



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

12th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council
by conference call, Thursday 7 March 2024, from 12:00 to 13:45 UTC

Decisions

(Validated by Council on 20 March 2024 in accordance with Regulation 58)

Attendance: see Annex A.

Note: unless mentioned otherwise, the Bureau adopted its decisions by consensus

Agenda Item 1: Introduction by the President and approval of the agenda

DECISION B12/1

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Adopts the agenda of its 12th meeting (Annex 1).

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of the members of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC)

DECISION B12/2

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee in accordance with Regulation 48 (c)(ii) and Council decision C110/11 approving the Terms of Reference of CPC,

Appoints the following members of the IUCN Council as members of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC): (in alphabetical order)

- Ramiro Batzin Chojoj, Vice-President
- Sonia Castañeda Rial
- Peter Cochrane, Vice-President
- Said Damhoureyeh
- Hilde Eggermont, Vice-President
- Ali Kaka
- Susan Lieberman
- Imèn Meliane, Vice-President
- Ramon PerezGil
- Kristen Walker Painemilla
- Nihal Welikala, Treasurer

Invites the CPC to elect its Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of the members of Council's Nominations Committee

DECISION B12/3

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee in accordance with Regulation 48 (c)(ii) and Council decision C110/11 approving the Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee,

Appoints the following members of the IUCN Council as members of the Council's Nominations Committee: (in alphabetical order)

- Peter Cochrane, Vice-President
- Kazuaki Hoshino
- Imèn Meliane, Vice-President
- Bibiana Sucre
- Gloria Ujor

Invites the Nominations Committee to elect its Chair.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer

DECISION B12/4

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee and following consultation with the Chair of WCEL;

Approves the ToR Congress Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer (Annex 2);

Requests the Steering Committee of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) to propose to the Bureau of the IUCN Council, by 30 April 2024, four (4) candidates for the purpose of the Bureau nominating one of them to the IUCN Council as candidate Election Officer and another one as candidate Deputy Election Officer;

Invites members of the IUCN Council to make suggestions of candidates for Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer to the Chair of WCEL, via the Secretariat and by 30 March 2024, in order to be taken into consideration by WCEL's steering committee.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of new membership applications and notification of name change and State membership

DECISION B12/5

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation from the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Approves the admission of 13 Members. (Annex 3)

DECISION B12/6

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC);

1. Takes note of the name changes of one IUCN Member from EuroNatur Stiftung to EuroNatur-European Natural Heritage Foundation (NG/1347);
2. Welcomes the reactivation of the State Membership of Ecuador (ST/242).

Agenda Item 6: Appointment to the Steering Committee of WCPA

DECISION B12/7

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the proposal of the Chair of WCPA,

Appoints Dr. Fabrice Stephenson to the Steering Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas as WCPA Marine Co-vice Chair.

Agenda Item 8: Date and place of the 112th Council meeting (5-7 November 2024)

DECISION B12/8

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Taking into account that it will become a challenge to hold the 112th Council meeting (C112) in person on the dates from 5-7 November 2024 established by Council in May 2022 (decision C107/25) in the midst of a busy calendar of Regional Conservation Forums and changed dates of several COPs such as CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD which are expected to mobilize many members of Council and Secretariat from September through mid-December 2024,

Decides to hold C112 in January 2025;

Requests the Director General to propose for approval at the latest six months prior to C112, a date and venue preferably in the regions and, if not possible, at the IUCN Conservation Centre in Gland, Switzerland.

Agenda Item 9: Draft Agenda of the 111th Council meeting (14-16 May 2024)

DECISION B12/9

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Requests the President, in cooperation with the Director General, to review the draft agenda of the 111th Council meeting taking into account the guidance from the Bureau that recurring business should as much as possible be discussed during a virtual meeting of the Council thereby leaving ample time for discussion of topics of strategic importance during the in-person meeting of the Council;

Confirms the virtual meeting of the Council for 29 April 2024;

Reconfirms the dates of C111 in-person for 14-16 May 2024 (2 days of plenary meetings of the Council preceded by 1 day of standing committee meetings).

Agenda Item 10.2: Terms of Reference of the IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans

DECISION B12/10

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of Council's Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),

Approves the ToR of the IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans. (Annex 4)

List of participants

Members of the Bureau:

Attending:

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, President, Chair
Ramiro Batzin, Vice-President
Imèn Meliane, Vice-President
Sue Lieberman, Chair PPC
Vivek Menon, Chair GCC
Jon Paul Rodriguez, Representative Commission Chairs
Samad-John Smaranda, Councillor elected from the Regions
Jong Soo Yoon, Councillor elected from the Regions
Grethel Aguilar, Director General

Apologies:

Rick Bates, Chair FAC (proxy to Jong Soo Yoon)
Nihal Welikala, Treasurer (proxy to Imèn Meliane)

Other participants:

Sandrine Friedli Cela, Legal Adviser
Courtney Hood, Special Adviser and Head Director General's Office
Louise Imbsen, Governance Assistant
Luc De Wever, Secretary to Council



Bureau of the IUCN Council

12th Meeting (virtual) - 7 March 2024 – 12:00 to 14:00 UTC

Agenda

Agenda Item 1: Introduction by the President and approval of the agenda

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of the members of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC)

By decision C110/11, Council approved the ToR of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC). On 18 December 2023, Council members were invited to express their interest to be part of the committee by the deadline of 15 January 2024 which was subsequently extended to 29 January 2024. The ToR request the Bureau to appoint the members of the CPC on the proposal of the Vice-Presidents by 15 March 2024. The Vice-Presidents, acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c) will make a recommendation to the Bureau taking into account the criteria defined in the ToR. The next step is for Bureau to appoint, by 1 August 2024, three additional members nominated by IUCN Members which will be part of CPC when acting as appeals body for motions referred to the electronic debate and vote on motions held prior to Congress.

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of the members of Council's Nominations Committee

By decision C110/11, Council approved the ToR of the Nominations Committee. On 18 December 2023, Council members were invited to express their interest to be part of the committee to the Vice-Presidents by the deadline of 15 January 2024 which was subsequently extended to 29 January 2024. The Vice-Presidents, acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c) will make a recommendation to the Bureau taking into account the criteria defined in the ToR.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer

By decision C110/11, the Council deferred the approval of the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer /Deputy Election Officer of the 2025 Congress until after the close of the vote on proposed amendments to the Statutes making the Congress a fully hybrid event. At its 13th meeting held on 25 January 2024, the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) approved a recommendation to Council for approval of the ToR of the Election Officer/Deputy Election Officer taking into account the results of the Members' e-vote adopting the amendments to the Statutes. The next step will be for WCEL's Steering Committee to nominate four candidates for the purpose of the Bureau nominating one of them to the IUCN Council as candidate Election Officer and another one as candidate Deputy Election Officer.

Documents:

- B12/4/1 GCC13 Outcomes and recommendations to Council 25 January 2024, in particular Annex 3 (with track changes)
- B12/4/2 ToR Congress Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer CLEAN w.1 additional change

Agenda Item 5: Approval of new membership applications

At its 13th meeting held on 25 January 2024, the GCC made recommendations to Council for approval of new membership applications, and to note the name change of an NGO Member and the reactivation of the membership of a State. The GCC recommendations regarding the change of Member category have been submitted directly to Council for approval by email as required by Regulation 21.

Documents:

- GCC13 Outcomes and recommendations to Council (25 January 2024), in particular Annex 1 and 2

Agenda Item 6: Appointment to the Steering Committee of WCPA

On 9 February 2024, the Chair of WCPA submitted a request to Bureau for approval of the appointment of an additional member of the Steering Committee of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Documents:

- B12/6/1 Appointment to the Steering Committee of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- B12/6/2 Note Chair WCPA with CV and EOI Dr Stephenson

Agenda Item 7: Criteria for Council meetings held in-person outside IUCN's Conservation Centre

The Secretariat is suggesting to adjust the criteria for holding Council meetings outside IUCN's Conservation Centre in Gland last approved by Council in 2011.

Documents:

- B12/7/1 Criteria for Council meetings held in-person outside the IUCN Conservation Centre

Agenda Item 8: Date and place of the 112th Council meeting (5-7 November 2024)

By decision C107/25 (May 2022), Council established the dates for C112, which now happens to be in the week between the close of the CBD COP and the opening of the UNFCCC COP and to coincide with the 4th World Urban Forum. Holding C112 earlier will be a challenge because of the RCF and the IUCN World Leaders' Forum in September/October 2024. Options for postponing C112 to a later date are limited to the w/c 25 November 2024 (between the end of the UNFCCC COP and the opening of the UNCCD COP) unless January 2025 is considered.

If Bureau accepts the revised conditions for holding a Council meeting outside the IUCN Conservation Centre (Agenda Item 7), it means that a final decision on holding C112 in the Regions will have to be approved at C111 in May 2024. To avoid travel from CBD COP in Colombia to C112 in Gland and onwards to UNFCCC COP in Azerbaijan, consideration may be given to holding C112 in Colombia or Azerbaijan.

Comments from Council members have been compiled in this note.

Agenda Item 9: Draft Agenda of the 111th Council meeting (14-16 May 2024)

As in September 2023, Bureau is invited to review the draft agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting C111, indicating in particular which items to discuss during the virtual Council meeting preceding the in-person meeting. A Doodle poll has been launched to determine the dates for the (max. 3-hour) virtual meeting (options: 23, 24, 29, 30 April and 1, 2 May 2024).

On the question whether to extend the duration of Council with an extra day of plenary meetings, during Bureau B11 in September 2023, it was *"agreed to consider this question after the 110th Council meeting taking into account the experience at Fontainebleau in terms of the effectiveness and efficiency of the meeting."* (extract from the summary minutes of B11) A decision on a possible extension of C111 is required soon in order to allow Council members to make their travel arrangements and the Secretariat to adjust the contracts with suppliers (hotels, audiovisual equipment, interpreters, local transport).

Documents:

- B12/9/1 Draft Agenda C111 (14-16 May 2024)

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

10.1 Extension to 2025 of the IUCN Programme 2021-24

At the request of the Chair of the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC), the recommendation of PPC to approve the extension of the mandate of the 2021-24 Programme until the end of 2025 (cf. *PPC18 Outcomes and recommendations to Council*) is tabled for the Bureau's consideration. In the meantime the Legal Opinion on who in IUCN has the authority to decide on extending the IUCN Programme and Financial Plan has been made available.

10.2 Terms of Reference of the IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans

At the request of the Chair of PPC, the recommendation of PPC19 (4 March 2024) to approve the ToR of the IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans is tabled for the Bureau's consideration.

Documents:

- B12/10.1/1 PPC18 Outcomes and recommendations to Council 23 January 2024
- B12/10.2/1 ToR of the IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans

ELECTION OFFICER AND DEPUTY ELECTION OFFICER OF THE 2025 WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by the Bureau (B/75/1), endorsed by the IUCN Council (C/95/2) in October 2018, revised by the Bureau (B90/2) in January 2021 and by the Bureau (B12/4) in March 2024

Election Officer

1. The Election Officer is appointed by the IUCN Council to supervise the elections at the World Congress and the counting of the votes on motions and elections in accordance with Rules 63 and 74 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress.

Terms of Reference of the Election Officer

2. The Terms of Reference of the Election Officer shall be as follows:

In advance of the World Conservation Congress:

- a) review the procedures for voting on motions and elections and recommend improvements to the Secretariat on the basis of experience. Verify the accuracy of the electronic voting system prior to the Members' Assembly;
- b) Responsible for monitoring and ensuring the accuracy of the electronic voting process during the vote on motions prior to Congress pursuant to RoP 62^{quinto} (a) and Regulation 94 e., if the same electronic system is used as for the Congress;¹
- c) receive from the Secretariat, the completed dossiers for all election candidates, approve for publication in the Union Portal the nominations for election as Councillors elected from the Regions and for election as Indigenous Councillor that meet the requirements established in the Statutes and the Regulations, transmit to Council's Nominations Committee the nominations for President, Treasurer and Commission Chair that meet the requirements, and adjudicate on any issues which may arise during the nomination process;
- d) advise Council in advance of the closing of the nominations period if the nominations received are unlikely to fill the positions available for any of the statutory regions, or to meet the criteria established by Council, and necessitate an extension of the deadline;
- e) following the closing date for nominations, prepare the Report of the Election Officer to the World Conservation Congress including the names of candidates for Councillors elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor and their biographical information, listed in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random, with an indication of the number of nominations received per candidate as per Regulation 40;

¹ This proposed new provision is subject to the approval of the amendments to Regulation 94 "Electronic Ballot" approved in first reading by Council C110 and pending adoption in second reading by Council C111 in May 2024. Regulation 94 e. thus revised would then read as follows: "The IUCN Legal Adviser shall monitor and ensure the accuracy of the electronic voting process, except for the vote on motions prior to Congress pursuant to Rule 62^{quinto} (a) which shall be monitored by the Election Officer when the electronic system used is the same as during the Congress."

At the Congress:

- f) Explain the voting procedures during a plenary session, as required;
- g) Report to the Congress Steering Committee on all matters related to elections;
- h) Participate ex-officio in the meetings of the Credentials Committee;
- i) Report immediately to the Congress Steering Committee any activities that he/she might detect regarding elections and voting that might be contradictory to the Statutes, Rules or Regulations;
- j) Oversee the arrangements for presenting candidates to the Members' Assembly and meet with candidates ahead of the elections to explain the procedures;
- k) Announce the election results and prepare the report of the Election Officer;
- l) Responsible for supervising the electronic voting on motions and elections during the Members' Assembly which includes verifying the accuracy of the electronic voting system taking into account the report of the Credentials Committee, ensuring that election results are not known in advance by anyone other than the Election Team and that, in case of a secret ballot, the system can guarantee the anonymity of all votes (RoP 70);
- m) Transmit to the President before the close of the Congress her/his own evaluation taking into account Council's guidance for self-evaluation with any recommendations to the next Council for improving the role and functioning of the Election Officer/Deputy Election Officer.

Deputy Election Officer

3. The Deputy Election Officer is appointed by the IUCN Council to act in the place of the Election Officer whenever the latter is unable to act as Election Officer, in case of a conflict of interest, or if the Election Officer has the same nationality as any of the presidential candidates, and to provide support to the Election officer to ensure the integrity of the elections.

4. When acting in the place of the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer will have the same obligations and responsibilities of the Election Officer specified in the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and will be accountable to the Congress or, prior to the session of the Congress, to the IUCN Council.

5. The Deputy Election Officer shall have full access to all information and documents pertaining to the election, be copied on all correspondence, and be invited to attend all meetings that the Election Officer is part of, so that such officer is able to start working immediately as Election Officer, in the event that the Election Officer is unable to act.

Provisions applicable to the positions of both the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer

6. S/he should have a legal background, experience with governance, ability to maintain independence and, preferably, knowledge of International Organizations with a global membership, in particular their election and other relevant procedures.

7. S/he must not be a member of the Secretariat nor a candidate for election as per Regulation 28 (b). S/he must neither have any family ties nor working relationships with any of the nominated candidates and should disclose any potential conflict of interest in that regard once s/he has received the nominations. In the event that s/he has the same nationality as any of the presidential candidates, s/he shall recuse himself/herself from the presidential election process.

Process for the appointment of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer

8. The Steering Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) will nominate to the Bureau of the IUCN Council four (4) candidates for the purpose of the Bureau nominating one of them to the IUCN Council as candidate Election Officer and another one as candidate Deputy Election Officer. Members of

the IUCN Council may make suggestions of candidates for Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer to the Chair of WCEL in order to be taken into consideration by WCEL's steering committee. Members of WCEL's steering committee who are close relatives of, or have any working relationships (employer/employee) or engage in any business transaction with any of the proposed candidates, shall recuse themselves from the steering committee's decision.

9. When appointing the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer, the IUCN Council shall seek to reflect gender, geographical and other diversity of IUCN. The incumbents shall have neither the same nationality nor that of any already known presidential candidate.

Membership applications submitted by 30 September 2023

AFRICA								
Organisation	Acronym	Statutory state	Category	Website	Endorser name 1	Endorser name 2	DDPs	Membership comment to GCC
African Hub for Ocean Impact NPC (OceanHub Africa)	OHA	South Africa	NGO	https://www.oceanhub.africa/	[Member] Wildlands Conservation Trust [Africa]	[Member] World Wide Fund for Nature - International [West Europe]		View
Wildlife Research and Training Institute	WRTI	Kenya	GA	https://wrti.go.ke/				View
Africa Nature Investors Foundation	ANI	Nigeria	NGO	http://www.africanatureinvestors.org	[Member] The Nature Conservancy [North America and the Caribbean]	[Member] Nigerian Conservation Foundation [Africa]		View
Centre for Social Planning and Administrative Development (CESPAD)	CESPAD	Kenya	NGO	http://www.cespad.co.ke	[Member] Community Action for Nature Conservation [Africa]	[Member] Conservation Alliance of Kenya [Africa]		View
MESO AND SOUTH AMERICA								
Organisation	Acronym	Statutory state	Category	Website	Endorser name 1	Endorser name 2	DDPs	Membership comment to GCC
Fundación Bosques Nativos Argentinos	Bosques Nativos Argentinos	Argentina	NGO	https://www.bosques.org.ar/	[Member] Centro Desarrollo y Pesca Sustentable [Meso and South America]	[Member] Fundación Patagonia Natural [Meso and South America]	Ana DI PANGRACIO (gcc, member, council, nric) Bibiana SUCRE SMITH (member, council, nric)	View
Secretaría del Medio Ambiente del Gobierno de la Ciudad de México	GCDMX, Sedema	Mexico	SN	https://www.sedema.cdmx.gob.mx/				View
Asociación ProPurús	ProPurús	Peru	NGO	https://www.propurus.org/	[Member] Eco Redd [Meso and South America]	[Member] Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental [Meso and South America]	Ana DI PANGRACIO (gcc, member, council, nric) Bibiana SUCRE SMITH (member, council, nric)	View
NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN								
Organisation	Acronym	Statutory state	Category	Website	Endorser name 1	Endorser name 2	DDPs	Membership comment to GCC
Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation	AS	United States of America	NGO	https://www.adventurescientists.org/	[Member] National Geographic Society [North America and the Caribbean]	[Member] The Explorers Club [North America and the Caribbean]		View
Dallas Zoo Management	DZ	United States of America	NGO	https://www.dallaszoo.com	[Member] Association of Zoos and Aquariums [North America and the Caribbean]	[Member] SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) [Africa]		View
SOUTH AND EAST ASIA								
Organisation	Acronym	Statutory state	Category	Website	Endorser name 1	Endorser name 2	DDPs	Membership comment to GCC
MYANMAR THABARWA HTEIN THEIN YAE APHWEK	NCS	Myanmar	NGO	https://www.ncsm.org/	[Member] Friends of Wildlife [South and East Asia]	[Member] Ramsar Network Japan [South and East Asia]		View
Forest Wildlife & Environment Department, Government of Gilgit Baltistan	GBFWD	Pakistan	SN	https://fwegb.gov.pk/				
WEST EUROPE								
Organisation	Acronym	Statutory state	Category	Website	Endorser name 1	Endorser name 2	DDPs	Membership comment to GCC
Fundación privada para la Conservación y Recuperación de Animales Marinos	CRAM	Spain	NGO	http://www.cram.org	[Committee] Comité Nacional de Miembros de la UICN en España [West Europe]	[Member] Global Nature Fund [West Europe]	Hilde EGGERMONT (member, council, nric)	- Additional DDP submitted via email by Jesús Bellido, Coordinator of the Spanish NC - DDP Comment submitted via email by Maud Lelièvre, Chair of French NC
Danmarks Jægerforbund		Denmark	NGO	https://www.jaegerforbundet.dk/	[Member] Zoologisk Have København [West Europe]	[Member] Danmarks Naturfredningsforening [West Europe]		- Application endorsed by Ann-Katrine Garn, Chair Danish NC and Secretary of IRC View

IUCN Council's Global Focal Person for Oceans

Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

The IUCN Regulations provide:

- 45bis. Council may appoint members of Council as IUCN Council Global Focal Persons, for a period up to the end of the term for which s/he has been elected, with the purpose of:
- (a) increasing the understanding in Council on a specific matter and the inclusiveness of its deliberations;
 - (b) contributing to raise the profile of IUCN's work with key stakeholders;
 - (c) promoting a strong focus and coherent body of work across IUCN on the issue concerned by liaising with the Secretariat, the Commissions and Members; and
 - (d) bringing her/his perspective and advice to the Council through the relevant committee of the Council, including policy, governance, and resourcing implications.

COUNCIL DECISION C109/29 (May 2023)

The IUCN Council,
on the recommendation of the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),
appoints Ms Lolita Gibbons as the IUCN Council Global Focal Person for Oceans.

CONTEXT

Why are oceans important for IUCN?

- Oceans cover 70% of our planet's surface, and over two thirds of the oceans lie beyond national jurisdictions
- The oceans produce nearly half of the oxygen we breathe, and have absorbed 30% of the anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ and around 93% of the added heat arising from human-driven changes to the atmosphere

Global ocean challenges?

- There are no solutions to global climate change or the global biodiversity crisis without action on the world's oceans
- Many Island Countries and Territories are large oceanic entities and are at the frontline of a changing climate and sea level rise
- More than 1,550 marine species are at risk of extinction, based on the IUCN Red List of

Threatened Species

- Mangroves provide ecosystem services worth up to US\$57,000 ha/year and help mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Over-exploitation, ship strikes, fisheries bycatch and entanglement with fishing gear are major causes of mortality of many threatened and endangered marine species
- Underwater noise from human activities varies across ocean basins, but has increased in some regions by 3 decibels per decade and continues to increase in many regions globally, altering marine mammal and fish behaviour
- Invasive alien species are the second biggest driver of species extinctions globally, and the number of new introductions show no signs of slowing, with one new marine biological invasion being reported every nine weeks
- 18.7% of the waters under national jurisdiction and 1.44% of the global oceans (High Seas) are designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)¹
- Over 55% of the world's ocean is fished²
- Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in combination with fishing practices that destroy habitats and overfishing has reduced populations of many commercially important fish and other marine species to critically low levels
- Over 8 - 10 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean annually, and other land-based sources of marine pollution (sediments, nutrient, pesticides and other industrial chemicals) are impacting biodiversity at increasing scales and entering food chains
- Deep sea mining has emerged as a significant threat to biodiversity and unique habitats
- Ocean governance is largely sectoral (e.g. fishing, shipping, mining) and with poor integration and coordination between sectors

As a result of these and other issues, oceans and ocean conservation are receiving increasing attention at global, regional and national levels, by governments, NGOs, intergovernmental agencies and organisations, the media, and elements of the corporate sector.

OCEAN ISSUES RECEIVING ATTENTION BY IUCN INCLUDE:

- Cetaceans
- Climate change – consequences of ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, blue carbon
- Biodiversity conservation and marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Threatened marine species
- Fisheries management, and the impact of fisheries on biodiversity
- Marine debris, and plastics in particular
- Disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions

¹ [Explore the World's Protected Areas \(protectedplanet.net\)](https://www.protectedplanet.net/)

² [Half the Ocean: Updating The Global Footprint of Fisheries - Global Fishing Watch](https://www.globalfishingwatch.org/)

- Livelihoods and sustainable use of marine species/resources
- Deep sea mining
- Public awareness and support for action for healthy oceans
- Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Recent WCC Resolutions

Marseille 2020: 23 ocean/marine resolutions (aquatic biodiversity, plastic pollution, whales, marine ecosystems, sunken vessels, seascapes, wastewater discharge, resilience of coastal areas, ocean impacts of climate change, sunscreen, conservation of Syngnathidae, recovery of extinct wild species, coral reefs protection post-2020, reducing impact of fisheries, establish Climate Change Commission, peaceful and quiet ocean, integrated solutions for climate change and biodiversity, marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction, IUCN Programme 2021 – 2024, addendum IUCN Programme 2021 – 2024, Commission mandate CEESP, Commission mandate WCPA, Marseille Manifesto)

Hawaii 2016: 11 marine resolutions (climate, whaling, mining waste, MPAs, marine debris, biofouling, BBNJ, flyways, IUU fishing, renewable energy, coral reefs)

Jeju 2012: 24 resolutions (plastic waste, diving, mining, phytoplankton, LMMA, MPAs, governance, BBNJ, DRR, livelihoods, connectivity, Red List, Aichi Target 11, fungi, tuna x 2, renewable energy, coastal fishing, ecosystem approach, Great Barrier Reef, mako sharks, sharks, mackerel, turtles)

Barcelona 2008: 18 resolutions (climate change, livelihoods, governance, connectivity, MPAs, BBNJ, tuna, fisheries and whales, Vaquita porpoise, monk seals, dugong, coasts, IUU fishing, fisheries management, IWC, shark finning, oceanic sharks, turtles and sharks)

Bangkok 2004: 12 resolutions (western gray whale, atomic power stations, noise, fisheries management, BBNJ x 2, freshwater PAs, PA categories, shark finning, reef fish, deep sea habitats)

Current IUCN activities and priorities to conserve coastal, marine and polar ecosystems, are developed and delivered through

1. The IUCN Oceans and Coasts Programme with the following focus areas: ([Oceans and coasts](#) | [IUCN](#))

- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- High Seas
- Marine Ecosystems
- Marine Species
- Plastic and Other Pollution

2. A diversity of Regional Office programmes, projects and initiatives on marine and coastal environments (conservation, ecological restoration, threatened species conservation, disaster risk reduction, improved governance and management, capacity building)

3. IUCN Commissions and their Taskforces, themes and Specialist Groups, including

- Climate Change Commission (Ocean and Climate Change)
- WCPA (High Seas Specialist Group)
- WCPA marine theme and Specialist Groups
- WCEL (Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs Specialist Group)
- SSC – at least a dozen Specialist Groups focused on marine taxa
- PPC Taskforce on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

4. Engagement of IUCN through intergovernmental policy fora on ocean issues, including

- The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in endangered species (CITES)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IMO)
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO)
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- UN Ocean
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

And others.

Proposed terms of reference for the Global Oceans Focal Point:

1. to raise the profile and understanding of ocean issues in Council, and to help raise the profile of IUCN's work on oceans issues with key external stakeholders
2. to help ensure that there is strong focus and coherent body of work on ocean issues across IUCN, including but not limited to IUCN work on implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and IUCN intergovernmental policy engagement
3. to keep Council informed on the broad strategy and direction of IUCN's work on oceans issues, including relevant Commission activities, working closely with Commission Chairs
4. to bring ocean issues with significant policy and/or resourcing implications to Council through the Programme and Policy Committee

Appendix A - Current and future potential oceans initiatives and avenues for action

Appendix A

Current and future potential oceans initiatives and avenues for action, include:

- 9th Our Ocean Conference (Greece 2024)
- Oceans and Coastal Zones – Climate Action Pathway UNFCCC COP29 (Baku, Azerbaijan), Nov. 2024
- Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (HSA), tracking ratification progress
- UN High Level Political Forum - the reporting and review mechanism for progress on the SDGs (especially SDG14)
- CBD – marine and coastal programme of work; development of NBSAPs and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; CBD COP16 (Cali, Colombia) Oct. 2024
- World Heritage Convention, marine programme, marine WH sites – protection of common heritage beyond national jurisdictions
- Red List – conservation of marine species
- RAMSAR – coastal and marine sites
- CITES – listed marine species, potential new listings, implementation
- CMS – listed migratory species, potential new listings, implementation (e.g., bycatch, marine noise, deep sea mining)
- ISA – environmental impact assessment and regulation of deep-sea mining
- UNEP Regional Seas Programmes
- UN Ocean (2025)
- Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) – integration of conservation as a key management objective
- IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (Abu Dhabi), and potential marine events and motions
- IUCN Commission activities and initiatives
- World Economic Forum 2025 – A Long-Term Strategy for Climate, Nature and Energy
- WBCSD – roadmap for reducing ocean waste
- UN Global Compact – to engage leading corporates in action on SDG14
- Numerous ocean conferences and workshops
- Alliances between organisations
- Private and philanthropic initiatives