Report on U.S. Regional Conservation Forum

June 19, 2015

Visitors Center Auditorium, National Zoological Park, 3001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008

The event started with an opening session between 8:30 – 9:00, featuring a Welcome from Dennis Kelly, Director, National Zoo, a welcome and presentation of the RCF objectives by Inger Andersen, Director General, IUCN, and a short introduction from the US State Member Representative, Christine Dawson, of the US State Department. Then Frank Hawkins, the director of the IUCN US Office, gave an overview of the agenda and methodology. Each participant then introduced themselves briefly.

Between 9:00-9.45 Enrique Lahmann and Sebastià Semene Guitart presented the World Conservation Congress. This covered, amongst other subjects, why Hawaii was selected for Congress 2016, the classification of Members, deadlines leading up to Congress. Enrique introduced the Congress location and Hawaii more generally, and Sebastia presented the Members forum, emphasizing

- Proposals for the forum should include contributions from secretariat, members and commissions (one program rule)
- Help promote event if you want to be more engaged (communications)
- Use this Congress to get firm commitment from decision-makers
- Highlight any schools that may be important to include in the congress forum
- Questions on the Congress forum content and components were deferred to a panel discussion following the next session.

**See presentations in Appendix 1 and 2**

Between 9.45-10.30 - Frank Hawkins Presented the IUCN Program 2017-2020, emphasising the following points

- So far… revised draft produced June 2015, consultation from June 2015 - Feb 2016 Approval by WCC in September 2016
- Main lessons from 2013-2016 programme:
  - 3 elements need completion
  - 3 high level global results still valid - underpinning narrative needs strengthening/updating
  - Business model needs more integration - linear, recognizable sense of impacts
  - More ambitious - more impact, focused, and coordinated

**2017 - 2020 approach:**

- use policy to influence scaling up approaches
- link up delivery, construct webs of knowledge being generated by initiatives
- link up Union: Union = mechanism by which process is proceeding

**Themes**

1. Valuing and conserving nature - powerful set of targets, but more work needs to be done and integrated more profoundly into SDGs.
   - Results: knowledge platforms to value and conserve diversity
     Policies themselves need to be improved, show impact through improvement of status of biodiversity
2. Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature’s Use
   - Result: improve natural resource governance; support design and legal implementation of frameworks at landscape scale, national international transboundary and global scales
   - approach: build capacity and develop standards to create nature-based solutions.
3. Deploying Nature Based Solutions to address Societal Challenges
   - Result: healthy and restored ecosystems meet security needs
   - Build capacity amongst participants, provide mechanism of knowledge sharing.
   - Generating floods of funding, FLR successful on this, need to replicate in other activities.

**Going Forward: what we need**

- Metrics: for measuring delivery and actual impact
- Focus: make sure where we put effort are towards things that will make a change
  - What does IUCN need? are we putting resources in the right place?
  - Geographically - there are justifications for increased investments in meso/south America and SE Asia
Terrestrial vertebrates and ecosystems have good attention but we need to provide more attention to marine and freshwater ecosystems as well.

- Need an operation and financial plan
- Structure of program that ramps up scale, far-ranging impacts
- We have to start acting on the indirect drivers for habitat loss- for instance agricultural subsidies

A short Q&A session followed, with the points below raised:

- [Richard Cellarius, Sierra Club]: as we develop program, we need to be sure ecosystem processes, ecological processes, and species processes are included
- [Richard Ottinger, Pace Law School]: Curious to see from the discussions today how the law will be addressed, in terms of a government standpoint? Focusing on policy and law is a crucial component.
- [Kristen Walker - CI] If we are working with local communities, or subnational governments, we should support these communities.
- [Keith Wheeler, IUCN-US]: The programme so far is very much a push-strategy, asking people to change according to what IUCN is proposing, rather than asking people to come in and to help us achieve those goals. Need to find a way to ensure that we are showing the outside world that we are doing what is valuable to them
- [John Francis, National Geographic]: there is huge driver that is not agriculture, and it's consumption in the broad scale. I want to empower IUCN to be more front-faced to recognize that there is a huge consortium of people outside the IUCN dialogue, that IUCN needs to engage with in order to stand up for that first objective in valuing nature. Dialogue and policy structures need to be more engaged.

See presentation in Appendix 3

Between 11:00-12:30 John Robinson, Regional Councilor and IUCN Vice-President, led a discussion on WCC and the IUCN Program 2017-2020 The aim was to solicit member input in the following areas:

- Linkages to broader environmental and sustainable development
- Global and national/regional priorities for resolutions
- One Program Commitment statement/Charter
- Member contributions to Program

We started with presentations on Inspiring a New Generation by Nancy Colleton (Appendix 4), IUCN awards at WCC, by John Robinson (appendix 5), Climate change and energy by Dick Ottinger, and the Promise of Sydney by David Reynolds (Appendix 6).

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion chaired by John and including Inger Andersen, Enrique Lahmann, Sebastia Semene-Guitart and Frank Hawkins. A digested summary of comments includes the following:
1) [Andy Hooten with Commission on Ecosystem Management]: on the subject of Inspiring a New Generation; we have been working on decade-long project to convert science into advice on policy including graduate students getting involved in 4-5 day long forum; believes a particular demographic is important (those about to move into professional positions such as managers, decision makers, etc); with U Queensland trying to develop a Future Leaders Network
   a) [Inger]: even this RCF skews older; we need to focusing on bringing on board that next generation; National Committee of Canada has two youth members
2) [Leigh Welling with NPS]: how was the situational assessment done? There is a surprising omission; emerging threats in high latitudes is really urgent, highlighted by US hosting WCC; terrestrial and marine realms in Arctic
   a) [Inger]: Arctic, alpine, etc. are core; maybe we need to put more emphasis; SSC in Arctic are very active; IUCN has observer seat on Arctic Council; let’s take a look at document to make sure it adequately reflects this
3) [Charlotte Moser for Commission on Ecosystem Management]: landscapes and livelihoods; upcoming World Ecosystem Congress ¼ participants from China, the rest young professionals
4) [Kristen Walker, CI]: re: inspiring a new generation, indigenous leadership; how about awards for indigenous peoples; indigenous community Membership; concern over ‘motion fatigue’ at the WCC
   a) [John Robinson]: need to think about collaborative efforts to develop a funding stream to fund such awards
   b) [Enrique]: Council has the ability to confer awards; there is the possibility to develop new awards, there has been work already to focus on a youth award; re: motions, we are taking steps to address the issue and a new resolutions platform; maybe we will retire some of the motions that are no longer necessary
   c) [Inger]: “Passing 200 resolutions is not the way to have an impact”; perhaps use e-voting process for issues that do not need floor time
   d) [George Green]: we used to have seat at the table guided by IYP for a young professional; greatly encourage council members to add seat at the table at next council for a YP
5) [Sue Lieberman from WCS and SSC Steering Committee]: using the WCC to focus on lessons learned; focus on North America in Pacific Rim; program seems thin on marine considering WCC in Hawaii; coming off WPC, great outcomes on wilderness and World Heritage; there should be significant attention on World Heritage Sites and intact ecosystems (this, along with species conservation, in turn will help inspire multiple generations)
   a) [Sebastia]: IUCN marine program is good at bringing marine community together
6) [Lauren Wenzel from NOAA]: we’d like to see more engagement with business; ask businesses HOW to best reach out to businesses
   a) [George Green]: been a lightning rod; in US great opportunity to engage with private sector in a broader way
   b) [Inger]: need to get out of rooms where “everyone is nodding”; acknowledges Business and Biodiversity Program
7) [Diana Allen with Healthy Parks/Healthy People, NPS]: acknowledge the IUCN has recognized human health and wellbeing in program; growing body of evidence and data; WHO and PanAmerica Health working on important document on policy review on access to nature for health
   a) [John Robinson]: Science paper showing correlation between health of people living near nature areas
   b) [Sebastia]: agrees program for Healthy Parks Healthy People is strong at WCC; intergenerational selection criteria has been added to guidelines for integration into every WCC event
8) [Kate Newman with WWF]: extraordinary to see Pope’s comments; Pope needs backup; take advantage of this moment in time or we’ll miss the boat; maybe we need a journey on cultural and spiritual connection with nature
   a) [Keith]: IUCN and its platform needs to talk about morality
   b) [Inger]: certainly something to explore
9) [Paul Salaman Rainforest Trust]: great that finally WCC is in US; what can 92 Members and affiliates from US contribute to the WCC?
   a) [Randall Tanaka with WCC National Host Committee]: take advantage, act collectively…
   b) [Inger]: certain things that every member can do for union; we hope to raise collective awareness for what the union stands for in the US; not looking to overshadow members; we’re not as known in the US outside the conservation community, unlike in Europe; speak about the ‘IUCN World Conservation Congress’; there are some more large organizations that we would like as members; we would like to influence conversations at more levels; hope spirit of Hawaii is carried forward (powerful, inclusive, peace, balance); in Sydney, the indigenous voice was NOT a ‘side voice’, it was their congress too
   c) [John Robinson]: creation of US National Committee will perhaps help
   d) [Frank]: US has great legacy (the ‘good idea of national parks’) we can harness and push forward; more unified voice would drive that message further if we had a mechanism; having a regional US committee would help
10) [Nora Mitchell with US ICOMOS]: general optimism
11) [Mary Klein with NatureServe]: we work with sub-national bodies; how can IUCN draw in these groups to the WCC?; in Latin America, there is growing distrust b/w NGO community and governments, making things more difficult; would like to use WCC as a venue to acknowledge this split and discuss why; let’s get the WCC on the radar of the philanthropic community in the US (Jeju had a panel of philanthropic foundations)
   a) [Inger]: acknowledges mayors and local governments have an incredible say; we can assist in creating platforms for Latin American NGO issue
12) [Richard Cellarius with Sierra Club]: very few of Sierra Club members and board know anything about IUCN or thinks being a member is useful; there’s no organizational or operational aspects in the program
   a) [Inger]: we have 1000 members with different scales and interests, so operational details do not belong in the program; we have not been as good with our value prop as we should be
   b) [Enrique]: a challenge to reach the members of our members
13) [Barbara Bramble with NWF and board member of IUCN-US]: so glad about youth engagement integration at WCC; I don’t know what to do about lack of NWF people knowing about IUCN; NWF has a lot of programs that could be linked with WCC regarding youth engagement
   a) [Inger]: we need to make sure you can connect to someone; we could refine our five asks; we need to amplify ourselves; for WCC, US media will be critical
14) [Russ Mittermeier, CI]: enormous media opportunity with WCC being held in the US; we should highlight birds, plant, invasives as a hook for US-based media

Between 1:30 – 2:30 George Greene, Regional Councilor led a discussion on Governance reforms. The intent was to seek inputs and feedback from Members on:
- Elections procedure, accreditation and statutory deadlines
- Proposals for governance improvements and reforms, including new Member categories (Indigenous Peoples Organizations, local and subnational Governments)
- Members Assembly's authority
- Reforms proposed through the consultations on the Framework of Action for Strengthening the Union

Comments on this session:
Inclusion of Indigenous People’s Organisations as a new category of member
- Comment: A separate category might not be needed if we stop “branding” the current category B as “the NGO category” and make it more inclusive. However, if IPOs want a separate category, we should follow their wish
- Comment: The current number of IPO members (8) should not be a factor in deciding for one option or the other. Creating a new category for 8 organisations would not make sense, but much more IPOs will join if they have a category

Local and regional authorities as members.
1) Comment: It seems that growth in category 2 is not controversial, thus I don’t understand why would it be discussed.
   a) Answer: Option 2 makes changes that some members would see as affecting them their way of voting. Option 2 is for government agencies, and of course local and regional authorities have interests that overlap with national agencies.
2) Comment: Are there local agencies that have shown interest of being members and vote?
   a) Answer: yes, we consulted with groups and there is interest in Latin America and Canada, plus Europe (though split).
3) Government agencies will have one vote collectively, there is a fourth new vote shares by government agencies.
4) Level of oppositions: ICLI was opposed but now they believe there is a benefit on the new voting system.

Election of the IUCN President
- No issues.

See presentation in Appendix 7

Between 2:45 – 4.00 a series of Breakout Groups discussed issues of interest to members. Below is a report back of discussions and the next steps and the participants in each group.

Biodiversity Offsets – Steve Edwards, IUCN
1) Resolution was passed at WCC 2012 to develop a policy on biodiversity offsets:
- Establishes a working group to look at elements of the union, recommendations for council, continue working on these issues
- Resolution uses evidence based analysis, weaknesses and strengths – to strong and weak governments: broad ranges of data & accessibility

2) Technical Study group
- Technical study paper
- Consultation process

3) Elements of Draft Policy
- Key Elements of Biodiversity Offsets include: Measurement and exchange offsets, additionality, funding/feasibility, Timeframe, Uncertainty, Monitoring evaluation, external verification, & Governance and permanence

4) Consultation Process: Regional conservation forums. Available online, learn more and participate; Comments will be made publically available on IUCN website www.iucn.org/offsets.
- Contact: steve.edwards@iucn.org and Rachel.asante-owusu@iucn.org to know more

5) Future work:
- Guidance of additionality, leadership on safeguard review, capacity building, policy drivers, work with governments; Marine realm, knowledge products; IBAT; expand collaboration with members

Names of Participants:
Dave Waldien, Mary Klein, Katlyn Scholl, Marcelo Tognelli, Diana Allen, Aaron Reuben

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services- Laurance Perianan, IUCN
- Timely and important topic, particular advantage being located in Hawaii; our goal is for this topic to be used to inform good conservation practice
- Many themes: e.g. Learning from indigenous populations and traditional knowledge, human cultural understanding, spiritual values, learning from the past, species with special cultural value--many can inform our adaptation to climate change and sustainability
- Therefore, we would like to contribute to the World Conservation Congress in order to learn from a series of innovative case studies to compile evidence of the benefits, the range of methodologies, and learning to speak a common language. All of this could be compiled into a new management guideline
- Because of multiple content themes and the desire for resolution and guidelines, we’d like to propose a journey at the congress

Action points-
- to continue upgrading Members knowledge on IPBES, during RCFs but also at national level through the IPBES USA National Focal Point,
- to set-up dedicated action to empower Members to communicate on IPBES in and through their organization, and
- to take the advantage of WCC 2016 to make an event / workshop on IPBES jointly with IPBES secretariat.

Names of Participants: Greg Mueller, Laurence Perianan, Jeff Duke, Carter Ingram
Energy and Climate Change
Richard Ottinger, Pace Law School

- IUCN should give priority to the root causes of climate change
- Advocate the Paris agreement should not be limited to a binding agreement
- Provisions should be made for inclusion of non-national organizations’ contributions in the COP21 agreement
- IUCN should encourage competition among cities and states for energy conservation
- Encourage participants to support the UNDESA award to IUCN to promote renewable energy in developing countries. Contact Richard Ottinger at rottinger@law.pace.edu for more info
- Invite Pope Francis to speak at World Conservation Conference, or award him with honorary membership of IUCN

Names of Participants: Leigh Welling, Nick Bryner, Jay Pendergrass, Ali Raza, Charlotte Moser, Late Segarra, Larry Williams

US National Committee
Paul Salaman, Rainforest Trust, and Richard Cellarius, CEESP

- Agenda and Action points
- Explore need for committee and the potential value
- Discuss internally via US Councilor (John) and share example bylaws and procedures
- Reconvene at 14th September meeting in San Francisco to discuss further
- Work towards establishing the committee ahead of the WCC
- Hold first formal meeting at WCC in Hawaii

Names of Participants: Paul Salaman, Melissa Cadwallader, Richard Cellarius, Peter Ward, Randy Tanaka, Enrique Lahmann, John Robinson, Debbie Good, Davia Palmeri, Russ Mittermeier

Inspiring a New Generation – Nancy Colleton, CEC

- Almost everyone is doing something in this space. The programs already exist, so how will they be enlisted?
- You need to feel it, you need to see it, and you need to love it
- ING needs to be integrated in all platforms at WCC
- It’s more than sharing best practice
- We’ve started with the inward brand (‘ING’), but we need a new hook for an outward campaign

Names of Participants:
- Diana Allen, Keith Wheeler, Steve Olson, Barbara Bramble, Josh Maytemma, Stephen Morris, Steve Watkins

Natural Capital
Will Turner, CI and Gernot Brodning, IUCN

IUCN PRINCIPLES
- People need nature. But it’s value is not considered in most decisions. NC recognizes nature as an asset to be valued and managed for its useful benefits to people. This
allows people, governments, companies, investors, and others to integrate the value of nature into their investments and decisions.

- NC should be guided toward addressing the broad range of values of nature.
- NC and other forms of capital are not fully substitutable.

NEEDS

- NC should be integrated in global decision-support platforms that integrate the whole value of nature into decisions of all relevant actors.

PROCESS

- We look forward to processes leading up to and including WCC to produce shared, consistent vision of NC principles, needs, and a path forward.

Names of Participants:
- Neil Cox, David Reynolds, Will Turner

Celebrating the importance of nature in culture

Nora Mitchell, US ICOMOS, and Alan Downer, State of Hawaii, Energy and Climate Change

- Timely and important topic, particular advantage being located in Hawaii; our goal is for this topic to be used to inform good conservation practice
- Many themes: e.g. Learning from indigenous populations and traditional knowledge, human cultural understanding, spiritual values, learning from the past, species with special cultural value—many can inform our adaptation to climate change and sustainability
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- Because of multiple content themes and the desire for resolution and guidelines, we’d like to propose a journey at the congress.

Names of Participants: Marcy Rockman, Susan Lieberman, Jennifer Ewald, Noor Johnson, Jon Putnam

IUCN in the Caribbean- Spencer Thomas

GOVERNANCE

- There needs to be an discussion of how we are going manage the Caribbean initiative out of Meso America so we need to revisit the structure and create space for both ORMA and Washington, DC
- Connect Gulf of Mexico & Caribbean
- Actively engage Suriname, Guyana, Belize, (SIDS), Caricom
- The communication among the members of the Caribbean could be improved.
- There’s an opportunity of changing relationships between Cuba and the US
FOCUS
- Food, water and energy security
- Ecosystem-based management & protected areas management
- Invasive and Land based pollution & waste management
- Tourism sector
- IUCN Island Programme

Names of Participants: Spencer Thomas, Miriam Kudzee, Christine Chau, Charlotte Moser, Scott Hajost

The conclusions of the breakouts were presented in plenary between between 4.00 – 5.15, after which Enrique Lahmann briefly summarized the process envisaged for the Resolutions Platform- See presentation in Appendix 8

Between 5:15 – 6.30 Frank Hawkins gave a summary of next steps, focusing on the mechanisms to deliver improvements to the 2017-2020 programme of work. Each participant was presented with a copy of the IUCN Red List -50 Years of Conservation book and macadamia nuts from Hawaii.

And at 6.30 we all adjourned to the Reception that was hosted by the National Zoo at the Panda House

Evaluation of the event
An informal review of the event by the organisers and facilitators came up with the following analysis:

Positive aspects
- We had a lot of very energetic volunteers from a range of projects housed in the DC office and from staff from other organisations. This meant that the logistics and support were handled very efficiently. Debbie provided great coordination
There was a good deal of goodwill and spontaneous enthusiasm, in discussions, in the breaks and especially at the reception.
The venue was a great success- everyone enjoyed the zoo
The sessions were well organized, kept to time and the discussions were rich and informative
Breakout Sessions worked very well, even though we had limited space in the building.
We had several very successful breakout sessions outside, in 85F heat (~30C)
We organized the event on Whats app and the note-taking on google docs and this simplified the management of the reporting
Each member introduced themselves at the start, which helped enormously with interactions during breaks

Opportunities for improvement
- nametags - the font was too small
- signposting and labelling breakout space more conspicuously
- a map of the location at registration showing the breakout spaces would have helped
- the presentation on the members forum was hard to read as the font was too small
- It would have been good to have two dedicated microphone people
- We had a team of dedicated note-takers during the plenary sessions, but many of the comments were very technical and really needed people identified by the presenters to take notes that were meaningful for that subject. A particular gap was the session on governance reform late in the afternoon.
- More clarity on how the breakout subjects had been selected- some were not well attended and there was demand for others that we could not deliver owing to lack of space
- Member RSVPs- many people came who had not RSVPed
- Participant diversity- it would have been good to ask each organization to bring a youth representative
- Instead of a single breakout, it might have been possible to arrange 2x45 min break-outs
- Phone call-to follow up would provide more material for a participant survey
- photos of members working at the sessions would have helped in producing the report
- breakfast was just patisserie- some people would have liked a wider selection
- The caterers provided a reasonable lunch and coffee-break snacks but it could have been more organic and sustainably produced.

RCF Participant List:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Lorena</td>
<td>Aguilar IUCN</td>
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<td>Ali IUCN</td>
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<td>Diana</td>
<td>Allen National Park Service</td>
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<td>Inger</td>
<td>Andersen IUCN Director General</td>
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<td>Kat</td>
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<td>Emmett</td>
<td>Boyer IUCN</td>
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<td>Barbara</td>
<td>Bramble National Wildlife Federation</td>
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<td>Glynnis</td>
<td>Breen National Geographic Society</td>
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<td>Kate</td>
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<td>Nick Bryner</td>
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<td>Richard Cellarius</td>
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<td>Christine Chau</td>
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<td>Gonzalo Cid, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Office of National Marine Sanctuaries</td>
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<td>Eric Coppenger</td>
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<td>Andrew Deutz</td>
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WCEL: WCC National Host Committee
IUCN-US Board
US ICOMOS
US Park Service
IUCN-Commission on Ecosystem Management
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Pace Law School
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Environmental Law Institute
IUCN Knowledge & Science Unit
US Park Service
IUCN
IUCN/US Park Service
Wildlife Conservation Society/US Councilor
US National Park Service
IUCN
IUCN
US State Department
BOEM
IUCN
PCI Media Impact
WCC National Host Committee
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
IUCN Councilor - Caribbean
IUCN Biodiversity Assessment Unit
Conservation International/ IUCN Species Survival Commission
IUCN
Bat Conservation International
Conservation International
US Fish and Wildlife Service
IUCN CEC Applicant
WCPA, SSC, CEM
US Parks Service
NOAA
IUCN-US Board
Sierra Club
Pew Charitable Trust