Climate Change Bulletin 2018

FOREWORD

As in previous years, this bulletin offers a snapshot of the multiple and varied ways in which IUCN — across different global thematic programmes, regions and commissions — engaged on the issue of climate change in 2018. It continues to demonstrate the richness of what we collectively achieve, and the potential of where we might go.

2018 was particularly notable for the publication of the IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. This report clearly underscores the seriousness of the threat that climate change poses to natural and human systems. The need for urgent and ambitious action on climate change is clearer today than ever before.

There is also increasing global recognition of the role that nature-based solutions can play in addressing climate change. At UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres publicly identified it as one of the key focus areas of the Climate Summit that he will convene in New York in September 2019 to galvanize greater climate ambition ahead of 2020.

As opportunities beckon for us to contribute, and as we begin gearing up for the Marseille Congress, 2019 can be a year where IUCN can make a real difference.

Sandeep Sengupta
Global Coordinator — IUCN Climate Change Portfolio

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Contact and useful links

Contact us: climate@iucn.org
Website: iucn.org/climate
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GLOBAL POLICY

Protecting climate by protecting nature

Curbing global temperature rise will require removing more carbon from the atmosphere than we release into it. Sandeep Sengupta, Global Coordinator — IUCN Climate Change Portfolio and Juha Siikamäki, Chief Economist explain how natural ecosystems can be harnessed to help achieve this here

IUCN highlighted nature-based solutions to climate change in the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue

IUCN took part in the Talanoa Dialogue at the Bonn Climate Change Conference (30 April - 10 May). IUCN drew particular attention to the critical role that conserving, restoring and sustainably managing the world’s ecosystems can play in providing practical nature-based solutions for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Read more

IUCN brings Nature-based Solutions to the Global Climate Action Summit

The Global Climate Action Summit (12-14 September 2018) and associated events provided a self-described, “launchpad for deeper worldwide commitments and accelerated action that can put the globe on track to prevent dangerous climate change and realize the historic Paris Agreement.” Read more about IUCN’s participation in the GCAS and associated events

IUCN @CBD COP14

Strengthening the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, IUCN co-organized with the CBD, and Friends of Eba (FEBA), a ‘Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Day’ in the Rio Pavilion at the CBD COP. Read the full report of the day here

IUCN @UNFCCC COP24

At UNFCCC COP24, IUCN highlighted the critical role of nature in providing practical solutions in tackling climate change and adapting to its impacts. Find out more here
MARINE AND POLAR
Research to determine whether ocean plastics accelerate Arctic melt

IUCN and academic partners are conducting research in the Arctic and Baltic regions to establish to what extent high concentrations of microplastics and plastics in ice might accelerate climate change. The project is the subject of a short film. Find out more

Ocean risks a wake-up call for policymakers – IUCN report
A new report by IUCN, Ocean connections: An introduction to rising risks from a warming, changing ocean, examines the impacts of rising ocean temperatures and other stressors such as ocean acidification – the decrease in pH of the ocean – and deoxygenation – a reduction in the amount of oxygen dissolved in the ocean – on the marine environment and human life, and their potential consequences for society. More

Real potential to restore mangroves: New tool sheds light
Restoration of these important forests can be tangibly enabled. With the help of a new interactive mapping tool, the potential for restoring as much as 812,000 hectares of mangroves just may be possible. Take a tour of the mangrove mapping tool and read more

Find out more about IUCN’s projects addressing ocean warming, ocean acidification, blue carbon and mangrove restoration here

PROTECTED AREAS
Sharing and creating success stories: the Blue Solutions Fair in Thailand
The Blue Solutions Fair took place from 13 to 16 March. The mission of this four-day event was to explore sustainable ways to address climate change for resilient coastal communities and healthy marine ecosystems. Find out more about these solutions here

Zambia endorses its first ever climate change framework and action plan for a protected area
To strengthen the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of Nsumbu National Park and its surroundings, IUCN and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) have developed a Climate Change Framework Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy will serve as a tool for integrating climate change issues into Nsumbu National Park planning processes. More

FORESTS
Challenges remain for halving natural forest loss by 2020, but restoration of forest landscapes brings hope
IUCN, participated in the 2018 Progress Assessment of the New York Declaration on Forests. Read more about the findings on Goal 5 on Forest Landscape Restoration through the Bonn Challenge and its potential for climate change mitigation.

Preparing for the next step: Financing REDD+
A recent report called, Mapping Forest Finance: A Landscape of Available Sources of Finance for REDD+ and Climate Action in Forests provides a new resource for negotiators, policymakers, practitioners, NGOs, and others involved with the implementation of REDD+ and climate action in forests. Find out more about Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Forest Briefs and the Arbor vitae Newsletters

WORLD HERITAGE
Second largest reef on Earth off ‘danger list’, following IUCN’s advice
The site was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2009 due to unsustainable hotel development, and entire mangrove forests were cleared then and replaced with sand and coral rubble extracted from nearby waters, which destroyed corals and seabed ecosystems. The site remains however increasingly exposed to climate change. More

Species
Australia’s reptiles threatened by invasive species, climate change – IUCN Red List
The latest update of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ revealed climate change is increasingly threatening Australia’s reptiles. Find out more

Escalating climate change impacts on species prompt IUCN review of emerging field
A major IUCN co-authored paper reviews the relatively new field of assessing species’ vulnerability to climate change, as experts warn that time is running out for many species. The paper also provides guidance on carrying out rigorous assessments, which take into account the broad range of ways in which climate change may become a threat to species. More

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
Germany confirms commitment to climate and biodiversity finance
At the tenth anniversary celebration of IKI, the initiative and IUCN reflected together on the progress made in deploying Nature-based Solutions to climate change, reaffirming the role of ecosystems and biodiversity for climate action. More

Ecosystems Governance in Biosphere Reserves and the importance of Cultural Practices in Ecosystem-based Adaptation
At the Conservation, Communities and Livelihoods Conference jointly organized by the Community Conservation Research Network and CEESP-IUCN, Liette Vasseur from CEM presented on the
importance of cultural practices in ecosystem-based adaptation. More

GENDER
A new online course builds capacity on gender and environment linkages
At the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly in Da Nang, Vietnam, IUCN joined efforts in the launch of a free Online Course on Gender and the Environment. More

Putting women and girls at the heart of conservation and climate action
At this year’s European Development Days (EDD), IUCN, in collaboration with UNDP, European Investment Bank and UN Environment, hosted a high-level panel on how putting women and girls at the heart of conservation and climate action will drive a sustainable and more equitable future. More

The UNFCCC affirms its commitment towards capacity building and tracking progress on gender
At the 48th meeting of the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC in Bonn, IUCN supported delegates in taking steps on implementing its recent Gender Action Plan. More

GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS
Outcomes of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
A major accomplishment of the 24th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP24) was the successful adoption of a decision on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), which established a facilitative working group, including a governance structure, as well as the modalities for the development of a work plan. Read about IUCN’s engagement here

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
IUCN and WWF unite to enhance the implementation of legal tools protecting mangroves
Experts from seven countries are working with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre to develop a study on the legal and institutional frameworks affecting mangroves. The study draws on detailed case studies in Costa Rica, Vietnam, Madagascar, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, as well as a global desk study and additional legislative reviews in Mexico and India. Learn more

E-learning course on integrated land use planning launched in Tanzania
Under the leadership of the Environmental Law Centre, IUCN and UNITAR have jointly developed a new e-learning course on ‘Integrated planning for climate change and biodiversity’. The course was launched on 20 March 2018, in Mbeya, Tanzania, by Dr Anna Sabrina Wollmann of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). More

WCEL Climate Change Specialist Group: Update
This update introduces the specialist group and its current work.

Highlights from the Regions

ASIA
India first of all Bonn Challenge countries to develop progress report
India has reiterated its commitment to achieving its Bonn Challenge pledge by launching the first ever country progress report. The report is a joint publication of the government of India’s Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and IUCN. More

Capacity building workshop on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
IUCN India organised a capacity building workshop on REDD+ under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project ‘Coping with Uncertainties: Building Community Resilience and Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change in the Indian Himalayan Region (CwU)’ at the IUCN India Country Office. More

Training local government staff and communities on climate change adaptation
IUCN Lao PDR facilitated trainings in the Xe Champhone Ramsar Site in Savannakhet Province and Bueng Kiat Ngong (BKN) Ramsar Site in Champasak Province respectively. The aim of the trainings was to educate local government staff and communities in planning for climate change adaptation through ecosystem-based solutions. More

Read more about IUCN’s work on climate change in Asia

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA
Ministers commit to protecting the world’s largest tropical peatland
Commitments to conserve peatlands in the Congo basin were announced on Friday, 23 March 2018 as the Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia signed the Brazzaville Declaration at the third meeting of the Global Peatland Initiative, involving IUCN, UN Environment and partners. More

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
Scoring the restoring: An assessment of contributions to forest landscape restoration in Uganda
IUCN supported the government of Uganda to assess the potential for restoration across the country, including identification of the most appropriate restoration options using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). More

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EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Caucasus and Central Asia demonstrate impressive political will for restoration and the Bonn Challenge
The first Bonn Challenge Regional Ministerial Roundtable for the Caucasus and Central Asia was a massive success with several countries in the region pledging to bring 2.5 million hectares into restoration. More

EUROPE

Pathways for implementation of Blue Carbon initiatives to be discussed at European Parliament in November
On November 27th, IUCN Med and IUCN Europe Brussels, together with the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate change, organized an event to provide a forum for discussing with EU Member States and stakeholders on the role of these coastal and marine ecosystems for climate mitigation. More

Nature-based solutions are key to achieving Europe’s ambitious climate change targets
Nature is a powerful ally in tackling climate change. Yet it does not receive the attention it deserves in the debate about how to accomplish a transition towards a zero net emission society. Natural ecosystems such as forests, soils and peatlands are the most sophisticated and effective solution we have for capturing and storing CO2, writes Luc Bas, Director, IUCN European Regional Office. More

MEDITERRANEAN

Towards the implementation of Nature-based solutions in climate policies in Morocco and Tunisia
Morocco and Tunisia have each created a roadmap and a working group focused on implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) contained in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) across different sectors. Both working groups have already identified project proposals to be submitted to international donors. More

OCEANIA

Mangroves for the Future shares lessons learned at Fiji climate change workshop
IUCN hosted the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction workshop in Suva, Fiji, as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations taking place throughout 2018. More

Ambassador Peter Thompson, who is also serving as the UN Special Envoy for Oceans, shared opening remarks with participants to the workshop. Watch here

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Honduras define funciones del Comité Nacional de Adaptación con apoyo del proyecto AVE y organizaciones miembro de la UICN
La Oficina Regional de la UICN para México, América Central y el Caribe (ORMACC), a través del Proyecto AVE (Adaptación, Vulnerabilidad & Ecosistemas) ha apoyado técnica y financieramente a la Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (MiAmbiente+) y la Fundación VIDA, para impulsar la consolidación del Comité Nacional de Adaptación de Honduras. Más

Intercambio de experiencias en Guatemala expone retos y oportunidades en adaptación
Durante el taller, Marta Pérez de Madrid, Oficial Técnica de la UICN, presentó la herramienta de recopilación de datos de proyectos de adaptación, así como la plataforma electrónica de registro de proyectos de adaptación. Más

Aprende más sobre los proyectos de adaptación al cambio climático en México, Centroamérica y el Caribe aquí

SOUTH AMERICA

UICN compartió información durante la reunión del Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos de Cambio Climático realizada en Quito
125 expertos y científicos de más de 30 países del mundo se reunieron en Quito 12 al 16 de febrero para la elaboración del Informe Especial sobre el Océano y la Criósfera. La Oficina Regional para América del Sur de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza y el Programa Regional “Estrategias de Adaptación al Cambio Climático basadas en Ecosistemas en Colombia y Ecuador” apoyaron este evento y participaron en una feria informativa. Leer más

Se celebran 10 años de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas en Colombia
El 30 de julio se llevó a cabo en Bogotá un evento que contó con la participación de más de 100 personas para el lanzamiento de la Guía de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas (AbE) en Colombia y la celebración de los 10 años del enfoque, dirigido a múltiples actores territoriales y del sector ambiente y agropecuario para intercambiar y fortalecer el conocimiento AbE en el país. Más

Video sobre el programa regional de adaptación basada en ecosistemas en Ecuador

IUCN Commissions on Climate Change

[Images of logos for different IUCN Commissions]
Soil biodiversity and soil organic carbon: keeping drylands alive

Soil biodiversity and soil organic carbon are vital to the way ecosystems function and largely determine the role of land in producing food, storing water, and mitigating climate change. This report highlights how soil organic carbon and soil biodiversity provide the foundation for terrestrial ecosystem services. Restoring or preserving soil biodiversity and soil organic carbon requires increased inputs of organic matter or a reduction of carbon losses, or both. Government strategies are needed to guide investments in drylands by local land users, private companies and other stakeholders, in order to fulfil their public responsibility for protecting and promoting the multifunctionality of land.

Ocean connections: an introduction to rising risks from a warming, changing ocean

The ocean on which Earth depends for predictable weather, temperature and provisioning of goods and services is now changing more rapidly than it has for millions of years. This is due to human interactions with the atmosphere and land, and increasing expansion of the footprint of human impacts across the ocean. It is increasingly evident that patterns and trends in ocean and atmospheric responses are falling outside documented historical norms. The report explores the hazards and risks associated with ocean warming from a variety of angles, and by using graphics looks at how these ‘simple’ temperature-related changes to the ocean can ripple out into many aspects of society. It aims to stimulate further discussion by exploring and exposing the issues that arise.

Mapping forest finance: a landscape of available sources of finance for REDD+ and climate action in forests

In this report, Environmental Defense Fund and Forest Trends map the landscape of the available sources of funding for climate action in forests, with a focus on REDD+, through 2017. To provide a comprehensive overview of the different sources of REDD+ finance, the report first defines the three phases of REDD+, and then provides a summary of the various finance sources, types, and mechanisms. The report then describes the sources of finance available for each phase of REDD+, including the funding type, the amount initially provided and the amount remaining, the funding mechanism used for resource distribution, eligibility criteria, scale, access parameters, scope of each funding source, and notable challenges with accessing funds from each source. Next, the report highlights salient challenges with and opportunities for 7 Executive summary accessing and coordinating finance for REDD+ specifically, and climate action in forests more broadly. Lastly, to provide a visual representation of the landscape of funding sources for REDD+ and climate action in forests, the report includes an infographic in Annex 1 that shows the sources of finance and funding mechanisms that correspond to each REDD+ phase.