



IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for the United States

Acting Together to Drive Conservation Impact

August 20 and 21, 2024
*Generously hosted at [Conservation International](#)
Arlington, VA
Followed by the Annual Meeting of the
IUCN US National Committee on August 22nd*

Day 1: Tuesday August 20, 2024

I. Registration, Welcome and Stage Setting

Insights and reflections on the global status of nature and how IUCN might position ourselves to best combat the biodiversity and climate change crises.

Registration and light breakfast: 8:00 - 9:00 am

Welcome and opening remarks: 9:00 - 9:45 am

- Dr M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International
- Dr Grethel Aguilar, Director General of IUCN
- Representative from the US Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, to be confirmed.
- Dr Sue Lieberman, IUCN North America Councillor and Vice President for International Policy at the Wildlife Conservation Society
- Dr Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director
- Dr Christopher Dunn, Chair of the IUCN US National Committee and E. N. Wilds Director of Cornell Botanic Gardens

Nature Looking Forward to 2030: 9:45 - 10:30 am

- Energizing panel discussion including Members and Commission members representing academic, non-profit, government, youth and IP perspectives reflecting on where nature and biodiversity stand now, global policy opportunities and targets, and offer reflections and insights on how IUCN might position ourselves looking towards 2030 for a better future for nature

Break: 10:30-10:45 am

II. Input Session on IUCN Draft 20-Year Vision and 2026-2029 Program

Members and Commission members are invited to provide feedback and comments on both the IUCN 20-Year Strategic Vision and the 2026-2029 Programme. Members will have advance access to the draft program, which will be updated from the Nature 2030 Program but renewed in the context of both the 20-Year Vision and the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The 20-Year Vision Draft and the Draft 2026-2029 Programme will be circulated to Members in advance of the RCF for review.

IUCN 20-Year Strategic Vision: 10:45 – 12:15 pm

- Presentation of the framework of IUCN's first-of-its-kind 20-Year Strategic Vision. Include Grethel in the presentation and input session for the 20-Year Vision
- Facilitated dialogue and listening sessions to collect Member input, perspectives, and feedback for the Vision
- Global 20-Year Vision Time Capsule

Lunch: 12:15 – 1:15 pm

IUCN 2026-2029 Programme: 1:15 – 3:30 pm

- Presentation of the draft IUCN 2026-2029 Programme
- Facilitated interactive input session to learn Members' perspectives of the direction for IUCN for the next 4 years
- Review of Members' perspectives on Programme engagement and Review of Commission Mandates

Break: 3:30 – 3:45 pm

III. IUCN Tools, Initiatives, and Members in Focus

The purpose of this session is to provide updates and to showcase IUCN tools and approaches that members have requested from IUCN, and that will help facilitate member access to other members, commission members, and the work more broadly that the Union is undertaking. It also allows members and commissions to share tools, approaches, or other areas of work that they want to share with the larger conservation community for input or to stimulate joint efforts/collaborations.

Tools: 3:45 – 4:45 pm

Led by Sarah Over, Head of Membership and Commission Support Unit, and Natalie Cox, Programme Officer, IUCN North America Regional Office

- [IUCN Contributions for Nature Platform | Collective progress on conservation impact for global goals](#)
- [IUCN Engage | The virtual community for Union constituents](#)
- [IUCN Members Magazine | Unite for Nature](#)
- [Crossroad Blogs | Open Letters to IUCN Members](#)
- [Panorama | Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)

Initiatives and novel approaches: 4:15-4:45 pm

This session presents new initiatives and novel approaches for the Union, and may include, but is not limited to:

- [Act 30 | Mapping Diverse and Effective ways of conserving 30% of our planet](#), A new initiative of IUCN, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and Esri. Session led by Swati Hingorani, Global Coordinator, Act30, and Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas Team
- [Synthetic Biology and Nature Conservation | Union-wide process and engagement towards a policy on synthetic biology](#)

Commissions Rapid Rounds: 4:45-5:30 pm

Learn about IUCN's 7 expert Commissions, their main priorities, and how to engage. Members and guests are welcome to then connect further with Commission Chairs and representatives during the Commission-hosted Happy Hour to follow.

Happy Hour: 5:30- 7:00 pm

Get to know Commission representatives, learn more about their work, and join a Commission over drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Day 2: Wednesday August 21, 2024

I. **Registration, Recap and Getting to Impact**

On Day 2, Members will dive more deeply into the preparations required for the upcoming [2025 World Conservation Congress](#) (to be held in Abu Dhabi, October 9-15, 2025), including governance review, voting, and how to prepare motions. Day 2 will include interactive workshops and work groups, allowing Members to discuss themes of interest, review Resolution progress, organize around new motions, and collaborate to drive conservation action around mutual areas of interest.

Registration and light breakfast: 8-8:45 am

Insights from Day 1 and Agenda Setting for Day 2: 8:45- 9:00

- A review of accomplishments from Day 1 and reflections on input from the Vision Time Capsule will set the stage for Day 2, led by Dr. Tracy Farrell, IUCN Regional Director for North America

II. Road to Congress

This session will provide a review of statutory requirements to prepare for World Conservation Congress, including governance, voting (highlighting new electronic voting procedures), elections, timelines and other WCC preparation.

Road to Congress: 9:00 - 10:30 pm

Led by Sarah Over, Head of Membership and Commission Support Unit, and Dr. Susan Lieberman, Vice President, International Policy at Wildlife Conservation Society and IUCN Council IUCN Councilor for North America and the Caribbean.

- Voting, elections including e-elections;
- Timelines, deadlines, congress themes;
- Governance changes/issues and how they are addressed;
- *Space for potential candidates to speak, as necessary;*
- Q and A

Break: 10:30 - 10:45 am

III. Status of Resolutions, and organizing around new Motions for Conservation Impact

This session will offer thematic opportunities for collaboration on priority themes, a review of current Resolutions and progress or obstacles towards their implementation and impact and allow space for Members to organize around new motions.

Motions Process: 10:45-11:30 am

Led by Kathryn Gwiazdon, J.D., Esq., member of the IUCN global Motions Working Group, US National Committee Executive Committee, and Executive Director, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law.

- Overview of the timeline of the submission process
- Urgent Motions submission process
- How Motions are reviewed, selection criteria, and how to draft and submit a robust motion.
- How to partner on Motions, gather sponsors, or join to support a Motion
- What happens on the Members Assembly Floor and during Negotiations at the World Conservation Congress

How thematic groups might support the Motions Process: 11:30-11:45 am – Dr. Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director

This session will include a review of thematic priorities emerging from RCF Registration and live-time polling during the event, and support Members to organize around thematic priorities to act together.

Lunch: 11:45am-12:45 pm

Motions Breakout Groups around emergent themes: 12:45 – 3:45 pm

Motions Breakout Groups will allow significant space and time for Members to collaborate to draft new motions and coordinate on emergent priorities ahead of the 2025 WCC. Workgroups will be facilitated by Members of the US National Committee and the IUCN Motions Working Group. This is an interactive workshop time for Members to connect with each other and make significant progress towards collaboration on new motions, and to take stock of past Resolutions, including a review of their impact or obstacles to implementation.

- Groups of 10-15 Members will work together across themes of interest to Members.

Coffee break: 3:45-4:00 pm

Member Initiatives Showcase: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

This session will include videos, brief presentations Ted Talk style, Pecha Kucha presentations, posters/other visuals, and otherwise allow for members and commission members to showcase their work.

- Showcase slots of 5-10 minutes will be offered through a submission process for Members wishing to share their work, new initiatives, partnership opportunities, or the impact of their organization.
- Applications to submit proposals will be circulated in July.

IV. Meeting Summary and Closing Remarks

Closing remarks and directions ahead of the 2025 WCC – 5:00-5:10 pm – *Speaker from the US Department of State, to be confirmed.*

Shared conservation objectives until 2030 – 5:10-5:20 - *M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International*

Acting on our Vision – 5:20 - 5:30 pm – *Dr. Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director and Christopher Dunn, Executive Director of Cornell Botanic Gardens and Chair of the US National Committee Executive Committee*

Happy Hour: 5:30 – 7:00 pm