



**Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development**  
**1<sup>st</sup> meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Participants**

Chris Mahon (Acting Chair)	West Europe
Ernesto Herrera	Meso America
Leida Buglass	Caribbean
Meg Beckel	North America
Pricelia Tumenta	West Africa
Harriet Davies-Mostert	East and South Africa
Nana Janashia	East Europe, North and Central Asia
Katherine Zischka	Oceania
Raj Kumar	South East Asia (IUCN Membership Focal Point)
Enrique Lahmannn	IUCN Secretariat
Sebastià Semene Guitart	IUCN Secretariat
Sarah Over	IUCN Secretariat
Fleurange Gilmour	IUCN Secretariat
Ann-Katrine Garn (Acting Secretary)	West Europe

The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of Chair and Secretary
2. Terms of Reference and report to IUCN Council
3. Confirming Global Group membership
4. Delivering the Resolution – what are we going to do?
  - Round table discussion on priorities for a Global Group work programme
  - Preparing for the 2018 meeting
  - Practicalities for delivery
5. Date of next meeting – April 2017

**Welcome**

Chris Mahon welcomed all attending and thanked them for their time. He suggested that this first meeting was rather process-focused but this would be essential to get our foundations secure. At this meeting two papers would be presented.

**Election of Chair and Secretary**

Chris Mahon explained that it was important that we demonstrate good practice and transparency in our governance. This has already been demonstrated in the nominations for representatives on the Global Group from the IUCN regions. He therefore suggested that for this meeting he would continue as Acting Chair and Ann-Katrine Garn as Acting Secretary and before the next meeting a draft process for nominating and electing officers of the group would be circulated for consultation and subsequent agreement at the next meeting.

**Terms of Reference**

The draft Terms of Reference for the Global Group were circulated in advance of the meeting and various points were raised:

- Programmatic regions - a definition of 'programmatic region' will be provided by the Secretariat
- Election of officers – we should create a process where anyone can vote for any position
- Election of officers - nominations for Chair and Secretary should be sent to AKG.
- Election of officers – Kathy Zischka suggested use of 'encourage' rather than 'facilitate' in the section "The officers"
- We should remember that this is a working document so it will change as the group evolves
- Translation - Caribbean Committee normally translates notes into Spanish
- Finance – this section is undetermined and short and should be improved when more detail is available
- Finance - Harriet Davies-Mostert asked if the finance projections are going to align with the intersessional workplan? It makes sense to do this at later date.

With the suggested amendments accommodated, the ToR was approved, supported in writing or verbally by Ernesto Herrera, Leida Buglass, Meg Beckel, Pricelia Tumenta, Nana Janashia, Katherine Zischka and Raj Kumar,

### **Governance report**

A report had been submitted to the IUCN Governance Committee for the attention of IUCN Council and liaison with Luc de Wever had taken place.

Enrique Lahmann spoke on behalf of the IUCN Secretariat. Owing to the current financial position of IUCN it is unlikely that recognition of financial support for this Group will occur at Council in their budget discussions. Council could take note of the proposed budget but Council does not have the means to allocate funds. However, Secretariat staff time, translation and publication can be confirmed as being part of the existing budget of the Union Development Group. Biennial meeting costs cannot be confirmed and that is something that will be the responsibility of this group to find the resources for.

Harriet Davies-Mostert suggested incorporating the budget in the ToR and this was agreed. We need to know what is available and what we need to find budget for. We will also need to add this and this is why the ToR is a working document.

**Action** Budget will be inserted into ToR.

### **Confirming Global Group membership**

The Global Group is currently only missing 2 regions in its representation. Maybe it will become easier to get them on board when the minutes are circulated.

**Action** Ann-Katrine Garn to continue to follow up

### **Delivering the Resolution – what are we going to do?**

A roundtable discussion on priorities for a Global Group work programme commenced.

Ernesto Herrera started the discussion – we have to create a common vision on what we want to achieve. If we understand where we are now, then we can develop an indicator. We want to increase membership and strengthen links for example.

We should establish ways that the IUCN programme can be developed in every country.

Also stronger links between Commissions and Committees are important.

We will produce a draft paper – containing questions which will be about gathering information. So we can get a better understanding of the status quo. Kathy Zischka suggested it would be useful to put together a template where people can tick off. Kathy agreed to assist with this.

Harriet Davies-Mostert highlighted one thing from her region that they were excited about – the opportunity to learn from best practices in other regions. The impact, the GG can foster in the sharing and exchange.

In Europe for example, National Committees are now considering forming a Regional Committee.

Nana Janashia said that the East Europe and Central Asia region is lacking the most and have had some discussion for establishing a regional committee. No benefit defined yet and it needs to show the added value and come up with recommendations.

Pricelia Tumenta said that activities in West Africa have been lagging behind. It's a welcome idea to strengthen and link and have a forum where we can see the experiences.

Meg Beckel agreed that we need to focus on a couple of key themes eg. participation in Commissions, support of global programmes like #natureforall, regional collaborations.

Kathy Zischka summarised: So some objectives from these comments can be that we establish where NC/RCS are now, then what information would be beneficial to share with each other (i.e. best practices - e.g. do we need a best practices document or just list of benefits of NCs to the region, or an online discussion forum within the global group, etc. ) and then after that how best to approach this.

**Action** Kathy Zischka, Chris Mahon and Ann-Katrine Garn to work on a template for gathering information so that we can understand the status quo in each region.

### **Preparing for the 2018 meeting**

Wait until next meeting to discuss this item further. ToR and election has to be in place first. In the meantime all to consider potential locations where other meetings that members might be attending are taking place (eg. Commission meetings, next CBD COP in Poland in 2018 etc.)

### **Any news from the regions**

Chris Mahon spoke for West Europe and included the discussion on establishing a regional committee, the online meetings every month of 12 NCs and offered to circulate the latest Newsletter.

Raj Kumar asked when do we intend to develop bylaws of the Group? Will the TORs be converted into the bylaws after IUCN Council's recognition? Enrique Lahmann thought this not necessary and we should give the mandate to the group. Raj suggested we add the clauses into the ToR along with more process definition. This will be explored further when proposed text is received from proponents and this was agreed.

Kathy Zischka spoke for Oceania and establishing a Regional Committee in this region. One argument against it was all the additional procedure that will need to be put in place. Meeting informally works very well without all the governance bureaucracy.

Meg Beckel told of the new US National Committee and their recognition will be at the next IUCN Council in February. The first US NC meeting will be in April.

Enrique Lahmann informed the Group that Sebastia Semene will be leaving IUCN. He has been very instrumental in supporting NCs in IUCN. He was also responsible for coordinating World Conservation Congresses in Jeju and Hawaii, and the Working Group on National Committee Development in Europe. Enrique would like to have this recognised, as well as Sebastia's support and devotion to IUCN.

The Global Group agreed to meet again in April. Ann-Katrine Garn to send a Doodle poll and to have intersessional discussion by email. Papers will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

**IUCN Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Conference Call – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Minutes**

<b>Participants</b>	Chris Mahon (Chair), United Kingdom	CM
	Meg Beckel, Canada	MB
	Pricelia Tumenta, Cameroun	PT
	Harriet Davies-Mostert, South Africa	HDM
	Nino Gaprindashvili, Georgia	NG
	Raj Kumar, Thailand	RK
	Kathy Zischka, Australia	KZ
	Jenny Gruenberger, Bolivia (Councilor)	JG
	Enrique Lahman, IUCN-HQ	EL
	Fleurange Gilmour, IUCN-HQ	FG
	Ann-Katrine Garn, Denmark (Secretary)	AKG
 <b>Apologies</b>	Ernesto Herrera, Mexico	
	Leida Buglass, Dominican Republic	
	Patricia Lamelas, Dominican Republic	
	Nana Janashia, Georgia	
	Ma Keping, China	

*Chris Mahon opened the meeting as the Acting Chair of the Global Group (GG) and thanked Ann-Katrine Garn for bringing everyone together as the Acting Secretary.*

Key discussion points and decisions from the meeting:

Item	Discussion points	Decision / Action
<b>IUCN Council member appointment</b>	IUCN Council had shown strong interest for the group and had therefore assigned Jenny Gruenberger from Bolivia and Deputy Chair of the Governance and Constituency Committee to this group.	CM welcomed JG
<b>Approval of Chair and Vice-chair election process (previously circulated)</b>	<p>The election process paper had been circulated and as no comments had been received the 'silence as assent' method was adopted and accepted. Kathy, Meg and Harriet supported the need to proceed with appointments without further delay.</p> <p>Ann-Katrine had not received any nominations to the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair. To not delay the process further Meg asked whether nominations could be done from the floor. Meg nominated Chris and this was seconded by Harriet and supported by others.</p> <p>As no nominations were received for Vice-Chair this position was left as a standing item awaiting candidates to come forward.</p> <p>The position of Secretary is an appointment rather than an elected position. Chris suggested Ann-Katrine to be appointed Secretary and this was supported by Kathy, Nino, Harriet and others.</p>	<p>CM appointed Chair.</p> <p><b>Vice-chair left as a standing item.</b></p> <p>AKG appointed Secretary.</p>
<b>Update on report to IUCN Council</b>	<p>Through the Governance Committee a report was submitted to IUCN Council along with the ToR for the Global Group (GG). The Council has welcomed this and has met all the requests concerning the recognition of the GG. Jenny confirmed this and, as its representative, will provide more information from Council at the next meeting.</p> <p>Enrique thanked Chris and Ann-Katrine for driving this project forward and added that Council had specifically recognised the GG by requesting the inclusion of Jenny to the group. The report was very well received.</p>	

<b>Confirming Global Group membership</b>	Representatives from two regions are still missing. Ann-Katrine reported that a representative had been identified for West Asia but not for South America. Jenny will help and make contact to the South American region.	<b>AKG</b> to contact West Asia representative. <b>JG</b> to make contact to South American region.
<b>Task 1: RC-NC information template</b>	<p>At the last meeting the GG identified data gathering as a priority task so the group can better understand what they are dealing with in this area of work and some progress has been made. A 2010 document produced by the Secretariat called 'IUCN NC profiles' has been circulated. The GG would like to explore the production of something similar with some enhancements. Kathy agreed to speak on this.</p> <p>Kathy explained as one of its first collaborative actions, the GG proposes to produce a short, publicly available information brochure about IUCN National and Regional Committees in electronic PDF format on the IUCN website. As agreed at the first GG meeting, a draft template has been designed, based loosely on the 2010 IUCN brochure, and will be circulated to the Global Group members for input and feedback after this second meeting.</p> <p>Since the Union Portal is now the central point of information for the IUCN community, the GG agreed that the best place to populate new information is through the portal (noting the public does not have access to the portal), from where selective information can then be added to a publicly available electronic PDF on the IUCN website</p> <p>The process now will be that a draft template will be circulated to the GG Members after the meeting for review and input. Following agreement about the details to be included for each NC/RC and a timeframe for completion, each NC/RC will then be contacted with a request to update their information in the Union Portal. Selected information will then be extracted from this in the PDF and made publicly available via the IUCN website. An updated draft will be presented at the next GG meeting. Kathy agreed to be the Global Group focal point to work on this and Enrique highlighted that Sarah Over from the Union Development Group will assist.</p>	<b>ALL</b> National/Regional Committee reports should be sent to <a href="mailto:membership@iucn.org">membership@iucn.org</a> for publication on the IUCN website.
<b>Quick regional updates</b>	<p><u>Oceania</u> Kathy reported a busy last few months. The Australian NC organised a 1-day event on High Seas. Also the IUCN President attended a Health and Nature event. Publications from the region will be circulated.</p> <p><u>South and East Asia</u> Raj reported on a Roundtable meeting held in South Sumatra, an upcoming Asian Partnership meeting to be held in August as well as a meeting in Jakarta with the attendance of the IUCN President. There will also be held a Red List meeting.</p> <p><u>East and South Africa</u> Harriet reported that there has been only one virtual meeting, held in February. However, this meeting was useful as the Regional Councillor was present. This is a young committee and the operational guidelines are being set out. The South Africa NC meeting is in May where the sustainable use issue from Congress will be taken up. The interaction between Government and NGOs will be discussed but no major events to report. Slowly using the NC and RC platform.</p> <p><u>West and Central Africa</u> Pricelia reported that this region has held its first meeting after having been dormant. It was time to change the Bureau so an Ad hoc Committee was set up in its place. The committee's strategic road map is to follow.</p>	<b>KZ</b> to circulate draft template after the meeting.

---

Communication has mainly been through emails. A meeting was supposed to be held in December but hasn't happened yet. There have been some exchanges in the Cameroon NC. Committee members have proposed project ideas. Next meeting is at end of May.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Nino reported that no NC exists in Georgia so good examples of NCs will be shared with member organisations to consider establishing one.

West Europe/Pan Europe

Chris reported that, in the two programmatic regions of West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia, national committees and the Regional Offices Secretariat meet online once every month for an hour as the Working Group for National Committee Development for these regions. The main thing under discussion at the moment is the establishment of 'Pan-Europe' Regional Committee which has now been agreed as an intention. The next step is to consult with Members in these areas in June before making a recommendation to the Council Meeting in November. This region would very much like to know if there is a template for a RC ToR and would like to learn of how any RCs work, particularly in terms of how they got established, reached agreement of Members etc.

North America

Meg reported on the Annual General meeting for the Canadian NC which was held in January, where the focus was on key areas such as the Nature for All movement. They are also looking into which issue from the WCC to work on and the Governmental core funding for IUCN. The next meeting will focus on key motions from WCC. Meg, Ernesto Herrera (Mexico NC) and Rick Bates (IUCN Councillor) will participate in first USA NC meeting in mid-June.

Chris highlighted again the importance of sharing and will share the UK work plan.

Enrique underlined that these have been useful updates. He also highlighted the online discussion on the membership of the Born Free Foundation and the upcoming voting. Finally, Enrique highlighted the ten countries who have shown interest in holding the next WCC in 2020. The decision on location will be made by Council in May 2018.

Chris ended the meeting by emphasising to send in the Regional updates. It is also important that all go through the minutes when they have been circulated to make sure that what has been said is correctly quoted.

**All** - Please share any RC ToR or other documents linked to establishment of RCs.

**CM** to share UK workplan.

---

**Date of next meeting**

In approximately three months' time, date to be confirmed.

**AKG** to send a Doodle.

Chris closed the meeting after exactly one hour and thanked everyone for attending and participating so supportively.

---

**Final Skype comments**

[15:00:02] Kathy Zischka: Very good chairing Chris congratulations

[15:00:13] Margaret Beckel: Bravo!

[15:00:16] Pricetny: Congratulations chris

[15:00:26] Harriet Davies-Mostert: Well-chaired Chris!

[15:00:35] Jenny Gruenberger: Thank you all!

[15:00:35] ninuca: Thank you Chris

[15:00:43] Margaret Beckel: Thanks Ann Katrine!

[15:01:13] ninuca: Thank you All!

[15:01:16] Chris Mahon: Yes thanks to AKG too!

[15:01:34] Pricetny: Thank you all

**IUCN Global Group (GG) for National and Regional Committee Development  
3rd Conference Call – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Minutes**

<b>Participants</b>	Chris Mahon (Chair), United Kingdom	CM
	Meg Beckel, Canada North America	MB
	Pricelia Tumenta, Cameroun West Africa RC	PT
	Harriet Davies-Mostert, South Africa South and East Africa RC	HDM
	Vakho Kochoradze, Georgia East Europe, North and Central Asia	VK
	Raj Kumar, Thailand South and East Asia RC	RK
	Ana Di Pangraccio, Argentina South America RC	ADP
	Nizar Hani, Lebanon West Asia RC	NH
	Ernesto Herrera, Mexico Meso America RC	EH
	Leida Buglass, Dominican Republic Caribbean RC	LB
	Fleurange Gilmour and Sarah Over, IUCN-HQ	FG/SO
	Ann-Katrine Garn, Denmark (Secretary)	AKG
 <b>Apologies</b>	Enrique Lahman, IUCN-HQ	
	Nana Janashia, Georgia East Europe, North and Central Asia	
	Kathy Zischka, Oceania	

Due to technical problems it was not possible to connect with Jenny Gruenberger - Bolivia (Councilor) and Patricia Lamelas - Dominican Republic.

- Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Before the meeting could commence the minutes from the last meeting needed approval. Harriet proposed and Meg seconded.
- Chris also pointed out that the vice-chair position was still open. Nominations can be sent to Ann-Katrine.
- Chris highlighted that the action on circulating the example workplan from the UK National Committee was outstanding and will be circulated.

Key discussion points and decisions from the meeting:

Item	Discussion points	Decision / Action
<b>Confirming Global Group membership</b>	The membership is now complete with Ana Di Pangraccio from NC Argentina representing South America and Nizar Hani IUCN member from Lebanon representing West Asia. Vakho Kochoradze joined the meeting as a stand-in for Nana Janashia in East Europe, North and Central Asia.	CM welcomed ADP, NH and VK.  <b>AKG</b> will circulate list of membership.
<b>Task 1: RC-NC information template</b>	The information template is being updated and a draft template has been produced with examples from Australia, Denmark and the UK. Unfortunately, Kathy who is leading this is off sick so this will progress when Kathy is feeling better.	<b>KZ</b> to circulate draft template.
<b>Task 2 proposed: development of a work programme</b>	Chris proposed that the group should develop a work programme. Chris will draft a template where ideas can be added by the group. An approval from the group is needed. Meg, Harriet, Leida, Pricelia and Ernesto all supported the idea of a draft template.	<b>CM</b> to draft template for work programme.
<b>2018 biennial meeting</b>	One of the outcomes listed in the approved resolution and Terms of Reference for this group was the biennial face to face meeting between congresses. The idea is to find an international meeting which we can piggy-	

---

back on to. The next CBD COP (14) is in November 2018 and the location is Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt. This could be a possibility for a meeting location. Other ideas were invited.

Ernesto supported the suggestion and Meg agreed it makes sense to build on an event that many will attend anyway. Ana mentioned that Ramsar COP is also taking place in 2018 but CBD is broader and bigger so that would be a good idea. Harriet highlighted that it would be excellent to get the African Regional Councillors to such a meeting. Pricelia agreed and Leida will inform members of the Caribbean Committee.

Nizar announced that there will be a preparatory meeting for the CBD event in Lebanon this July. The meeting is organised by IUCN and the main objective is the celebration of biodiversity. However, there will be a session on preparation for the Egyptian CBD event. If there is a message that Nizar should bring to this meeting he will be happy to do so. It was agreed that a small paragraph should be written as a message to the meeting. Chris will lead on this and will circulate to the group before it goes to Nizar.

Meg mentioned that we should let IUCN know directly that we hope to have a biennial meeting for the global group during CBD. Sarah confirmed that she will be happy to circulate this information – she will share as far and wide as we want.

**CM** to draft a message to the Lebanon meeting.

**SO** to share on the IUCN grapevine.

---

**Progress with the European Regional Committee**

The European WG for NC Development has agreed to proceed with forming an RC for West Europe and/or East Europe, North and Central Asia. However, it has come up against a hurdle and would like to consult with this group. How do we measure member support? There are just under 400 member organisations in the two West and East Europe, North and Central Asia regions and have been advised that a majority of support is needed. The question to established RCs is how did you go about the consultation process?

Fleurange mentioned that there is quite a lot of debate in the Secretariat about this and she will get back next week.

Raj informed that the South and East Asia RC was formed in 2008 and was formed with a representative from each country. NC chairs represent their countries and where there is no NC, a representative is voted for by the members in that particular country. This shows the importance of NCs but it is important to remember that RCs are for all members not NCs. Leida, Harriet, Ernesto, Ana and Pricelia will gather the historical information and circulate it.

Fleurange also informed the group that there are currently discussions with IUCN legal advisor whether abstentions can be removed from this specific vote and whether “yes” and “no” will suffice. This will be discussed further internally.

**LB, HDM, EH and PT** to circulate historical information on RC establishment.

---

**Good practice examples – European Annual Report**

The Annual Report for the West European region had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report includes mentions of NC activity.

**All** - Remember to send reports to be shared to [membership@iucn.org](mailto:membership@iucn.org)

---

**Quick regional updates**

North America

Meg and Ernesto participated in the inaugural gathering of the US National Committee. Big discussions on how to encourage membership, opportunities and what kind of voice an NC should have. Meg reported that it was invigorating to be part of the beginning of something. It was also made clear that the Canadian NC is an outlier as it was started a long time

---

ago and includes members that are not members of IUCN. US members recommended they will focus on engagement of indigenous organizations and youth/young professionals. Oceans and coastal health was something the group thought COULD keep the region connected. It's a large region! The Canadian NC is currently focussing on:

- Marine and terrestrial areas
- Ongoing support for the Nature for All campaign
- How to raise the profile of NCs at international conventions?

#### Meso America

Firstly, Ernesto thanked Chris and Ann-Katrine for facilitating this group. Ernesto continued with an update from the US NC meeting. The Rainforest Trust, a US member facilitated and provided resources for the first US gathering. Some of the Mexican concerns were discussed including the proposed wall between the US and Mexico. US members are particularly keen on supporting the vaquitas project. The bylaws and how to identify a chair were also discussed and there is interest in working as one region – time will show whether this is possible. Ernesto will share the Meso American bylaws with the US members. The Meso American RC has not held a meeting since Panama in 2015. However, a WhatsApp group has been set up for sharing information with other Spanish speaking countries – the group includes all the NC chairs in Meso and South America and Spain.

#### Caribbean

Leida reported that the chair of the Caribbean RC also attended the US meeting as did Sixto Inchaustegui from the Dominican Republic. The Caribbean RC meets every 3 months and is currently in the process of updating its bylaws – Leida will share a new draft when it's ready. The RC started in 2000 so need to look into the diversity of the geographical map of members as this is sometimes a challenge especially funding wise. The RC has supported the global initiative Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund ([CEPF](#)) for 5 years and the IUCN member Canari is leading this. They are currently updating the profile of the Caribbean island hotspots. Leida will be happy to share any lessons learned from this partnership.

LB to circulate new bylaws when ready.

#### South America

The South American RC is working on updating the bylaws. There is a change in the presidency and on 5th July Ana will become president. There will be elections again in 2019. An annual report is not produced but the RC is considering this. Especially as in the Congress year there are many activities so an annual report would be a good way of reflecting on this. It has been useful to hold meetings virtually every 2 months. Councillor Jenny has been of great help with providing updates from Council to members. Ana also highlighted the Whatsapp group as being very helpful and would like to recommend meeting virtually.

#### Eastern Europe and Central Asia

At this stage not much detail was available. An NC for Georgia is being considered but there are concerns about members withdrawing due to not understanding the added value of being a member. Is trying to implement a leader programme - a European Union methodology where the focus is on rural areas. By introducing modern and more sustainable agriculture this should improve the level of livelihood in the rural areas.

#### Eastern and South Africa

Harriet explained that the East and South Africa RC's executive committee is trying to meet monthly virtually – however this is a bit like pushing a rock up the hill. Resources is needed to keep momentum and engagement with members. Has made a short survey to identify what members want from an

---

---

RC.

The South Africa RC has held one meeting since the last GG meeting. Have decided to hold all meetings in the ministry offices in Pretoria as this is one of the few platforms where ministry and NGOs can meet around the same table. Members are seeing this as added value. Next meeting will be in August. One of the big subjects within the RC is the opening of the domestic rhino horn and lion bone market. The RC is also focussing on launching the "Tomorrows Leaders Today" to help build capacity. Also trying to increase the engagement of the Councillors in the NC and RC as well as using Whatsapp and Google groups.

#### West and Central Africa

Interesting to hear from the different regions. Pricelia explained that the RC is going through a transition at the moment and the bylaws and structure is being rewritten. An ad hoc committee is looking at the structure and is hoping to propose a better structure. A first report was circulated at the end of May. Election is expected in December as members have been disgruntled with the RC. Communication and progress have been slow and it is expected that the members will comment. The ad hoc committee is to hand over after the elections.

The Cameroun NC also has challenges. Harriet's suggestions with holding NC meeting at the Ministry is interesting. The NC had planned meetings but it has been difficult because of transport and accommodation. Harriet added that in South Africa they really find it works because the NGOs usually don't have communications with the Ministry. However, it must be added that there is no financial support.

#### South and East Asia

Raj reported that the region now has five new members – including one from North Korea. There are 279 members in the South and East Asia region. Two chairs have been elected and programmatic strategy has been written. This is a responds to the resolution which called for strengthening IUCN in Asia. The strategy is now finalised and ready. Raj will circulate to the GG. The RC played an important role. It contacted all the members. The document is a live document which will be updated when necessary. The RC has also finalising the Annual Report 2016. It's the first time it's made by members so there is a lot of input on programmatic work. China is in the running for the next World Conservation Congress in 2020. Next RC meeting will be in late October with sponsored participation by China.

**RK** to circulate SE Asia strategy.

#### West Asia

As mentioned earlier in the meeting an IUCN meeting will be held in Lebanon in July in connection with the CBD in Egypt November 2018. All countries in the Region are sending their representatives. There are now 14 members and some important regional projects including marine conservation. The NCs Jordan and Lebanon are working better. The Lebanon NC is involved with writing national strategies. Bylaws have been drafted.

#### Secretariat

Sarah explained that the Secretariat has been working on the Membership strategy. And that a member survey has been made as they are interested in input from members. Ann-Katrine highlighted that a Working Group has been formed at the beginning of the year which was particular meant to help with input from members. Sarah will contact Ann-Katrine in the near future.

The result from the Born Free Foundation vote had been published and BFF will remain a member due to the fact that the 2/3 majority in both houses was not reached.

Pricelia asked the Secretariat for help with documents on the recognition of

**SO** to contact AKG regarding Membership

---

---

the West and Central African Regional Committee. Fleurange confirmed that she had investigated but not much had been found. She will have another look and send to Pricelia.

Strategy.

**FG** to send regional documents to PT.

---

**Date of next meeting**

In approximately three months' time, date to be confirmed.

**AKG** to send a Doodle.

Chris closed the meeting apologising for the extra time (duration: 1:40) and thanked everyone for attending and participating so supportively.

---

**Final Skype comments**

[15:36:20]

Harriet Davies-Mostert: Well chaired - thanks Chris and Ann-Katrine

[15:36:23]

Ernesto Herrera Guerra: Thank you all, great to hear from you all. If we agree to set up a WhatsApp group, here is my number: +5215513534614

[15:37:03]

Leida Buglass: I must go now. This has been a great meeting... the exchange of information has been superb! Thanks to everyone! And looking forward for the next meeting, for the minutes and for extra informations. HASTA PRONTO!!

[15:37:20]

Ernesto Herrera Guerra: bye!!

[15:37:23]

Pricetny: Thanks you all

**IUCN Global Group (GG) for National and Regional Committee Development  
4th Conference Call – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Minutes**

<b>Participants</b>	Chris Mahon (Chair), United Kingdom, Europe	<b>CM</b>
	Pricelia Tumenta, Cameroun, West Africa RC	<b>PT</b>
	Harriet Davies-Mostert, South Africa, South and East Africa RC	<b>HDM</b>
	Ma Keping, China, South and East Asia RC	<b>MK</b>
	Raj Kumar, Thailand, South and East Asia RC	<b>RK</b>
	Ana Di Pangraccio, Argentina, South America RC	<b>ADP</b>
	Ernesto Herrera, Mexico, Meso America RC	<b>EH</b>
	Kathy Zischka, Australia, Oceania	<b>KZ</b>
	Jenny Gruenberger, Bolivia, IUCN Councilor	<b>JG</b>
	Enrique Lahman, Fleurange Gilmour and Sarah Over, IUCN-HQ	<b>EL/FG/SO</b>
	Ann-Katrine Garn (Secretary), Denmark, Europe	<b>AKG</b>
 <b>Apologies</b>	Meg Beckel, Canada, North America	
	Leida Buglass, Dominican Republic, Caribbean RC	
	Nana Janashia, Georgia East Europe, North and Central Asia	
	Nizar Hani, Lebanon, West Asia RC	

- *Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. The actions from the minutes were checked and no comments or observations were raised.*
- *Actions: Chris had drafted a message to the Lebanon meeting and Sarah had shared internally the idea of holding the biennial meeting during the COP next year. Sharing of reports will be ongoing.*

*Key discussion points and decisions from the meeting*

Item	Discussion points	Decision / Action
<b>Task 1: RC-NC information template</b>	<p>Kathy apologized for not participating in the previous meeting. She had put together a draft brochure which she had circulated prior to the meeting. This will be a pdf that will go on the IUCN website.</p> <p>The Union Portal should remain the main place where information is updated. However, this is only accessible by IUCN members (password protected). Therefore, the brochure will need to be placed in a "public facing" part of the portal or on the IUCN website.</p> <p>Kathy will send more questions/comments out to the group. Sarah has been working on a map which could be included in the brochure. There are new IUCN publication guidelines that have been adopted and we will need to follow these. They are quite rigorous as publications have to be peer reviewed. Sarah will check with the publications officer Sarina van der Ploeg.</p> <p>A call will go out to NC and RC leads to make sure that their information is up to date on the portal.</p> <p>The goal is to have a first draft of the brochure ready for the next meeting, and for presenting to the IUCN Council meeting 19-21 November to show that the group is active and delivering. Pricelia suggested working with the membership coordinators from the Secretariat in each region.</p>	<p><b>All</b> NCs and RCs to update information in the portal as this is the main place where information will be kept.</p> <p><b>KZ</b> to circulate brochure and comments.</p> <p><b>All</b> to provide feedback to KZ.</p> <p><b>SO</b> to send map to KZ.</p> <p><b>SO</b> to publications office.</p>
<b>Task 2: Discussion on a work programme - where can the GG bring added value to IUCN?</b>	<p>With the context being the purposes of this group as set out in its ToR, Chris had tasked himself with this but wanted to discuss the work programme first before deciding on a template and so asked: 'what do we see as bringing added value to the IUCN?'</p> <p>We discussed the importance of sharing lessons from NCs and RCs - what works and what doesn't. For example, using the committees as a platform for NGO/Government engagement.</p> <p>Harriet explained how they have managed to create a platform by holding the NC meetings at the Ministry of Environment and thereby providing a</p>	

---

space to have discussions with NGOs and Government.  
Pricelia highlighted a growing problem with governments losing interest and not paying fees and not participating in the WCC. The Secretariat noted this growing concern and thanked Pricelia for bringing it up.  
IUCN Secretariat is developing a membership strategy, and the GG could assist in providing inputs on this. Sarah will send out a shorter version of this document, which contains 6 key questions.  
Ma Keping: NCs and RCs are critical for promoting engagement of members between WCCs. The RCs can also provide an umbrella between members and the Secretariat.

SO to send survey questions

---

**2018 biennial meeting**

During the last meeting we talked about piggy-backing on to the CBD COP14 in Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt in November 2018. Chris has sent a letter prior to the Lebanese meeting as suggested by Nizar and have been in touch with the CBD Secretariat. As it's only possible to have side events lasting an hour we may have to organise something separately.  
Ana raised concerns with security raised by Members in civil society. Some NGOs have decided not to participate in solidarity with NGOs in Egypt. Ana mentioned World Water Week as another big event which could be aligned with.  
Enrique highlighted that there could be a possibility of organising something in an official IUCN framework. These will be limited but it could be a possibility. Enrique agreed to explore this option further.

EL to explore options at the CBD

---

**Regional updates**

South and East Asia

2nd Regional Meeting was held, chaired by Prof Ma Keping. Very successful, attended by almost all members in the region, Commissions, Councilors, etc. Everyone was given an opportunity to present their work. Need more active engagement between Secretariat and Members. Looked at how to strengthen this and had a discussion session on this. Resource constraints are an issue. Meeting was followed by a field trip. The Secretariat are providing the administrative support and China NC the funding support so good partnership working.

Meso America

No regional meetings since the RCF in Panama. Trying to schedule a new meeting.

South America

No regional meeting yet, but have been working on rescinded members to try and keep them on board - have been successful and retained 3-4. Working with the Secretariat on this. Some are important NGOs. Capacity building ideas are being developed - will report at next meeting.

Europe

Progress is ongoing on for the development of the committee, have learned lessons from other RCs, many of which were established a long time ago. Looking at an inter-regional committee but statutes from 2008 makes it more complicated. The role of the Regional Councilors in both regions is important - they have taken up the case and doing a lot of investigations on how to proceed, especially with respect to the legalities and technicalities. Looking at synergies with assisting with the Green List of PAs, and how NCs can help with its development.

West and Central Africa

The RC is in a transition as an election is scheduled for December. They are

PT to follow-up with

---

---

collecting documents to update the by-laws. The Secretariat may be able to assist with holding elections electronically but it takes 6 weeks to plan. NC Cameroon held a meeting on 28 July in Yaoundé where half of members attended. Project ideas were discussed. Members have agreed that the NC will develop a project under IUCN for forest restoration.

Secretariat

#### Secretariat

Recently admitted 21 new members and have circulated 19 new applications, including a shooting association. New members include 2 in Oceania (Australia), 6 in Meso and South America (1, in Bolivia, 1 in Guatemala, 2 in Brazil, 2 in Mexico), 2 in North America and the Caribbean (USA), 5 in South and East Asia (1 in Bangladesh, 1 in China, 2 in Nepal and 1 in Viet Nam), 5 in West Asia (4 in Yemen and 1 in Jordan) and 1 in West Europe (The Netherlands).

E-vote for the US NC Executive Committee started 26<sup>th</sup> September and will be open for a week. The result will be published on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Two people are standing for Chair - Scott Hajost and Christopher Dunn. Christopher Dunn was elected as Chair.

Rescission process currently underway, to address non-payment with 161 rescinded members, +/- 100 will be withdrawn by the end of next week. Preparing a survey to send to members by mid-October.

Jenny raised a topic which will be discussed in the Council meeting in November during the Governance and Constituency Committee - looking at how international NGOs participate at a regional and national level. It is not very clear how they participate, as some organisations have offices in several countries.

#### Eastern and South Africa

From the RC Harriet reported that there is a resignation of ExCo member from Botswana, so re-election is needed for a replacement.

Struggling to find time for meetings as time constraints is an issue. As mentioned in the last meeting a volunteer has now been identified. Hoping that will relieve some time. The volunteer will be writing newsletters, update website etc.

The South African NC held a workshop on sustainable use incl. trophy hunting and is producing some proceedings from this. Enrique informed the group that Council are also having discussions about this and would be interested in updates on the SA meeting.

HDM to follow-up with Secretariat

HDM to follow up with Secretariat

#### Oceania

There is a new director at the IUCN Regional Office. Kathy noted the World Congress on Public Health, attended by IUCN President and has supported an international WCPA meeting. Event on environment and energy-related SDGs, in partnership with the Australia government. Participants included government, NGOs, private sector.

The Australian NC provides a neutral platform "a safe space to meet" where government and NGOs can meet - a neutral and apolitical platform. Might not always agree but it provides a platform and it brings the union together. AGM is planned for November.

---

#### **Progress report to next IUCN Council/Governance and Constituency Committee**

The progress report including the NCRC brochure to be sent to the Secretariat by 20th October. Agenda item to be added to Governance and Constituency Committee's agenda. Harriet asked if it's the same for NC and RC annual reports? Kathy explained that they report to the IUCN Oceania Regional office but there's no major global obligation. Ernesto mentioned that they report to the Mesoamerica Regional office. Chris suggested that all should use the same template and do the reports at the same time. Sarah requested everyone to send their reports in for publication on the website.

CM/AKG  
FG

All to send NC/RC reports to Secretariat

---

---

---

**Date of next meeting**

In approximately three months' time so in December 2017 - date to be confirmed by Doodle.

**AKG** to send a Doodle.

Chris closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and participating so supportively.

---

**Final Skype comments**

Harriet Davies-Mostert: thanks for another useful meeting

Kathy Zischka: I will circulate the brochure in the next few days.

Ernesto Herrera Guerra: Thank you guys

Raj Kumar: Thank you Chris and Ann-Katrine

Ana Di Pangraccio: Perfect thanks

Kathy Zischka: Thank you everyone!

Ana Di Pangraccio: and take care everybody in Mexico

Pricetny: Thanks everyone

Ernesto Herrera Guerra: bye

Ernesto Herrera Guerra: thanks!!

**IUCN Global Group (GG) for National and Regional Committee Development  
5th Conference Call – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Minutes**

<b>Participants</b>	Chris Mahon (Chair), United Kingdom, West Europe	CM
	Pricelia Tumenta, Cameroun, West Africa RC	PT
	Harriet Davies-Mostert, South Africa, South and East Africa RC	HDM
	Raj Kumar, Thailand, South and East Asia RC	RK
	Ana Di Pangraccio, Argentina, South America RC	ADP
	Meg Beckel, Canada, North America	MB
	Ernesto Herrera, Mexico, Meso America RC	EH
	Leida Buglass, Dominican Republic, Caribbean RC	LB
	Nata Davlianidze, Georgia East Europe, North and Central Asia	NJ
	Kathy Zischka, Australia, Oceania	KZ
	Jenny Gruenberger, Bolivia, IUCN Councillor	JG
	Enrique Lahman, Fleurange Gilmour and Sarah Over, IUCN-HQ	EL/FG/SO
	Ann-Katrine Garn (Secretary), Denmark, West Europe	AKG

**Apologies** Nizar Hani, Lebanon, West Asia RC

*It was unfortunately not possible to connect to Ma Keping (China, South and East Asia RC).*

*Nata Davlianidze attended the meeting on behalf of Nana Janashia (Georgia East Europe, North and Central Asia).*

*Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting.*

Key discussion points and decisions from the meeting

Item	Discussion points	Decision / Action
<b>Task 1: RC-NC information template</b>	<p>The latest document was circulated prior to the meeting. We have received a large amount of input which is great. However, we still have a few gaps to fill. If everyone would have a look at their region that would be great so that we could finalise the document in the new year.</p> <p>Please note that this is not a final draft. A final proof read and alignment is needed as well as adding all the images. The plan is to have it ready before the next IUCN Council meeting (end of April – 2 May) which gives us time to finalise the document.</p> <p>When the full English version is ready then it will be translated into French and Spanish. Fleurange highlighted that some text had already been translated. Enrique suggested that all national focal points and committees should be approached to make sure that all are participating.</p> <p>Reasons for no reply vary. Kathy explained that for New Zealand they have had some changes in leadership but she will be happy to provide an update very soon. Ernesto explained that it is the same situation in El Salvador. Harriet is struggling with her region as they are possibly not taking it seriously. Enrique suggested sending the document out again with the colour explanation so that it is clear which are missing. Kathy agreed and if people are given a final deadline for input this could invigorate a last push. And national focal points should be added to this final request as they would be able to reach countries with no NC such as Uruguay and Belize. Kathy had a question from Oceania. Their RC is not a recognised RC but they do meet and make decisions. There is a similar situation for the West and East Europe regions. Sarah suggested giving these circumstances a different colour on the map. Chris agreed and highlighted that the map is very comprehensive.</p>	<b>All</b> to chase their region.
<b>2018 biennial meeting - progress with the CBD COP14</b>	<p>Chris would make contact again with Nizar in Lebanon.</p> <p>Sarah reported that there was nothing new with regards to the opportunities for a venue at the CBD meeting. She will contact the</p>	<b>CM</b> to contact Nizar. <b>SO</b> to contact organisers.

<b>location, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt</b>	organisers for more information.	
<b>Discussion on the participation of IUCN Commissions in National and Regional Committees</b>	<p>This question originated from the Secretariat. Enrique explained that it's an issue from the Ecuador NC but also the Bolivia NC as well as the South America RC. Commissions members are part of the NC and RC and have voting rights in these countries. The legal advisors have been consulted and this is not in accordance with the statutes. And this seems to be a particular issue only in Meso- and South America. It has been a system that has proven to work in these committees. The Governance and Constituency Committee has granted it for the meantime. However further analyses of the pros and cons is in the pipeline and this has been communicated to the Ecuador NC and the South America RC. It is more about recognition than voting rights but if it is to continue then a proposal to change the statutes is needed. Several Commissions participate in this way in the regions and it seems to help the Commissions to work together.</p> <p>The Australian situation was highlighted where Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs of Commissions are always invited and part of all the open discussions but when it comes to voting the NC has a specific constitution. Raj explained that it is the same for the Asia region.</p> <p>In Denmark Commission members are invited to the meetings but can't vote. The NC is planning a meet-and-greet meeting in 2018 for Commission members and national members.</p> <p>The South Africa NC aims to have a presentation from a Commission at each meeting.</p> <p>Ernesto reported that next year a national forum is planned a year before the regional forum so we can strengthen the collaboration between NCs and Commissions. A similar event will happen in Europe.</p> <p>Enrique reported that Council took note of the revised bylaws of the Ecuador NC and the South America RC.</p> <p>Enrique also reported that the input from the Global Group is very important for the Governance and Constituency Committee.</p>	
<b>IUCN Membership strategy</b>	<p>Sarah explained that the membership strategy survey was finally sent out in mid-November and that the deadline has been extended to mid-January. If you haven't received the link, Sarah and Fleurange would like to know. Ann-Katrine explained that the personalised link gave problems as it could not be forwarded – then it was difficult for NCs and RCs to promote the survey. It would also be useful if the survey could be sent more widely within the member institutions.</p> <p>Harriet asked how many responses had been received from the different regions. Sarah explained that 200 responses had been received and that they are anonymous so regions could not be identified in the replies.</p> <p>Leida requested that the link to the survey to be sent again as she did not have a record of receiving it. Kathy noticed that the email went to her personal email address. However, she would follow up with the Oceania Members and request them to input. Sarah explained that the contact emails in the Union Portal had been used.</p>	<b>All</b> to promote the survey in your region.
<b>Regional updates</b>	<p><u>IUCN Council</u></p> <p>Jenny reported that IUCN Council took note of the Global Group report. A new NC in Benin was recognised and this was welcomed by the GG. Discussion took place on the membership applications from international NGOs and their participation in National/Regional Committees. The following decisions were made by Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed that Membership applications for International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) must be received from the organisation's Headquarters;</li> </ul>	

- 
- Agreed that, if admitted as an IUCN Member, the organisation will be registered in the country in which the Headquarters is based;
  - Requested the Secretariat to undertake a review of current INGOs and make the necessary changes to the membership data base; (Secretariat is currently undertaking this process)
  - Agreed that INGO Members of IUCN may participate in National/Regional Committees of the countries/regions in which they are present, as observers with speaking rights, where invited by the National/Regional Committee, but may only vote in the National/Regional Committee in which their Headquarters is located. (Secretariat will shortly inform the relevant Members and National/Regional Committees)
- Council has acknowledged the application from Marseille in France as location for the next World Conservation Congress. However, no decision has been made in terms of venue or date yet.

#### West and Central Africa

Lots is happening in this transition period. Amending text and reorganize an election. Electronic vote is a possibility with the help of the Secretariat. However, most members opted for a physical meeting. There is still a low participation but there is a new member in the RC– Welcome Benin NC. The regional ad hoc committee has worked well. Unfortunately, not much feedback from the NC but more of a one-way communication. Hopefully the physical meeting will make a difference. Chris wished Benin NC welcome on behalf of the group!

#### Meso America

No physical meetings only via Whatsapp. The plastics in the ocean is a focus theme but no meeting has been held. Have been talking to Christopher Dunn (USA NC Chair) about shared work. Agreed to have a regional meeting with North America, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean to talk about the influence of President Trump and how can we improve in the future. Ernesto sought a brochure to help invite new members who do not know anything about IUCN. There are so many organisations that can be approached but the brochure is missing. Sarah explained that the strategy will include ideas on how to invite new members. Sarah would also like to update the one that is available now. Also the annual report could show some good projects but agreed that there is a need for something. Ernesto commented that some people believe that IUCN is only about "scientists talking about conservation". It would be great to have a list of some compelling talking points to invite organizations to join IUCN.

#### Caribbean

After hurricane the region got badly hit. There is nothing new from the Caribbean as the focus is on recovery. The RC is finalising the update of the bylaws. The aim is to have them approved by the end of December. After approval Leida will share with the GG.

#### North America

Canadian Committee meets every 2 months. The Canadian "Parks for All" initiative is part of the IUCN "Nature for All" campaign and is a focus for the NC. Meg is curious how it will complement #natureforall. Another major focus for the NC is on advancing protected areas for Aichi Canada target 1. The AGM will be in January 2018 where the major focus is on protected areas including indigenous protected areas. There are three new members representing land trusts so it will be interesting to see the effect of the protected areas focus on NC membership. The DG visited Canada fall 2017 which provided an opportunity for Canada's NC members to reengage. Meg has also been in contact with Christopher Dunn (USA NC) on how they can collaborate.

---

---

### South America

Global drylands are willing to develop projects in the region. There is a regression especially in glaciers and national forest projects so they've had a couple of meetings with the Ministry of Environment.

One concern is the Glacier National Park in Argentina which is a World Heritage Sites. The construction of a dam would affect the WH site drastically.

The region has a new regional director - Alvaro Vallejo Rendon. Ana has had Skype meetings with him and 2 regional councillors. He also attended a meeting with the RC. He will be visiting the countries with the NCs.

There is a focus on South American camelids especially use of and selling of guanaco products in other countries in the region

Finally, developing a project that will improve members in governance and leadership. This will also strengthen the knowledge of IUCN in the region.

### Eastern and South Africa

South Africa NC has had one meeting. Focus on biodiversity offset and how they are being applied in SA.

Is excited about seed funding for developing tomorrows leaders today. The idea is to identify mid-career people to build leadership through the IUCN network. The seed funding is to run a workshop and it's a joint project with the government.

The RC has been quiet. Only one meeting since we last spoke. The volunteer has started and is helping with administrative tasks. The virtual meetings with the two of Regional Councilors are good links. The RC is supporting a project proposal on population health. Looking forward to pick something new in the new year.

Kathy said great news and suggested that Harriet should get Sarah Chiles from AWF involved in the mid-career programme.

### South and East Asia

Asia RC completed their annual report which had been well received. They will continue the work next year as well.

South Korea, China and Japan are in a tripartite collaboration. They will focus on 70th birthday of IUCN and how that can work. Raj suggested that other countries should form something similar as this 3-way collaboration. The Chair of South Korea is organisation the World Leaders Conservation Forum in 2018 and RC is working closely with them.

### East Europe

Speaking on behalf of Nana. There is not much to report on. The one thing to share is the current situation with the Georgian Environment and Rural ministries are merging to one.

Is interested in discussing an NC and would like to have a Skype call with countries that have NCs.

### Oceania

No updates from the RC. For the NC there are 2 new Australian members – one government member and one NGO. There is partnership with the Australian government on a forum on environmental goals. There is also an event on private land conservation. Guidelines are coming out. Co-organised with IUCN-WCPA a task force beyond 2020. Published a new report from the High seas workshop.

During the AGM in November the new regional director attended where the focus was on global priorities and what is happening in Australia next year. 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of IUCN will be a focus.

Kathy also mentioned that they are updating the Australian IUCN membership brochure on how the IUCN works. This may provide some clarification which Ernesto requested.

**KZ** to share the Australian brochure when updated.

---

### Europe

---

The Inter-Regional Committee discussion will continue. A members meeting together with Commissions and Councillors is being planned in Prague. A meeting organised by the Working Group for National Committee Development in Europe, North and Central Asia will be held in Amsterdam in April 2018.

Secretariat

Fleurange is following up on members who have not paid their invoices. 13 new members including 2 from Ireland.

Sarah mentioned that the Global Unit is trying to make an infographic which should be helpful in promoting IUCN.

---

**Progress report to next IUCN Council/Governance and Constituency Committee**

Chris and Ann-Katrine will draft a progress report for the next Council meeting at the end of April 2018. The report has to be sent one month before the meeting (mid-March).

---

**Date of next meeting**

Next meeting will be held in three months' time (March 2018) - date to be confirmed by Doodle.

**AKG** to send a Doodle.

Chris closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and participating so supportively. So much progress and so much good news and sharing. To make sure we have captured all comments please send amendments to Ann-Katrine so we have an accurate record.

---

**Final Skype comments**

[14:49:16] Ernesto Herrera Guerra: thank you guys!

[14:49:21] Jenny Gruenberger: Thank you all!

[14:49:24] Leida Buglass: thanks you so much... lot of useful information

[14:49:31] Ana Di Pangracio: Happy holidays!!

[14:49:40] Ernesto Herrera Guerra: happy holidays!!

[14:49:40] Kathy Zischka: Thank you all. Good night from Sydney!

[14:49:42] Raj Kumar: Thank you :)

[14:49:58] Ernesto Herrera Guerra: bye!!

[14:50:05] Nata Davlianidze: thank you!