



REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
FORUM
JOHANNESBURG
23-25 JULY 2019

Members and Partners Report



The IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), in partnership with the Government of South Africa through the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), working closely with the Regional Committee of Members and IUCN Regional Councilors from Eastern and Southern Africa held a 3-day Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 23 – 25 July 2019 under the theme of “Securing a future for people and nature in Eastern and Southern Africa.”

IUCN Members and partners shared experiences and success stories generating a common agenda to position and safeguard the regions long term conservation interests while delivering results for people and nature.

Sponsors & Partners:



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Acronyms

AFD	Agence Francaise de Developpement
ALU	African Leadership University
APAC	African Protected Areas Congress
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organizations
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CEOrt	Chief Executive Officers round table
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
FLOD	Local Communities: First Line of Defense against Illegal Wildlife Trade
IP	Intersessional Plan
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science – Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
PAs	Protected Areas
RCF	Regional Conservation Forum
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCC	World Conservation Congress
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive summary

In July 2019, around 250 representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local community and indigenous group representatives convened in Johannesburg, South Africa for IUCN's Regional Conservation Forum under the theme of "Securing a future for people and nature in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Key among the participants included Minister of Environment for Rwanda Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Environment for Uganda Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu, Minister of Environment for Ethiopia Mr. Kedebe Dawd, Under Secretary of South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Dr. Malik Doka, The National Coordinator for Madagascar Ministry of Environment Dr. Herizo Rakotovololonimanana, Mr Momade Nemane from Mozambique Ministry of Environment, Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Rtd. Brig John Waweru, IUCN Regional Councillors for Africa Mr. Ali Kaka, Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Ms. Jesca Eriyo Osuna and Mr. Mamadou Diallo, IUCN Acting Director General Dr. Grethel Aguilar.

The Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) aimed to:

- Discuss Africa's immediate and near future Conservation scenarios, identify key challenges and opportunities that Conservation is facing and re-think its role.
- Identify implications from observed outlook of Africa and what it means for IUCN Programme 2021-2024 and ongoing reforms as a foundation for a future approach that is more relevant, inclusive, transparent, impactful and transformative.
- Provide a platform for participants to exchange views and agree on common actions for collaboration between Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations, Private sector, Youth and local Communities with respect to the IUCN One Programme Approach.

The Forum was officially opened by the Director General of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba. In her speech, she highlighted some of the key environmental challenges in Southern Africa and measures taken by the Government especially on land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. She reiterated the urgency for experts to bridge science and policy actions to inform decision-making.

The scope and outline of the RCF was delivered through remarks by IUCN Acting Director General Dr. Grethel Aguilar. Highlights included the preparations for the World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2020, the post 2020 CBD agenda, the alignment to milestones contained in the SDGs, the invaluable work of various IUCN Commissions, engagement with development partners, the intersessional plan 2021-2024 preparations and significance of an African led voice at these events.

The RCF agenda entailed a series of high level policy and strategy discussions under the open dialogue session, IUCN governance and membership review, the motions process as well as programme development input and scientific information sessions.

The Open Dialogue facilitated by Mr. Shonisani Munzhezdi, Deputy Director General DEFF, comprised a high-level panel debate followed by round table discussions, aimed at identifying critical emerging trends and policy recommendations on environmental sustainability and conservation in the region.

Discussions focused on contemporary values of society and implications for conservation practice and sustainable use and came up with recommendations for critical conservation and development issues facing Eastern and Southern Africa. *The session was initiated*

through keynote address on the state of conservation in the region from presentations by Nancy Nthiga - Youth in conservation; Francis Vorhies - Africa leadership; Buperita Banda- Victoria Falls declaration on the new deal for communities; Ambassador John Groarke - USG conservation agenda for the region; Dr. Theresa Frantz - New deal for nature and people; and Carl Bernadac on the launch of the AFD biodiversity facility.

A high level panel discussion chaired by Dr. Vincent Biruta Minister of Environment from Rwanda and fielded by a team that included: Ms. Nosipho (SA DEFF), Dr. Kitutu (Uganda), Hon. Kebede (Ethiopia), Dr. Herizo (Madagascar), Hon. Dr. Doka (South Sudan), Ms. Nthiga (youth), Ms. Santina (Tanzania) and Dr. Kalema (CSO), examined the challenges and opportunities for Africa into the 2020 agenda. This panel debated on the different views to contemporary societal values and implications for biodiversity as well as policy and investment decisions. *From the panel there emerged emphasis on: resource mobilization for conservation; the roles that ecosystem services play in the socio-economic plans; human well-being consideration in conservation; creation of greater ambition for nature and people in the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in China; enabling conditions needed to deliver on all the goals post Aichi; participation of indigenous people and particularly women and youth in various initiatives and integrated planning.*

The IUCN Programme session discussions provided an opportunity for IUCN Members and Commissions to deliberate and provide feedback on the draft intersessional programme 2021-2024 ahead of its endorsement at the IUCN Congress. This was made concurrent with IUCN ESARO's draft implementation plan with a focus on pre-defined global programmatic themes of: i) Healthy lands and waters; ii) Healthy oceans; iii) Climate change mitigation and adaptation and, iv) Equitable natural resources governance. *Recommendations from members included: addition of further assessment to improve on the situation analysis; acknowledgement of conservation economics and markets; emerging issues and lessons learned from the current 2017-2020 programme; including a theory of change model; mention of key issues around population growth and its impact on sustainable development; inclusion of a financial plan and incorporation of performance outcomes and targets for the Union.*

The item on strengthening IUCN ESARO membership was deliberated at length. Discussions focused on *the need to build a more dynamic, diverse and engaged body of Members with opportunities for networking, cross-learning and more dedicated policy influence at various level of interest. Members also discussed*

the eligibility of local level CSOs and CBOs in IUCN and the need to consider a special tier given their financial position.

The IUCN Governance session discussed and obtained feedback on the proposals for governance improvements including possible amendments to the Statutes. The forum also called for the identification of candidates to be nominated for election as Regional Councillors based on the required qualifications approved by Council.

The session on Motions to be presented by Members from the region to the 2020 Congress identified a number of priorities for consideration. *Proposals included: Family planning in IUCN programming; The global importance of Islands; Recommendation to phase out and ban the use of plastic bottles in all Protected Areas; Indigenous peoples and local communities; Term "Responsible resource use" vs "Sustainable use"; Consumptive use; Illegal killing of lions for their body parts; Integration of human and ecosystem health; Marine fisheries crisis; ESARO to start the process of developing a One Programme approach on wildlife economy; Combatting wildlife cybercrime; Biodiversity inventory management and better sharing.*

Members were introduced to the preparations for the IUCN World Conservation Congress scheduled for 11 to 19 June 2020 in Marseille, France. The session discussed what Members would like to get out of the Congress as a region and how they can use the different opportunities provided by the Congress.

The Information Session delved into three key topics: i) Natural capital; ii) IPBES and iii) Synthetic biology. Presentations on IPBES demonstrated the intersection between IUCN knowledge products and the ground-breaking IPBES report 2019. It was mentioned that IUCN and IPBES MoU was signed in 2016 with a supplemental agreement dedicated to Stakeholder engagement. The 3 main outcomes of the MoU are: *expertise provided by IUCN, sharing of data (Red List, KBA, and heritage sites), stakeholder engagement.* This is supported by France-IUCN partnership. On synthetic biology, Members were informed that IUCN recognizes that synthetic biology applications could have positive or negative impacts for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources depending on their specific context and application.

The climax of the RCF was the rallying together of Members through a [CALL TO ACTION](#) declaration. The call to action is a framework outcome committing Members to pursue common objectives.



Protea Call for Action

July 2019

TO SECURE A FUTURE FOR NATURE, PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IN AFRICA



Mr. Kedebe Dawd from Ethiopia,



(Left - right) Mr Momade Nemane from Mozambique, Dr. Malik Doka from South Sudan, Dr. Herizo Rakotovololonimanana of Madagascar, Mr. Kedebe Dawd from Ethiopia and Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu from Uganda during the panel discussions

We, more than 200 experts, specialists and senior Government officials from 24 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa participated in the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Regional Conservation Forum was co - hosted by the Government of South Africa through the Department of Environment Forests and Fisheries and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Office of Eastern and Southern Africa.

We shared experience and success stories generating a common agenda to position and safeguard the region's long term conservation interests while delivering results for people and nature.

We recognize that the world is living through a decisive moment in its history and in the conservation of nature. The pivotal year of 2020, when the world will agree new targets for nature to 2030, will be a defining moment. There is no more critical challenge for the global community than to understand and secure a future for nature so that humanity and all life on Earth may continue to prosper.

Conserving nature is a non-negotiable prerequisite for achieving a more prosperous, healthy and equitable world. If the world does not reverse the loss of nature, it will undermine any prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

We further recognize that there is great room for optimism, because the integrity of the natural world can be assured. Nature conservation enhances people's lives – it can greatly enhance food and water security, help tackle climate change and contribute significantly to securing human rights and world peace.

“We are committed to strengthening our collaboration and to work together as a Union through the IUCN One Programme Approach to address the challenges facing nature and people in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region.”

OUR CALL FOR ACTION



Dr Vincent Biruta



Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu,



Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba

We are committed to strengthening our collaboration and to work together as a Union through the IUCN One Programme Approach to address the challenges facing nature and people in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region. We will work together to:

- Help ensure the voice of Eastern and Southern Africa is heard loudly and clearly, and reflected in global policy platforms and processes, such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 and the ongoing development of the post 2020 framework;
- Support sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies that deliver resilience and benefits to both humans and ecosystems;
- Strengthen natural resource governance through effective and equitable partnerships, across different economic sectors and creating enabling policies, while fully respecting and recognizing the role of communities, including youth and women in biodiversity conservation;
- Increase efforts to ensure the Marine and Coastal areas of Eastern and Southern Africa are effectively protected and managed, so that they can continue to deliver benefits into the future;
- Actively seek and enhance partnerships to help develop and strengthen financing mechanisms to support nature conservation, including wildlife economies, in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.



Tiana Andriamanana



Mr. Shonisani Munzhedzi



Dr Harriet T. Davies-Mostert

Summary of key sessions

Panel Discussions



Representatives from Civil Society, Business community and Youth engage in the high level panel discussion

Rwanda

Represented by Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister for Environment, Republic of Rwanda and Chair of the high level panel discussion session

- Africa's story is one of great natural heritage and resilience. From the wondrous Okavango Delta in Botswana and the spectacular coastlines of South Africa and Mozambique teeming with life to the plains of East Africa where herds in their millions roam free, we have much to celebrate - and even more to protect and conserve.
- Rwanda is committed to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity for the prosperity of its people and the region.
- Despite being small and densely populated, conservation has become such a priority in Rwanda that we recently created one of Africa's newest national parks to protect a biodiversity hotspot and are in the process of expanding the Volcanoes National Park, which is home to the mountain gorillas.

South Africa

Represented by the Director General of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba

- The Republic of South Africa is a semi-arid country where ecosystem services play a fundamental role. Poor agricultural practices, destruction of wetlands and building of human settlements in low-lying areas is increasing land degradation and loss of certain biomes.
- Climate change is increasingly manifesting in South Africa especially through frequent flooding and drought. Fire frequency and intensity is also compromising the country's ability to sustain biodiversity into the future.
- The country's economy is highly dependent on mining. Mining guidelines that address environmental safeguards and biodiversity conservation and improvements are under consideration to enhance mining operations for sustainable development.

- Land use in both rural and urban areas is increasingly under pressure from unplanned development and settlement.

What is the country doing in securing a new deal for nature?

- South Africa is building strategic partnerships and DEFF is working hard to influence the Ministries that play a role in conservation of nature.
- At a regional and international scale, South Africa is partnering with leading global conservation agencies (the IUCN, UNEP etc.) to advance common multi-lateral environmental conservation frameworks
- At institutional levels DEFF is building political buy-in to prioritize biodiversity conservation within its agenda. South Africa looks forward to delivering ambitious deals for nature in the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in China in 2020.

Uganda

Represented by Hon. Mary Goretti Kitutu, Minister of Environment

- The Republic of Uganda has nine sectors dealing with environment and biodiversity conservation. Currently the three main challenges are deforestation, wetlands draining and pollution.
- The government of Uganda intends to mainstream biodiversity into its national accounts.
- Climate change is increasing the conflict between humans and wildlife. We have incidents where elephants leave the national parks and roam within villages in search of water.

What is the country doing to address the issues?

- Top level priorities include ecosystems degradation, prevention of extinction of threatened species and fighting illegal wildlife trade.
- Building capacity on access and benefit sharing, this involves projects such as building schools and environment education facilities for communities adjacent to the parks.

Participants at the Open Dialogue day discussions session



- Encourage participation of indigenous people and particularly women and youth in various initiatives.
- Resource mobilisation and allocation of budget to the natural resource sector with a target of 10%.

Ethiopia

Represented by Hon. Kedebe Dawd

- Ethiopia is one of the countries that can be regarded as a biodiversity hotspot, yet as a country we face challenges caused by development and rapid population growth, adverse climatic changes and invasive alien plant species.
- There is no stable balance between conservation and development as most developments occurs at the expense of many lost natural resources needed by the country.
- The forestry landscapes are getting depleted due to a high level of rural populations depending on the forest resources.

What is the country doing to address the issues?

- The government prioritized economic objectives for different landscapes according to their needs, creation of job opportunities especially for youth to address the primary drivers of degradation.

Mozambique

Represented by Mr Momade Nemane

- Mozambique is one of the countries affected by continuous population growth, the population in 2017 stood at 26 million. This has been a big challenge for the country because all these people have different needs, the majority of which are nature based.
- Oil and gas discoveries have increased the number of industrial immigrants to the country.

What is the country doing to address the issues?

- Development of a national land use plan to effectively enforce and monitor the use of natural resources and overall impact on biodiversity.

- Integration of key economic sectors within the environment sector with deep policy enforcement that favours all the sectors for the development and conservation of the country's natural resources.

Madagascar

Represented by Dr. Herizo Rakotovololimalanana

- Madagascar is one of the countries with the richest biodiversity in the world. The high number of unique plant and animal species only found in Madagascar make it an important country for biodiversity conservation. Most of the unique species are under threat.

What is the country doing to address the issues?

- We have launched strategies where we are working with the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to harmonize our actions and integrate all stakeholders. We are however strained on capacity and resources to engage the private sector and make tourism sustainable.

South Sudan

Represented by Dr. Malik Doka

- South Sudan is a rich country in terms of biodiversity, with a variety of landscapes, but we lack information on the status of biodiversity in the country. Very little is known about South Sudan because the country is young. The ongoing conflict makes it difficult to prioritise issues of biodiversity management. Our main challenges are related to policy and decision-making.

What is the country doing to address the issues?

- Communities are key in the implementation of policies. We have identified 2 hotspots for biodiversity but there is no major development project in the country so far. Agriculture is a key sector for South Sudan.

Challenges and Opportunities for Africa Post 2020

The RCF examined the challenges and opportunities for Africa on the post 2020 agenda across various thematic breakout sessions. The summary of outcomes and recommendations was as follows:

Session	Recommendations for IUCN
1. Equitable Governance (Led by Dr. Rakotovololonimanana Herizo, Director General for Environment and Forest, Republic of Madagascar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greater recognition of the role of communities in conservation b) Management of all types of natural resource areas c) Sustainable benefit framework d) Application of indigenous knowledge e) Roadmap on private sector links f) Alignment with decentralization g) Women and youth integration h) Regional collaboration on transboundary issues
2. Wildlife economies (Led by Shonisani Munzhedzi, Deputy Director General DEFF, South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New financing mechanisms to build and strengthen wildlife economies b) Information on new and additional financing mechanisms c) Opportunity cost of managing wildlife d) Indigenous knowledge on use of ecosystems e) Commercial wildlife industry f) Cross-generational perception of wildlife economy
3. Healthy lands and waters (Led by: Hon. Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister for Environment, Rwanda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accelerate restoration work b) National and transboundary basins restoration focus c) Financing and capacity building for barometer implementation d) Capacity and commitment to implement transboundary water resources management e) Scaling up of viable payment for ecosystem services f) Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) business case to address investments in water access, restoration actions
4. Healthy oceans (Led by Nosipho Ngcaba, Director General, Department of Environmental Affairs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Blue economy strategy b) Research & knowledge generation and uptake c) Investments towards expansion of MPA effectiveness d) Local management and regulatory frameworks e) Innovative financing and market-led livelihoods diversification f) Emerging issues such as mining, oil and gas g) Regional cooperation
5. Climate change & adaptation (Led by Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu, Minister of State for Environment, Republic of Uganda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NBS business case for long-term adaptation b) Land tenure and rights with regards to climate change action c) Transition from knowledge to policy d) Strategic clarity on scope and focus e) Creation of a sense of urgency with regards to climate emergency f) Role of IUCN in climate finance g) Local climate adaptation empowerment



Participants during one of the parallel sessions on the Open Dialogue day

Session	Recommendations for IUCN
6. Sustainable Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greater recognition of the role of communities in conservation b) Tourism inclusion in IUCN Implementation Plan c) Capacity building for communities and government d) Tourism data collection, analysis and reporting e) Collaboration between private sector, government and communities f) Guidelines for private sector engagement
7. AFD Biodiversity Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Restoring ecosystems and increasing resilience b) Knowledge gaps regarding biodiversity c) Conservation target setting d) African agenda on infrastructure and cross-sectoral linkages e) Liaison with African Union f) Valuation of nature
8. Road to APAC (Led by Hon. Dr Malik Doka, Under-Secretary of South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Integrate indigenous knowledge across all themes b) Government and partners' commitment to the Congress c) Financing for the Congress d) Focus on implementation of Post 2020 CBD
9. Post 2020 agenda (Led by Serge Rajaobelina, Chief Executive Officer, Fanamby NGO, Madagascar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Endorse Africa's biodiversity priorities as contained in Annex III to the report of the African Ministerial Declaration on Biodiversity of the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 13 November 2018, and focus on elaborating, unpacking and enriching priorities b) IUCN ESARO Secretariat draft the common position in consultation with Western and Central Africa and regional IUCN Commissions c) Organize consultation (online, etc.) to engage the IUCN African membership and Council members to enrich the draft d) Through the IUCN membership and DG submit the draft to AU and AMCEN as part of the post 2020 biodiversity processes of an evolving common position e) Organize a side event at the Congress in Marseille in 2020 for support and endorsement of the Common Position

IUCN Governance

The session discussed and obtained inputs from Members on the proposals for governance improvements and reforms including possible amendments to the Statutes. There are seven proposed areas of improvement as follows:

1. Sub-national governments to be included as IUCN Members:

This issue has been under discussion since 2008. In 2012 there was a substantial proposal for all the government agencies from local, provincial to national to be part of the IUCN Membership under the government category and they would share the collective vote with other government agencies. A Council-led working group has made a proposal to include sub-national governments within Category A (State and Government Agency Members). A formula will be used to maintain the ratio of State Member votes (3) to subnational and Government Agency Members (one vote each). A 3:1:1 ratio will mean that the weight of the subnational votes is reduced but these agencies are able to express their opinion. Currently, GAs in each State share one collective vote. It should also be noted that voting in the Government house (Category A) is completely separate from the NGO house (Categories B and C) and a majority in both houses is needed for a decision to be taken.

2. Election procedures:

The IUCN Statutes provide that there can only be one Regional Councillor for a State, there is a proposal of amending article 40 of the Statutes which states "Only one Regional Councillor, only two Chairs of Commissions shall be from the same State" the proposal comes with the new addition which states "this is not excluding the election of one Regional Councillor from the same state but resident in a dependent territory that is geographically located in a region or part of a region other than that of the state to which it belongs, for the purpose of article 39 such candidate shall be elected for the region in which the dependent territory is geographically located". This proposal is still under consideration by Council and it will be presented to the World Conservation Congress to be voted on.

3. Whether or not there should be a permanent position for indigenous councillor:

A proposal has been presented for the establishment of an elected position on the Council for an Indigenous peoples representative. There is currently a Councillor representing IPs but this was an appointment, rather than an elected position. There is no guarantee that a similar appointment would be made in the future and to ensure IPO representation on Council, this proposal has been made. The IUCN Members from ESARO have shown support towards the proposal of the appointment.

4. Modification of the term Regional Councillor:

Article 62 of the IUCN Statutes provides that Members of Council serve in their personal capacities, not as representatives of their respective States or Organisations. It is clear that to represent the interests of the Union as a whole the Regional Councillors must engage both with IUCN's Members as well as with the National and Regional Committees. The Council Member's primary role is to act independently in the best interests of the Union as a whole. Council is proposing to modify Article 38(e) to reflect the composition of Council as including "the Councillors;" and defining the different categories of Councillor. Article 38e which details the composition of the term 'Councillors' within the IUCN Council. This wording suitably conveys the regional and global functions that IUCN Councillors have.

5. Improvements in the motions process:

At the end of 2018 council presented to all IUCN members for comments a package of reforms of the motions process. These were adopted by the Members who voted. For discussion these aspects were presented: increase the majority required to adopt motions from a simple majority to the two-third majority and they propose article 31bis the adoption of the motions referred to in rules of procedure, shall require majority of two-third votes cast in category A and in category B and C.



IUCN Regional Councillor Mr Ali Kaka

6. Role of commissions in the national committees and regional committee:

This item arose through the process in which council were reviewing existing by-laws of the national and regional committees and from those by-laws it appears the practice has been to include some of the national and regional representatives of the IUCN commissions which, in some cases, has given them the right to vote. The legal advisor has suggested that this is contrary to article 66 of the statutes which provides that the right to vote is restricted to Members. Council is faced with having to address this particular conflict within the by-laws of the many countries. ESARO Members view the inclusion of the commissions as voting Members in the national and regional committees as an attempt to promote the One Programme Approach.

7. Follow up to the external review of the IUCN governance:

The previous council instituted an external 4 year review of the IUCN governance. The latest review was published in April 2019. Members were informed that IUCN is in the process of finalizing the working group with representatives from council and each of the statutory regions including the chair of the governance constituency committee and the treasurer. By October 2019, the working group will provide to council a plan on how they intend to address the issues raised in the external review and also to set out a timeline for issues that will need to be addressed before Congress and after Congress by the next council.

Conclusion

Participants were in agreement with the proposals and recommendations that were presented in the governance session. No major objections were noted.

Preparation for Congress: Regional Aspects

The next World Conservation Congress will take place from 11 to 19 June 2020 in Marseille, France. Members from the region see the Congress as a great opportunity to:

- Learn about new advances in conservation methodologies and approaches and get a better understanding of how these can be adapted for effective use in Africa.
- Share Africa's successful approaches to conservation with the rest of the world.
- Have a better understanding of how the different "arms" of IUCN work and relate to each other.
- Utilise the international platforms for the benefit of Africa's opportunities – this means meaningful participation by Members at every level including forum sessions, development of the 2012-2024 programme and contributing to motions.
- Understand what the different proposals / motions mean to them as Members in the region.
- The IUCN Regional Committee is committed to developing a programme to engage Members in preparation for the Congress.

Ideas for ESARO Motions for the 2020 Congress

Suggested idea for motions from the region to be presented to the 2020 Congress include:

1. Family planning in IUCN programming
2. Motion to recognize the global importance of Madagascar (and other Islands) to effectively end illegal wildlife trade, increase management of new protected areas, expand the network to facilitate responsible investment and create an international advisory committee that will help this task
3. Ban or phase out the use of plastic bottles in Protected Areas
4. Indigenous peoples and local communities
5. Use of terms such as 'Consumptive use', 'Responsible resource use' vs 'Sustainable use'
6. Illegal killing of lions for their body parts
7. Integration of human and ecosystem health
8. Marine fishing – addressing the crisis
9. Development of a One Programme approach to the wildlife economy.
10. Combatting wildlife cybercrime.
11. Biodiversity inventory management and better sharing.
12. Cranes – call to action.

IUCN Intersessional Programme 2021 – 2024 & ESARO Regional Implementation Plan

Key recommendations from ESARO:

- Incorporate further assessment to improve on the situation analysis - The Red List dataset has some shortcomings, including unequal number of species assessed across systems, species focus rather than ecosystem focus, and attention to current and historic trends, not likely future trends. There is need to add other reports, peer-reviewed publications (e.g. FAO food security reports, IEA energy outlooks, IPCC climate reports, World Health Organization and Global Burden of Disease publications, etc.) to inform the global/regional context more comprehensively;
- Consider including a section that demonstrates IUCN's programme alignment with regional and global macro-economic picture - The development team should integrate regional/continental macro-economic, geopolitical and ecological contexts in defining the key global challenges especially emerging realities such as: rapid population growth (Africa's rate the highest globally), changing climate, state of energy demand impacts on natural systems, water access equation and impact of development on conservation. IUCN should consider focusing on decisions taken by African Ministers and distill them to inform the development of the programme. For instance, IUCN should consult the Addis Ababa Declaration and Pan African Agenda on ecosystem restoration as it develops its new programme;
- There is need to position a stronger socio-economic focus where most global development trajectory is leaning – The source of social and economic information requires a more robust focus for IUCN's Intersessional Plan (IP) context to align to regional and global trends. Data on economic, demographic and political moves and trends is essential to frame the global environmental picture against the societal realities;
- An analysis of performance, emerging issues and lessons learned from the current 2017-2020 programme - There is need to show how the current programme informs the one under development. Members recommended that a column of baseline values be included in the results table. This will be important in tracking progress of achievements for the 2021-24 programme;
- Mainstream development realities into the conservation agenda eg the impact of infrastructure development on conservation - Because infrastructure development has expanded substantially in recent decades in the region and is projected to continue growing members consider it an important contextual issue for the region and globally;
- Include a theory of change model – The IP needs to incorporate an integrated conceptual model that illustrates a framework from status quo to intervention elements and the anticipated outcomes. Members proposed an inclusion of a *Conservation pathways section* that demonstrates two pathways for the global and local community. Scenario one is the business as usual pathway and its impacts and scenario two is the sustainability pathway with new strategic logic and interventions. The theory of change needs to stimulate a sense of urgency given the real-time crisis that we are all experiencing;
- In order to build a compelling case for the new IP, we should have a statement of IUCN's past achievements and baselines – Illustrate the key milestones and achievements from past and on-going programme of work. Highlight why IUCN is best positioned to tackle the challenges relative to any other organization. The summary would lay the basis of why we are taking on the next big challenges;
- A commitment to intergenerational inclusion – IUCN should be clear on why and how it will establish a youth career opportunities programme in conservation which is much needed to build the next cadre of experts as well as be attuned to the realities of the coming generation;
- Incorporate clear performance outcomes and targets for the Union. While the 2021-2024 targets set are okay, the harmonization of nature and people (social-economic aspects) is not well harmonized in light of increasing population, unemployment, poverty and over-extraction of natural resources by dependent communities;
- Including enabling factors such as research and capacity building - we need to inspire more research and development type of investments in the IP. There is need to consider technology impacts and opportunities on conservation;
- Inclusion of conservation economics to enhance functional and sustainable markets in return for improved conservation;
- Include information on valuing and conserving nature as it is part of the IUCN value proposition. IUCN (secretariat, members and commissions) has a big programme of work on protected areas and species;
- Financing plan – what is the broad level aspirational cost of delivering on the intended priorities; the IP 2021-2024 should also identify opportunities and recommend voluntary actions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation.



Ms Grethel Aguilar,
IUCN Acting Director
General

Information Sessions

Synthetic biology

IUCN recognizes that synthetic biology applications (including engineered gene drive), whether or not designed to address conservation and biodiversity loss issues, could have positive or negative impacts for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources depending on their specific context and application.

It is IUCN's position that potential uses of synthetic biology need to be decided upon by a case-by-case basis, taking into account the views of all concerned stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, operating with equitable access to all relevant information, and informed by the Precautionary Approach. Adherence to this policy would avoid or minimize negative biodiversity outcomes and create the potential for synthetic biology to augment or complement existing conservation approaches.

Invitation extended to all participants for further engagement with the IUCN membership in this process through the online discussion of motions (December 2019 – March 2020) and at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

IUCN & IPBES

MOU signed in 2016 with a supplemental agreement dedicated to Stakeholder engagement

3 main outcomes: expertise provided by IUCN, sharing of data (RedList, KBA, heritage sites), stakeholder engagement. Supported by France-IUCN partnership

Follow-up of resolutions related to IPBES:

Congress-2012-Res-117 & Congress-2012-Res-118

- To increase IUCN contributions to IPBES processes at regional, national and sub-national levels: expertise for and review of IPBES products, support to IPBES national platforms, dissemination of assessment findings among various stakeholder groups.
- To build on IPBES outcomes to support IUCN's activities.

Membership Strategy

This session was aimed at identifying practical ways to strengthen the operationalization of IUCN's One Programme Approach in the region. Recommendations from the discussions included:

- 1) Strategic engagement of Members - Members actively participate and contribute to conservation by being involved in the development and implementation of the IUCN Programme of work, building capacity where necessary and effectively using their knowledge.
- 2) Learning and improving knowledge products and knowledge sharing - Members are aware of, use and participate in the development of Knowledge products, conservation tools and IUCN publications.
- 3) Influencing the environment and sustainable development agenda - Members, through their IUCN membership, effectively influence key national, regional and international agreements and policies in order to advance conservation outcomes.
- 4) Networks, partnerships and alliances - Members are able to achieve their conservation goals through networks, partnerships and alliances formed as a result of their membership of IUCN and their engagement with IUCN's Programme.



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