



# Report on the 6th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum

(10-12 August 2015 - Bangkok, Thailand)





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Asia Regional Office  
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39  
Sukhumvit Road  
Wattana, Bangkok 10110  
Thailand  
Tel: +662 662 4029  
<http://www.iucn.org/rcf2015>

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## Introduction

The Asia Regional Office of IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, organised its 6th Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 10 to 12 August 2015 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. IUCN holds Regional Conservation Fora every four years ahead of IUCN's World Conservation Congress (WCC), also held every four years. The next WCC will be held in Hawaii, United States of America from 1-10 September 2016.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Regional Conservation Forum was co-hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand and the IUCN National Committee of Members in Thailand. The RCF brings together representatives from IUCN's Membership, Commissions, Secretariat, Council, donors and partners in Asia. The RCF facilitates the identification of critical conservation issues facing the region and builds consensus on how these concerns can be addressed.

This RCF was attended by over 400 participants from more than 28 countries. Participants included the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand as a Chief Guest; Honourable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan; Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand; IUCN President; members of the IUCN Council, Chair of the IUCN Asia Regional Committee as well as Chairs of National Committees of IUCN Members in the region; and many other important stakeholders in conservation and environment in the region. A list of participants is appended to this report.

The RCF is the platform where all IUCN Members in a particular region come together to evaluate joint progress on the current IUCN programme and strategies and provide input into the programme in preparation for the next session of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC). This event, therefore, helps prepare IUCN Members for their effective participation in the World Conservation Congress. Members also deliberate on drafting proposals for motions to be presented at the WCC.

At the RCF, Members of the Asia Regional Members' Committee (ARMC) of IUCN Members in Asia also elect office bearers of the ARMC in sessions open only to Members of the Asia Regional Committee.

### Building partnerships

The RCF provided a unique platform to discuss innovative conservation approaches, share regional experiences and build partnerships for future action. In addition to Membership decisions and debate, a number of panel discussions during the RCF brought together diverse perspectives from an array of stakeholders. Leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, business and academia shared experiences, debated and explored ideas on how to manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

### The significance of Asia

Asia is an important region and the urgent need for conservation is clear. Growing populations and rapid economic development are increasingly straining ecosystems. The last few years have seen plummeting populations of important species and high levels of

water stress in many areas. Six countries in the region are also counted among those most vulnerable to climate change.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conservation Forum, special emphasis was placed on the impact of emerging socio-economic trends on the environment and the critical importance of all sectors working together to address these issues. The forum also focused on nature-based solutions – harnessing the power of nature to solve our fundamental human challenges – as well as on approaches to valuing and conserving nature, and the effective and equitable governance of nature's use.

### Outcomes

By addressing the biodiversity and ecosystem challenges in an open and inclusive platform, discussions held during the Forum were vital contributions that help set the region's conservation agenda for the coming years.

The Members' Session of the RCF provided IUCN Members with a number of opportunities to:

- prepare for sessions of the Members' Assembly at the World Conservation Congress and learn more about how to get involved in the WCC;
- provide input on the formulation of IUCN's Programme for 2017-2020;
- provide input on the recommendations for improvement of governance and reforms, including amendments to IUCN Statutes and for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the IUCN Council; and
- learn more about the reforms to the motions process as proposed by the Council, and discuss relevant motions to be presented by Asia Members to the 2016 WCC.

In addition, the new Chair of the Asia Regional Committee was elected and expressions of interest for Councillor positions were sought.

The plenary sessions, which welcomed leaders from governments, civil society and the private sector as speakers, opened enriching discussions on future directions for conservation and sustainable development in Asia.

Side events on a variety of topics showcased new ideas and best practices for conservation work, while also examining how to reach out to new constituencies more effectively, including communications as well as collaboration with businesses.

This report is a documentation of the forum. It presents summaries of the speeches, presentations and session discussions, and is meant to serve as a reference to the proceedings.

More information about the 6<sup>th</sup> IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum may be accessed at the website [www.iucn/rcf2015](http://www.iucn/rcf2015). The presentations summarized in the following pages are available for download [here](#).



## Session I: Inauguration



### Introduction

The inaugural session of the Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) was opened with an introduction of the distinguished guests and the speakers of this session. It was explained that for health reasons, Ms Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General, was unable to attend this particular event.

### Welcome remarks

*Prof. Youngbae Suh*

*Chair, Asia Regional Members' Committee*

Prof. Suh welcomed all participants to the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia RCF and emphasised the critical role of this meeting in determining IUCN's global Programme for the next four years, which will be decided at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i next year. He mentioned the significant growth of IUCN Membership in Asia and the important role of Commission Members in supporting IUCN. Prof. Suh noted that sustainable development is no longer a nice thing to do, but is a must to ensure the health and prosperity of our society; and that this is supported by the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Prof. Suh encouraged the participants to embrace their opportunity to contribute to influencing the global conservation agenda.



## Introductory address

*Ms Aban Marker Kabraji  
Regional Director, IUCN Asia*

Ms. Kabraji welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Thailand and its Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for co-hosting the RCF. Ms Kabraji emphasised the important part that Thailand has played in the history of IUCN, as one of the 14 countries which signed the Charter of IUCN in 1948. She noted the significant collaboration between IUCN and the Government of Thailand since the 1960s to establish the country's protected areas, including Khao Yai, Thailand's oldest and most famous national park, which was established in 1962. Ms. Kabraji highlighted Thailand's rich biodiversity and natural resources which are threatened by rapid economic growth, but emphasised that there are many opportunities to apply ecosystem-based solutions on the ground. She also highlighted IUCN's work to ensure efficient and equitable use of nature, and the focus in Asia on trans-boundary projects which can influence planning frameworks, reflecting IUCN's unique ability to establish partners across all sectors to develop regional solutions.

## Address

*Mr. Zhang Xinsheng  
IUCN President*

IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng's remarks were on the theme of "Tipping Point to Turning Point." He highlighted the importance of the recent adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as very significant for IUCN and its partners, as well as for Asia, which supports a high proportion of the world's biodiversity and is experiencing rapid economic growth. He made the case that IUCN must increasingly focus its efforts on regions such as Asia where governments and other organisations need the most support in achieving sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. President Zhang also noted the important impacts of climate change. He concluded his remarks by underscoring the strengths and niche of IUCN as a diverse community which provides opportunity for governments, civil society and researchers to work together as equals for better management of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

## Address by the Chief Guest

*H.E. General Dawpong Ratanasuwan  
Honourable Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Government of Thailand*

H.E. General Dawpong Ratanasuwan welcomed all participants to the opening session of the Regional Conservation Forum, and to the Kingdom of Thailand. He noted that the Regional Conservation Forum is taking place at a time when the world is waking up to the importance of action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. H.E. General Ratanasuwan commented on the importance of the sustainable management of agricultural and natural resources to Thailand's economic success, and highlighted the key role that the Royal Family of Thailand has played in providing leadership in the field of sustainable development in the country.

## Session II: IUCN towards 2020



This session was chaired by IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng and co-chaired by Dr. Kasemsan Jinavaso, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand. The discussions included an overview of IUCN Director General Ms Inger Andersen's strategic vision for IUCN and what this means for the Asia Region, as well as Thailand's conservation priorities. The proposed global Intersessional Programme 2017-2020 and the draft Asia Region Situational Analysis for the Intersessional Programme 2017-2020 were also presented.

### Thailand's conservation priorities

*Dr Kasemsan Jinavaso*

*Permanent Secretary, MONRE, Government of Thailand*

The speech highlighted recent conservation initiatives in Thailand including:

- Working on trans-boundary forest conservation initiatives in partnership with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO);
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Revising existing laws and using military tactics to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. The subsidiary laws are already in place to curb trade of African elephant ivory. Thailand has received accolades from the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for its efforts in this regard; and
- Developing a strategy for forest management and regeneration in the headwater areas of northern Thailand which uses legal mechanisms to ensure that land allocated to the local community cannot be sold.

## Vision for IUCN - IUCN Director General's presentation

*In the absence of the IUCN Director General at the RCF, this presentation was delivered by Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair of the Species Survival Commission.*

The presentation articulated the conservation priorities for the Union in the coming years, in light of IUCN's current identity and historical legacy of impact. It highlighted many aspects of this rich history including the significant role IUCN has played in the development of global conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES and the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands); its continuing leadership through knowledge products like the Red List of Threatened Species; and the organisation's ability to create impact on the ground through projects such as Mangroves for the Future. Moving forward, the presentation highlighted the significant conservation challenges facing the world, and the need for IUCN to adapt and to improve on its delivery, particularly in the areas of Member engagement in IUCN programme delivery, more effective Union-wide communication, strengthening the scientific base and developing better reporting tools for measuring impact on the ground.

The presentation laid out a strategic long term vision for IUCN (Vision 2048) to become a world-class conservation leader influencing policy makers, media and the public, for a sustainable future. The next programme cycle (2017-2020) of IUCN will guide the work in the medium term. It is based on the current programme framework and identifies the need to move towards bigger and transformational change for better policy influence. Key focus areas identified are anticipating new knowledge products, measuring impact, enhancing the global voice for conservation beyond the environment community and strategic shifts for enhanced governance and effectiveness of the Union. The Director General also highlighted the need to move from "retail to wholesale," with a focus on larger projects.

## Discussion summary

The discussions highlighted the conservation challenges in Asia and how IUCN can be more active and effective. Contributions from the floor stressed the need for IUCN to focus on the following areas in its next programme, particularly in the context of Asia:

- Adaptation to climate change;
- Conservation of ocean and coastal biodiversity;
- Food security and livelihood-based conservation strategies;
- Playing a key role in building a neutral platform for dispute resolution on water issues;
- Developing a strategy for conserving biodiversity outside of protected areas; and
- Enhancing post-project sustainability and devising strategies for measuring long-term impact of projects as IUCN is doing with Mangroves for the Future.

It was also suggested that IUCN should further add value to the work of Members by working together on significant issues and crises such as the devastating earthquake in Nepal. On the topic of moving to larger projects it was noted that this is not always the case, and that sometimes smaller projects can deliver better impact on the ground.

## Plenary: IUCN Programme 2017-2020

This session presented the draft IUCN Intersessional Plan 2017-2020 with the objective of obtaining feedback and contributions from Members. Outcomes from this discussion will be considered in the next draft of the global programme which will be brought forward for discussion and approval by Members at the 2016 WCC. This session was chaired by IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor Mr Malik Amin Aslam.

### Draft IUCN Programme 2017-2020

*Mr Anshuman Saikia*

*Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia*

In his presentation Mr Saikia discussed how the draft Programme builds on experiences from the current Programme, how it responds to current needs, and how the programme can contribute to the SDGs. He explained that the 84th IUCN Council meeting agreed that the integrated framework of the current Programme (valuing and conserving biodiversity, good governance and nature-based solutions) is still valid but found that the underpinning narrative needs strengthening and integration. Among the gaps identified are the need to include sub-results and step changes in the delivery models with a focus on scaling up and linking delivery with a longer term horizon (10-12 years) to better reflect the impacts of various strategies under each global result. Mr Saikia described how the draft programme (2017-2020) identifies nine sub-results (three for each of the global results) and has a set of indicators, baseline information and quadrennial targets to measure progress towards impact.

The presentation showed the links between the SDGs and the IUCN programme:

- SDG food security goals mention ecosystem restoration;
- SDGs 14, 15 on terrestrial and marine biodiversity are aligned with the goals of valuing and conserving nature; and
- SDG 6, 10, 16 are linked to governance and equitable benefit sharing and the goals on food, water and energy security are linked to nature-based solutions.

Mr Saikia concluded that the document is the programme of IUCN as a Union and thus the focus should be on setting priorities that leverage IUCN's strengths and which have clear impacts on the ground.

### IUCN in Asia: Situation analysis

*Dr Robert Mather*

*Head, IUCN Southeast Asia Group*

Dr Mather's presentation provided a snapshot of the economic, social and environmental context in Asia, IUCN presence in Asia and its current programme of work. He discussed the context of IUCN's work in Asia, a region witnessing dynamic growth while at the same time facing both conservation and related human well-being challenges. He said that the Union's presence in Asia, with a growing Membership and Commission Membership, along with the

expanding presence of the IUCN Secretariat across the region, responds to demands from the Membership and the other constituents. IUCN Asia Secretariat's programmatic initiatives and the draft broad strategic priorities identified for the 2017-2020 intersessional period were also presented. The presentation concluded with the milestones for finalising the Asia Component Intersessional Programme 2017-2020.

## Discussion summary

During the discussion, emphasis was placed on the link between SDGs and the IUCN intersessional programme and the need to integrate these agendas in national plans as a way to make governments and the private sector more accountable. It was also highlighted that the draft Intersessional Program (2017-2020) does not provide a strategy on how Members can play an active role in IUCN programme implementation.

China and India's focus on growth and the resulting environmental impacts was also examined and it was suggested that IUCN should look at opportunities to influence the two countries to follow a path of green growth.

Hydro-diplomacy and trans-boundary illegal wildlife trade were identified as areas that IUCN can focus on in Asia. It was suggested, that hydro-diplomacy should be part of school course curriculum, and that there should be a youth forum to discuss these issues as a way to help solve challenges and conflicts. The discussion also highlighted how trans-boundary illegal wildlife trade has shifted from being a biodiversity concern to a security issue, and that because of its global nature it needs to be dealt with in an effective manner. As a response, it was mentioned that IUCN is working on a project proposal called Wildlife for the Future which is designed to involve both Asia and Africa for greater impact.

## Session III: Members' session

This session focused on Members' business and included a report on the Asia Regional Committee and its constituents' activities. The discussion on election of office bearers of the Asia Regional Committee was also held in a closed session open only to Members of the Asia Regional Committee.

The session was chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair, and co-chaired by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President.

### Report on the Asia Regional Committee

*Professor Youngbae Suh*  
*Chair, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee*

Professor Suh presented a report on the achievements of the Asia Regional Members' Committee (ARMC) since 2012 as well as that of the National Committees across the IUCN Asia statutory region. He referred to Pakistan becoming an integral part of the IUCN Asia region following the amendment to the IUCN Statutes at the WCC Jeju in 2012. He also highlighted the growth of the IUCN Membership: from 189 in 2011 to 259 in 2015, including two new State Members, Bhutan and Mongolia. Prof. Suh also discussed the proceedings and the outcomes of the Asia Regional Members' Committee Meeting held last August 2014, including specific detailed discussions in relation to implementation of the Jeju WCC Resolution 10 on strengthening the programmatic presence of IUCN in Asia.

### Discussion summary

The Chair of the Asia Regional Committee suggested that Members' Committees across the region publish annual reports that present their Committee's activities as well as collective actions undertaken by IUCN Members, following the example of the India National Committee.

There was a suggestion from a new NGO member from India for country offices to organise orientations for Members, especially in matters related to Members' rights in terms of submitting motions and voting, and in general, on how IUCN operates and how Members can play a role in influencing IUCN's priorities. Dr Enrique Lahmann replied that the Union Development Group provides an introductory kit to new Members and he also welcomed feedback from Members on improving the induction/orientation of new Members.

President Zhang drew attention to how the Council and the IUCN DG values the importance of reaching out to Members more actively. He explained that the role of the Council is to act as a Trustee for IUCN on behalf of the Members, while the IUCN Secretariat serves the Members. He mentioned that IUCN finds its strength in its Members, making it different from NGOs and he discussed how it is important to respect Asia's diversity and complexity.

The IUCN President also suggested that social media such as Twitter and Facebook could be utilised for creating awareness about Member activities. It was further discussed that training programmes for Members (provided resources are available) need to be developed.

## **Asia Regional Members' Committee elections**

A closed session of the Members of the ARMC was held to consider the nomination for the new Chair. The Members of the ARMC unanimously and without objections accepted the appointment of Professor Ma Keping, a former IUCN Councillor and Chair of the IUCN China National Working Group of Members in China, as the new Chair of the ARMC.



## Session IV: Plenary programme session



This session explored multiple perspectives on each of the programme areas defined by IUCN for the next four years: Valuing and Conserving Nature, Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use, and Nature-Based Solutions to Societal Challenges. The objectives of this session were: to showcase the ways in which different stakeholders can work together to achieve change, and to allow delegates an opportunity to hear from a wide range of experts in the field on these complex and challenging topics.

### Valuing and conserving nature

This panel discussion explored issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature. It was chaired by Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President/Regional Councillor. The discussion focused on forests and included points of view from panellists from private sector (Asia Pulp and Paper), the government of Thailand, and RECOFCT, an IUCN Member and international organisation focused on community management of forests.

## **Introduction and overview: Valuing and conserving Asia's forests**

*Mr Malik Amin Aslam*

*Vice President and Regional Councillor, IUCN*

Mr Aslam explained that 'Valuing and Conserving Nature' is at the very heart of IUCN's programme. He drew on examples from Pakistan (how the economic cost of environmental degradation triggered new government policy), India (how participation in a Clean Development Mechanism triggered foreign direct investment in the country), Southeast Asia (the economic value of mangroves for both disaster risk reduction and carbon sequestration), and the UK (how Green Budgeting is now driving political priorities). He highlighted that while the challenge is in transforming this valuation into a political proposition, mechanisms such as the Bonn Challenge are bringing global recognition to the issues, making the link between global commitments and conservation action on the ground, and providing tangible benefits at local, national and global levels.

## **The role of the private sector in forest conservation**

*Dr Dolly Priatna*

*Head of Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement, Asia Pulp and Paper (APP)*

Dr Priatna explained that while high rates of deforestation that are being recorded across Asia (typically associated with rapid rates of economic development), these have been driven in part by the private sector. Therefore, he said, engagement with these organisations offers significant opportunities for building sustainable financing models for environmental conservation. Dr Priatna went on to describe APP's five-year Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management Plan which since 2013 has included a policy for forest conservation. He also spoke about APP's work at the landscape level with WWF Indonesia and Greenpeace, and expressed his hope that the private sector can be both a strong stakeholder and a driving force for conservation in Asia.

## **The critical importance of protected areas and law enforcement for forest conservation**

*Dr Prasert Sornsathapornkul*

*Director, Natural World Heritage Office, Department of National Parks (DNP), Thailand*

Dr Sornsathapornkul started his talk by giving a background on Thailand's 11.5 million hectare protected area network. He then described the country's legal framework for environmental protection and the management approaches employed by DNP in protecting these areas. He said that these approaches included area-based classification schemes to combat forest encroachment, SMART patrolling, and regional dialogues on combating illegal logging and trade in Siamese rosewood. At the conclusion of the talk, Dr Sornsathapornkul expressed his desire for the development of more effective enforcement approaches, strengthened regional cooperation and collaboration on law enforcement, and improved sharing of information on protected area management and law enforcement for forest conservation.

## Why empowering local communities is the key to successful forest conservation

*Dr Tint Lwin Thaung, Executive Director, Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC)*

Dr Thaung introduced the vision and work of RECOFTC. He explained that the organisation focuses on building the capacity of stakeholders (including government, civil society, academia and the private sector) to engage in meaningful dialogue on forest governance, rights, and benefit sharing. His presentation highlighted the importance of community-managed protected areas which he said is a more equitable model for natural resources management compared to the traditional 'National Park' model which excludes local people and places involuntary restrictions on their access to natural resources. He explained that research conducted in India and elsewhere has demonstrated the effectiveness of community-based models of management. He also highlighted the need for appropriately targeted capacity building approaches and the opportunities for the expansion and mainstreaming of community forestry models across Asia.

## Discussion summary

Mr Malik Amin Aslam facilitated the discussion which included constructive input from IUCN Members from Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and others. The key themes that emerged from the discussion included:

- the importance of recognising the fragmented nature of many remaining natural ecosystems and of promoting conservation outside formal protected area systems;
- the fact that the national-level politics of environment and conservation must become bi-partisan (or multi-partisan) if they are to be effective;
- the important role that young people have to play;
- the opportunities (such as certification schemes for sustainable production) and risks (such as 'green-washing') IUCN may face when scaling-up engagement with the private sector;
- the role that IUCN can play in supporting the management effectiveness of protected areas (including providing technical support for capacity building and the development of sustainable financing models);
- the role that IUCN could play in facilitating forest restoration and rehabilitation at both the national and global levels;
- the importance of recognising the rights of indigenous peoples with regard to natural resources, and their role as a source of knowledge about sustainable management practices;
- the need for a more effective mechanism for IUCN to collect success stories and best practices from its Members (particularly those working at the community level); and
- the challenge of building trust between stakeholders (including local communities, the private sector and government) when dealing with conflicting interests and priorities.

## Effective and equitable governance of nature's use

The second panel discussion of the Programme Session looked at issues, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities and the political economy of nature. It was chaired by IUCN regional Councillor Dr Arzu Rana Deuba with speakers from NGOs and the government of Thailand.

### Introduction and overview: Governance, good governance and equity

*Dr Arzu Rana Deuba*

*Regional Councillor, IUCN*

Dr Deuba provided the introduction by discussing governance and the principles for good use of natural resources. She explained the need for strategic direction for IUCN's programme in terms of governance in both the short and long term and emphasised the need for stakeholders to appreciate the complexities of governance in terms of contexts arising from historical, social and cultural perspectives. She also spoke of the importance of effective governance as manifested in the responsiveness, accountability, transparency and equitability of institutions, as well as governance challenges such as inequity, unsustainability, corruption and ineffective implementation.

### Government agencies and multiple-stakeholder participation in the governance of nature's use

*Dr Mokhlesur Rahman*

*Executive Director, Centre for Natural Resources Studies, Bangladesh*

Dr Rahman started by presenting the rapid governance assessment exercise undertaken at six natural resource management project sites in Bangladesh in order to gauge their effectiveness against identified indicators. He discussed the experience of co-management in Bangladesh and how communities have benefitted from these initiatives through equitable access to natural resources. He explained how communities have been empowered by these initiatives with increased income, enhanced abilities to engage service providers and the private sector, and enhanced knowledge on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures. However, his presentation also showed that there are still some marginalised groups, including women and ethnic and religious minorities who are not benefiting to the full extent. He explained that this shows there is a need to be specifically targeted and to ensure that governments are engaged in co-management processes.

### The community focus: Local governance of nature's use

*Mr Anuradha Wickramasinghe*

*Chairman, Small Fishers Federation (SFF) of Sri Lanka*

Mr Wickramasinghe spoke about his organisation's long history of working on community-based mangrove restoration, applying good governance principles. He discussed the approach of SFF in community-based coastal resource conservation management and wise

use mangrove conservation. He discussed how mangroves are important to the livelihoods of the coastal fishing communities, explained that without mangroves fisheries will decline, water quality will deteriorate, communities will be exposed to natural disasters and vital ecosystem goods and services will be lost. He concluded by presenting some examples of the projects implemented for wise use and conservation management of mangroves.

### **New approaches to the governance of Ramsar sites**

*Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat*

*Ramsar Focal Point, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Government of Thailand*

Ms Pipitsombat presented Thailand's experience with wetland management representing ONEP, the National Wetland Boards and the National Committee on Wetland Management. She began by explaining the institutional structure for wetland management in the country which acceded to the Ramsar Convention in 1998. She cited some of the challenges related to Ramsar site management and discussed the national wetlands inventory undertaken through a multi-stakeholder process involving local communities, provincial offices and sub-district level local government units, among others. She explained that, at present, communities in Thailand have a say on whether development projects proposed in wetlands should proceed or not. She provided an example from Chachengsao Province in Central Thailand and how ONEP local staff worked with communities to support them in nominating a river basin as a Ramsar site.

### **Discussion summary**

The discussions that followed primarily focused on clarifying the presentations made by the panelists. One of the questions to Dr Rahman was whether it was possible to have win-win situations in terms of maintaining ecological integrity while improving the livelihoods of communities. All three presenters were asked how science and technology is being applied in the work described in Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and whether sound scientific principles and techniques were being applied.

General questions on governance included queries on how coordination across institutions can be managed and how to address deforestation and degradation from mining and other exploitative activities that are symptomatic of governance failure. There was also a question on how IUCN supports indigenous people's livelihoods and whether it has a programme focus on indigenous peoples.

Ms Pipitsombat mentioned that it is important to involve intermediary institutions such as the media and NGOs to act as a bridge in terms of communication between communities and government agencies. She also discussed the importance of working with local NGOs to establish networks so that communities can share information about wetlands and wetland management. In response to the importance of involving government agencies, Dr Rahman mentioned that it is vital to have government as a stakeholder to ensure the sustainability of the co-management initiatives focused on wise use of resources.

In response to the query on exploitative practices, Dr Rahman emphasised the importance of engaging those stakeholders which are responsible for the problem. As with the case in Northern Bangladesh and the Sunderbans, it is important to have a trans-boundary approach as some of the drivers exist beyond the national boundaries.

Mr Wickramasinghe also provided an example of how, since 1992, community-based mangrove restoration activities have led to increased fish and shrimp catch as well as increased sequestration of carbon dioxide.

## Conclusion

Dr Deuba mentioned that the panelists presented some very good examples of equitable and effective governance. She explained that decision-making is a complex process and involves political implications and it is very important that these are underpinned by principles of good governance. She emphasised the importance of strengthening community-based organisations and NGOs and developing arrangements for them to work with government. Another important factor mentioned was the identification of ways to link technical knowledge to community-based natural resource management initiatives so that the communities and other stakeholders can benefit from this knowledge.

## Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges: Building resilience to shocks and stresses

The last discussion for this session examined approaches involving nature-based solutions and related issues and challenges. It also looked at how IUCN can expand its work on promoting nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development. This panel discussion was chaired by IUCN Regional Councillor Ambassador Masahiko Horie and included speakers from NGOs, research institutions and governments who discussed disaster risk reduction and recovery, business approaches to nature-based solutions, innovative policies and regional cooperation.

### Introduction and overview

*Ambassador Masahiko Horie*  
*Regional Councillor, IUCN*

Ambassador Horie began his introduction by citing how Asia, home to seven out of the 10 top disaster-prone countries, is a vulnerable region. He explained that the economic cost of natural disasters can be considerable and natural disasters can wipe away long term development efforts. He stated that, on the other hand, experience has shown that pre-emptive disaster risk reduction (DDR) is highly cost effective, with conservative estimates indicating that for every dollar spent on DDR, up to seven dollars is saved on recovery



efforts. The highlight of Ambassador Horie's presentation was how natural infrastructure can reduce hazard impacts and vulnerability to disasters, aside from being locally accessible and low cost. The Ambassador pointed out that contrary to common perception, employing nature-based solutions can contribute to economic development through provision of jobs and that there are benefits associated with improved community resilience, biodiversity conservation, climate change impact mitigation and carbon storage. In conclusion, he said that there is a need for IUCN Members to communicate and advocate the importance of nature-based solutions.

### **Nature-based solutions and the Nepal earthquake**

*Mr Yogendra Chitrakar*

*Director, Environmental Campaign and Conservation Awareness (ECCA) and Chair, IUCN Nepal National Committee*

Mr Chitrakar presented the lessons from the catastrophic Nepal earthquake in April 2015 and the opportunities during the recovery phase. He explained how, in the aftermath of the earthquake, many communities were dependent on resources from forests for materials for rebuilding critical infrastructure. He said that this highlights not only the importance of the natural environment for community resilience, but also the need to manage impacts on the natural environment following natural disasters. As an example, he cited that during the earthquake, ECCA and other IUCN Members provided not just humanitarian and development assistance, but also additional support to maintain environmental protection activities during the immediate aftermath and recovery period.

### **Nature-based solutions and the Japanese tsunami**

*Ambassador Masahiko Horie*

*Regional Councillor, IUCN*

Ambassador Horie presented lessons from the 2011 Japan Tsunami. He discussed the establishment of the Sanriku Fuku natural ecosystem area comprised of coastal parks which provide multiple lines of defence between residential areas and the coast, including levies, rows of elevated green belts and a sea wall. He stressed that in implementing these projects, obtaining consensus from the affected communities is critical. The Ambassador also discussed how the 2011 earthquake led to the promulgation of a new law on national resilience which is based directly on the concept of 'build back better' and 'nature-based solutions' which are concepts championed by IUCN. He said that this new law, called the Act for National Resilience (Act no. 95, Dec 2013), states the need to give due consideration to symbiosis with nature and harmony with the environment in accordance with the characteristics of the region in order to promote sustainable land use and take advantage of ecosystem-based functions for disaster prevention and reduction. He concluded by explaining that Japan is also implementing the Satoyama Initiative which studies the market values of ecosystem services and provides this information to decision-makers and policy-makers to guide decision making.



## **Market mechanisms that support nature-based solutions**

*Mr Hien Phan*

*Investment Director, Minh Phu Seafood Corporation, Viet Nam*

Mr Hien presented the collaboration between Minh Phu, IUCN and the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV). He related how Minh Phu has been sourcing organic black tiger shrimps from within the Nhung Mien Forest in the Mekong Delta through the Mangroves and Markets project (MAM) of IUCN and SNV. He explained how the project provides training and a guaranteed premium to support local communities in the production of certified organic shrimps which are of higher quality and yield than factory shrimps. He outlined the benefits of the project: environmental benefits through the restoration of coastal mangroves; economic benefits through an improved value chain for the shrimp farming; and social benefits through promoting greater awareness among shrimp farmers to protect their homeland. Moving forward, he said that the project is also providing capacity building support on organic farming techniques, financial support to farming communities through direct and guaranteed purchasing arrangements and underwriting the communities' costs related to certification auditing and training.

## **The new coastal resources law, marine protected areas and nature-based solutions for coastal erosion in Thailand**

*Dr Pinsak Suraswadi*

*Director, Marine and Coastal Resources Research Institute, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Government of Thailand*

Dr Suraswadi presented Thailand's new approach to managing coastal erosion which he said was a very significant problem in Thailand. He pointed out that many of the impacts on coastal areas are the result of poorly planned development and unscientific erosion prevention activities which were primarily hard infrastructure measures. However, the recently proposed new law, he said, enables flexible erosion control measures which aim to protect coastal and marine environments rather than just the physical coastline or a specific infrastructure. He explained that, as such, the new legal framework provides the basis to integrate nature-based solutions for coastal protection purposes. In conclusion, he said that awareness campaigns and direct work with communities act as a complementary approach to building a legal framework, and that during the past 12 years, despite the lack of a legal framework, the DMCR effectively managed to support coastal ecosystem conservation by working closely with local communities.

## **Regional cooperation on the 'Blue Economy'**

*H.E. Ambassador Saida Muna Tasneem*

*Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN ESCAP*

Ambassador Tasneem started her presentation by discussing how the concept of the Blue Economy gives importance to oceans as development spaces. This, she said, challenges the contemporary land-based economy approach to development planning, under a sustainable development paradigm which is primarily terrestrial. She explained that the Blue

Economy approach to sustainable use of marine resources gained momentum following the 2010 Rio +20 meeting and has now been integrated into SDG 14 target to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” She showed how the Blue Economy has strong synergies with other SDGs such as SDG 2 (end hunger, food security, improve nutrition, sustainable agriculture) SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 6 (sustainable management of water) and SDG 7 (sustainable energy for all).

Moreover, she said that the process of developing the Blue Economy has to be thought about at various levels through a joint leadership of states and national governments, international organisations, research and scientific agencies, private sector and industry and global partnerships. She also gave examples of some of the key success elements of the Blue Economy, including research on 'blue capital' and marine resources, the need to update and advance governance mechanisms of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) beyond natural jurisdiction and involvement of the private sector. According to the Ambassador, IUCN has a very important role to play by supporting scientific research on the conservation of marine resources and improved governance of oceans and marine resources, and she suggested that IUCN is well placed to catalyse the development of a global treaty on sustainable use of our oceans to consolidate the Blue Economy principles.

### Discussion summary

There was strong interest in the Blue Economy concept in the open forum that followed. Discussion topics on Blue Economy included:

- the importance of the Blue Economy and the opportunities created in the Bay of Bengal eco-region;
- the need to undertake more research to understand the contribution of marine habitats and species such as green algae and others to the economy of countries such as Bangladesh; and
- the need for Blue Economy initiatives to be equitable for local communities.

One of the other questions that arose focused on the Satoyama Initiative. It was mentioned that the Government of Japan along with the CBD was in the process of launching a new project to replicate the success of Satoyama in 20 countries across the world including countries in the Mekong region.

## Session V: Members' session



The Members' session started with internal Members' business which included a detailed presentation on the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC) and information sharing on key processes, deadlines and statutory requirements (including sponsorship criteria for delegates/Members, Congress Forum, Members Assembly, and medals & awards). This was followed by a presentation on the IUCN Resolutions Platform following which several governance reform proposals were tabled and discussed.

The second part of the session highlighted IUCN Commissions and their work in Asia. There were presentations from representatives of each of the six Commissions.

The session was chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair.

### Members' business

#### Preparation for the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawaii

*Dr Enrique J. Lahmann*

*Global Director of the Union Development Group, IUCN*

The objective of Dr Lahmann's presentation was to prepare Members for the WCC, and included an overview of the venue, structure, participation, scheduling and the theme of the WCC. Key points included:

- the role that IUCN Congresses and General Assemblies of Members have played in shaping the global environmental and conservation agenda especially in terms of environmental agreements such as the CBD, Ramsar and the World Heritage Conventions which originated through the Resolutions and Recommendations processes;
- how WCC is a forum that provides an opportunity for Members to decide on the programme of IUCN, develop policies for IUCN through the motions process and elect the Council, including the President;

- how The congress theme 'Planet at the Crossroads' was chosen to highlight the importance of the adoption of the SDGs and the question of whether society can secure the future of the planet in the next 50 years; ways in which Members can submit content proposals before the deadline (15 October 2015) and involve other partners outside of the conservation community; and
- a reminder that IUCN will cover the travel of all members from low and middle income countries and that for Members to be eligible to participate in the Congress they would need to be in good standing.

### **IUCN awards**

*Dr Enrique Lahmann*

Dr Lahmann discussed the three types of awards that will be presented at the Congress:

- John Phillips Memorial Medal, IUCN's oldest award (since 1963) which is given to people who have distinguished themselves in the field of conservation
- Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Award which is given to outstanding conservation professionals
- Honorary Member of IUCN which is given to distinguished individuals.

He said that the deadline for submitting nominations from IUCN Members is 31 December 2015. He noted that the awards are not given in absence and the awardee needs to be present at the Congress.

### **The Resolutions and Recommendations Platform**

*Ms Constanza Martinez*

*Deputy Head, Global Policy Unit, IUCN*

Ms Martinez presented the new online system for tracking previous Resolutions and Recommendations adopted in WCCs and General Assemblies. She explained that the system is a comprehensive database and that the platform was developed at the request of the Members in previous WCCs. She informed the Members that they can access the platform as well as information on the National and Regional Committees. She also requested Members to provide electronic updates on the Platform on the implementation of Resolutions and Recommendations sponsored or co-sponsored by them. Members were urged to submit the report within the next few days as the Secretariat was in the process of preparing an updated report for the next Council Meeting in October 2015.

### **Discussion summary**

The discussion that followed Ms Martinez's presentation focused on Member concerns on the Resolutions process. Some Members asked for more clarity about how the Resolutions that have been adopted are being implemented. In response, Ms Martinez clarified that the Secretariat and Members were mutually accountable for the implementation of these Resolutions and Recommendations. It was also clarified that only Members can decide

which motions are to be set aside and that the Secretariat has no authority on such an action. There was a specific query on whether the Resolution on genetically modified organisms had been discarded. It was clarified that it has not been discarded and that it is considered an important Resolution. Ms Martinez concluded that there are may be contradictory Resolutions which Members might find useful to rationalise at the next WCC.

### **Governance reform proposals**

*Ms Meena Gupta*

*IUCN Regional Councillor*

### **Governance reform proposal: Inclusion of indigenous and tribal peoples' organisations**

Ms Gupta presented the two options for including indigenous and tribal peoples' organisations (IPOs) into the Membership of IUCN:

- Option 1: to include a new category with a right to vote
- Option 2: to establish a sub-category within Category B (NGO/INGO)

She explained that the Council recognised that both these options have pros and cons. She said that while establishing a new category will encourage IPOs to join IUCN, the concern is that this will disturb the current delicate balance in terms of voting. She pointed out that while option 2 would ensure the inclusion of IPOs, this might not be enough recognition of their value. According to Ms Gupta, the Council would like to have feedback from Members on this matter.

### **Feedback from Members**

Some of the questions and clarifications posed by Members during the discussion included:

- How many votes will IPOs have if a new category is established?
- How many IPOs have shown interest in becoming Members?
- Has this been discussed with Members before?
- Is there a precedent within the UN?
- Are there not IPOs which are already part of the Membership under the category of NGOs?

Requests for clarification included:

- Whether there is a need to have IPOs that have voting rights or not?
- What was the criteria for inclusion of IPOs in the Membership and how should the voting balance be kept between the various categories.

Additionally, there was a concern that the introduction of a new category might lead to upsetting the equilibrium.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the general feeling, based on the feedback, was that Members were more willing to choose Option 2 rather than Option 1.

### ***Governance reform proposal: inclusion of local and regional authorities***

Ms Gupta presented the proposed governance reform and stated that the governance motion at the WCC in Jeju (2012) was not approved. Currently, she said, some local and regional authorities are Members under the Government Agencies sub-category. She explained that the proposal to include local and regional authorities under Category A as a sub-category will enable municipalities and other local authorities and regional authorities to become IUCN Members. However, she stated that this will lead to an increase in overall vote shares of State Members by one vote to four votes.

### ***Feedback from Members***

The feedback from Members was varied. There was an opinion that the proposal did not seem fair unless there was a corresponding increase for Category B. Another response was that if there is a proposal to increase one vote by including local and regional authorities, then including one vote for IPOs under Category B should also be considered so as not to upset the voting balance. There was a question on whether this proposal was a way to increase the overall vote of governments. There was also a request for the presenter to share feedback from other RCFs on this matter.

It was clarified to the Members that the voting balance will be maintained as the two Categories vote separately and for a decision to be adopted there must be two-thirds majority in both Category A as well as Category B.

### ***Governance reform proposal: The Members' Assembly's sole authority***

Ms Gupta mentioned that the proposed reform was to restrict Council's authority to amend IUCN regulations and instead have the Members' Assembly as the sole authority for amendment of IUCN regulations.

### ***Feedback from Members***

There was consensus on the adoption of this governance reform which would result in the Members Assembly having the sole authority for amendment of IUCN regulations.

### ***Governance Reform Proposal: Election of the IUCN President***

Ms Gupta discussed that, as per the current process of election of the IUCN President, there is one round of elections and in case of a tie, Category A votes are adjusted and added to the Category B votes as per Rule 81 (g) and the resulting highest ranking candidate is elected. She explained that the proposed reform implies that for a candidate to be elected President, the person must obtain absolute majority (50% plus one vote) of the votes in both Categories A and B. She continued that, if not, then a 2nd round is held between the two

candidates, looking at the combined ranking in terms of votes. Should another tie ensue in round 2, Ms Gupta explained that Category A votes shall be adjusted as per existing Rule 81 (g) and thereafter the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared elected.

### *Feedback from Members*

Responses from the Members focused on how the proposed process seemed more complicated. There was a question on why there should be two rounds of voting, and whether the process could be simplified. There was also a comment on how the proposal seems to complicate the election process rather than simplify it.

Ms Gupta clarified that the proposed reforms will be put on the Union Portal to invite feedback and comments from Members. She said that these comments will be collated before being presented back to the Members electronically, after which they will be placed for consideration at the next World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i.

### **Point of order related discussion**

Two Members stated that Members' sessions are generally closed sessions and they were therefore concerned about the presence of Secretariat staff and non-Members during the ongoing Members session. It was clarified that the Members' session at the RCF, even though it follows the Rules of the Congress, is not a statutory process and is more of an open consultation process. In response, the concerned Members requested that in the future, the Chair should start the session by clarifying that the session is an informal consultation process which involves Members but which may include the presence of non-Members and other Secretariat staff.

### **Electronic voting, accreditation process and statutory deadlines for the WCC**

*Dr Enrique J. Lahmann*

Dr Lahmann discussed the Council's decisions to place important issues on the electronic voting platform, citing the electronic voting on the revisions to the motions process as an example. He then explained how the accreditation process for the upcoming WCC is simpler compared to previous similar processes.

There was a concern raised by a Member on whether the electronic voting could be hacked and the Member indicated a preference for a mail ballot. In response, Dr Lahmann mentioned that there will be checks and balances to ensure there is no such hacking and also that all votes are made public.



## **Presentations by the Commissions on their work in Asia**

### **Species Survival Commission (SSC)**

*Dr Simon Stuart, Dr Mirza Kusriani and Dr Madhu Rao*  
SSC

The presenters discussed that the SSC has a very broad mandate and is involved in the implementation of a variety of projects addressing critical conservation issues in Asia. There was reference to the global focus on following through on 45 species-related Resolutions and Recommendations which arose from the 2012 WCC in Jeju. Dr Stuart also spoke about the establishment of the National Red List Alliance, a network of national Red List practitioners from around the world.

The presentation showed that in Asia the SSC has been involved in:

- supporting Asia rhinoceros range states on rhino conservation following the Bandar Lampung Declaration;
- developing the revised guidelines on ex-situ management of species;
- producing a study on the impact of bear farming with particular reference to the conservation of wild populations; and
- providing assistance to draft a policy for illegal wildlife trade and sustainable use.

The presenters explained that the SSC currently has 1,400 members in Asia with nearly 40% from India and China. They said that efforts are underway to increase membership in other parts of Asia particularly in mega-diverse countries such as Indonesia.

Acknowledging the species crisis in Southeast Asia, the SSC is supporting the launch of ASAP (Asia Species Action Partnership), a programme coordinated by IUCN SSC, on behalf of IUCN Member organizations. The partnership will work on reversing the decline of Critically Endangered freshwater and terrestrial vertebrates in Southeast Asia. ASAP will be a neutral, liaison body to support dialogue among relevant parties (governmental and non-governmental, implementing agencies and donors) to strengthen ongoing conservation action and promote new initiatives linked to the recovery of ASAP species.

### **Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)**

*Ms Meher Noshirwani*  
Regional Vice Chair, CEESP

Ms Noshirwani provided an overview of CEESP including its vision, programme focus and priorities in terms of the current intersessional programme, as well as its internal management. She stated that CEESP has 1,100 members globally with 185 members from South and East Asia and that 33 new members from the region joined in 2014. Ms Noshirwani explained that in order to identify priority areas for work in Asia, CEESP conducted a feedback exercise involving members in the region. The responses, she said, varied from country to country, including suggestions related to increased research on traditional or indigenous eco-centric culture and identification of linkages between gender and environment and understanding the effect of women's involvement in improving conservation goals. She said that in terms of working and engaging with IUCN Secretariat

and Members, the feedback identified consultancy and participation in workshops and seminars as preferred options.

In Asia, Ms Noshirvani explained that CEESP is working on gender issues in close association with the Mangroves for the Future programme and that the commission was also instrumental globally in the adoption of New Social Compact during the IUCN World Parks Congress (in Sydney 2014), which seeks to build new human commitments across sectors, regions and communities by fostering and facilitating dialogue on how to address barriers to just and effective conservation and management of biocultural diversity.

### **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**

*Ms Hanying Li*

*Steering Committee Member, CEC*

Ms Li provided an overview of the CEC including its mandate and its focus on improving public awareness on conservation which is linked to Aichi Target 1, and upscaling nature-based solutions through improving the ways in which messages are communicated. She discussed how CEC is currently working on developing a strategic conservation communications strategy, which will focus on improved messaging to enable more effective communications. CEC has also recently developed Resilience Framework Knowledge Products which focus on creating infographics and e-learning platforms, and a new initiative called 'Inspiring a New Generation' (ING) with the mission to instil passion for nature in people across all sectors of society, especially among youth. Ms. Li also highlighted the work of CEC in China which has been focusing on capacity building and broadening the membership base, particularly through working closely with the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL). She also provided information on how the CEC is facilitating study tours and exchange programmes between Asia and Africa.

### **Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)**

*Dr Madhav Karki*

*Regional Vice Chair, South Asia CEM*

Dr Karki started his presentation by explaining that the CEM, a relatively new commission, is dedicated to furthering ecosystem-based approaches for building socio-ecological resilience in the face of global change processes. He then discussed membership, governance and the internal organisation aspects of the CEM including its thematic groups and task forces. He described some of the commission's activities which include organising workshops to promote ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, and supporting the development of a case study compilation (launched at WPC in Sydney) about role of Protected Areas in DRR. He added that the CEM also functions as a clearing house mechanism.

The highlight of Dr Karki's discussion was the first-ever World Forum on Ecosystem Governance which CEM members, including those in China, are working to organise. The forum is intended to explore alternative approaches to the management of ecosystems, specifically in relation to the effects of globalisation and mitigation and/or adaptation to address the impacts of climate change. It will also focus on the role of technology in helping

sustain ecosystem capacity and effective means to promote interdisciplinary stakeholder involvement in ecosystems governance. He ended his presentation with the information about CEM's 'call for action' for improved ecosystem management which encourages local governments to contribute to ecosystem development planning and implementation.

### **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**

*Professor Yoshitaka Kumagai  
Regional Vice, Chair, East Asia, WCPA*

Professor Kumagai highlighted the major accomplishments of WCPA in Asia since 2011. He started by citing the first ever Asia Parks Congress (APC) organized in November 2013 in Sendai, Japan which engaged 800 participants from 43 countries and provided a platform to showcase the success of protected areas (PAs), as well as the agenda for future development of PAs in Asia. He outlined the main outputs of the congress which he said include the Asian Protected Area Charter, the Asian Protected Area Philosophy, The Message to World Parks Congress, a Youth Declaration for the World Parks Congress and the Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP).

Focusing on the APAP, Professor Kumagai talked about its formal launch at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014, where certificates of membership were awarded to six countries: Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Nepal and Viet Nam. He described how APAP works on capacity building, developing support for the adoption of IUCN PA Categories in Asia and creating a knowledge hub in the form of APAP website, e-newsletter and promotional materials. He said that the partnership will also facilitate and disseminate studies that highlight the many values (economic, social, etc.) of protected areas. He ended his presentation by describing future priorities of the commission which includes continuing work on enhancing APAP and supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Parks Congress and working on Aichi Target 11 as well as the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).

### **World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)**

*Professor Antonio Herman V. Benjamin  
Chair, WCEL*

*(this session was facilitated through a Skype call with Prof. Benjamin who was in Brazil)*

Professor Benjamin began by giving a background of the WCEL which constitutes one of the three legs of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme (the other two being the Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany and the Academy of Environmental Law in Ottawa, Canada). He then described the commission's governance and internal structure and growth in membership. In particular he cited WCEL membership in Asia, particularly in China where there have been 75 new members since January 2014. He explained that WCEL raises the profile and visibility of IUCN by engaging with regional offices, policy makers, courts and academicians. He gave examples of the commission's events which include roundtables with justices of the Supreme Court of Indonesia and the WCEL colloquia in Jakarta and Manila. He highlighted that Southeast and Central Asia, China and the Indian Subcontinent are the geographical focus for WCEL work in Asia.

Focusing in Asia, Prof Benjamin explained that WCEL has strong partnerships with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as the region's Supreme Courts and Universities. Inter-commission partnerships, he said, are important for WCEL, so that during the last World Parks Congress (WPC) at least 20 different side events on legal issues were organised, many of them jointly with other Commissions. He added that at present, the WCEL is working on the development of two key initiatives: the establishment of a Global Judicial Institute for the Environment and the first ever IUCN World Environmental Law Congress in Rio de Janeiro in April 2016.

## Discussion Summary

Detailed questions were raised in the discussion that followed, and most of the questions focused on the work of the SSC. Some concerns were raised regarding SSC's work related to the issue of genetic engineering as a conservation tool for regenerating and reviving populations of many endangered species. The recent earthquake in Nepal was used as an example for this concern – it was cited that the disaster was devastating for many species which are already on the brink of extinction and various genetics and biotechnology tools might be utilised to reverse population decline in such cases.

Members from India recommended that SSC should work towards inclusion in the CITES list of the Indian Pangolin which is a highly endangered species. It was also proposed that the SSC should work on the conservation of Dugong in the Indian Ocean as the species is migratory and in need for protection.

## Session VI: Members' session

This session focused on Member business including:

- proposals for motions to be presented to the 2016 WCC
- the Framework for Action for Strengthening the Union
- the election of Regional Councillors
- Korea's implementation of the 2012 WCC resolutions and progress on other 2012 WCC resolutions and recommendations.

The session was chaired by IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair Professor Youngbae Suh and IUCN Regional Councillor Ms Meena Gupta.

### Discussion on proposals for motions to be presented by the Region's Members to the 2016 WCC

Professor Youngbae Suh, as the Chair opening the session, explained that this session will focus on presenting the proposals for motions that have been received. He invited Members to come forward with any new proposals for motions.

Dr Lahmann presented the revised motions process that resulted from Jeju Resolution 001: "Strengthening the motions process and enhancing implementation of IUCN Resolutions." His presentation included the following points:

- an explanation of the conditions for the admissibility of motions, particularly the condition that the contributions called for in the motion should be reasonable and achievable.
- that motions for the next WCC should be submitted between November 2015 and 12 February 2016, and all motions will be made available for a two-month online discussion from May to June 2016.
- that the next step is for Council to decide which motions will be submitted to e-voting in August 2016, and what motions require a debate at the global level and which need to be brought to the WCC.
- a template for submitting motions will be made available before the motions process starts and that there may be exceptional cases in which motions can be submitted directly at the WCC.

Only one proposal for a motion by Member had been submitted in response to the template for proposals for motions sent to all Members in June 2015. a proposal by the Korean National Parks Service (KNPS) on "Strengthening trans-boundary cooperation for biodiversity and sustainable development."

Dr Hag Young Heo from KNPS presented the motion which has as its objectives to catalyse trans-boundary dialogue on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development at local, national and/or regional levels and to strengthen existing trans-boundary cooperation mechanisms.

## Discussion summary

The discussion that followed centred on practical considerations regarding the motions. It was noted by an ex-Councillor that due to the large volume of motions it becomes difficult for Members and the Secretariat to manage so it is important to have a standard template. In response, a representative from the Secretariat confirmed that there is a template being developed. There was then a suggestion for Council to issue more user-friendly guidelines. Ms Gupta explained that all proposed motions will be sent to all Members electronically for a two-month period of discussion and that they will be put to electronic vote only after this consultation period.

A question was raised on whether budgetary constraints are identified in the new motions template as a condition for motions not to be accepted by the Secretariat. Dr Lahmann explained that the conditions do not mention budgetary constraints; but motions need to ensure that “contributions from Members and/or components of IUCN, if called for in the motion, are reasonable and achievable.”

After the discussion, Ms Gupta requested Dr Simon Stuart, Chair of the SSC, and Ms Constanza Martinez, Deputy Head of IUCN Global Policy, to present some of the motions that the Council is considering putting forward.

## Draft biodiversity offsets motion

*Dr Simon Stuart*  
*Chair, SSC*

Dr Stuart introduced a motion on biodiversity offsets that will be submitted to the 2016 WCC by Council. This motion had been requested by the Members at the previous 2012 WCC in Jeju. Dr Stuart stated that there was a side event on biodiversity offsets on the first day of the Asia RCF, and Members had also been asked to provide input. He explained that there is a growing trend in companies who want to mitigate or offset impacts from development initiatives but that there is a lack of regulatory context. Due to the importance of the issue, he said that the draft policy is now open for consultation until September 2015. As part of the process, he explained that the revised draft will then be considered by Council in October 2015, and a motion will be prepared for the next Congress.

## Discussion summary

The discussion focused on concerns from the Members, among them by the Ecological Society of the Philippines who voiced that they were reluctant on the issue of offsets and provided the example of how a pristine ecosystem cannot be replaced. Dr Stuart clarified that the objective of the biodiversity offset policy was not to enable widespread use of biodiversity offsets, but rather to offer an alternative to the current situation where no guidelines exist. He explained that the concerns raised had been discussed by the Biodiversity Offsets Working Group members. Dr Stuart also urged members to provide inputs through the Union Portal. The Ecological Society of the Philippines requested that all

inputs provided by the Members at the side event and this session should be documented and provided to the Working Group on Biodiversity Offsets.

## Other issues for consideration for motions prioritised by Council

*Ms Constanza Martinez*

*Deputy Head, IUCN Global Policy*

Ms Martinez presented some other proposals that were identified as important issues by Council:

- the need for defining the concept of Natural Capital (which she said will probably be submitted as a motion);
- a motion on the different categories of Protected Areas; and
- the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (in line with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the SDGs).

Ms Martinez explained that the drafts for these concepts are not yet ready but will be shared with Members for their comments and contributions soon.

## Discussion summary

Ms Gupta invited any Member who would like to present additional ideas for motions to do so.

The Environment and Health Foundation (India) presented a proposal regarding the HIMEK Alliance - A Strategy to Mitigate Climate Change in the Himalayas and the Mekong Basin. The proposed HIMEK Alliance aims to move forward on regional cooperation between the Himalayan nations and the countries of the Mekong Basin to protect the Himalayas and the Mekong region from adverse effects of climate change through a large landscape and forest restoration project. A number of Members supported this proposal for a motion.

A second concrete motion proposal was put forward on regional cooperation on the Blue Economy which would also include landlocked countries such as Nepal. This proposal was supported by other Members as well.

A Member from Pakistan asked whether it was reasonable and achievable to put forward a motion to include humans, and especially indigenous peoples, in the Red List and conduct a survey of indigenous peoples of Pakistan. The response was that *homo sapiens* are already mentioned in the Red List. On the issue of the indigenous peoples survey, the Member was requested to revisit the existing body of relevant Resolutions and Recommendations.

There was an idea from a Member from Sri Lanka on the need to have a motion for developing a formula to determine the value of animals especially in the context of zoo exchange programmes. Another Member from Sri Lanka proposed that IUCN prepare an action plan relating to the trans-boundary problem of maintaining and sustaining drinking water.

The Chair of Asia Regional Members' Committee recommended that the IUCN official procedure should be followed for the submission of motions.



Ms Gupta reminded the participants that five co-sponsors are needed for each motion to be submitted, and that the deadline for submission is 12 February 2016. She thanked the Members for their participation and closed the session.

## Framework of Action to Strengthen the Union (FASU)

*Mr Malik Amin Aslam*  
*Vice President, IUCN*

Mr Aslam introduced the Framework of Action for Strengthening the Union (FASU), which is a Council-led process aimed at raising IUCN's profile, leadership and influence within and beyond the conservation community and strengthening IUCN as an effective Union, including its Membership, governance and structure, by reinforcing the linkages between the components of the Union. He also referred to the External Reviews of IUCN including the current one which focuses on governance and on recommendations from previous external reviews which have not been implemented.

## Discussion summary

Various issues were raised during the discussion. Among them was the concern that the Regional Councillors do not seem to be in touch with the workings of the National Committees. Mr Aslam responded that the FASU is specifically focused on addressing this aspect. He also mentioned that the DG's vision of going "from retail to wholesale" aims to ensure that Members are enabled to implement conservation activities on the ground.

There were also questions about IUCN's work with the private sector in the region. One of the questions was status of the partnership with Shell. Mr Aslam clarified that the original agreement with Shell had ended and that continuing work is on a case-by-case basis, exercising considerable due diligence. Additionally, the Council's private sector taskforce is currently working on defining partnerships with private sector entities.

A Member noted that effective management is very important and relevant to the effectiveness of IUCN. Mr Aslam responded that he agreed with this comment and that the FASU process is designed to ensure that this concern is addressed. Another Member requested that the report of the private sector task force on IUCN's agreement with Shell be released for sake of transparency. Mr Aslam responded that the relevant documents with regard to IUCN's relationship with Shell are available on the IUCN Union Portal.

## Nominations for Regional Councillors

This sub-session was chaired by Prof. Suh who began by noting that the South and East Asia region has gained an additional two positions for Regional Councillors, raising the number of Councillors from three to five.

Ms Gupta, Mr Aslam and Ambassador Horie announced their decision to contest for a second term of Council. In addition, there were five others who announced their interest in being considered for Council positions:

- Ms Hasna Moudud, Chair of the Bangladesh National Committee and former Member of Parliament in Bangladesh;
- Professor Amran Hamzah, an academic from Malaysia who has been co-chair of IUCN's Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) and involved in the work on protected areas;
- Mr Mahfuz Ullah, a former IUCN Councillor and ex-Chair of the Bangladesh National Committee;
- Dr Pema Choephyel, Director of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation; and
- Professor Youngbae Suh, outgoing Chair of the Asia Regional Committee

## **Korea's implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 Jeju World Conservation Congress (WCC)**

*Professor Youngbae Suh*  
Chair, Asia Regional Committee, IUCN

Professor Suh started his presentation by stating that Korea's initiatives to implement the outcomes of the 2012 WCC were a turning point in terms of the country's relationship with IUCN. His presentation also noted that:

- The first ever World Leaders Conservation Forum in July 2015 was held in Korea. The forum was established with the objectives of influencing the global conservation agenda, facilitating information sharing and securing commitments to tackle key environmental challenges.
- The Republic of Korea is the first ever Asian country to provide framework funding and core support to IUCN, as well as earmarked funding for implementing jointly identified priority Jeju WCC Resolutions and Recommendations sponsored by Korean Members.
- The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and the Jeju Special Administrative Province have been following up on the implementation of Korean sponsored Resolutions and Recommendations, working with other members and the Secretariat on their implementation.

## **Update on the implementation of the Jeju WCC Resolutions and Recommendations**

*Mr Anshuman Saikia*  
Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia

Mr Saikia provided an overview of the implementation of the Jeju WCC Resolutions and Recommendations, including Resolution 10 which is related to strengthening the programmatic presence of IUCN in Asia. He highlighted the invaluable support provided by

the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea in implementing some of the Resolutions and Recommendations sponsored by Korean Members including the Ministry and the Korea National Parks Service (KNPS).

## **Concluding remarks**

*Professor Youngbae Suh*

Prof. Suh expressed his gratitude for the support of the Members in Asia while he served as Chair of the Asia Regional Members' Committee. In addition he thanked IUCN Asia Regional Director Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, as well as other members of the Asia Secretariat. He mentioned that he was confident that Professor Ma Keping, as the new Chair of the Asia Regional Members' Committee, will surpass his achievements.

## Session VII: Closing session



The new Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair Professor Ma Keping, Asia Regional Director Ms Aban Marker Kabraji and President Zhang Xinsheng gave the closing remarks at the conclusion of the RCF.

In his speech, Professor Ma highlighted that the strength of the Union is in its Membership. He expressed his enthusiasm for working more closely with the Membership, particularly in the lead up to the 2016 WCC. He encouraged all Members to continue sharing experiences and ideas, as well as to play active roles in the upcoming WCC by submitting proposals for the Congress, submitting motions, being part of online consultations on motions, nominating candidates for IUCN awards, and taking part in the electronic debate and voting on motions.

Ms Kabraji thanked all the participants to the RCF and noted that the growth of IUCN in the region is a testament to the dynamic nature of the region and the extraordinary economic growth currently taking place in Asia. She also underscored IUCN's unique niche and relevance in the region, particularly the Union's convening role of bringing together governments, NGOs and other sectors to work together on solutions.

President Zhang gave the final concluding remarks. His speech focused on the wealth of diversity shown during the two and a half days of the RCF, from debates and discussions during the plenary to the networking and side events. He noted that that this diversity is a reflection of the nature of IUCN as well as of nature, the subject matter of the RCF, and stressed that the strength of both arise from the connections within such complexity and diversity, where all parts are critical to the whole. He concluded by enjoining the participants to continue the work in advancing the shared mission to value and conserve nature, to create more equitable and effective use of nature and to help the world find nature-based solutions to our societal challenges.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia RCF



## Asia Regional Conservation Forum

Bangkok - Thailand, 10-12 August, 2015  
(Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok)

### Resilience in Action

Creating solutions for people and nature

#### AGENDA

#### 9 AUGUST 2015 - REGISTRATION

1500-1800 Registration starts - Room A3-Pompadour, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel

#### DAY 1: 10 AUGUST 2015

0800-0900 Registration - Room A2, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel

0900-1015 **Session I: Inauguration** (Ballroom - 2nd Floor)

0845-0900 Arrival of the Chief Guest and other guests  
0900-0910 Welcome remarks by Prof. Youngbae Suh, Chair, Asia Regional Members Committee  
0910-0920 Introductory Address by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director  
0920-0930 Address by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President  
0930-0950 Address by the Chief Guest, H.E. General Dawpong Ratanasuwan, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand

1000-1145 Networking Break  
Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair

1145-1245 **Session II: IUCN Towards 2020** (Ballroom - 2nd Floor)  
*This session will be chaired by IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng and co-chaired by Dr. Kasemsan Jinavaso, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand.*

*This session will provide an overview by Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission on Vision for IUCN, explaining what this means for the Asia Region, as well as Thailand's conservation priorities.*

- 1145-1215 • Vision for IUCN by Dr Simon Stuart, Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission  
1215-1230 • Thailand's conservation priorities by Dr. Kasemsan Jinavaso, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand  
1230-1245 • Questions & Answers

1300-1400 **Lunch/Side Events**  
A number of side events on conservation and related development issues and themes have been scheduled during this period, with delegates free to attend the events of their choice.

1300-1400	TITLE
ROOM R2	IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets
ROOM R4	Nepal Earthquake: Supporting Nature-based Response and Recovery to Strengthen Long-term Resilience
ROOM R5	Mangroves and USAID Climate Change Programmes, from Mitigation to Adaptation
ROOM R6	The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF): Building Capacity and Promoting Conservation in the Indo-Burma Hotspot
ROOM R7	Indigenous Peoples Rights and Natural Resource Management
ROOM A3 POMPADOUR	Corridors and Complexes: Innovative Approaches to Sustain Protected Areas

## 1415-1515 **Plenary IUCN Programme 2017-2020** (Ballroom - 2nd Floor)

*This session will provide an overview of the IUCN draft global Programme 2017-2020 and the draft Asia Situation Analysis. These presentations will describe the current situation for conservation globally and in the region, and the ways in which IUCN will focus its efforts over the next four years to achieve results for people and for nature.*

*This session also provides an opportunity for Members and Commission Members to provide input to the programme as it evolves before it is endorsed at the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC).*

*The session will be chaired by Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President/Regional Councillor and co-chaired by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director, Asia.*

- Presentation of the draft global Intersessional Programme 2017-2020, with Q&A  
- Mr. Anshuman Saikia, IUCN Asia Regional Programme Support Coordinator
- Presentation of the draft Asia Situational Analysis contributing to the Asia Regional Plan  
- Dr. Robert Mather, Head, IUCN Southeast Asia Group
- Questions & Answers

1530-1600 Networking Break  
Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair

## 1600-1730 **Session III: Members' Session** (Ballroom - 2nd Floor)

*This session will be chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair, and co-chaired by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President*

### **Members' Business**

- Report on the Asia Regional Committee by Prof. Youngbae Suh, Chair of IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee
- Elections of office bearers of the Asia Regional Members' Committee -  
Location: Room R6 (Room: Riverside 6)  
*This is a closed session and involves Members of the Asia Regional Committee only.*

1800-1900 **Side Events**  
A number of side events on conservation and related development issues and themes have been scheduled during this period, with delegates free to attend the events of their choice.



1800-1900	TITLE
ROOM R2	Mangrove Polyculture: A Model for Sustainable Production and Business?
ROOM R3	The Asia Protected Areas Partnership: A New Initiative to Promote Collaboration, Best Practices and Innovative Solutions for Asia's Protected Areas
ROOM R4	Beauty of Desert in Danger – Save Wild Species of Peacocks
ROOM R5	IPBES: Why Should IUCN Members Engage?
ROOM A3 POMPADOUR	Communications: Promoting Conservation through Citizen Journalism
ROOM A5	Sustainable Financing for Protected Area Management

- 1930- 2100 **Dinner hosted by the Government of Thailand** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*
- Welcome speech by H.E. General Dawpong Ratanasuwan, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand
  - Thai cultural performance
  - Announcement of results of the elections of office bearers of the Asia Regional Committee by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia
  - Announcement of photo contest winners by Ms. Jane Lawton, Head IUCN Asia Communications and Private Sector Engagement
  - Distribution of awards/certificates to the winners - H.E. General Dawpong Ratanasuwan, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand and Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President

## DAY 2: 11 AUGUST 2015

- 0900-1515 **Session IV: Plenary Programme Session** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*  
*This session will explore multiple perspectives on each of the programme areas defined by IUCN for the next four years: Valuing and Conserving Nature, Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use, and Nature-Based Solutions to Societal Challenges. The goal is to showcase the ways in which different stakeholders can work together to achieve change, and to allow delegates an opportunity to hear from a wide range of experts in the field on these complex and challenging topics.*

- 0900-1030 **i) Valuing and Conserving Nature**  
*Chaired by: Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President/Regional Councillor*  
*A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature.*

Time	Topic	Speaker
0900-0915	Valuing and Conserving Asia's Forests: Introduction and overview	Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President
0915-0925	The role of the private sector in forest conservation	Dr. Dolly Priatna, Conservation Sustainability & Stakeholder Engagement - APP Indonesia
0925-0935	The critical importance of protected areas and law enforcement for forest conservation	Dr. Prasert Sornsathapornkul, Director of Natural World Heritage Office, Department of National Parks, Thailand
0935-0945	Why empowering local communities is the key to successful forest conservation	Dr. Tint Lwin Thaung, Executive Director, RECOFTC, Thailand
0945-1025	Moderated discussion	To be facilitated by Mr Malik Amin Aslam
1025-1030	Wrap-up	Mr. Malik Amin Aslam



1030-1100      Networking Break  
Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair

1100-1230      **ii) Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use** (Ballroom - 2nd Floor)

*Chaired by: Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, IUCN Regional Councillor*

*A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.*

Time	Topic	Speaker
1100-1120	Introduction and overview: Governance, good governance and equity	Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, IUCN Regional Councillor
1120-1130	Government agencies and multiple-stakeholder participation in the governance of nature's use	Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, Center for Natural Resources Studies, Bangladesh
1130-1140	The community focus: local governance of nature's use	Mr. Anuradha Wickramasinghe, Chairman of the Small Fishers Federation of Sri Lanka
1140-1150	New approaches to the governance of Ramsar sites	Ms. Nirawan Pipitsombat, Ramsar Focal Point, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)
1150-1220	Moderated discussion	Moderated by Dr Arzu Rana Deuba
1220-1230	Key messages/wrap up	Dr Arzu Rana Deuba

1230-1330      Lunch

1345-1515      **iii) Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Address Societal Challenges**

(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)

*Chaired by: Ambassador Masahiko Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor*

*A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to Nature-based Solutions and the ways in which IUCN can expand its work on promoting nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.*

Time	Topic	Speaker
1345-1355	Introduction and overview	Ambassador Masahiko Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor
1355-1407	Nature-based solutions and the Japanese Tsunami	Ambassador Masahiko Horie
1407-1419	Nature-based solutions and the Nepal Earthquake	Mr. Yogendra Chitrakar, Director of Environment Campaign and Conservation Awareness (IUCN Member), and Chair, IUCN Nepal National Committee
1419-1431	Market mechanisms that support nature-based solutions (organic shrimp in Viet Nam)	Mr Hien Phan, Investment Director, Minh Phu Seafood corporation
1431-1443	The new Coastal Resources Law, Marine Protected Areas and nature-based solutions for coastal erosion in Thailand	Dr Pinsak Suraswadi, Director, Marine and Coastal Resources Research Institute, Dept of Marine and Coastal Resources
1443-1455	Regional cooperation on the blue economy	Ambassador Saida Muna Tasneem, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN ESCAP, Bangkok
1455-1510	Moderated discussion	Moderated by Ambassador Masahiko Horie
1510-1515	Wrap-up	Ambassador Masahiko Horie

1515-1930 **Session V: Members' Session** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*  
*This Session will be chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair, and co-chaired by Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, IUCN Regional Councillor.*

1515-1615 **Members' Business**

- A detailed presentation on the 2016 WCC and sharing of information on key processes, deadlines and statutory requirements including sponsorship criteria for delegates/Members, Congress Forum, Members Assembly; medals & awards  
*Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann, Global Director, Union Development Group*
- IUCN Resolutions Platform  
*Ms. Constanza Martinez, Deputy Head, IUCN Global Policy*

1615-1645 Networking Break  
 Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair

- 1645-1800
- Discussion on the proposals from Council or Members for governance improvements and reforms, including new Membership categories (Indigenous Peoples Organizations, Local and Regional Governments); and other possible amendments to the Statutes; elections procedure;  
*Ms. Meena Gupta, IUCN Regional Councillor*
  - Accreditation and statutory deadlines.  
*Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann, Global Director, Union Development Group*

1800-1930 **Commissions** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*

- Presentations from IUCN Commissions
  1. Dr. Simon Stuart Chair, Species Survival Commission (SSC)
  2. Ms. Meher Noshirwani, Regional Vice Chair, Commission on Environmental, Economic, Social Policy (CEESP)
  3. Ms. Hanying Li, Member Steering Committee, Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
  4. Dr. Madhav Karki, Regional Chair, Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
  5. Prof. Yoshitaka Kumagai, Regional Vice Chair, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
  6. Prof. Antonio Herman V. Benjamin, Chair, World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

2000-2200 **Side Events / Dinner**

A number of side events on conservation and related development issues and themes have been scheduled during this period, with delegates free to attend the events of their choice.

2000-2200	TITLE
ROOM R2	How CEOs can Change the World
ROOM R3	The HIMEK Alliance-a Strategy to Mitigate Climate Change in the Himalayas and the Mekong Basin
ROOM R5	Securing Asia's Iconic Carnivore: The Role of Reintroduction-based Tiger Recovery
ROOM R7	Nature-based Solutions to DRR: Moving from Theory to Actions on the Ground
ROOM A3 POMPADOUR	Protected Areas for our Future: Conservation Cooperation for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

## DAY 3: 12 AUGUST 2015

- 0900-1300      **Session VI: Members' Session** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*  
*This Session will be chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair, and Ms. Meena Gupta, IUCN Regional Councillor*
- 0900-1030      • Discussion on proposals for motions to be presented by the Region's Members to the 2016 Congress  
*(In particular the proposals concerning issues that warrant a discussion at a regional level with the purpose of assessing the degree of support for such proposals during the Forum and/or to identify solutions that might address the underlying issues thereby removing the need for them to be submitted as a Congress motion)*  
*Ms. Meena Gupta, IUCN Regional Councillor*
- Framework of Action for Strengthening the Union (FASU)  
*Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President/Regional Councillor*
- 1030-1100      Tea and Coffee break
- 1100-1200      • Discussion on nomination for election as Regional Councillors
- 1200-1230      • Presentation on Korea's efforts, as the host country of 2012 WCC, to implement the outcomes of 2012 WCC Resolutions/Recommendations – by Prof. Youngbae Suh, Chair, Asia Regional Committee
- 1230-1300      • Review of the progress on the Resolutions/Recommendations from the region which were adopted at the 2012 WCC, including discussion on implementation of Resolution 010: Establishment of a strengthened programmatic presence of IUCN in Asia.  
*Mr. Anshuman Saikia, IUCN Asia Regional Programme Support Coordinator*
- 1300-1330      **Session VII: Closing Session** *(Ballroom - 2nd Floor)*
- Remarks by new Chair, Asia Regional Members' Committee
  - Concluding Remarks by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director
  - Closing of the Regional Conservation Forum by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President
- 1330              Lunch

## Appendix 2: List of participants

### A. Summary

Category	Count
IUCN Member*	252
Participants (donors, partners, private sector, etc)	45
IUCN Commission	16
IUCN Council	6
IUCN Secretariat	36
Support service staff (Bangkok)	38
Media	28
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>421</b>

*\*252 individuals from 170 Member organizations*

## B. Complete list of participants\*

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
1	Ms	Lyndall	Hoitink	Department of the Environment	Australia
2	Dr	Judith	Fisher	Fisher Research Pty Ltd / Research Associate West Australian Museum	Australia
3	Mr	Monowarul	Islam	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)	Bangladesh
4	Ms	Bahreen	Khan	Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA)	Bangladesh
5	Mr	Asaduzzaman	Miah	Bangladesh POUSH	Bangladesh
6	Mr	Md. Arifur Rahman	Tarafder	Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad	Bangladesh
7	Dr	Nilufar	Banu	Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)	Bangladesh
8	Ms	Hla Shing	Nue	Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS)	Bangladesh
9	Mr	Moyen Uddin	Ahmmed	BRAC	Bangladesh
10	Ms	Sharmeen Soneya	Murshid	Brotee Samaj Kallyan Sangstha	Bangladesh
11	Mr	Md. Waji	Ullah	Center For Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)	Bangladesh
12	Dr	Mokhlesur	Rahman	Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)	Bangladesh
13	Mr	Mowdudur	Rahman	Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC)	Bangladesh
14	Mr	Mahfuz	Ullah	Centre for Sustainable Development	Bangladesh
15	Ms	Kazi Mamtaj	Begum	Centre For Sustainable Development (CFSD)	Bangladesh
16	Ms	Hasna J	Moudud	Coastal area Resource Development and Management Association	Bangladesh
17	Mr	Aman	Moudud	Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association	Bangladesh
18	Mr	Farzeen Ferdous	Alam	DEBTEC- Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conservation Centre	Bangladesh
19	Dr	Ferdosi	Begum	DEBTEC- Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conservation Centre	Bangladesh
20	Ms	Siddika	Sultana	Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO	Bangladesh
21	Mr	Chaing Seing	Moung	GRAUS (Gram Unnayon Sangathon)	Bangladesh
22	Ms	Khondaker	Shamim Ara	IUCN Bangladesh Country Office	Bangladesh
23	Mr	Sanowar	Hossain	Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA)	Bangladesh

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
24	Dr	Md. Abdur Rob	Mollah	Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)	Bangladesh
25	Mr	Mustafa	Bakuluzzaman	Shushilan	Bangladesh
26	Dr	Rashed Al Mahmud	Titumir	Unnayan Onneshan	Bangladesh
27	Prof.	Md. Anwarul	Islam	WildTeam and Dhaka University	Bangladesh
28	Dr	Pema	Choephyel	Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	Bhutan
29	H.E.	Yeshey	Dorji	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan	Bhutan
30	Ms	Rebecca	Pradhan	Royal Society For Protection Of Nature (RSPN)	Bhutan
31	Ms	Luy	Reaksmey	Culture and Environment Preservation Association-CEPA	Cambodia
32	Mr	Moeurn	Va	MLup Baitong	Cambodia
33	Dr	Thomas	Gray	WWF Greater Mekong	Cambodia
34	Ms	Jie	Liu	All-China Environment Federation	China
35	Dr	Xin	Zhi	Beijing Forestry Society	China
36	Mr	Keping	Ma	Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
37	Prof.	Aizhong	Liu	Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge	China
38	Mr	You	Shen	Chengdu Bird Watching Society	China
39	Ms	Weiyan	Gao	China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites	China
40	Ms	Ziyan	Yang	China Association of National Parks and Scenic Sites	China
41	Mr	Bowen	Xu	China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation	China
42	Ms	Xiwei	Guo	China Green Carbon Foundation	China
43	Mr	Yi	Liu	China Mangrove Conservation Network (Putian Green Sprout Coastal Wetlands Research Center)	China
44	Ms	Meng	Meng	China Wildlife Conservation Association	China
45	Mr	Feng	Yin	China Wildlife Conservation Association	China
46	Prof.	Gui	Shen	Chinese Society of Forestry	China
47	Ms	Bo	Hou	IUCN	China
48	Mr	Xinsheng	Zhang	IUCN	China
49	Mr	Yan	Zhang	IUCN China	China
50	Ms	Hanying	Li	IUCN Commission on Education and Communication	China
51	Mr	Cigang	Yu	Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection	China
52	Ms	Menghua	Shi	See Foundation	China

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
53	Ms	Shuling	Cheng	Shan Shui Conservation Center	China
54	Mr	Feng	Jie	Shan Shui Conservation Center	China
55	Mr	Xiaolong	Li	Shan Shui Conservation Center	China
56	Mr	homi R.	Xie	Shangri-La Institute for Sustainable Communities	China
57	Ms	Hu	Chunzi	State Forestry Administration	China
58	Ms	Xiaoxiao	Guo	State Forestry Administration	China
59	Mr	Chao	Yang	State Forestry Administration	China
60	Ms	Tianlan	Ma	Xiamen Green Cross Association	China
61	Dr	John Grynderup	Poulsen	Freelance	Denmark
62	Dr	Bibhab	Talukdar	Aaranyak	India
63	Mr	Antony	Henshaw	Aditya Birla Management Corp. Pvt. Ltd.	India
64	Dr	Archana	Godbole	Applied Environmental Research Foundation ( AERF)	India
65	Mr	Bikash	Rautray	ARASMIN (Association for Rural Area Social Modification, Improvement and Nestling)	India
66	Mr	Sanjid	Dutta	Balipara Tract & Frontier Foundation	India
67	Mr	Kamal Nain	Pandya	Balipara Tract And Frontier Foundation	India
68	Dr	Deepak	Apte	Bombay Natural History Society	India
69	Mr	Sharad	Gaur	Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India	India
70	Ms	Vasanti	Rao	Centre for Media Studies (CMS)	India
71	Mr	Cheppudira	Muthanna	Coorg Wildlife Society	India
72	Mr	Dinesh	Reddy	Foundation for Ecological Security	India
73	Dr	Rajesh	Gopal	Global Tiger Forum	India
74	Mr	Satya Prakash	Yadav	Global Tiger Forum	India
75	Dr	Deepa	Gavali	Gujarat Ecology Society	India
76	Dr	Vijaya	Kumar	Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology	India
77	Dr	Giridhar	Kinhal	Indian Institute Of Forest Management, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal	India
78	Dr	Kinsuk	Mitra	InsPIRE Network for Environment	India
79	Mr	Joy Arulrose	Daniel	Institute for Integrated Rural Development	India
80	Mr	Manu	Bhatnagar	INTACH	India
81	Ms	Nandini	Oza	International Society of Naturalists	India
82	Mr	Vipul	Sharma	International Union for Conservation of Nature	India
83	Dr	Brian	Furze	IUCN	India
84	Ms	Meena	Gupta	IUCN	India
85	Mr	Priyaranjan	Sinha	IUCN	India
86	Dr	Anita	Varghese	Keystone Foundation	India



	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
87	Mr	Vinod	Ranjan	Ministry of Environment and Forests	India
88	Ms	Ajanta	Dey	Nature Environment & Wildlife Society	India
89	Mr	Balaji	Vedharatan	OmCar Foundation	India
90	Mr	Kailash	Dash	Regional Centre for Development cooperation (RCDC)	India
91	Dr	Pankaj	Joshi	Sahjeevan	India
92	Dr	Abdul Azeez	Parappurath	Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History	India
93	Mr	Mayukh	Hajra	Society for Development Alternatives	India
94	Dr	Sudhir	Prasad Sinha	Society Of Hill Resource Management School (SHRMS)	India
95	Mr	Homi R.	Khusrokhan	TATA Capital	India
96	Mr	Pankaj	Satija	Tata Steel	India
97	Mr	Ankan	Mitra	Tata Steel Ltd	India
98	Mr	Kedar	Gore	The Corbett Foundation	India
99	Dr	Bitapi C	Sinha	Wildlife Institute of India	India
100	Mr	Ramesh	Krishnamurthy	Wildlife Institute of India	India
101	Mr	Tito	Joseph	Wildlife Protection Society of India	India
102	Prof.	Parimal Chandra	Bhattacharjee	Wildlife Trust Of India	India
103	Mr	Joseph	Vattakaven	WWF	India
104	Dr	Dolly	Priatna	Asia Pulp & Paper	Indonesia
105	Dr	Terence	Sunderland	Center for International Forestry Research	Indonesia
106	Dr	Ir. Tachrir	Fathoni	Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry	Indonesia
107	Dr	Didy	Wurjanto	Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry	Indonesia
108	Ms	Mirza Dikari	Kusrini	IUCN Species Survival Commission/Bogor Agricultural University	Indonesia
109	Mr	Sandika	Ariansyah	Samdhana Institute Indonesia	Indonesia
110	Mr	Efransjah		WWF Indonesia	Indonesia
111	Prof.	Yoshitaka	Kumagai	Akita International University	Japan
112	Mr	Yasushi	Hibi	Conservation International	Japan
113	Mr	Masahiko	Horie	IUCN	Japan
114	Mr	Hideto	Watanabe	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan	Japan
115	Dr	Takafumi	Osawa	Ministry of the Environment Japan	Japan
116	Mr	Teppe	Dohke	Nature Conservation Society of Japan	Japan

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
117	Ms	Maya	Sato	Nature Conservation Society of Japan	Japan
118	Mr	Tetsuro	Yasuda	The Asahi Glass Foundation	Japan
119	Mr	Yong Nam	Jong	Nature Conservation Union of DPR Korea	Korea (DPRK)
120	Ms	Song I	Ju	Nature Conservation Union of DPR Korea	Korea (DPRK)
121	Ms	Un Jong	U	Nature Conservation Union of DPR Korea	Korea (DPRK)
122	Mr	Francis	Hong	Gyeonggi Tourism Organization	Korea (RK)
123	Mr	Hugh	Kim	Gyeonggi Tourism Organization	Korea (RK)
124	Prof.	Youngbae	Suh	IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee	Korea (RK)
125	Mr	Geun Sik	Chung	Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	Korea (RK)
126	Ms	Nayoung	Oh	Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	Korea (RK)
127	Mr	Hag Young	Heo	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
128	Mr	Jeongjae	Jang	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
129	Mr	Yongsang	Jung	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
130	Ms	Nakyong	Kim	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
131	Mr	Ki Chang	Kim	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
132	Mr	Sangbum	Kim	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
133	Mr	Han Gyo	Lim	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
134	Mr	Bohwan	Park	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
135	Mr	Ji Boo	Park	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
136	Mr	Kyuwon	Sim	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
137	Mr	Hyeokjae	Won	Korea National Park Service	Korea (RK)
138	Mr	Wook-Jong	Na	Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea	Korea (RK)
139	Dr	Tae-Kwon	Noh	Ministry of Environment	Korea (RK)
140	Dr	Hyun-Kyung	Oh	Ministry of Environment	Korea (RK)
141	Mr	Doohun	Park	Ministry of Environment of Korea	Korea (RK)
142	Mr	Jong-Won	Choi	Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea	Korea (RK)
143	Mr	Sinsamout	Ounboundisane	FISHBIO Laos	Lao PDR
144	Mr	Joost	Foppes	GIZ	Lao PDR
145	Ms	Ann	Moey	IUCN Lao PDR	Lao PDR
146	Mr	Adam	Starr	IUCN Lao PDR	Lao PDR
147	Mr	Lorenz	Gessner	KfW Development Bank	Lao PDR
148	Ms	Khambang	Thippavong	Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA)	Lao PDR
149	Mr	Phetsamone	Keovongvichith	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Lao PDR
150	Dr	Inthavy	Akkharath	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Lao PDR
151	Mr	Henry	Goh	Malaysian Nature Society	Malaysia
152	Prof.	Amran	Hamzah	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia
153	Dr	Sundari	Ramakrishna	WWF-Malaysia	Malaysia

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
154	Ms	Fathimath	Shafeeqa	Live & Learn Environmental Education	Maldives
155	Mr	Dashpurev	Tserendeleg	Hustai National Park Trust	Mongolia
156	Mr	Soe Win	Hlaing	Forest Resource and Environmental Development Association	Myanmar
157	Mr	Myint	Aung	Friends of Wildlife	Myanmar
158	Ms	Zin Myo	Thu	IUCN	Myanmar
159	Mr	Saurav Kumar	Shrestha	Association for Protection of Environment and Culture (APEC)	Nepal
160	Dr	Narendra Man Babu	Pradhan	Bird Conservation Nepal	Nepal
161	Mr	Nanda Ram	Baidya	Center for Rural Technology, Nepal	Nepal
162	Dr	Madhav	Karki	Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), IUCN	Nepal
163	Mr	Yogendra	Chitrakar	Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA)	Nepal
164	Mr	Kiran	Timalisina	Green Governance Nepal	Nepal
165	Dr	Hem Sagar	Baral	Himali Prakriti	Nepal
166	Dr	Rishi	Shah	Hoste Hainse	Nepal
167	Dr	Nakul	Chettri	International Centre For Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
168	Mr	Basanta	Shrestha	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
169	Ms	Anu	Adhikari	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Nepal
170	Dr	Arzu	Rana Deuba	IUCN	Nepal
171	Ms	Bharati	Sharma	IUCN	Nepal
172	Mr	Tirth Raj	Satoshi	Manab Kallyantatha Batabaran Samrak Kendra	Nepal
173	Mr	Rom Raj	Lamichhane	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation	Nepal
174	Mr	Govinda	Gajurel	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Nepal
175	Mr	Sahaj	Man Shrestha	Nepal forum of environmental journalists (NEFEJ)	Nepal
176	Mr	Yadav	Bhandari	SAVE THE PLANET mission2020 Nepal	Nepal
177	Mr	Prasanna	Yonzon	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	Nepal
178	Mr	Mangal Man	Shakya	Wildlife Watch Group	Nepal
179	Mr	Sanjeev	Poudel	Women in Environment (WE)	Nepal
180	Dr	Astaman Kisee	Maharjan	YAEF	Nepal
181	Ms	Meher Marker	Noshirwani		Pakistan
182	Mr	Sherzad	Khan	Aga Khan Rural Support Program Pakistan	Pakistan
183	Mr	Zia Ur	Rehman	AWAZCDS-Pakistan	Pakistan
184	Dr	Shankar	Lal	Baanhn Beli	Pakistan

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
185	Mr	Mohammad	Marri	Baanhn Beli	Pakistan
186	Dr	Khair	Muhammad	Centre for Peace and Development	Pakistan
187	Mr	Anees	Khan	HAASHAR Association	Pakistan
188	Mr	Muhammad Aslam	Khan	HANDS	Pakistan
189	Mr	Suhail	Awan	Human Resource Development Network	Pakistan
190	Mr		Malik Bushra	Human Resource Development Network	Pakistan
191	Prof.	Muhammad Shaiq	Ali	ICCBS, University of Karachi	Pakistan
192	Mr	Shahid Sayeed	Khan	Indus Earth Trust	Pakistan
193	Mr	Roomi	Hayat	IRM	Pakistan
194	Mr	Mahmood Akhtar	Cheema	IUCN	Pakistan
195	Mr	Malik Amin Aslam	Khan	IUCN	Pakistan
196	Ms	Rukhsana	Lawyer	IUCN	Pakistan
197	Mr	Danish	Rashdi	IUCN Pakistan	Pakistan
198	Mr	George	Sadiq	IUCN Pakistan	Pakistan
199	Mr	Syed Ghulam Qadir	Shah	IUCN Pakistan	Pakistan
200	Mr	Khalid	Usman	Khwendo Kor	Pakistan
201	Mr	Syed Ahmad	Hasan	LEAD Pakistan	Pakistan
202	Mr	Mohammad Aslam	Khan	Legends Society	Pakistan
203	Dr	Nuzhat	Khan	National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).	Pakistan
204	Mr	Shafait	Ali	National Rural Development Program (NRDP)	Pakistan
205	Mr	Mirza Moqeen	Baig	National Rural Development Program (NRDP)	Pakistan
206	Mr	Ashiq	Rasool	National Rural Development Program (NRDP)	Pakistan
207	Mr	Khalid Saifullah	Khan	Oxfam Novib	Pakistan
208	Mr	Shujauddin	Qureshi	Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER)	Pakistan
209	Mr	Dominic	Stephen	Participatory Village Development Programme (PVDP) Sindh.	Pakistan
210	Mr	Naseebullah Khan	Bazai	Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan	Pakistan
211	Dr	Fateh Muhammad	Marri	Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh Province of Pakistan	Pakistan
212	Mr	Nadir	Gul	Research And Development Foundation (RDF)	Pakistan

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
213	Mr	Rehmatullah	Kunbhar	Research And Development Foundation (RDF)	Pakistan
214	Mr	Ashfaq Ahmed	Soomro	Research And Development Foundation (RDF)	Pakistan
215	Mr	Mushtaq Ahmad	Gill	SACAN Foundation	Pakistan
216	Prof.	Muhammad Zaheer	Khan	Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan	Pakistan
217	Mr	Sameer	Hamid Dodhy	Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment	Pakistan
218	Ms	Naghma	Imdad	Shirkat Gah	Pakistan
219	Mr	Salman	Javed	South Asia Partnership Pakistan	Pakistan
220	Mr	Naseer	Memon	Strengthening Participatory Organization	Pakistan
221	Mr	Faisal	Safdar	Sungi Development Foundation	Pakistan
222	Mr	Ghulam Haider	Bhurgri	Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) Mithi Pakistan	Pakistan
223	Ms	Zubeda	Yousuf	Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources	Pakistan
224	Mr	Pervez	Iqbal	Water, Environment and Sanitation society -WESS	Pakistan
225	Dr	Ejaz	Ahmad	WWF-Pakistan	Pakistan
226	Mr	Antonio	Claparols	Ecological Society of the Philippines	Philippines
227	Mr	Enrique	Avanceña	Ecological Society of the Philippines	Philippines
228	Mr	Javier	Claparols	Ecological Society of the Philippines	Philippines
229	Mr	Godofredo	Villapando	Foundation for the Philippine Environment	Philippines
230	Ms	Maria Belinda	De La Paz	Haribon Foundation for the Conservation Of Natural Resources, Inc	Philippines
231	Prof.	Koh	Kheng-Lian	Faculty of Law, NUS	Singapore
232	Mr	Timothy	Hromatka	Fin Fisher Pte Ltd	Singapore
233	Dr	Madhu	Rao	IUCN SSC	Singapore
234	Dr	Sonja	Luz	Singapore Zoological Gardens	Singapore
235	Ms	Dammika	Malsinghe	Department of National Zoological Gardens	Sri Lanka
236	Mr	Wellaketeye	Sarathkumarasingha Pathiratna	Department of Wildlife Conservation	Sri Lanka
237	Mr	Lage	Nawa	Forest Department Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
238	Mr	Wegedara	Kotuwegdaka	Forest Department Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
239	Mr	Don	Withanage	Forest Department Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
240	Mr	Damith	Chandrasekara	IUCN	Sri Lanka
241	Dr	Jinie	Dela	IUCN Commission on Education and Communication	Sri Lanka

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
242	Dr	Ananda	Mallawatantri	IUCN Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
243	Mr	Nayananda	Nilwala	Ministry of Agriculture, Agrarian Development, Minor Irrigation, Industries, Environment, Arts and Cultural Affairs, Western Province	Sri Lanka
244	Mr	Manoj Prasanna	Maduwe Guruge	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Sri Lanka
245	Mr	Leel	Randeni	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Sri Lanka
246	Mr	Koralege Lalith	Priyankara	Sevalanka Foundation	Sri Lanka
247	Mr	Welgamage	Perera	Small Fisheries Federation	Sri Lanka
248	Mr		Sathasivam	Small Fisheries Federation	Sri Lanka
249	Mr		H.M.D.R. Herath	Small Fisheries Federation	Sri Lanka
250	Mr	Warnakulasuriya Noel Douglas	Tisera	Small Fishers Federation	Sri Lanka
251	Mr	Anuradha	Wickramasinghe	Small Fishers Federation of Lanka	Sri Lanka
252	Prof.	Lakdas	Fernando	Wildlife and Nature Protection Society	Sri Lanka
253	Dr	Enrique	Lahmann	IUCN	Switzerland
254	Mr	Deviah	Aiama	IUCN	Switzerland
255	Ms	Constanza	Martinez	IUCN	Switzerland
256	Dr	Lew	Young	Secretariat, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Switzerland
257	Dr	C.S.	Seshadri	Aditya Birla Chemicals Thailand Limited	Thailand
258	Ms	Saida	Muna Tasneem	Bangladesh Embassy	Thailand
259	Mr	Panuwat	Boonyanan	CATSPA	Thailand
260	Dr	Daniel	Navid	CATSPA	Thailand
261	Ms	Thansuda	Phanthus	CATSPA	Thailand
262	Ms	Bajaree	Saguanwongse	Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, MONRE	Thailand
263	Mr	Vudhchai	Janekarn	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, MONRE	Thailand
264	Ms	Suhathai	Praisankul	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, MONRE	Thailand
265	Mr	Pinsak	Surasawadi	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, MONRE	Thailand
266	Ms	Chachadaorn	Temngam	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, MONRE	Thailand
267	Ms	Natnaphat	Thongbai	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, MONRE	Thailand
268	Ms	Jintana	Bupabanpot	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
269	Mr	Suraphong	Chaweeapak	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
270	Dr	Piyarat	Chimchome	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
271	Mr	Nipol	Chotibal	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
272	Mrs	Peeranuch	Dulkul Kappelle	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
273	Ms	Ruangpung	Gaysawnsiri	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
274	Ms	Nattawan	Issarapong	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
275	Ms	Budsabong	Kanchanasaka	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
276	Mr	Apichat	Kerdmongkol	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
277	Ms	Wannita	Kunlaprawit	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
278	Ms	Narumon	Laosuwan	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
279	Ms	Pilailuck	Leangsakul	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
280	Mr	Payak	Maneeanakekul	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
281	Prof.	Jeffrey	McNeely	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
282	Mr	Worawat	Moungmuntree	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
283	Mr	Samart	Muninnoppamas	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
284	Ms	Suthatip	Musikkong	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
285	Ms	Jariya	Mutusit	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
286	Dr	Kanjana	Nittaya	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
287	Mr	Adisorn	Noochdumrong	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
288	Mrs	Sunee	Sakseau	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
289	Mrs	Tippawan	Sethapun	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
290	Mrs	Sopha	Siripaipran	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
291	Dr	Songtam	Suksawang	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand
292	Mr	Ukrit	Yonthantham	Department of Water Resources, MONRE	Thailand
293	Mr	Goran	Haag	Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok	Thailand
294	Mr	David	Nicholson	Environmental Resources Management	Thailand
295	Mr	Tim	Redford	Freeland Foundation	Thailand



	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
296	Mr	Sulma	Warne	Freeland Foundation	Thailand
297	Ms	Tirakalyanapan	Bussara	Freeland Foundation	Thailand
298	Mr	Narumon	Paiboonsittikun	INEB	Thailand
299	Mr	Anshuman	Saikia	IUCN	Thailand
300	Ms	Rawiwan	Boonchai	IUCN	Thailand
301	Mr	Ratkawee	Boonmake	IUCN	Thailand
302	Mr	Jerry	Bosken	IUCN	Thailand
303	Dr	Steen	Christensen	IUCN	Thailand
304	Ms	Papawalaipak	Chuenarisuvarakul	IUCN	Thailand
305	Ms	Suwapee	Duanjam	IUCN	Thailand
306	Ms	Lea	Guerrero	IUCN	Thailand
307	Ms	Kulkanya	Hiranyasthiti	IUCN	Thailand
308	Ms	Angela	Joehl Cadena	IUCN	Thailand
309	Ms	Dana	Johnston	IUCN	Thailand
310	Ms	Aban Marker	Kabraji	IUCN	Thailand
311	Ms	Suchittra	Krasae	IUCN	Thailand
312	Ms	Siriporn	Kunlapatanasuwan	IUCN	Thailand
313	Ms	Jane	Lawton	IUCN	Thailand
314	Mr	Petch	Manopawitr	IUCN	Thailand
315	Ms	Anushae	Parakh	IUCN	Thailand
316	Ms	Nathisha	Pattrom	IUCN	Thailand
317	Dr	Rosa Mary	Saengsanthitham	IUCN	Thailand
318	Mr	Vishwa Ranjan	Sinha	IUCN	Thailand
319	Ms	Kaniknart	Sutthirak	IUCN	Thailand
320	Mr	Jonathan	Tan	IUCN	Thailand
321	Ms	Janalezza Morvenna	Thuaud	IUCN	Thailand
322	Dr	Chamniern	Vorratnchaiphan	IUCN	Thailand
323	Ms	Tanya	Wattanakorn	IUCN	Thailand
324	Mr	David	Moore	IUCN	Thailand
325	Mr	Prasarn	Jittreesin	IUCN	Thailand
326	Ms	Waraporn	Khanthasiri	IUCN	Thailand
327	Mr	Ubol	Leekaew	IUCN	Thailand
328	Ms	Ponsheniv	Ronnakiat	IUCN	Thailand
329	Mr	Pattipong	Sajuanpaeng	IUCN	Thailand
330	Ms	Kanokphorn	Emprom	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
331	Mr	Raphael	Glemet	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
332	Mr	Raj	Kumar	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
333	Mr	Anurak	Lekgul	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
334	Dr	Robert	Mather	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
335	Dr	Scott	Perkin	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
336	Dr	T.P.	Singh	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
337	Ms	Somrudee	Tiasakul	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand
338	Ms	Weiyang	Zhao	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
339	Dr	Ramesh	Boonratana	IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group	Thailand
340	Ms	Kanokwan	Homcha-aim	IUCN Thailand	Thailand
341	Ms	Supranee	Kampongsun	IUCN Thailand	Thailand
342	Ms	Bampen	Chaiyarak	IUCN, Thailand programme	Thailand
343	Mr	Tawatchai	Rattanasorn	IUCN, Thailand Programme	Thailand
344	Mr	John	Gray	John Gray SeaCanoe	Thailand
345	Mr	Somsak	Soonthornnavapat	LEAF Thailand	Thailand
346	Mr	Stephen	Bonar	Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation	Thailand
347	Mr	Raquibul	Amin	Mangroves for the Future, IUCN Asia	Thailand
348	H.E.	General Dawpong	Ratanasuwan	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand
349	Mr	Sukich	Udindu	Minor International PCL	Thailand
350	Mr	Siriwattano	Phra Win Mektripop	National Representative for Thailand	Thailand
351	Mrs	Nirawan	Pipitsombat	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, MONRE	Thailand
352	Mr	Wanlop	Preechamart	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, MONRE	Thailand
353	Mrs	Sawanit	Tiamtinkrit	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, MONRE	Thailand
354	Ms	Benchamaporn	Wattanatongchai	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, MONRE	Thailand
355	Ms	Detty	Saluling	RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests	Thailand
356	Ms	Kanchana	Wiset	RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests	Thailand
357	Dr	Tint Lwin	Thaung	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific	Thailand
358	Mr	Atip	Meksathit	Thai Conservation of Forests	Thailand
359	Mr	Paglia	Steven	Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Thailand	Thailand
360	Mr	David	Lyman	Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd.	Thailand
361	Ms	Aurelia	Micko	U.S. Agency for International Development, Regional Environment Office	Thailand
362	Ms	Radda	Larpnun	UNDP	Thailand
363	Dr	Terence	Hay-Edie	UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme	Thailand
364	Ms	Nobue	Amanuma	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Thailand

	Title	First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
365	Dr	James	True	University of Songkhla	Thailand
366	Ms	Melinda	Donnelly	USAID LEAD Program	Thailand
367	Dr	Natcha	Tulyasuwan	USAID LEAD Program	Thailand
368	Mr	James	Grall	USAID LEAF	Thailand
369	Mr	Wykoff	Michael	USAID LEAF	Thailand
370	Ms	Saowalak	Jingjungvisut	USAID Mekong ARCC Project / DAI (Thailand)	Thailand
371	Ms	IenKate	Saenghkaew	USAID Mekong ARCC/DAI	Thailand
372	Mr	Pairaj	Topa	Volunteers without Borders Foundation	Thailand
373	Dr	Lynam	Antony	Wildlife Conservation Society - Center for Global Conservation	Thailand
374	Mr.	Wayuphong	Jitvijak	WWF	Thailand
375	Mr	Gordon	Congdon	WWF-Thailand	Thailand
376	Mr	Loungharwo	Thingreiph	AIPP	Thailand
377	Dr	Simon	Stuart	IUCN Species Survival Commission	United Kingdom
378	Mr	James	Compton	TRAFFIC / IUCN	United Kingdom
379	Ms	Suwanna	Gauntlett	Wildlife Alliance	United States
380	Ms	Phuong	Nguyen	Action Center for City Development	Viet Nam
381	Ms	Ly	Nguyen	Center for Environment and Community Research	Viet Nam
382	Ms	Hoa	Tran Thi	Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development	Viet Nam
383	Dr	Van Thang	Hoang	Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies	Viet Nam
384	Mr	Jake	Brunner	IUCN	Viet Nam
385	Mr	Cuong	Ho	IUCN	Viet Nam
386	Ms	Thuy Anh	Nguyen	IUCN	Viet Nam
387	Ms	Thuy	Nguyen	IUCN	Viet Nam
388	Mr	James	Tallant	IUCN	Viet Nam
389	Dr	Andrew	Wyatt	IUCN	Viet Nam
390	Mr	Quang	Le	Minh Phu Seafood Corporation	Viet Nam
391	Mr	Hien	Phan	Minh Phu Seafood Corporation	Viet Nam
392	Mr	Pham Anh	Cuong	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Viet Nam
393	Dr	Doan Thi Xuan	Huong	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Viet Nam
394	Dr	Duy Chuyen	Nguyen	Vien Kin Te Sinh Thai (ECO-ECO)	Viet Nam

*\*Excluding members of the media*

## Appendix 3: Outreach initiatives during the RCF

The RCF is the most important event organized by IUCN in every region. While its main purpose is to bring together the Union's Members, it serves the larger goal of bringing together all sectors of society – government, civil society, private sector – on a neutral platform to discuss the direction of the conservation work in the region. Being a venue where the core of IUCN's work (its programme) is highlighted, the RCF can also serve a larger organizational goal of raising the profile of the Union among external audiences. Given this perspective, outreach to audiences beyond IUCN's Membership is an important component of the work around the RCF.

Several outreach initiatives involving media and digital work, as well as a photo contest, were undertaken during the 6<sup>th</sup> IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

### Media relations

The main initiative for media work was the publication of an opinion piece authored by Asia Regional Director Aban Marker Kabraji. The article, *Asia's turning point must be a vote for sustainability*, was distributed to regional broadsheets for publication on the weekend before the RCF. From August 8 to 11 it was published in the Editorial Section of major broadsheets in three ASEAN countries ([Myanmar](#), [the Philippines](#) and [Thailand](#)), and in a major news website in Viet Nam ([Vietnam Net](#)). The opinion piece, which carries weight as expert commentary by a prominent figure, focused on how it can be possible for Asia to continue its growth without sacrificing the environment and highlights the RCF as IUCN's platform for convening decision makers in different sectors of society, and also discussed IUCN's three Programme Areas.

Two press releases were also distributed in English and Thai versions: an opening press release on August 10 and a closing statement meant only for Thailand-based media on August 12. Twenty-eight journalists from 17 media agencies attended the opening ceremony and press conference on August 10. A well-respected TV network, Thai PBS covered the event on all 3 days, broadcasting 10 Aug events at 12.00 and 16.00 on 11 Aug, 11 Aug events at the same timeslots of the following day and 12 Aug events at 12.00 and 19.00 of the same day. Their news team interviewed the head of DNP MONRE, Aban Marker Kabraji, Dr Robert Mather, Mr Petch Manopawitr, Dr Pinsak Suraswadi from DMCR Thailand, Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat from ONEP and Mr James Compton from Traffic.

### Digital work

Extensive digital work was undertaken in the months leading up to the RCF, as well as during the event itself.

A [website](#) was launched on March 25, and this served as the central information hub for Members and interested participants. Six weeks before the RCF, weekly e-bulletins (short newsletters) were published and distributed to all registered participants as well as all Asia Members to keep them updated about the event and the preparations. These also served as bulletins for Member news, announcements and updates related to the RCF. The bulletins were also sent to all Asia staff as a way to keep the Secretariat, even those who would not be able to attend, updated on the regional office's most important event. During the RCF, these bulletins were sent daily as a summary of the highlights of the day for all participants

and Asia staff. The last issue (#9), released on 28 August and included the link to the RCF evaluation survey, as well as to the presentations uploaded on the web. This tool seemed effective as there was interaction from the recipients (thank you messages, or replies asking the emails of their colleagues to be added to the recipient list).

The RCF also presented a good opportunity in terms of social media. Facebook (and Twitter, to an extent) were used to proactively post content and to connect with social media accounts of Members. The goal was to use the event to increase page likes and interaction.

### Photo contest

The RCF photo contest was launched on May 18, originally as a Members' only contest, as a platform to encourage interaction between IUCN and Members. In June, due to demand, the contest was opened to non-Members under a new category for "Individuals." The photo contest was also launched with the objective to encourage the sharing of photo resources between the secretariat and Member organizations.

Three winners were chosen: Member category winner, Individual Category winner and People's Choice Award winner. The winners each received the coffee table book *The IUCN Red List: 50 Years of Conservation* which was awarded by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand during the dinner reception on August 10. The People's Choice award voting was held via Facebook to promote likes and interaction on the Facebook page (more details in the social media section).

The photo contest achieved its goal of encouraging Member and external participation in the RCF. A total of 88 photographs from 12 member organizations and 14 Individuals were received. The contest also helped boost social media interaction through the online voting for the People's Choice Award. The album for the online voting received 78 likes, 91 shares and 52,700 post clicks.

## Appendix 4: List of side events

August 10, 13:00 - 14:00	Room
<p><b>IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets: Member Consultation</b></p> <p>IUCN is currently in the process of developing an organisational policy on the use of biodiversity offsets. The draft policy has been developed by a working group comprising representatives from Member organisations, the secretariat and experts in the field. It has been reviewed by the Private Sector Task Force and is now in a consultation phase, with input and feedback requested from Members around the world. Once Members have had an opportunity to provide input, revisions will be made to the current draft which will be brought forward for approval by the Membership at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in 2016.</p> <p>This event provided an opportunity for IUCN Members in Asia to learn more about the complex nature of biodiversity offset mechanisms, how these tools have evolved over time and are being used in various contexts around the world and the challenges and opportunities associated with them. The draft IUCN policy was presented to Members, and opportunity for them to give feedback was provided.</p>	Riverside 2
<p><b>Nepal Earthquake: Supporting Nature-based Response and Recovery to Strengthen Long-term Resilience</b></p> <p>Many protected areas became vulnerable when the 7.8 magnitude scale of earthquake struck Nepal on 25th April 2015. In this time of natural disaster, people reached out to the forests as the nearest natural resources for building temporary shelters while the help from the government was on the way. In the aftermath of the earthquake, Nepal now needs to shift its focus to studying the loss and damage of natural resources, human resettlement and shocks to the dynamics of ecosystems.</p> <p>In this side event, sponsored by the Nepal National Committee of IUCN, the scenario of how Nepal has been coping with the recent disaster was showcased, and ways in which IUCN can support research and explore ways to reshape Nepal's conservation efforts to address the challenges of post-earthquake rehabilitation were discussed.</p>	Riverside 4
<p><b>Mangroves and the USAID Climate Change Programs, from mitigation to adaptation</b></p> <p>This discussed USAID LEAD's approach to climate change mitigation. Representatives from LEAF and Mekong ARCC led a conversation on climate change adaptation. These three regional USAID projects addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in different parts of Southeast Asia were showcased, as well as ways in which the approaches cover many of the varied aspects of mangrove conservation and development, the challenges encountered and lessons learned.</p> <p>Sponsored by USAID, the side event also featured a display of objects and photographs related to project field work.</p>	Riverside 5

August 10, 13:00 - 14:00	Room
<p><b>The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF): Building Capacity and Promoting Conservation in the Indo-Burma Hotspot</b></p> <p>The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>This side event introduced the work of CEPF in the Indo-Burma Hotspot (comprised of Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and parts of southern China). There are currently some 70 CEPF projects running in the region, with a total value of approximately US\$7 million. The side event included a short overview of CEPF and its priorities, and also featured short presentations from existing grantees about their work. Tips and guidance on accessing grants under the next call for proposals were also provided.</p>	Riverside 6
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Natural Resource Management: Contributions and Challenges Faced by Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>This side event was sponsored by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. It provided an overview of the contributions of indigenous peoples to natural resource management and the challenges they face in the realisation of their collective rights to manage their lands and resources. It also discussed the general situation of indigenous peoples in Asia and the issues they face, including conservation measures, climate change and sustainable development and the linkages to land use and resource management.</p> <p>This event aimed to raise awareness about the collective ownership and management of customary lands and resources by indigenous peoples and the important role they play in maintaining the rich biodiversity and resources of the last remaining forest frontiers in the region.</p>	Riverside 7
<p><b>Corridors and Complexes: Innovative Approaches to Sustain Protected Areas</b></p> <p>This side event, sponsored by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) of Thailand, focused on corridors and complexes as a particularly promising approach to improving the sustainability of protected areas (PAs) by reducing habitat fragmentation and discouraging encroachment through providing real benefits of PAs to the local communities in terms of ecosystem services.</p> <p>In Thailand, the GEF-funded project on <i>Catalysing Sustainability of Thailand's Protected Area System</i> (CATSPA) has promoted these innovations in pilot sites. DNP has been linking PAs to neighbouring PAs to create Protected Area Complexes to increase the effective size of ecosystems, thereby conserving biodiversity and enhancing capacity for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Where PAs are not in immediate contact, DNP has been establishing conservation corridors so that key species can move more freely between different parts of their historical range and avoid conflict with local communities. These corridors typically require collaboration among PA managers and nearby villages. The workshop invited contributions about similar efforts taking place in other countries. It also sought new approaches to linking PAs to larger landscapes which include indigenous and local communities.</p>	Pompadour



August 10, 18:00 - 19:00	Room
<p><b>Mangrove Polyculture: A Model for Sustainable Production and Business?</b></p> <p>Global public demand for shrimp is growing exponentially, and today over half of global shrimp production is produced from aquaculture, with leading producers of farmed shrimp located in China, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and Bangladesh. In the past, most farmed shrimp in Asia was grown using traditional small-scale systems and employed simple technologies which required minimal inputs, gave benefits to local communities and minimised environmental impact. Over the past decades, however, shrimp aquaculture has expanded to become an industrial mode of food production using intensive production systems which have proved to be both environmentally and socially damaging.</p> <p>Mangroves for the Future and the IUCN Mangroves and Markets Project have been working with local producers/farmers and shrimp processors to explore alternative mangrove aquaculture/ polyculture practices that offer a return to more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable practices. These mangrove polyculture models represent an important alternative to solving or minimising some of the negative impacts of intensive shrimp aquaculture systems.</p> <p>This side event presented an overview of this global issue relating to shrimp production in Asia and highlighted some tried and tested models of sustainable mangrove polyculture that are gaining interest with both local farmers and shrimp producers.</p>	Riverside 2
<p><b>The Asia Protected Areas Partnership: A new Initiative to Promote Collaboration, Best Practices and Innovative Solutions for Asia's Protected Areas</b></p> <p>As the scale and complexity of the challenges facing Asia's protected areas continue to mount, the desire to create a regional forum in which protected area management authorities and others can share experience and best practices has also grown. Following discussions at the first Asia Parks Congress in 2013, the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) was launched in 2014 in direct response to this need. APAP seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote best practices and innovative solutions through knowledge sharing and capacity building;</li> <li>• Promote enhanced trans-boundary and regional cooperation; and</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the multiple benefits of Asia's protected areas, both within and outside the region.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership is co-chaired by IUCN and the Ministry of the Environment Japan, and is intended to be an informal, voluntary network.</p> <p>This event introduced APAP and discussed its objectives and activities in more detail. The results of the Asia Protected Planet report – the first comprehensive assessment of the region's progress towards Aichi Target 11 on protected areas – were also presented.</p>	Riverside 3

August 10, 18:00 - 19:00	Room
<p><b>Beauty of Desert in Danger - Save Wild Species of Peacocks</b></p> <p>This side event aimed to raise awareness about threats to the declining wild species of peafowl in desert areas of Pakistan. Peafowl are a functionally critical component of biodiversity in desert regions of Pakistan, and the Thar Desert region of Sindh province is estimated to provide habitat 65,000 to 70,000 blue and green wild Indian peafowl (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>). Threats to the peafowl include severe drought and extreme hot weather, hunting, and the contagious 'Newcastle' disease. There is no government plan to control the rapid decline of this species and ensure that advocacy efforts of local communities and environmental institutions are coordinated. This event presented a call for action to create a 'Peacock Friendly Environment.'</p>	Riverside 4
<p><b>IPBES: Why Should IUCN Members Engage?</b></p> <p>The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established in 2012 as an independent intergovernmental body open to all member countries of the United Nations. IPBES provides a mechanism recognised by both the scientific and policy communities to synthesise, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organisations, non-governmental organisations and indigenous communities. IPBES will also aim to address the needs of Multilateral Environmental Agreements that are related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and build on existing processes ensuring synergy and complementarities in each other's work.</p> <p>This event raised awareness about IPBES and informed IUCN Members about opportunities for engagement. The forum explained why IPBES is important to IUCN and highly relevant for the IUCN new work programme, and why IUCN sees engagement of stakeholders in IPBES as a priority. A panel of members from the Asia region involved in IPBES discussed the engagement opportunities they see for Members and answered questions from the audience.</p>	Riverside 5
<p><b>Promoting Conservation through Citizen Journalism</b></p> <p>This event highlighted how citizen journalism, an emerging tool available to people at the grassroots level, can empower communities to be active conservation actors. The session will show examples of how citizen journalism has been successfully used in the field, the lessons learned and how it can be replicated. The video 'Where has the water gone?', produced under the USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) project and aired by Thai PBS, and its contribution to creating awareness and inducing water management action for climate change adaptation, was discussed.</p> <p>Taking a look at The Centre for People and Forest's (RECOFTC's) Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia project (implemented in Indonesia), the presentation explored how access to this communication tool can empower the grassroots community to voice concerns, protect their forests and, over time, develop reliable partnerships with media organisations to raise awareness of environment issues at the grassroots level that may otherwise fail to get attention.</p>	Pompadour

August 10, 18:00 - 19:00	Room
<p><b>Sustainable Financing for Protected Area Management</b></p> <p>ASEAN's GDP has grown over 300% since 2001, transforming economies. Forests were once used as timber resources or potential land for agriculture. Now they are valued more for the ecosystem services they provide as part of increasingly service-based economies. ASEAN's economic growth has also included growth in protected areas (PAs), now with over 1,300 nationally designated sites. How can these sites be managed effectively, and supported financially?</p> <p>While PAs may be public goods that deserve support from the national budget, all countries are facing multiple demands for the available public funding. This requires innovative funding mechanisms for PAs. This workshop shared some mechanisms being developed by Thailand's GEF-funded project Catalysing Sustainability of Thailand's Protected Area System (CATSPA). PAs provide valuable ecosystem services, and CATSPA seeks to convert these values into income. Examples from CATSPA include the Conservation Trust Fund at Doi Inthanon National Park, based on Thailand's first PA Business Plan and active leadership from the private sector.</p> <p>This workshop was sponsored by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) of Thailand, and identified partners from other ASEAN countries to develop a more comprehensive workshop on innovative PA funding mechanisms for IUCN's 2016 WCC, with practical examples from our partners which can inform practice elsewhere.</p>	A5

August 11, 20:00 - 22:00	Room
<p><b>How CEOs Can Change the World</b></p> <p>This side event was sponsored by Aditya Birla Group (ABG) and provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and hold a dialogue on key issues concerning the creation of sustainable business, with a focus on how CEOs can influence the development of businesses which are resilient to the shocks of a changing world, and which contribute positively to the development of a sustainable planet.</p> <p>In addition to representatives from the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) Sustainability team and senior management of ABG subsidiaries, panelists included representatives from Minor Group, Asia Environmental Research Foundation, Tata Steel, Asia Pulp and Paper and Bombay Natural History Society. A group discussion on how the business and NGO sectors can work together more collaboratively to drive change was also held.</p>	Riverside 2

August 11, 20:00 - 22:00		Room
<b>The Himek Alliance – A Strategy to Mitigate Climate Change in the Himalayas and the Mekong Basin</b>		Riverside 3
<p>Rapid glacier melt and reduced snowfall occurring in the Himalayas as a result of climate change will have severe effects on biodiversity and the livelihoods of millions of people throughout associated river basins across South Asia, Southeast Asia and China. The proposed HIMEK Alliance is an idea to move towards regional cooperation between the Himalayan nations and the countries of the Mekong Basin to protect the Himalayas and dependent ecosystems through drastic reduction in regional emissions of short life climate pollutants, especially Black Carbon (soot), combined with a massive regional program of forest land restoration.</p> <p>This side event explored opportunities to establish the HIMEK alliance. It put emphasis on engaging participant countries to help determine a way forward, with IUCN undertaking the lead role. A draft project proposal for submission to GEF and other funding agencies will also be discussed at the event.</p>		
<b>Securing Asia's Iconic Carnivore: the Role of Reintroduction-based Tiger Recovery</b>		Riverside 5
<p>The tiger is Asia's iconic large carnivore and the focus of major conservation efforts across its range. Effective conservation of tigers can safeguard some of Asia's last great wildernesses, supporting multiple threatened species, while also providing considerable benefits to local communities and governments through ecotourism and payment for ecosystem services. Reintroduction has been identified as an opportunity to restore tiger populations in parts of the species' range where local extinctions have occurred.</p> <p>This side event, led by WWF Greater Mekong, brought together IUCN Members, conservation biologists, and government representatives to discuss and develop an operational strategy for active tiger recovery efforts including translocation, reintroduction, and conservation breeding.</p>		
<b>Nature-based Solutions to Disaster Risk Reduction: Moving from Theory to Actions on the Ground</b>		Riverside 7
<p>This event was a moderated panel discussion to explore the role of nature-based solutions in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). IUCN's global focus on DRR was presented, along with the Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) project and a new Japan Biodiversity Fund supported initiative. Panelists from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Government of Thailand (DMCR), Mangroves for the Future Initiative (MFF) and All India Disaster Management Institute (AIDMI) presented evidence-based case studies of nature-based solutions for DRR.</p>		
<b>Protected Areas for Our Future: Conservation Cooperation for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development</b>		Pompadour
<p>This event explored the many ways in which protected areas contribute to biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing. It also discussed the outcomes of the recent World Leaders Conservation Forum in the Republic of Korea, and provided an update on progress towards the declaration of "World National Parks and Protected Areas Day." Approaches to trans-boundary cooperation for protected area management were also examined through the introduction of a draft Motion for the 2016 World Conservation Congress regarding trans-boundary conservation cooperation and the presentation of a case study. The session concluded with a panel discussion and a "Protected Areas Festival," featuring the screening of several short films.</p>		



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Asia Regional Office  
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39  
Wattana, Bangkok  
10110 Thailand  
Tel: + 66 2 662 4029  
Fax: + 66 2 662 4387  
[www.iucn.org/asia](http://www.iucn.org/asia)

