

Annex 14

International Union for Conservation of Nature and
Natural Resources (ICUN)

World Conservation Union¹

What is the World Conservation Union?

The World Conservation Union is the world's largest and most important conservation network. The Union brings together 82 States, 111 government agencies, more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership.

The Union's 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.

The World Conservation Union is a multicultural, multilingual organization with 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

What does IUCN stand for?

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Use of the name "World Conservation Union" began in 1990, but the full name and the acronym are often used together as many people still know the Union as IUCN.

The World Conservation Union was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France. The organization changed its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956.

Why does the World need the World Conservation Union?

While the idea of conserving the environment has steadily gained political acceptance over the past few decades, people still misunderstand and ignore the goods and services that nature, biodiversity and ecosystems provide to us.

For example, 15,589 species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction and many ecosystems – wetlands, forests – are being degraded and destroyed, while we know that natural ecosystems provide humans with a large range of highly valuable services.

The importance of well-functioning ecosystems in helping reduce poverty and improve livelihoods, societies and economies is increasingly clear to scientists. This knowledge needs to be integrated into the decisions and actions of local, national and international policy makers in all sectors, as well as business leaders.

The World Conservation Union continues to improve scientific understanding of what natural ecosystems provide to humans. But the Union also seeks to ensure this knowledge is used in practical ways by bringing together scientists, policy makers, business leaders and NGOs to impact the way the world values and uses nature.

¹ Från <http://www.iucn.org>

What Does the Union do?

The World Conservation Union supports and develops cutting-edge conservation science; implements this research in field projects around the world; and then links both research and results to local, national, regional and global policy by convening dialogues between governments, civil society and the private sector.

The priority of the Union's current Programme (2005–2008) is to build recognition of the many ways in which human lives and livelihoods, especially of the poor, depend on the sustainable management of natural resources.

In its projects, the Union applies sound ecosystem management to conserve biodiversity and builds sustainable livelihoods for those directly dependent on natural resources. The Union is actively engaged in managing and restoring ecosystems and improving people's lives, economies and societies.

The Union's databases, assessments, guidelines and case studies, prepared by its global membership, Commissions and Secretariat, are among the world's most respected and frequently cited sources of information and reference on the environment.

As the world's largest environmental knowledge network, the Union has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. The Union also has the official status of Observer at the United Nations General Assembly.

Some examples:

Knowledge

- Monitoring the state of the world's species through the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
- Contributing to and supporting the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Convening multi stakeholder events such as the World Parks Congress in 2003
- Disseminating the Union's knowledge and expertise through the World Conservation Bookstore

Policy

- Giving policy advice and technical support to governments, UN organizations, international conventions and other groupings such as the G8 and G77.
- Assessing all new sites nominated for natural World Heritage Site listing
- Contributing technical assistance to prepare national biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Providing technical support for drafting environmental laws and natural resource management strategies

Action

- Through the Water and Nature Initiative, working with 80 partners in a five-year global action plan in 10 water basins

- Through the Forest for Life Strategy, promoting wise management through guidelines for fire prevention and community management of forest resources
- Working with the corporate sector on energy and biodiversity, and mining and protected areas
- Facilitating Parks for Peace between countries in areas of conflict

How is the World Conservation Union organized?

The World Conservation Union is a membership organization. The Union has a membership of more than 1,000 organizations, as well as 10,000 individual scientists and experts structured in six Commissions. The priorities and work of the Union are set by members every four years and subsequently coordinated by a professional secretariat with 1,000 staff in 62 countries.

Members

The Union has 1,000 member organizations including 82 States, 111 government agencies, more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Members meet every four years at the World Conservation Congress (the Union's General Assembly) to express their views, guide the Union's policy and approve its programme. The last Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2004.

Committees

Members within a country or region often organize themselves into National and Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation and help coordinate the Union's work.

Commissions

The six Commissions, networks of volunteer scientists and experts, are principal sources of guidance on conservation knowledge, policy and technical advice, and implement parts of the Union's work programme. The priorities and work of the Commissions are also set every four years at the World Conservation Congress.

The Commissions are:

- **Ecosystem Management**
Guiding the management of natural and modified ecosystems
- **Education and Communication**
Promoting sustainability through education and communication
- **Environmental, Economic and Social Policy**
Advising on economic and social factors that affect natural resources
- **Environmental Law**
Advancing environmental laws and its application
- **Protected Areas**
Advising and promoting terrestrial and marine reserves, parks and protected areas
- **Species Survival**
Supporting species conservation and protecting endangered species

Council

Members of the Union elect the 32-member Council every four years at the **World Conservation Congress**. Along with a **President**, Treasurer and three representatives from each of the Union's eight regions, the Council also includes the Chairs of the six Commissions. The Council functions in a similar way to a Board of Directors, meeting once or twice a year to direct Union policy, approve finances and decide on strategy. The Council may appoint up to six additional Councillors.

Secretariat

The Secretariat has over 1,000 full-time staff in 62 countries. Seventy per cent of them are from developing countries.

Accountable to the Council, the Secretariat is led by a **Director General** and has a decentralized structure with regional, outpost and country offices around the world. Our Headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

The Secretariat is structured in four broad areas:

- **Regional Offices**
Each operational region around the world is led by a director, reporting to the Director General. The regional offices implement the Union's programme in their respective territory. The Union has offices in **Africa**, **the Americas**, **Asia** and **Europe**.
- **Global Programme**
Driving the implementation of the Union's work programme throughout the world, the team is organized into various programmes and themes.
- **Global Strategies**
Including Conservation Finance and Donor Relations, Membership Relations and Governance, as well as Communications and Publications.
- **Global Operations**
Including Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology Management, and Legal Counsel.

Projects and activities

All projects and activities are executed in partnership by a mix of organizations and individuals from Member and partner organizations, Commissions, and the Secretariat.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATUTES

AND REGULATIONS

<u>STATUTES</u>	page
Preamble	1
Part I - Legal Status.....	2
Part II - Objectives.....	2
Part III - Members.....	3
Part IV - Organization.....	8
Part V - The World Conservation Congress.....	9
Part VI - The Council.....	14
Part VII - The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora	19
Part VIII - The Commissions.....	20
Part IX - The Secretariat	21
Part X - The Legal Adviser.....	23
Part XI - Finance	23
Part XII - Limitation of Financial Liability and Indemnity	24
Part XIII - Mail Ballot	24
Part XIV - External Relations.....	25
Part XV - Seat.....	25
Part XVI - Official Languages.....	25
Part XVII - Regulations	25
Part XVIII - Amendment of the Statutes.....	26
Part XIX - Dissolution	27
Part XX - Interpretation.....	27
Part XXI - Final Clause.....	27
 Annex - Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress	 28
Part I - Legal Status.....	28
Part II - Structure of the World Conservation Congress.....	28
Part III - Delegates and Observers.....	29
Part IV - Committees of the World Conservation Congress	30
Part V - Secretariat of the World Conservation Congress.....	31
Part VI - Debates.....	31
Part VII - Agenda and Motions.....	34
Part VIII - Methods of Voting	38
Part IX - Elections.....	39
Part X - Languages and Proceedings.....	41
Part XI - Amendment of Rules of Procedure.....	42

REGULATIONS

Part I	- Legal Status	43
Part II	- Programme	43
Part III	- Members	44
Part IV	- The World Conservation Congress	49
Part V	- The Council	52
Part VI	- The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora.....	56
Part VII	- The Commissions.....	58
Part VIII	- The Legal Adviser.....	61
Part IX	- Finance.....	61
Part X	- Mail Ballot.....	63
Part XI	- Language Policy	64
Part XII	- Amendments.....	64
Part XIII	- Final Clause	64
Annex	List of States in the IUCN Regions.....	65

STATUTES

Preamble

Recognizing that:

- conservation of nature and natural resources involves the preservation and management of the living world, the natural environment of humanity, and the earth's renewable natural resources on which rests the foundation of human civilization;
- natural beauty is one of the sources of inspiration of spiritual life and a necessary framework for the needs of recreation, made ever more essential by humanity's increasingly mechanized existence;
- civilization has achieved its present high standard by finding ever more effective means for developing and utilizing these resources, and that consequently soils, water, forests and vegetation, wildlife, wilderness areas maintained intact, and characteristic landscapes are of vital importance for economic, social, educational and cultural purposes;
- the increasing impoverishment of natural resources will inevitably result in a lowering of human standards of living but that this trend need not be irreversible provided that people fully come to recognize their close dependence upon these resources and to the recognition of the need to preserve and manage them in a way that is conducive to the peace, progress and prosperity of humanity;

Convinced that since protection and conservation of nature and natural resources are of vital importance to all nations, a responsible international organization primarily concerned with the furthering of these aims will be of value to various governments, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and other interested organizations;

Recalling that, for these reasons, the governments, public services, organizations, institutions and associations concerned with these matters, meeting at Fontainebleau, on 5 October 1948, established a Union now known as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as "IUCN") and governed by Statutes adopted first at the time of its foundation;

The Members of IUCN, meeting in Montreal from 13 to 23 October 1996, renewed their commitment to these ends and adopted these revised Statutes for the governance of IUCN.

Part I - Legal Status

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) (also known as the World Conservation Union) is constituted in accordance with Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code as an international association of governmental and non-governmental members. Therefore it has legal personality and may perform any act in conformity with its objectives.

Part II - Objectives

2. The objectives of IUCN shall be 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.
3. To attain these objectives, IUCN:
 - (a) mobilizes its members, components and partners to build alliances for conservation;
 - (b) strengthens the institutional capacity of its members to conserve biological diversity and safeguard ecological life-support processes at global, regional, national and local levels;
 - (c) promotes enhanced cooperation between its governmental and non-governmental members to strengthen the capacity of its members and partners;
 - (d) encourages research related to the conservation of nature and natural resources and disseminates information about such research;
 - (e) provides a forum for discussion of conservation issues, including their scientific, educational, legal, economic, social and political dimensions, at global, regional, national and local levels;
 - (f) develops expert networks and information systems to support its members and components;

- (g) prepares and disseminates statements on conservation, drawing on the expertise of its members and components;
- (h) influences national and international legal and administrative instruments so that societies are enabled to enjoy the benefits provided sustainably by nature and natural resources;
- (i) makes representations to governments and international agencies so as to influence environmental policies;
- (j) assists in the development of mechanisms for debating and resolving international environmental issues;
- (k) contributes to the preparation of international agreements relevant to the conservation of nature and natural resources and encourages States to adhere to these agreements;
- (l) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources; and
- (m) implements the provisions of these Statutes.

Part III - Members

Categories

4. The members of IUCN shall be:

- Category A: (a) States and government agencies;
- (b) political and/or economic integration organizations;
- Category B: (c) national non-governmental organizations;
- (d) international non-governmental organizations; and
- Category C: (e) affiliates.