



109th Meeting of the IUCN Council

Held in person at IUCN's HQ in Gland, Switzerland, on 24 and 25 May 2023

DECISIONS¹

Dec. #	Council Decision
Agenda (Agenda Item 1)	
C109/1	The IUCN Council, <u>Adopts</u> the Agenda of its 109 th Meeting. (Annex 1)
Director General's Report (Agenda Item 2)	
2.2 IUCN 2022 Annual Report	
C109/2	The IUCN Council, <i>On the proposal of the Director General,</i> <u>Approves</u> the IUCN 2022 Annual Report.
2.3 Audited Financial Statements 2022	
C109/3	The IUCN Council, <i>On the proposal of the Director General,</i> <i>On the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC),</i> <u>Approves</u> the 2022 audited financial statements noting that final approval rests with the IUCN World Conservation Congress.
2.4 DG's strategic objectives for 2023	
C109/4	The IUCN Council, <u>Defers</u> approval of the DG's strategic objectives for 2023 to the Bureau based on a proposal by the Acting Director General by end of July, and taking into account inputs from Council members.

¹ The definitive wording of decisions is subject to Council's approval of the summary minutes in accordance with Regulation 52.

Council's strategic priorities and objectives 2022-25 (Agenda Item 3)

3.2 Strategic Vision

C109/5	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>Having reviewed</i> the report of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) chair on the Finance Strategy and Financial Governance Review;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Requests</u> the Governance and Constituency Committee and the Programme and Policy Committee to work with FAC to refine the Finance and Financial Governance Reviews according to their respective mandates;2. <u>Requests</u> the Chair of FAC and the Treasurer to provide their report to the 20-year Strategy Steering Committee;3. <u>Requests</u> the Director General to integrate key findings from the FAC Finance Review and Financial Governance Review into the situational analysis and other documents that feed into developing the 20-year strategy, and further requests the Director General to provide a management response to the key findings and recommendations of the report;4. <u>Requests</u> the FAC to carry out further analysis of options to increase reserves; and work with Secretariat to bring to Council decision items related to this analysis.
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3.3 Implementation of 2021 Resolutions requiring action from Council

3.3.1 [2021 Congress Decision 148](#) - Enabling effective attendance and participation of Members in future sessions of the Congress

C109/6	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p>Having considered the report of the Advisory Group for the review of IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and the Regulations established by Council pursuant to 2021 Congress decision 148 (Council document C109/3.3.1/1 rev),</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves the amendments to the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations proposed by the Advisory Group (Annex 1) for the purpose of submitting them to an online discussion of IUCN Members and subsequently to an electronic ballot with the aim of ensuring that the suggested changes are applicable in time to be effective during the preparation of the next World Conservation Congress;
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	<p>2. <u>Decides</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to apply the procedure defined in Regulation 94 with the timeline as presented in Annex 2; b. that the online discussion referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision will constitute the online discussion referred to in paragraph a. of Regulation 94; c. that three sessions of a contact group be convened as part of the online discussion in order to ensure effective participation of IUCN Members and with the purpose of achieving a consensus text that can be put to the vote; d. to request Council members, at the beginning of the online discussion, to engage with the National and Regional Committees in order to promote a discussion of the proposed amendments among IUCN Members and a stronger engagement of IUCN Members in the online discussion and vote; <p>3. <u>Requests</u> the GCC to prepare recommendations to Council regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. amendments to Regulation 94 with the purpose of shortening the time required between the initiation of the procedure and its conclusion with an electronic ballot; and b. the possible introduction in the IUCN Statutes of a quorum requirement for Members' Assembly decisions for approval by the next Congress. <p>4. In addition, <u>recalls</u> for the contact groups that according to the Statutes, it will be possible to hold or express oneself in these meetings in one of the official languages of the union (Spanish, English and French).</p>
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3.3.2 Impact of armed conflict on biodiversity

C109/7	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><u>Notes</u> the progress report of Council's Working Group on the impact of armed conflict on biodiversity,</p> <p><u>Encourages</u> the Working Group to continue its work in consultation with the Commissions and to report on progress to next meeting of the IUCN Council.</p>
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3.3.3 Update from PPC and GCC on progress with the implementation of other 2021 Resolutions requiring action from Council

	<p>2021 Congress Resolution 123 on synthetic biology</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p>
C109/8	

	<p><i>Noting</i> the comments received from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany, Deutscher Naturschutzring, Re:wild, and the Wildlife Conservation Society on the process for implementation of 2021 Congress Resolution 123 as well as <i>endorsing</i> the detailed responses to these comments prepared by the PPC’s Resolution 123 Working Group;</p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> that PPC witnessed the stratified random process to select potential members of the IUCN synthetic biology citizens assembly; and</p> <p><i>Acknowledging further</i> that it was a clear and transparent process;</p> <p><u>Approves</u> the “<i>Terms of Reference for bodies involved in implementation of IUCN Resolution 123 (Marseille, 2020) - Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation</i>” and the “<i>Process for the implementation of 2021 Congress Resolution 123 (Marseille, 2021) - Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation</i>” approved by Council Decision C108/2 (November 2022), as revised in response to feedback received from IUCN Members;</p>
C109/9	<p>2021 Congress Resolution 119 - Doctrine of Discovery</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of</i> its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</p> <p><i>In respect of</i> 2021 Congress Resolution 119 - Doctrine of Discovery,</p> <p><u>Establishes</u> a Truth and Reconciliation Working Group in accordance with the proposal submitted, with membership from CEESP, WCEL, and IUCN Members,</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Working Group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a detailed workplan within 3-6 months to include Council Members, IUCN Members and Commissions representatives with appropriate expertise; • integrate IUCN resolutions that are relevant to the renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery into a comprehensive approach; • develop an explicit communications strategy; and • deliver a report on the implications of the renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery, which may include the submission of a Council sponsored motion to the next World Conservation Congress; <p><u>Requests</u> the IUCN Secretariat and CEESP work together to fundraise for the activities of the working group and associated mechanisms.</p>
3.4 Implementation of the Council Response to 2019 Governance External Review	
C109/10	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of</i> its Governance and Constituency Committee,</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Endorses</u> the Task Force on the External Governance review report, and 2. <u>Commends</u> the progress made by GCC and encourages continuation of the work.
3.5 International Positioning	
C109/11	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>appreciating</i> the work of the Secretariat on international positioning, and <i>encouraging</i> even greater collaboration with Council, Commissions, and Members,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Requests</u> the PPC, with support of the Secretariat, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake an analysis of priority policy deliverables that IUCN should pursue until 2025 along with the principal pathways to achieve these; • Undertake an urgent gap analysis of key areas where IUCN should develop a policy; 2. <u>Requests</u> the COP28 Working Group to ensure that the climate-biodiversity policy nexus extends beyond advocacy for Nature-based Solutions and specifically develop key messages, consistent with IUCN general policy, on the impacts of novel mitigation interventions such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) and geo-engineering to be reviewed by PPC and used in time for COP28; 3. <u>Requests</u> the Director General to strengthen a systematic engagement with IUCN Members, notably through National and Regional Committees, to deliver IUCN messages.
IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (Agenda Item 4)	
4.1 Selection of the Host Country	
C109/12	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</i></p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> that a thorough selection process has been carried out and taking into account the proposal from the Candidate Host, the evaluation report and the recommendations from the Secretariat as well as all other relevant facts,</p> <p><u>Decides</u> to accept the offer from the Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi to host the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 9 to 15 October 2025.</p>
C109/13	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee,</i></p> <p><i>Noting</i> that very few bids to host the IUCN Congress have been received in recent</p>

	<p>years,</p> <p><i>Acknowledging</i> the ongoing process of the revision of the Statutes and the 20 years strategy,</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Secretariat to review the requirements along the Host Country selection process for future IUCN World Conservation Congress, in particular with a view on financial, environmental and social criteria, with the aim to encourage diversity of future bids.</p>
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Constituency Issues (Agenda Item 5)

5.1 Membership Dues

C109/14	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of</i> the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) which had considered the proposal for membership dues of venue-based organisations presented by Council’s Working Group on Membership Dues (Dues WG),</p> <p><i>Taking into account</i> the mandate given to the 2021–2024 Council by IUCN Members in paragraph 2.a of the decision adopted by electronic vote in February 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Recognizes</u> that the proposal to modify the Membership dues for venue-based organisations by taking into account the venue-based organisation’s expenditure on conservation activities and not their total expenditure is the best option to pursue and that the question of the government agencies needs further work; 2. <u>Requests</u> the GCC in coordination with Finance and Audit Committee and the Secretariat, to prepare and submit to Council for approval by email correspondence, draft amendments of the Membership Dues Guide approved by IUCN Members in February 2021 related to venue-based organisations and the timeline for submission to the electronic ballot of IUCN Members in accordance with Regulation 94; 3. <i>recognizing that</i> Membership dues and the value of IUCN membership pose a broader set of issues affecting other IUCN Members beyond venue-based organisations, <u>requests</u> the GCC to continue its work and propose a holistic Membership strategy and a revised Membership Dues Guide for adoption at the next Congress.
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5.2 Membership applications

C109/15	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its</i> Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approves</u> twelve (12) new membership applications (as per annex) that fulfil the requirements of the IUCN Statutes and Regulations and have received no objections from IUCN’s membership; 2. <u>Recommends</u> the Secretariat to encourage the New Millennium Women
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	Empowerment Organization, Ethiopia to update their website in order to allow the public at large to learn about the full range of their activities in nature conservation.
5.3 Applications for change of membership category and notifications about Member States and name changes of IUCN Members	
C109/16	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC);</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Takes note</u> of the name change of one current IUCN Member (as per table below). 2. <u>Approves</u> the request from one IUCN Member to change their membership category from National NGO Category to Affiliate (Annex x). 3. <u>Notes</u> with concern the number of IUCN Members that are requesting to change their membership category to Affiliate as a result of the new Membership dues.
Strategy for Knowledge Products and Strategy for the IUCN Academy (Agenda Item 6)	
C109/17	<p>Strategy for Knowledge Products</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Endorses</u> the Knowledge Products roadmap, as part of the process to develop a comprehensive Knowledge Management strategy; (Annex ..)</p> <p><u>Requests</u> that this feeds into the development of an IUCN vision and strategy for Knowledge Management;</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Secretariat to ensure that the development of this strategy includes a bottom-up process that consults with Members, Council, and Commissions; and</p> <p><u>Encourages</u> the 20-year Strategic Vision (2021 Congress Resolution 147) to take account of the Knowledge Products roadmap, as well as the Knowledge Management vision and strategy.</p>
C109/18	<p>Strategy for the IUCN Academy</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Establishes</u> an Academy Advisory Board as priority as outlined in the draft strategy and that it proactively engages with all IUCN Commissions;</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Advisory Board and Secretariat to undertake a legal review, working with WCEL that addresses intellectual property issues relevant to the Academy;</p> <p><u>Request</u> the Advisory Board, working with the Secretariat, to review the name of the Academy to clarify that this is not meant to compete with existing universities and</p>

	<p>other established higher education institutions;</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Secretariat to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a business plan for the Academy, working with the Advisory Board and considering specific pricing strategies for IUCN Members; • develop an updated strategy to be reviewed by PPC and submitted to Bureau for its approval, preferably before the end of July; <p><u>Supports</u> the Academy to proceed with training courses, consulting in advance with the Advisory Board, and that the conditions for offering fee-based training is proposed jointly by the Secretariat and Advisory Board over the coming months.</p>
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(Re)Confirmation of the rules for intervention or lobbying letters and the use of the IUCN logo in conjunction with the logo of other constituent parts of IUCN (Agenda Item 7)

C109/19	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Commissions to work with the Secretariat Commission Support Unit to propose an update/revision of the guidance on the use of the IUCN Logo, by constituent parts of the Union. This should include ensuring clarity that any Group of an IUCN Commission clearly identify that any correspondence, recommendation, or representation is on behalf of the respective Group and not all of IUCN.</p>
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Reports of the IUCN Commissions (Agenda Item 9)

9.2 IUCN Climate Crisis Commission

9.2.1 Appointment of Deputy Chair(s)

C109/20	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>Having discussed</i> the proposal by the Interim Chair to appoint two Deputy Chairs of CCC,</p> <p><i>On the advice of the IUCN Legal Adviser and the recommendation of the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</i></p> <p><u>Decides</u> to appoint only one Deputy Chair for each Commission, based on the IUCN Statutes which consistently refer to “a Deputy Chair” in the singular.</p> <p><i>On the proposal of the Interim Chair of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission,</i></p> <p><u>Appoints</u> Ms Cathy Yitong Li (China) as Deputy Chair of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission.</p>
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9.2.2 Issues raised by the Interim Steering Committee (ISC)

	Commission’s budget
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C109/21	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>Having discussed</i> the request from the Interim Chair of CCC for a budget for the Commission,</p> <p><i>Taking into account</i> the recommendation of the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</p> <p><u>Decides</u> not to enter into discussion on the topic given that Council is bound by 2021 Congress Resolution 110 which provides that the Climate Crisis Commission “<i>shall be funded by extra-budgetary resources</i>”.</p>
C109/22	<p>Voting rights in Council</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>Noting</i> the progress made on the process to operationalize the Climate Crisis Commission to date, particularly Council decisions 107/2, C107/12, C/III and 108/11 in connection with the (i) appointment of the Interim Steering Committee, (ii) the approval of the Terms of Reference and (iii) the approval of the Workplan for the Climate Crisis Commission,</p> <p><i>Taking into account</i> advice from the IUCN Legal Adviser,</p> <p><u>Acknowledges</u> that Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, as Interim Chair of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission, is a full right member of the Council; and</p> <p><u>Amends</u> its decision C107/12 (May 2022) to acknowledge that Mr Manuel Pulgar-Vidal may therefore vote at Meetings of the Council.</p>
9.3 IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas	
C109/23	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the proposal of</i> the Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA),</p> <p><u>Appoints</u> the following individuals as members of the Steering Committee of WCPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Harriet Davies-Mostert, Regional Vice Chair for East and Southern Africa; • Ms Mariana Bellot, Regional Vice Chair for North America.
9.4 IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy	
C109/24	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the proposal of</i> the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP),</p> <p><u>Appoints</u> Mr. Pablo Crimer, Regional Chair for Latin America as member of</p>

	the Steering Committee of CEESP.
9.5 IUCN Commission on Education and Communication	
C109/25	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the proposal</i> of the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC),</p> <p><u>Appoints</u> the following individuals as members of the Steering Committee of CEC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms Margaret (Meg) Beckel 2. Mr. Bernard Combes 3. Mr. David Ainsworth
Reports with recommendations from the Council's Standing Committees (Agenda Item 10)	
10.2 Programme and Policy Committee (PPC)	
C109/26	<p>Private Sector Task Force</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation</i> of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</p> <p><u>Approves</u> the <i>Oversight Mechanism of the IUCN Operational Framework for Engagement with the Oil and Gas Sector</i>; (Annex ..)</p> <p><u>Notes</u> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On this basis, and on the basis of the recommendation of the PPC Private Sector Task Force (PSTF), PPC agrees that the proposed collaborative agreement with TotalEnergies aligns with the seven key conditions described in the Operational Framework for Oil and Gas engagement and agrees that the Secretariat may proceed in its establishment, reporting back biannually to PSTF as per the oversight mechanism, b. Furthermore, on this basis and on the basis of the recommendation of the PPC Private Sector Task Force, PPC agrees that the renewal of the collaborative agreement with Shell PLC aligns with the seven key conditions described in the Operational Framework for Oil and Gas engagement and agrees that the Secretariat may proceed in its establishment, reporting back biannually to PSTF as per the oversight mechanism; c. PPC recommends the establishment of a clear communications strategy that addresses reputational risks associated with these engagements. This strategy should clarify what the terms of engagement mean and what they do not mean, vis a vis alignment with the Operational Framework; d. The Chair of PPC issues a further invitation to IUCN Councillors to join the PSTF.
	Policy Procedures

C109/27	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Approves</u> the IUCN Procedures for Engaging in International Policy Meetings, (Annex ..)</p> <p><u>Notes</u> that PPC will review the 2010 Policy Overseer Procedure and report back with any amendments to the 110th meeting of the Council.</p>
C109/28	<p>Task Force on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Notes</u> the establishment of the PPC Task Force on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, to provide a draft report to PPC before Council 110, with the following ToR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and update the strategy for IUCN’s Programme and Policy on Antarctica Issues (especially taking into consideration relevant IUCN resolutions, recent policy developments including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and IUCN’s programme of work) for action now and that can act as an input to the 2025-2029 intersessional Programme; and 2. Develop a plan that outlines a sustainable means of implementation including options for fundraising and capacity development, aiming to elevate IUCN’s engagement with and influence of relevant policy fora.
C109/29	<p>IUCN Council Global Focal Person for Oceans</p> <p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Programme and Policy Committee (PPC),</i></p> <p><u>Appoints</u> Ms Lolita Gibbons-Decherong as the IUCN Council Global Focal Person for Oceans.</p>
10.3 Governance and Constituency Committee	
C109/30	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approves</u> the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Council’s Motions Working Group (Annex ..) and the process for appointing the members of the Motions Working Group (Annex ..); 2. <u>Requests</u> the MWG to work together with the GCC TF on motions to propose, for

	<p>consideration by Council at its 111th meeting amendments to the IUCN Statutes and relevant Rules of Procedure with the aim to improve the effectiveness and transparency of the Motion process and address the concerns raised by Members at the last Congress;</p> <p>3. <u>Requests</u> the MWG to work with the GCC TF to propose changes to the internal procedures to the Motion WG, in particular to enhance the transparency of the Motion process;</p> <p>4. <u>Requests</u> the MWG to work with the Secretariat to prepare a work plan and budget needed for effectively managing the motions process for consideration by Council when adopting the IUCN Budget for 2024 and 2025.</p>
In camera session of the Council (Agenda Item 12)	
12.1 Search for and transition to a new Director General (DG) of IUCN	
C109/31	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>On the recommendation of its Bureau, meeting in camera on 11 and 23 May 2023,</i></p> <p><i>Noting</i> the progress report of the DG Search Committee on the search process in accordance with the Terms of Reference and timeline approved by Council at its Extraordinary Meeting of 11 April 2023;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Transmits</u> to the DG Search Committee its guidance for the profile and Job Description of the Director General; 2. <u>Appoints</u> Dr Grethel Aguilar as Acting Director General effective 1 July 2023 until the next Director General takes up her/his office.
Any other business (Agenda Item 13)	
13.1 Date and place of the next Council meeting C110	
C109/32	<p>The IUCN Council,</p> <p><i>Having been invited</i> by the French Government through the French Minister of Environment at the occasion of the meeting of the “Comité de Pilotage France – UICN” on 11 May 2023, to hold the 110th Council meeting in France in the framework of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of IUCN in France;</p> <p><u>Accepts</u> in principle the invitation to hold its 110th meeting in Fontainebleau, France from 13 to 15 November 2023;</p> <p><u>Notes</u> the on-going consultations between the Secretariat and the Host Country in view of enabling the Host Country to provide for the expenditure not covered by the approved IUCN budget 2023;</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the Bureau to confirm this decision as soon as the Host Country will have confirmed to cover the expenditure not foreseen in the approved IUCN budget 2023.</p>



30.05.2023