



Join the world's largest global environmental network

The benefits of IUCN membership





Why join IUCN?

A glance at our membership list suggests multiple benefits. States and government agencies, NGOs large and small, economic development agencies, scientists and academics, the private sector and representatives of civil society all find advantages.

Their common cause is concern for the sustainable future of the planet. Human activity has had a massive impact on the world's ecosystems in the last hundred years. Most, if not all, have been damaged in some degree, and it is generally accepted that the long-term economic and social costs of further deterioration will be heavy.

In many cases, the scale and complexity of the challenges to address are beyond the reach and resources of any one country or organization. Hence, IUCN's evolution over six decades into the world's largest community of environmental experts.

Our Members act collectively to provide leadership, governance and set the organization's strategic agenda. They benefit, in turn, from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base, its convening power, its networking opportunities, and the access it provides to high-level political, economic and social decision making.

In effect, we offer a unique, neutral forum where different interest groups come together to develop balanced, fact-based environmental proposals that carry real weight around the world.

By joining, you advance your own cause and add to our collective strength in overcoming barriers to a sustainable future.

IUCN's Mission

Our mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.



IUCN at a Glance

- The world's oldest and largest global environmental network
- A leading authority on the environment and sustainability
- A unique democratic union with more than 1,200 Member organizations in some 160 countries, including States, government agencies, multilateral institutions and NGOs
- Almost 11,000 expert volunteers grouped into six Commissions reviewing scientific research and developing standards for the conservation community – a unique global scientific community
- The IUCN Programme approved by Members at the World Conservation Congress: our joint platform for action and policy influence in conservation
- A governing Council, elected by Members and responsible for the oversight and general control of all the affairs of IUCN
- Hundreds of partners in governments, NGOs, scientists, business and local communities
- A Secretariat comprising 45 offices worldwide; headquarters located in Gland, Switzerland
- Thousands of field projects and activities around the world implemented by IUCN Members and partners together with the Secretariat
- Official observer status at the United Nations General Assembly
- Funded by Members, governments, donor agencies, foundations, multilateral institutions and major corporations

What makes IUCN unique?

IUCN provides credible, trusted knowledge

IUCN convenes and builds partnerships for action

IUCN has a global-to-local and local-to-global reach

IUCN influences standards and practices



A More Powerful Conservation Voice

IUCN adds weight and authority to your conservation agenda.

We further scientific understanding of ecological sustainability issues and provide an organizational framework that enables experts and decision makers to pursue common goals. Our ability to act neutrally and globally in this respect has been recognized by the granting of official UN observer status, giving you a voice at the highest international levels.

The inter-relationship between IUCN and its Members is highly productive.

You bring the specialist knowledge and expertise from a wide range of perspectives to contribute to the formation of IUCN policies, the prioritization of programmes and the capacity to implement them. The sum of the parts is a powerful force that has proportionately greater influence on political, economic and social decision making.

World Conservation Congress

Every four years, thousands of delegates participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the world's largest and most important conservation event. The Congress includes a Forum where IUCN Members and partners discuss cutting edge ideas, thinking and practice. The Forum then guides the IUCN Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs. Members submit motions and vote on recommendations and resolutions that shape the organization's future strategies and work programmes, thereby directly and indirectly influencing international, national and local law.

International conventions and agreements

Members contribute towards the progress and implementation of important conventions and international agreements, many originated by IUCN, such as those on biodiversity (CBD), trade in endangered species (CITES), climate change (UNFCCC), deserts (CCD), wetlands (Ramsar) and the UNESCO World Heritage programme.

Policy advice and technical support

Members provide input to the policy advice and technical support that IUCN offers to the OECD, the World Bank, the G8, the G77, the EU, the Arab League, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the World Economic Forum and the Clinton Global Initiative, among other multinational institutions, and to the UN and its agencies, including programmes such as UNEP, UNESCO and UNDP.



Global Networking and Partnership Opportunities

IUCN believes that significant progress in environmental management and sustainable development is only possible through close partnerships between different constituencies and stakeholders – governments, international agencies, legislators, civil society, business, indigenous groups, scientists and local communities. Facilitating the connections that drive this progress is the key objective of IUCN’s 1,000 professional staff around the world.

Joining the IUCN family creates networking opportunities that help you identify common interests, new partners and potential funding sources.

We act as a catalyst in this respect, helping to drive hundreds of projects every year. Our global reach and resources play a particularly important role in supporting multi-country regional initiatives. We take the lead on many large-scale projects, assembling teams, identifying specialist resources, securing funding and providing management skills. But we’re equally at home in an endorsing role, enabling the scientific backup and connections to help advance Member-driven initiatives.

Private sector partnerships

IUCN encourages dialogue with the private sector and helps Members and companies jointly address conservation and sustainability issues. We provide a neutral platform and tools to support constructive engagement.

For example, IUCN and Kuoni, the Swiss travel company, work together to promote the transfer of skills between tourism professionals and the conservation community as a first step to making ecotourism development market-viable. This work, aimed at conservation organizations and in particular IUCN Members, revolves around a series of capacity building workshops and coaching programmes, which take place in different regions. The first of these was organized in East Africa in mid-2011 involving 35 participants from approximately 20 organizations located in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Further regions will be targeted in 2012 and beyond.

Trans-border initiatives

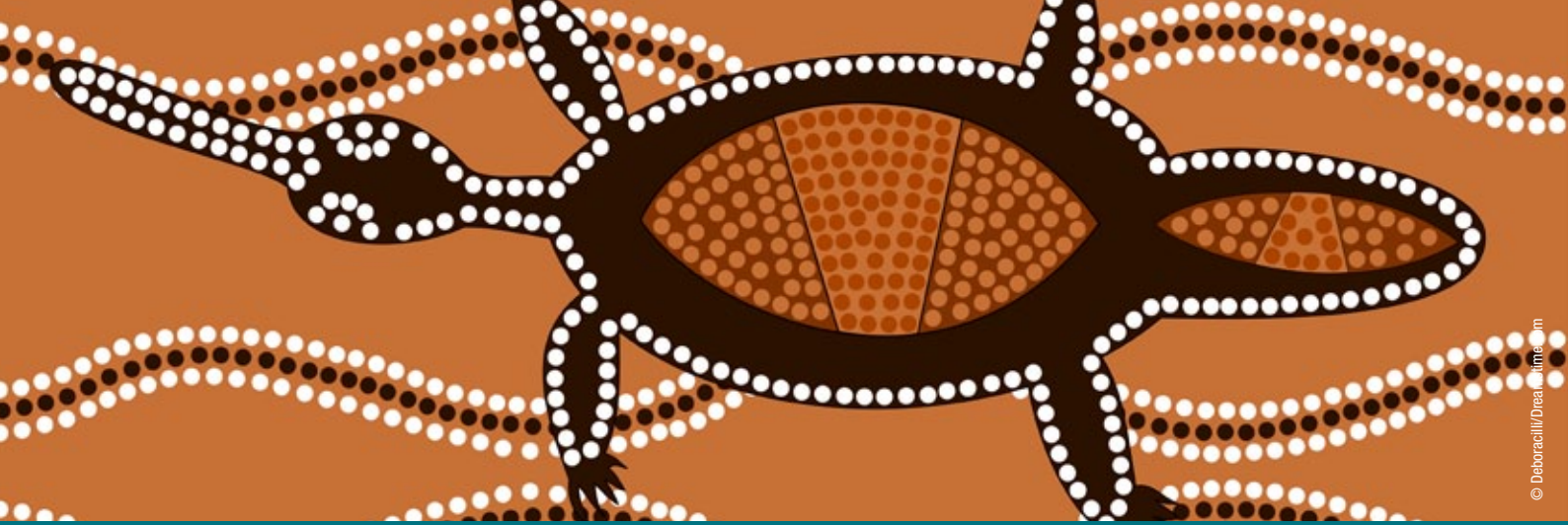
IUCN plays a leading role in many transborder conservation projects and the establishment of transborder protected areas.

IUCN facilitates the Global Transboundary Conservation Network, bringing together more than 200 experts and practitioners in transboundary conservation and management. The network was launched at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, 2003) and its work is supported by the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group of IUCN WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas). It offers technical expertise and policy guidance on all aspects of transboundary conservation planning, management and governance

International networking

IUCN’s unique convening power and networking capabilities play an important part in assembling the conservation skills and leadership needed to formulate coherent approaches to complex international environmental programmes.

For example, the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) is a programme involving more than 80 partners and Members in the environmental management of over 12 river basins in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Middle East and Oceania. IUCN provides tools and training, economic incentives, and support to sound governance and decision making.



Enhanced Knowledge and Capacity Building

Environmental reform is a high-stakes challenge. A combination of clear insight, irrefutable science-based arguments, sound policies and management processes, and technological innovation is needed to turn the tide.

One of IUCN's key objectives is to act as a multiplier, accelerating environmental progress by sharing

knowledge and helping to build the capacity of Members to achieve their conservation goals.

Our research investments, knowledge base, skills advocacy and worldwide experience of managing field projects have proved uniquely helpful to hundreds of organizations in this respect.

Support

IUCN assistance has enabled over 75 countries to prepare and implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and regional strategies.

Publications and conservation tools

Members have access to IUCN databases, research tools and resource management publications that set global standards in their fields. Each year, we produce or co-author over 150 publications and major assessments as well as hundreds of reports and guidelines.

IUCN is also involved, along with many of its Members, in a joint project known as the Conservation Commons Initiative, which develops standards and tools to share biodiversity data, knowledge and database technology.

Workshops and skills training

Each year, IUCN runs hundreds of workshops and training events to support Member programmes and objectives.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), a multi-partner initiative that IUCN co-chairs with UNDP, promotes investments in coastal ecosystems. MFF works with national governments, including IUCN Members, in extensive capacity building that supports sustainable development of local communities. For example, in 2011, a regional training course in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) was developed for coastal project managers in the Asia-Pacific region, who have the potential to serve as trainers or resource persons at national level. The course was planned with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and offered as a formal certificate-level course to provide trainees with a recognized qualification. With the course embedded in a reputable regional university, MFF created a strong institutional base to run the course on an annual basis. The curriculum provides students with necessary theoretical and practical ICM concepts, as applied to coastal and marine ecosystems in Asia. Tools and skills for ICM are taught, with emphasis on designing, implementing and monitoring projects that involve diverse stakeholders across sectors and consider effects of climate change.



Global Expertise

IUCN enables experts from its Member organizations to contribute to virtually every field of conservation, from pioneering research and the drafting of legislation to the planning and management of field projects. We provide the framework and connections; you provide a unique pool of knowledge and experience.

Many experts contribute to the work of one or more of our six Commissions, which unite almost 11,000 volunteer

scientists and other experts who specialize in different areas of environmental management.

These Commissions provide the focus necessary to maintain a leadership role in different areas of policy development and fieldwork and make it easier for Members to connect with the resources and support they need.



Species Survival Commission



Commission on Education and Communication



World Commission on Protected Areas



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy



Commission on Environmental Law



Commission on Ecosystem Management

The Red List

The *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*[™] is the world's most comprehensive source of information on the conservation status of plants, fungi and animals. Established in the 1950's, it provides the definitive international standard for assessing the extinction risk of wild species. It draws on data supplied by partner organizations (mostly IUCN Members) and a unique flow of information from a global network of around 7,500 experts to provide a comprehensive knowledge base of over 61,000 species. In many cases, IUCN provides capacity building assistance to Member organizations to help monitor particular species.

Protected Area Management Categories

IUCN, working through the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has developed international standards and tools to improve the identification, protection and effective planning and management of protected areas and of areas of important biodiversity values.

World Heritage

As co-founder of the World Heritage Convention and in its capacity as official technical advisory body to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, IUCN has been responsible for evaluating new natural and mixed World Heritage sites, and for assessing the state of conservation of existing World Heritage sites, for almost 40 years. This work involves many IUCN Members and Commission members worldwide.



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Become a Member of IUCN

Who can become a Member?

IUCN membership is open to States, government agencies, NGOs and academic institutions working in fields related to conservation or equitable and ecologically sustainable development.

As well as demonstrating a strong track record of activities in the conservation of nature and natural resources, organizations submitting applications should share and support the objectives of IUCN and have as one of their central purposes the achievement of IUCN's Mission.

Membership services

An IUCN Members' web portal, a dedicated Membership Unit at our headquarters and a robust network of Membership Focal Points in regional offices around the world ensure fast, efficient support for your conservation activities.

How can your organization join?

Please contact the relevant Membership Focal Point in your region or the Membership Unit for any additional support with the admission process.

Detailed information about IUCN membership, fees and conditions, and contact details for the network of Membership Focal Points is available on our website: www.iucn.org/members

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