

8.120 Confirming the status of the Climate Action Commission

NOTING Resolution 7.110 *Establishing a Climate Change Commission* (Marseille, 2020), which, reflecting IUCN Members' deep concerns and growing commitment to urgent climate action, "called on IUCN Members to agree on establishing a new Commission with the working title of 'The Climate Crisis Commission'", and to this end requested Council to provide guidance on the process to establish an interim Commission Chair and Steering Committee;

APPRECIATING the work done by the IUCN Council in operationalising the Climate Crisis Commission (CCC), including appointing an interim Chair, establishing an interim Steering Committee, adopting the terms of reference, the work plan and the membership recruitment process of the Commission, as well as ensuring that the call for nominations launched on 19 November 2024 in conformity with Regulations 30 and 37 invited proposals for the Chair of the Climate Crisis Commission and that a draft mandate will be submitted to the IUCN World Conservation Congress together with the other IUCN Commission mandates;

FURTHER APPRECIATING the work of the interim Climate Crisis Commission Chair, interim Steering Committee, members and thematic groups and their contributions to the work of the Union;

MINDFUL that the climate crisis continues to worsen and that focused and joined-up climate action is needed urgently: to meet the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal and the global goal on adaptation; to deliver on the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and to deliver on the mission and vision of IUCN;

FURTHER STRESSING that IUCN has a special role to play in addressing the climate-biodiversity nexus and advancing coherence between multilateral agreements on climate change and biodiversity; and

RECOGNISING the important contributions of the Climate Crisis Commission to the implementation of the IUCN Programme and the Commission's role in promoting synergistic climate action among all the Commissions;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. THANKS the IUCN Council, the interim Climate Crisis Commission Chair and interim Steering Committee for their successful efforts in implementing Resolution 7.110 and operationalising the Climate Crisis Commission;
2. REMOVES the interim status of the Climate Crisis Commission, of the function of the Chair and of the Steering Committee;
3. CONFIRMS the name and the establishment of the Climate Action Commission (CAC) as an official Commission in accordance with Article 74 of the IUCN Statutes;
4. APPROVES the Mandate of the Climate Action Commission for the period 2026–2029 (Annex 1);
5. CONFIRMS that, pursuant to Article 74 of the IUCN Statutes, the Climate Action Commission shall operate within the framework of IUCN's Programme and Financial Plan approved for the period 2026–2029;
6. AGREES that the funding of the Climate Action Commission be guided by the Commissions' Financial Rules and, to that effect, DECLARES paragraph 4 of Resolution 7.110 to be obsolete; and
7. REAFFIRMS that the Climate Action Commission shall complement the mandates and work of existing institutions.

Climate Action Commission (CAC)

Mandate 2026–2029

Under the Union’s “One Programme Charter”, the Climate Action Commission (CAC) network of volunteer scientists, experts and managers will contribute to the Union’s efforts through various thematic groups, regional groups, specialist groups and task forces. Collectively, these specialists will provide scientific and authoritative advice to IUCN regarding the climate crisis, promoting understanding and the best available science through a rights-based lens to drive change.

With the adoption of the IUCN Programme 2026–2029, the Commission will collaborate closely with IUCN regional and global programmes at the project, country, regional and global levels. A strong component of the CAC strategy will be promoting collaboration with other Commissions and partners.

1. Mission

The IUCN CAC develops and shares expert guidance on solutions for mitigating, adapting to and limiting the impacts of climate change on biodiversity that are both appropriate and effective, promoting justice and ecosystem integrity, and grounded in the best available science. This includes upholding the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The IUCN CAC will mobilise and help coordinate the Union’s efforts by building and promoting productive and constructive partnerships that foster transformational change, in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and building on the work undertaken by relevant existing institutions and intergovernmental organisations and conventions.

2. Vision

To work towards a world where global warming is limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and society adapts to manage climate risks and impacts in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are nature positive, and promote just outcomes for all.

3. Goal

Advance science, evidence and knowledge-based approaches that are holistic, integrated and just, in the development and implementation of climate mitigation, adaptation, climate and biodiversity nexus, policy and programmes.

4. Objective

To promote action on climate, biodiversity and communities by strengthening pathways to achieve – and go beyond – net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This includes Nature-based Solutions for mitigation and adaptation, transitioning away from fossil fuels toward clean renewable energy, protecting and restoring the integrity of ecosystems, and supporting the implementation of IUCN’s Strategic Vision and Programme, including relevant climate change Resolutions from the IUCN World Conservation Congresses.

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 2026–2029 through the following:

- a. Making science-based, authoritative advice and guidance available to policymakers and implementing authorities at local to global levels, pertaining to governance and management related to climate;
- b. Advice and guidance to promote credible pathways for limiting impacts of climate change on biodiversity, promoting Nature-based Solutions to climate change mitigation for achieving net-zero and net-negative emissions, as well as reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and other related topics;

- c. Respecting the traditional knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out within UNDRIP, as well as human rights in general; and ensure that Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices contribute to and inform the advice, guidance, pathways and knowledge products;
- d. Advancing pathways to conserve and protect ecosystems, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts; and
- e. Knowledge products that respond and develop an information base that promotes climate goals, along with biodiversity and community benefits.

6. Priorities to deliver the IUCN Programme 2026–2029

CAC's plans for the next intersessional period are framed around priority areas that align with and will contribute to the Programme 2026–2029. The main priority areas are:

- a. **Collaborate with IUCN and other partners to promote advice, guidance and consultation on climate change** and the necessity of reducing anthropogenic emissions from all sources. This includes emphasising how climate risks escalate with every increment of global warming and the need to provide communities with the capabilities and resources necessary to adapt and become resilient.
- b. **Support IUCN initiatives at key multilateral forums** such as UNFCCC COP 30 and others as needed.
- c. **Provide information and advice on substantial commitments to phase out fossil fuels, along with recommendations to strengthen and prioritise adaptation strategies** that promote justice, uphold ecosystem integrity, and advance ambitious climate and biodiversity commitments.
- d. **Contribute to developing working papers and policy briefs addressing key issues** including but not limited to the just energy transition, the synergies between climate and biodiversity, climate change and Antarctica, climate change and crime and corruption, adaptation and the harmonisation of multilateral frameworks leveraging IUCN's convening power.
- e. **Promote existing and the creation of innovative, accessible and participatory financial mechanisms** that support the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- f. Provide information, advice and recommendations to strengthen and prioritise adaptation strategies that promote justice, uphold ecosystem integrity and jointly synergistically advance climate and biodiversity commitments.

7. Structure and organisation of the Commission

a. Chair, Deputy Chair and Steering Committee

The Commission is led by the Chair, whom IUCN Members elect at the IUCN Members' Assembly. The Steering Committee, representing geographic and cultural diversity, provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of CAC's work through its operational structure, comprising regional and thematic groups, including finance, policy, climate justice, solutions and innovative approaches.

b. Membership

CAC's membership comprises volunteers who are experts in climate and are representative of various geographic areas, disciplines, ages and cultures. Members contribute to the Commission's work plan through thematic groups, regions and, as needed, specialist groups and task forces.

c. Relation with the IUCN Secretariat

CAC will collaborate with the Secretariat on activities aligned with the Commission's mandate, and the Director General will designate a focal person for the Commission to implement the IUCN Programme 2026–2029.