. **Ecosystem Governance** – Equitable governance of the world’s ecosystems is essential if we are to meet the challenges of the UN Decades for Ecosystem Restoration and for Ocean Science and Sustainable Development, the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Commission will:

- Develop principles for ecosystem governance that enhance resilience and transformational change of social ecological systems.
- Develop good practices through case studies that can provide advice and guidance to policy makers and implementing bodies on how to achieve equitable governance of socio-ecological systems.
- Develop guidance to be provided to ecosystem managers about governance requirements that sustainably use nature’s contributions that are necessary to meet human needs.

f. **Socio-ecological Resilience and Transformation** – Land-use conversion, pollution, and many other aspects of human activity are permanently degrading the ecosystems upon which people depend for clean air, clean water, food, and industry. Climate change is also making the transformation of entire systems more common. Sustaining and restoring nature’s diverse contributions to people requires the adoption of systems-based approaches to planning and management that better account for the complex linkages between ecology and society, and better enable us to reform, adapt, and transform. For these reasons, the Commission will develop technical and applied research, case studies, and other tools that:

- Increase familiarity with the application of the social-ecological systems concepts of resilience, adaptation, and transformation to practice.
• Integrate systems concepts and practice with the Commission’s other five priorities, and advise management and policymaking generally.
• Improve the ability of IUCN to build system resilience, adapt to the impacts of climate change and other human-induced impacts on nature and society, and navigate the transformation of entire social-ecological systems.

7. Structure and organisation of the Commission
   a. Chair, Deputy Chair and Steering Committee
      The Commission is led by the Chair, who is elected by IUCN Members at the World Conservation 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 through the operational structure of technical groups, regional coordination, and task forces for the implementation of this mandate. CEM holds two Steering Committee meetings per year, and where possible does so in conjunction with a related workshop or conference.

   b. Membership
      CEM’s membership is composed of volunteers who are experts in ecosystem management. Membership is representative in professional, geographic and gender terms. Recruitment of young professionals is a priority. Members contribute to the Commission’s work plan through thematic groups, specialist groups and task forces. They are organised by regions determined by the Steering Committee.

   c. Relation with IUCN Secretariat
      CEM will work with all Secretariat programmes whose activities are relevant to the Commission’s mandate. Overall, the Secretariat and the Commission shall operate jointly; the Chair of CEM and the Director of the Nature-based Solutions Group shall work together to ensure the integration of work plans and coordination with other programmes of the Union and other Commissions in delivering the IUCN Programme 2021–2024.
MISSION
In the intersessional period of 2021–2024, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) enables 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:
- the provision of knowledge on status and trends of species;
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning; and
- catalysing action on the ground and in the water.

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

OBJECTIVES
For the intersessional period 2021–2024, SSC, working in collaboration with IUCN 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. Network: Enhance and support the SSC network and its alliances to deliver the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
b. Assess: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.
c. Plan: Develop collaborative, inclusive, and science-based conservation strategies and policies.
d. Act: Convene and mobilize conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.
e. Communicate: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance the impact of IUCN’s Species theme.
PROGRAMME AREAS

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

### Programme Areas: Land, Water, Oceans, and Climate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KSR</th>
<th>Key Species Result</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KSR 5</td>
<td>Improve and publish biodiversity and conservation knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSR 6</td>
<td>Expand the coverage, quality and content of biodiversity assessments: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), Climate Change Vulnerability, Assess to Plan (A2P), Green Status of Species and species-focused Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 7</td>
<td>Strengthen the Red List Index (RLI) as a biodiversity indicator, at global and national scales.</td>
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<td>KSR 8</td>
<td>Strengthen and expand species conservation planning efforts at local, national, regional and global scales.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 9</td>
<td>Strengthen species conservation in national, regional and global policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 10</td>
<td>Enhance biodiversity conservation action through implementation of effective, collaborative and practical approaches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSR 13</td>
<td>Increase the visibility of different taxa and species conservation status through strategic and innovative communications that attract new audiences.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Programme Area: People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KSR</th>
<th>Key Species Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KSR 1</td>
<td>Develop new, and strengthen existing partnerships and sustainable funding mechanisms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 2</td>
<td>Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC network and its alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 3</td>
<td>Enhance collaborations across and beyond IUCN to accomplish species conservation results under the principals of the IUCN “One Programme Charter”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 11</td>
<td>Catalyse actions with governments, IUCN Members and other stakeholders to achieve post-2020 conservation targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 13</td>
<td>Catalyse sustainable use practices to improve governance for people and nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSR 14</td>
<td>Further strengthen IUCN’s Species theme as a strong and credible source on biodiversity information for target audiences.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Under these KSRs, each SSC group, as well as the SSC Chair’s Office and the IUCN Global Species Programme (GSP), will establish a set of measurable time-bound targets to be attained by the end of 2024, and will name a focal point responsible for each target. The indicators of these targets will be integrated to provide measure of the progress and impact of SSC as a whole. These KSRs, indicators and targets will be published on the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2024. The SSC Chair’s Office
will be responsible for monitoring and reporting results, working in all cases with GSP, and in many cases with IUCN Members and partner organisations.

**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 overseeing and coordinating the activities of the Commission. The Steering Committee delegates certain aspects of its work to specially designated 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 Action Partnerships. The roles of these entities are defined in the Bylaws of the SSC.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of SSC is conferred by becoming a member of one of the Commission’s groups (e.g. Steering Committee, Committees, specialist groups, Red List Authorities, task forces, Action Partnerships). 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 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

1. Mission
The mission of the WCEL is to assure through the environmental rule of law, the proper valuation, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature through transformative change across legal, political, technological, social, financial and economic sectors. Fundamental, system-wide and cross-sectoral changes, including paradigms, goals and values, are necessary for achieving global and national sustainability goals, such as those expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and in the Paris Agreement.

Environmental law is a crucial lever in generating transformative change. WCEL will work to enhance the development and strengthen the implementation of environmental law and policy, including through best practices and inter-sectoral strategies for effective compliance and enforcement. WCEL will promote the environmental rule of law globally, particularly in countries that seek to improve their law and governance systems. WCEL aims to strengthen the capacity of governments, the judiciary, prosecutors, law schools and other stakeholders as they develop and implement environmental law.

2. Vision
The vision of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is a just society living in harmony with nature. In such society, nature is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, while maintaining ecosystems and their services, and sustaining a healthy planet delivering benefits essential for all people. This vision is achieved through inter alia the environmental rule of law, with vital environmental stewardship systems at all levels of governance, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses, and working toward ecological sustainability.

In the urgent global, regional and national transformation towards living in harmony with nature, WCEL is the world’s leading network for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices. WCEL supports global collaboration on furthering international and national environmental law and the environmental rule of law, involving all regions and levels of government.

3. Goals
The goal of WCEL is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to employ the environmental rule of law for preventing harm to, conserving, restoring and recovering 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 support the environmental rule of law, are grounded in environmental ethics and foster ecological sustainability through:

      (1) reforming and developing incentives and widespread capacity for environmental responsibility by eliminating perverse incentives and creating positive incentives;

      (2) reforming sectoral and segmented decision- and law-making to promote
integration and mainstreaming of nature values across issues and across sectors and jurisdictions;

(3) taking a pro-active, pre-emptive and precautionary approach to regulatory and management institutions and businesses to promote nature-based solutions, monitor their outcomes, and to avoid, mitigate and remedy the deterioration of nature, and the promotion of Nature-based Solutions; and

(4) managing for resilient social and ecological systems in the face of uncertainty and complexity to deliver decisions that are environmentally robust in a wide range of scenarios; and

(5) develop legal instruments and strategies, such as rights-based approaches, to promote the appropriate recognition of gender equality, women’s empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as addressing global inequalities and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.

b. conducting and promoting education and research to strengthen the environmental rule of law and undertaking capacity building to enable governments and stakeholders to actively participate in effective environmental governance at all levels;

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

d. providing a central world forum for the development and integration of environmental law into all aspects and levels of governance; and

e. creating and promoting partnerships to support development, implementation and enforcement of environmental rule of law and extending professional and expert networks dedicated to the environmental rule of law.

4. Objectives

WCEL will pursue its objectives in coordination with the integrated programme of activities adopted by the World Conservation Congress in the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, 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, academies, and schools, in order to:

a. promote the 2016 World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law, the 2018 Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice, and other ethical and innovative legal instruments, legislation, and judicial decisions useful to promote the environmental rule of law, to fight environmental crimes including wildlife trafficking and ecocide, to prevent damages to biodiversity, to conserve and restore nature, and to achieve environmental sustainability;

b. build knowledge and apply legal, scientific, technical and other capacity in all regions and at all levels to enable governments and decision-makers to draft, enact, implement 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 the further complementary development, implementation and enforcement of those conventions and agreements;

d. build capacity and educate governmental officials, including judges and public prosecutors, legislators, and stakeholders at all levels on furthering the environmental rule of law, by applying environmental 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 expert environmental law networks;

f. collaborate with all five IUCN Commissions on relevant issue of environmental law; 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), the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment, and UNITAR, to provide education, information and knowledge on law and governance necessary to achieve ecological sustainability.

5. Priorities

WCEL will implement its objectives through its priorities that further the IUCN Programme 2021–2024. WCEL’s objectives will be implemented in an integrated way through its work and strategic plans, expert membership, specialist groups, 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, the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment, the International Association for Water Law, the International Law Association, and regional societies of international and environmental law. 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 on:

   (1) priority legal themes corresponding to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 areas, including addressing biodiversity loss; natural and cultural heritage conservation; ecosystem protection; agriculture; soils; freshwater and wetlands; desertification; coastal and marine degradation; global wildlife exploitation, trade, and trafficking; ocean biodiversity; climate change, renewable energy and biofuels; equitable governance of natural resource management; pandemics and emerging infectious diseases of animal origin; and

   (2) cross-cutting themes such as environmental ethics, environmental human rights, indigenous peoples, protected areas, Arctic and Antarctic polar governance, compliance and enforcement of environmental laws, sound environmental adjudication, access to justice in environmental matters, protection of whistle-blowers and environmental defenders, environmental justice, and national and international financial institutions, and requests made by the World Conservation Congress.

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.
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.

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

e. Promote ‘good governance’ and the environmental rule of law – WCEL will work with IUCN Members, its Commissions, UN institutions, governments and other stakeholders to encourage and promote ‘good governance’ and institutions to respect the environmental rule of law, with special focus on effective compliance with and enforcement of international and local legislation for the protection of biodiversity.

f. Support the Judiciary – WCEL will continue to work with the judiciary and other relevant judicial institutions, both international and national, including judicial institutes and associations of judges, to strengthen the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, to build capacity in the judiciary to provide access to justice, to effectively adjudicate environmental issues, to apply and enforce environmental law, to provide legal reference services and information databanks - including ECOLEX, the Judicial Environmental Portal and INFORMEA, and to promote the development and study of environmental jurisprudence.

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.

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 environmental concerns, 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.

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 World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law, the principle of non-regression and progression, and the principle of resilience.

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.
6. Expected results
WCEL’s mission, objectives and priorities will contribute to achieving the IUCN Programme 2021–2024. Some of the results will be of an intangible nature, difficult to measure in quantifiable terms. However, WCEL expects that by 2024, 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 and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment;

e. the strengthening of national and subnational environmental law capacity in countries and areas that are biodiversity hot spots and/or have high levels of endemic species;

f. the continued growth of the Early Career Group;

g. the annual colloquia and other programmes of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law;

h. the 3rd World Environmental Law Congress;

i. mainstreaming the Union’s effective use of environmental law in its Programme;

j. increase in diversity and levels of membership, particularly in countries or regions with few or no members; and

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

7. 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 Steering Committee assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in setting the strategic direction and providing oversight of the activities of the Commission. The Commission will work on different topics and aspects through its specialist groups. In the composition of its Steering Committee and Specialist Group Chairs, the Commission will ensure regional and country diversity, as well as gender balance and opportunities for engagement of early career members.

8. Membership
Membership of WCEL is a fundamental part of its organisation. WCEL members have a demonstrated commitment to, and strong interest or practice in, environmental law, ethics, and the legal protection of nature. Currently, the membership is global, with a significant number of members coming from less developed countries. In the expansion of membership, equitable participation in terms of nationality, gender, and age as well as professional background will be considered.
World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Mandate 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

VISION
Systems of protected and conserved areas are effective in conserving nature, and as such, are recognised and valued both as cornerstones for conserving biodiversity and as natural solutions to global challenges, providing benefits to human health, livelihoods and well-being.

MISSION
To develop and provide scientific, technical and policy advice and advocate for global and national systems of marine, freshwater and terrestrial protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) that result in successful outcomes for the conservation of biodiversity, based on principles of sound design, good management, and equitable governance.

OBJECTIVES
The objectives of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for 2021–2024, aligned with the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 and the Strategic Plan (the Promise of Sydney) adopted at the 2014 World Parks Congress, are to:

1. Catalyse and support global efforts to expand and improve systems of protected areas and OECMs that result in successful conservation outcomes and are a critical solution to halting biodiversity loss by 2030;

2. Promote and guide the design and management of protected areas and OECMs to deliver as natural solutions to global challenges, such as climate change, land degradation, food and water security health and well-being;

3. Advocate for management of all lands, freshwater and seas, including polar regions and areas beyond national jurisdiction, that support the conservation of biodiversity and the role of protected areas and OECMs in contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 13 Climate Action; SDG 14 Life below Water and SDG 15 Life on Land;

4. Make the case for institutional, public and private investment in ecologically connected and effectively and equitably managed protected area systems, supported by public policy, incentives, and capacity development;

5. Inspire a new generation of conservation leaders, across geographies and cultures to experience and value the wonder of nature through protected areas so that they support and promote the conservation of nature;

6. Recognise and acknowledge the diversity of stakeholders and governance arrangements which contribute to the success of protected and conserved areas and systems and promote strengthening of such collaboration, as well as the appreciation of associated benefits by larger parts of societies;
7. Use our acknowledged role as a key global knowledge-broker and standard setter for protected and conserved areas to support efforts to improve governance equity, sound management and good ecological design that lead to successful conservation outcomes.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES
The Commission will contribute to generate knowledge and support the implementation of all IUCN Programme areas, working closely with the Global Protected Area Programme, the World Heritage Programme, other elements of the Secretariat and other IUCN Commissions. 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, as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ensuring protected and conserved areas result in effective conservation outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(i)</strong> The WCPA recognises that to achieve the full potential of protected and conserved areas to halt biodiversity loss, and to meet the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Heritage Convention, other biodiversity conventions and the SDGs, there is an urgent need to scale up effective protection of land, freshwater and seascapes globally. This should include protection of all sites of importance for biological diversity, ecological representation and conservation of carbon. Thus, the WCPA will work to scale up the conservation of nature with effective protected and conserved areas in support of agreed post-2020 targets and taking into account the variable conditions that exists in today’s world.</td>
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<td><strong>(ii)</strong> The WCPA will work with national, subnational and regional governments, indigenous and local communities and private landowners, on the recognition and completion of systems of OECMs that target areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially in under-represented ecoregions.</td>
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<td><strong>(iii)</strong> The WCPA will support and highlight the importance of developing ecological networks for conservation focussing on protected and conserved areas, and ecological corridors, and mainstreaming connectivity as part of conservation efforts in sustainably managed land and seas.</td>
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<td><strong>(iv)</strong> The WCPA will monitor and support the recognition and management of OECMs as defined under the CBD and according to the WCPA guidance document. WCPA will work with UNEP-WCMC for the development of the global database on OECMs complementary to the World Data Base on Protected Areas.</td>
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<td><strong>(v)</strong> The WCPA will work to promote the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas as a global standard to deliver successful conservation outcomes.</td>
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<td><strong>(vi)</strong> The WCPA will monitor and highlight the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and will encourage action for the rescue, recovery, rebuilding and expansion of the global network of protected and conserved areas.</td>
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<td><strong>(vii)</strong> The WCPA will develop and deliver tools, best practice guidelines, standards and training to build capacity and professionalise protected area management, including support for rangers and others working to secure the integrity and values of protected areas and OECMs.</td>
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Nature and People

(i) The WCPA recognises that many protected areas in the world are not effectively delivering on conservation outcomes because they are inequitably governed, underfunded and not well protected by laws. Thus, the WCPA will work with other Commissions, national and subnational governments, indigenous and local communities and private landowners to facilitate the equitable governance, effective management and sound design of protected areas, in line with country commitments under the CBD and respect for human rights.

(ii) The WCPA will promote the full range of governance types for protected areas and OECMs, acknowledging the role and participation of indigenous land and sea managers and local communities; and promote the values of protected areas for human well-being and livelihoods.

(iii) The WCPA will provide leadership and expertise and work with diverse stakeholders to improve, promote and support equitable governance in protected area management, including piloting of governance assessments and capacity building.

(iv) Working with partners and communications experts (in particular, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the #NatureForAll constituency), the WCPA will advocate the value and benefits of well-managed and equitably governed systems of protected areas to build awareness of their multiple biological, social and economic, health and spiritual values. The Commission will disseminate this information to make the case for increased levels of investment in protected and conserved area establishment, expansion and effective management.

(v) The WCPA will build on lessons, case studies and strategies from global and regional protected area congresses, including the 3rd Protected Areas Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean, to recognise and promote best practice and diverse governance mechanisms to deliver effective conservation.

Promoting protected and conserved areas as Nature-based Solutions to address climate change and other societal challenges

(i) The 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. The WCPA will also develop technical guidance and advice on the sound design and management of protected areas to effectively deliver these benefits.

(ii) The WCPA will work to explore global opportunities to collaborate with other sectors to conserve in-situ carbon in existing and new protected areas and OECMs on land and sea, as a contribution to mitigating the climate crisis.

(iii) The WCPA will continue to work with the Rio Conventions to position protected and conserved areas as an essential contribution to the objectives of all three conventions, and to strengthen political support for them as management tools for ecosystem services. WCPA will work to replicate regional initiatives to incorporate protected areas into climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies and national commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
(iv) The WCPA will build on priorities from the 6th 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, including support for a One Health strategy for preventing future pandemics.

(v) The WCPA will underpin its work across all programme areas with a strong capacity development programme to encourage and support new conservation leaders, including youth, and strong communication and outreach to demonstrate the relevance of protected areas to human welfare and well-being.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE
The WCPA is led by the Commission Chair, supported by a Deputy Chair and 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 Commission Support Unit, the Global Protected Areas Programme and World Heritage Programme in the IUCN Secretariat, and will work with IUCN’s Regional Offices, other Commissions and IUCN Members to realise IUCN’s “One Programme Charter”. Thematic and Regional Vice-Chairs will be appointed to guide programme delivery and ensure there is a meaningful WCPA presence in every country of the world.

MEMBERSHIP
The WCPA will continue to develop a globally active, diverse and geographically representative network of experts 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 senior managers and staff, 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.