

## Valuing and conserving nature

IUCN ECARO works in partnership to safeguard species and build healthy protected area systems as a foundation for nature and human wellbeing across Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We aim to build capacity for species conservation and improve governance and effective management of protected areas across the region. Our approach is to generate, integrate, and disseminate knowledge on the most appropriate responses to emerging conservation challenges, and build individual and institutional capacity to plan and manage biodiversity in the most effective way. IUCN ECARO helps improve policies, legal and institutional frameworks and mobilise resources for species conservation and protected area management.

## Governance of nature's use

Good governance is a precondition for the effective conservation of biodiversity and equitable use of natural resources. IUCN ECARO strongly advocates for effective and equitable governance of natural resources and promotes gender equality and community-based approaches to resource management. We respect human rights, public participation in decision-making, access to nature and the fair and equitable sharing of nature, and transparency and accountability in law-making and enforcement. IUCN ECARO actively works across the region to ensure that the principles of good governance are recognised, understood and applied at all levels. We believe that good governance helps build partnerships between governments, civil society, communities and the private sector, and leads to creating sustainable opportunities for communities and society as a whole.

## Deploying nature-based solutions

Well-managed, healthy and diverse ecosystems and the biological resources they encompass are critical for a healthy, safe and prosperous society. Demonstrating the benefits of nature and showcasing the return on investment ecosystems can offer is necessary to increase awareness, but it is also important to provide support and guidance on how to implement nature-based solutions and turn them into practice. At a global level, IUCN pioneered nature-based solutions at the UN climate negotiations by presenting forests as a partial solution to climate change mitigation. IUCN ECARO continues to promote nature-based solutions as a way to mitigate and adapt to climate change, secure water, food and energy supplies, reduce disaster risks and poverty and drive economic growth.

The IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN ECARO) was established in 2015 with a view to supporting IUCN constituency and implementing the IUCN Programme in most countries of the IUCN Statutory Region East Europe, North and Central Asia. In an effort to contribute to a more sustainable future for this region, IUCN ECARO focuses its work on good governance, the long-term protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. The office is based in Belgrade, Serbia, and was initially established as the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe (IUCN SEE) in 2004.



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IUCN Regional Office  
for Eastern Europe  
and Central Asia

**IUCN ECARO**

## Where we work

IUCN ECARO works in 17 countries of the IUCN Statutory Region East Europe, North and Central Asia: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The office is also present with activities in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Slovenia where we closely coordinate with the IUCN European Regional Office (EURO).

## Facts about the ECA region

- The total area of land in the region accounts for about 15% of the world landmass and has an approximate total population of 303 million people, constituting about 4.17% of the global population.
- The region includes the largest country in the world, the Russian Federation, and the largest landlocked country in the world, Kazakhstan.
- The region encompasses 8 of the 14 Biomes in the world.
- According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 684 taxa (species and subspecies) in the region are threatened with extinction. Of these, 138 are in the category Critically Endangered (CR).
- The region is known for the presence of some of the most iconic large mammals, such as Siberian tiger, Snow and Persian leopards, Polar bear, European bison, Saiga antelope, Argali sheep, Orca and Beluga whale.

## What we do

IUCN is the world's authority on conserving nature and natural resources for people's livelihoods, setting standards, fostering policies and bringing together a diverse membership of States, government agencies and civil society. IUCN promotes nature-based solutions to global environmental and development challenges. IUCN produces and disseminates science-based knowledge and standards on biodiversity and its conservation, drawn from its Members and Commissions, and applies it at all levels.

Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia is characterised by a diversity of natural values and ecological features, policies and social fabrics.

IUCN defines its role in Eastern Europe and Central Asia as follows:

- Help shape and ensure proper implementation of environmental policy at all levels;
- Disseminate and apply IUCN Knowledge Products across the region;
- Introduce innovative approaches to nature conservation and governance of natural resources;
- Support institutional strengthening and capacity building for the effective conservation of biodiversity and nature's use.

IUCN ECARO uses its convening power to enable cross-sectoral and regional cooperation and link policy and action at regional and national levels.

IUCN ECARO's unique role is to give visibility and credibility to the Union's activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and position it globally.

## How we work

IUCN is an organization that brings its Members together with IUCN Commission experts to pool knowledge and resources, and to forge unified approaches in the interests of conservation. At the moment, 36 active Members in the region, both governmental as well as non-governmental, work on a varied portfolio of activities. They are an essential element of ECARO not only in terms of being partners in action, but also in shaping the Office's direction and Work Plan. Through the years a firm relationship has been established in the region with the help of Members and Commission experts, placing the Office at the forefront of the conservation area via its work and credibility. Strengthening and enlarging its membership and knowledge base remains at the core of IUCN ECARO's engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

