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6-8 November 2019, Islamabad

Report on the

7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum

Greening Asia for People and Nature

6-8 November 2019, Islamabad, Pakistan





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Introduction

The Asia Regional Office of IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, organised its 7th Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 6 to 8 November 2019 at the Islamabad Serena Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. IUCN holds Regional Conservation Forum every four years ahead of IUCN's World Conservation Congress (WCC), also held every four years. The next IUCN Congress will be held in Marseille, France from 11 to 19 June 2020¹.

The 7th Asia Regional Conservation Forum was co-hosted by the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, and the IUCN National Committee of Members in Pakistan. Over 500 participants attended this RCF from 35 countries. The Honourable Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Imran Khan, inaugurated the event. The closing session was addressed by the Honourable President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi and IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng.

A region under pressure

Asia is home to extraordinary biodiversity – with five of the countries considered to be among the world's 17 mega-diverse and eight of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots found in the region. Nature is at the heart of Asian culture and is also a source of livelihood for millions of people in the region.

Unfortunately, these resources are increasingly at risk as rapid socioeconomic and urban growth puts increasing strain on the ecosystems that sustain them. The last few years have seen natural disasters increasing, marine plastics progressively creeping into our food chain, and local jobs that depend on healthy ecosystems being threatened.

Outcomes

By addressing the biodiversity and ecosystem challenges in an open and inclusive platform, discussions held during the Forum were vital contributions that will 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 IUCN Congress;
- provide inputs on the formulation of IUCN's Programme for 2021-2024;
- provide inputs 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 2020 WCC

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Government of France have decided to postpone the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 in Marseille to 7-15 January 2021 from its original date of 11-19 June."

In addition, the new Chair of the Asia Regional Committee was elected and expressions of interest for the 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 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum may be accessed at the website <https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/about/asia-regional-conservation-forum/rcf-2019>. The presentations summarized in the following pages are available for download [here](#).



His Excellency, Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, delivering his keynote address as Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum 2019, in Islamabad, Pakistan on November 6, 2019.

Head table (L to R): Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania; Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President; Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change; and Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN's Acting Director General.

Session I: IUCN Towards 2024



The first session commenced with the screening of the IUCN Congress video, 'We are the generations'.

IN PICTURE

Top left: Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania; Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President; and Prime Minister Imran Khan, standing for the national anthem.

Top right: Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN's Acting Director General, delivering her remarks at the first session.

Key-note address

IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng

IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng referred to the vision and mission of IUCN and the importance of the RCF as a regional strategy for global collaboration leading to the World Conservation Congress in Marseille. He then mentioned of Asia being a key driver of global change including accounting for 60% of the world's population as well as 60% of global economic growth in 2019 and facing challenges of poverty, inequality and unchecked economic development. He also spoke of the environmental challenges being faced by Asia including in the eight (8) biodiversity hotspots in the region, plastic pollution due to rapid urbanisation and habitat degradation caused by land use conversion. He then turned to importance of Asia RCF and mentioned some of the large initiatives in Asia, including Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) Indo-Burma eco-region regional implementation, Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs), and Mangroves for the Future Initiative (MFF).



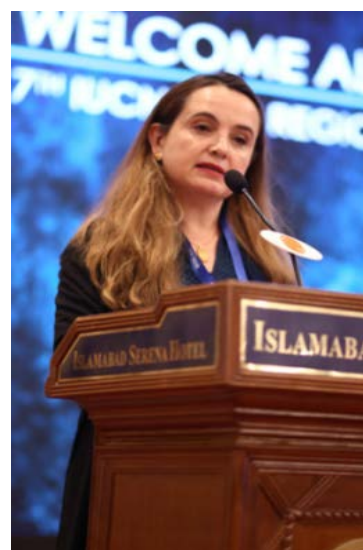
President Xinsheng spoke of the need for more transformational change including learning from each other, embracing local governments, subnational and local authorities and IUCN playing a critical role in bringing about this transformational change. He subsequently referred to the leadership role being played by the IUCN Council with its three pronged approach in terms of bringing about internal reform: 1) To build a diversified unity; 2) to enhance governance; and 3) to keep pace of the time and focus on strategic priorities. The President of IUCN concluded his presentation with slides on the IUCN Congress on making the Congress a milestone and on how it can be made a forum at which global consensus and resolutions for nature and biodiversity can be reached through the proposed high-level political forum at the IUCN Congress along with the support of the IUCN membership.

Vision for IUCN

Dr. Grethel Aguilar

IUCN Acting Director General

IUCN Director General Dr. Grethel Aguilar welcomed the participants by mentioning how grateful, honoured, and impressed she was by seeing the number of IUCN Members and partners at the RCF and thanked all for their attendance. She stated that the vision and mission of IUCN being more relevant than ever as it reflects justice, integrity and equity and that biodiversity cannot be saved without taking care of humanity. She also highlighted the significance of IUCN being a powerful Union of Members, Commission Members and the Secretariat. Dr. Aguilar subsequently presented slides on the growth of the membership and mentioned that along



with the growing number of Members, the diversification of membership ranging from small

organisations working with communities to State Members that position IUCN to deliver policy and influence for nature conservation goals are also increasing. Asia is the second largest statutory membership region with 279 Members. IUCN achieves its mission by providing knowledge and tools, unique convening space, and implementing actions of the ground.

Dr. Aguilar provided an update on the Draft Global Programme 2021-2024 that aligned with global commitments such as the SDGs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments. She then presented slides on the IUCN Asia programme including the key programmatic achievements of the programme that has the biggest portfolio of all the IUCN Secretariat regions. She concluded her presentation by inviting all participants at the RCF to the IUCN Congress in Marseille which is expected to have more than 14, 000 participants. She looked forward to the next few days of the RCF on deliberations towards achieving a just planet.

Pakistan's conservation priorities

Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan

Federal Secretary Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy commenced his speech by expressing the gratitude of Government of Pakistan in organising the RCF in Islamabad. He then highlighted the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the environment by introducing electric cars, the 10 billion trees Tsunami initiative and noted that IUCN was a strong partner that would support independent validation of the implementation of the 10 Billion Trees Tsunami Initiative. He concluded by reiterating his gratitude and pleasure in organising and co-hosting the RCF and looked forward to discussions and deliberations over the next three days.

Session II Inaugural session



IN PICTURE

Top left: Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania delivering her remarks at the inaugural session of the 7th Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

Top right: Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, speaking during the inaugural session of the 7th Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

This session started with the arrival of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Imran Khan. This was followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran.

Welcome remarks and video

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji

Regional Director, Asia and Director, Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania, IUCN



Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji welcomed His Excellency Mr. Khan and referred to his leadership on environmental issues and his endeavour to green Pakistan. She explained that as per the Landsat, the only two places in the world where forest cover had increased were China and India. She said she was confident that Prime Minister Imran Khan's 10 Billion Tree Tsunami programme too would substantially contribute to the planet's green cover growth.

She also noted that over the past four decades, rapid economic growth had given rise to a series of environmental challenges, very similar to what many other countries in the region have been facing: air and water pollution; loss of biodiversity and deforestation.

She appreciated IUCN's collaboration with Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change terming it pivotal in setting the national agenda, and in developing strategies and action plans aimed at addressing environmental concerns in the country. Subsequently, a video on IUCN Congress 2020 in Marseille, France was screened.

Address

Dr. Grethel Aguilar

IUCN Acting Director General



Dr. Grethel Aguilar thanked His Excellency the Prime Minister of Pakistan for being present at the inaugural session of the Islamabad RCF. She highlighted the importance of the year 2020 including the organising of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, CBD COP 15 in Kunming, China and the coming into effect of the Paris Climate Agreement. She expressed concern that the planet was at a critical stage evident from the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Hence, the need for expedited action on implementation of SDG 14 and 15 that implied maintaining economic growth and development while conserving biodiversity and natural resources.

Dr. Aguilar then appreciated Pakistan's conservation efforts including the commitment to the Bonn Challenge through the

Billion Tree Tsunami initiative in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that had led to the restoration of 350,000 hectares and welcomed the nation-wide 10 Billion Tree Tsunami programme. She then expressed gratitude to the IUCN Asia Secretariat for organising the RCF and mentioned that she looked forward to the deliberations by the Members in Asia towards halving species loss. She concluded by thanking the Government of Pakistan.

Address

Honourable Mr Malik Amin Aslam

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President



His Excellency Mr. Malik Amin Aslam referred to the conservation challenges across Asia. He then shared how his political party, Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), was the first ever in the history of Pakistan to embed green growth and nature conservation in their manifesto at the provincial level in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province and subsequently at the national level. He referred to the Prime Minister's 5-point agenda for moving towards a green economy: 1) 10 Billion Trees Tsunami; 2) Clean and Green Policy Index (CGPI); 3) Ban plastic bags; 4) RECHARGE Pakistan – recharging wetland ecosystems through restoration efforts; and 5) E-vehicle policy. He then mentioned that the success factors of the Billion Tree Tsunami initiative were women's involvement, community ownership and youth engagement that is being adopted as the key principles for the nation-wide 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative.

Address

Mr. Zhang Xinsheng

IUCN President



The IUCN President acknowledged the presence of the various distinguished people on the podium and then thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan for his leadership in nature conservation for the country. He referred to personally having participated in the launch of the Billion Trees Tsunami Initiative and lauded the launch of the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami initiative. He then mentioned the UN Climate Action Summit under the leadership of New Zealand and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China. The IUCN President emphasised the importance of turning the tide on critical environmental issues and spoke of the need to strengthen IUCN as a unique Union that could provide leadership role in terms of setting the planet's conservation agenda leading from the IUCN Congress in Marseille, France to the COP 15 in Kunming where the post 2020 Biodiversity

Framework will be adopted.

Address by the Chief Guest

Honourable His Excellency, Mr Imran Khan, Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Excellency commenced his speech by referring to the protection of the environment being a spiritual goal quoting Prophet Mohammed's words that referred to intergenerational equity in terms of need to live presently so that future generations 1,000 years later can live in the same manner. He highlighted the diversity of the country ranging from Himalayan Forests to deserts and tropical areas with the presence of variety of species. The Prime Minister then gave a personal anecdote from 30 years back to emphasise the explosive demographic growth witnessed in the country leading to pressures on the finite natural resources. He spoke of governments previously not being concerned too much about the environment as most decision-makers belong to urban areas and have no direct affinities with rural areas and nature.



Prime Minister Imran Khan giving his keynote address at the inaugural session of the 7th Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

According to him, amongst the many challenges the country is facing is climate change that Pakistan is among the top 10 nations in the world affected by it. He shared that the consequences of climate change will be far graver if we fail to act now as he mentioned such during the recent UN Council speech in September and reiterated the need for us all to realize the urgency of the situation. He furthered that Pakistan, as an agricultural country, is greatly affected by climate change. Extreme weather events, associated with climate change may cause sudden reductions in agricultural productivity, due to reduced soil productivity

and groundwater depletion. Accordingly, this poses a big challenge, especially as agriculture is a primary source of livelihood among rural communities.

He then reiterated the key success factors for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province's One Billion Trees Initiative and mentioned that the 10 Billion Trees initiative would require IUCN's support given the massive scale. He emphasised the importance of engaging the youth including inspiring young children towards nature conservation.

He mentioned that he admired IUCN's work including that of Ms. Kabraji, whom he has personally known since his childhood. His Excellency shared that Pakistan's partnership with IUCN will help us address some of the major environmental issues Pakistan faces. He ended by saying that the Forum, which has been held for the very first time in Pakistan, will serve as a venue for countries to be able to work together, strategize, and develop plans for the future.

Session III: IUCN Programme 2021-2024



IN PICTURE

Top Right: (Centre) Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar, former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor, during a session on Healthy Oceans.

Bottom left: (L to R) Ambassador Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor; Professor Ma Keping, Chair Asia Regional Committee; Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee

This session was introduced by Ambassador Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor. He noted that the session had been designed to provide an overview of the draft IUCN programme 2021-2024 as well as IUCN's evolving position on the post-2020 framework.

Presentation of the draft IUCN programme

Mr. Anshuman Saikia

Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia



Mr. Anshuman Saikia, Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia, gave a presentation on the draft IUCN programme 2021-2024, focusing on the processes used to develop the programme, the contents, and the arrangements for implementation. Mr. Saikia noted that the draft programme had been developed through an extensive consultative process, which had started nearly one year ago. The process will culminate in a programme design workshop, to be held in late 2019 in Switzerland, at which all the feedback received from Members will be considered. The next version of the programme will then be reviewed/approved by the Council in February 2020 and will be posted online before being debated at the IUCN Congress.

The draft programme has been designed to leverage existing assessments, such as those prepared by IPBES and UNFCCC. It is firmly embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals, and aligns with the evolving post-2020 biodiversity framework. The draft programme has been structured around four, inter-connected programme areas: 1) Healthy Lands and Waters; 2) Healthy Oceans; 3) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and 4) Equitable Governance of Natural Resources. Each of these programme areas is, in turn, structured around three pillars: 1) protection, 2) restoration, and 3) sustainable use. The strategic objectives in the draft programme are focused on the changes that IUCN would like to see, rather than activities.

Mr. Saikia then introduced each of the programme areas. Programme Area 1, Healthy Lands and Waters, is the traditional heartland of IUCN, focusing on issues related to biodiversity conservation, protected areas, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Key Biodiversity Areas and similar topics. It also seeks to scale-up IUCN's work in production landscapes, particularly in relation to restoration and sustainable agriculture. This programme area also highlights the importance of freshwater ecosystems. Programme Area 2 addresses Healthy Oceans. This is the first time that oceans have been identified as a separate theme in the IUCN programme. It is not a maritime programme *per se*, but rather, a programme to foster actions on both land and at sea, that will change marine ecosystems, e.g., work on marine plastics will take place largely on land.

Programme Area 3 addresses Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. It is the first time that climate change has been considered a separate IUCN programme area; previously, it was seen as a crosscutting strategy. It has now been identified as a separate programme area in recognition of the urgent need to scale up this work. Programme Area 4 addresses the theme of Equitable Governance of Natural Resources. It recognises the importance of

addressing issues related to gender, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities. It also recognises the importance of addressing inter-generational equity.

In terms of implementing the programme, Mr. Saikia noted that all of IUCN's constituencies – Members, Commissions, the Secretariat and partners – would have a critical role to play. It will also be important to embrace technology, data and innovation; foster inter-generational partnerships; promote gender equality and social inclusion; make full use of CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) and address issues related to financial sustainability.

IUCN's Position on the Post- 2020 Biodiversity Framework followed by discussion on linkages between the IUCN 2021-2024 Programme and the post 2020 global biodiversity framework

*Dr. Thomas Brooks
Chief Scientist IUCN*

Dr. Thomas Brooks gave a presentation on IUCN's evolving position on the post-2020 biodiversity framework. He sought to place the draft IUCN programme within the context of the “2020 nature super year”, which – amongst other events - will include the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille and CBD COP 15 in Kunming. He also noted that a number of biodiversity-related targets in the SDGs will expire in 2020 and will need to be refreshed. Within this context, Dr. Brooks stated that the key question is *“How do we frame IUCN's input in what may possibly be the single-most important year for nature in history?”*



Dr. Brooks observed that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity has been widely implemented and many positive actions have been undertaken. However, these have not been sufficient to reverse the drivers of biodiversity loss. The Global Biodiversity Outlook has revealed that we need to do more. *How can we take the successes of the last decade to scale globally, to address the drivers of biodiversity loss?*

Dr. Brooks emphasised that it is important not to focus only on the negative. It is true that there have been dangerous declines, but there have also been glimpses of hope. Analyses undertaken by the IUCN Commissions has demonstrated that conservation works. It is clear that the state of nature would have been much worse without our conservation interventions.

The CBD has established an Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Framework. The second meeting of the group will take place in Kunming in 2020. The group is gathering input on issues such as the structure of the post-2020 framework, its overall ambition, its mission and long-term vision, indicators to measure progress, etc.

IUCN has been providing input to all these areas, for submission to the CBD at each stage, based on consultation. These contributions can be found on the policy section of the IUCN website. Among the key points that have been highlighted by the IUCN submissions are the following:

- The post-2020 framework should be fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- It should be a truly global framework for biodiversity, which goes beyond the CBD;
- It should be comprised of science-based targets;
- Targets should be quantitative and scalable, and should encompass all elements of biodiversity (species, ecosystems and genetic diversity);
- The framework should aim to stop biodiversity loss by 2030, and to restore and recover biodiversity by 2050;
- The framework should enable commitments/voluntary contributions to be made by States as well as non-State actors;
- The framework needs to be developed and owned by all sectors of society;
- There is a need for regular monitoring in order to evaluate progress.

Dr. Brooks concluded his presentation by noting that the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille will provide a valuable and important opportunity to influence CBD COP 15.

Question and Answer Session

Mr. Teppei Dohke, from the Nature Conservation Society of Japan, noted that he had participated in the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The main focus had been on implementation; participants had recognised that it is important to have robust targets, but that implementation is key. In this regard, Mr. Dohke noted that National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal mechanism for promoting implementation. He suggested that IUCN should help NBSAPs to become more participatory and transparent. Central government has largely driven the old NBSAPs. Mr. Teppei Dohke also noted that the Members from Japan strongly support the engagement of youth. He recommended that IUCN's youth engagement strategy be enhanced, not only in WCC, but also, throughout the entire IUCN programme.

A representative from an NGO in Pakistan expressed his view that the concept of knowledge management is missing from the draft IUCN programme. He noted that IUCN's strength lies in its Members and partners, and highlighted the need to learn from local experience and to compile and disseminate best practices.

Professor Ma Keping, from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, announced that President Macron and President Xi Jinping had just released a joint declaration on biodiversity and climate change, which included specific references to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020 and CBD COP 15. Professor Ma suggested that "bending the curve" should be included in the post-2020 framework, since it incorporates the aim of halting biodiversity loss as well as restoration.

In response to these various points and queries, Mr. Anshuman Saikia noted that many Members are working on youth engagement. With regard to knowledge management, he

drew attention to the last slide in his presentation, in which CEPA (Communications, Education and Public Awareness) had been identified as a key enabler. With regard to agriculture, he drew attention to Programme Area 3.3, which seeks to reduce the biodiversity impacts of sectoral responses to climate change. Dr. Thomas Brooks noted that “bending the curve” would enable contributions from all sectors of society. However, he also observed that it is possible to address the drivers of biodiversity loss right now.

Session IV: Plenary Programme Session

Report on the IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee (ARMC)

Professor Ma Keping, Chair Asia Regional Committee

Professor Ma Keping gave an overview presentation on the achievements of the Asia Regional Members Committee in the last four years clarifying that the elections of the Members Committee will be held right after the current session. He introduced the membership in Asia with reference to the composition and role of the Asia Regional Committee and its participation in the meetings of the Global Group of Members, which was set up at the last WCC. Professor Ma then highlighted some of the major activities of the ARMC such as annual meetings of ARMC organised every year from 2016 onwards, organising of the RCF preparatory committee meeting in Islamabad in April 2019 and organising of the Northeast Asia tripartite annual meetings. He then referred to the key role played by him as the Chair of the ARMC in supporting the organising of the Second World Forum on Ecosystem Governance in 2018 and also the first World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in 2019. Professor Ma updated the audience on the Asia Members report that he had initiated, the latest being for 2018 which documented the important work of IUCN Members. He concluded by outlining some suggestions for improvements and next steps and also by reminding those individuals interested for Regional Councillor positions to contact him by email before the deadline.



Session V: Plenary Programme Session



IN PICTURE

Top left: Syed Abul Fazal Rizvi, CEO of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) presenting progress on the vulture conservation project underway jointly with IUCN Pakistan.

Top right: IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng with IUCN members.

Bottom Left Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee, leading a Special Session at RCF.

i) Healthy Lands and Waters

Introduction and overview

Asia hosts an incredible diversity of species and ecosystems but this diversity is under pressure. Urbanisation and climate change drive large-scale habitat loss and degradation. Asia suffers from massive illegal wildlife trade pressure. This loss is evidenced by the high number of species from Asia listed in the IUCN Red-List of Threatened Species™ .

The proposed IUCN programme result is that *key biodiversity areas and the ecological integrity of production landscapes are conserved and restored, coupled with the securing of management plans for fresh water resources and environmental net gain*. To achieve this result, IUCN will pursue the following key results:

1. All key biodiversity areas (KbAs) are conserved;
2. Ecological integrity of production landscapes restored;
3. Integrated management of freshwater resources secured for nature and people; and,
4. Environmental net gain from industrial activities and infrastructure secured

The achievements from IUCN Asia to date include the identification and promotion of new freshwater KbAs, hundreds of grants given to CSOs through the CEPF, and the implementation of APAP Programme. Restoration efforts were supported by mainstreaming the ROAM approach in the region and promoting FLR approaches and the Bonn challenge with seven countries providing pledges amounting to 24 million hectares in Asia. Large initiatives on transboundary river basins in Asia, the Mekong and the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basins led to strengthened cooperation of all stakeholders, and the strengthening of knowledge and capacity to better manage natural resources.

Future priorities include rolling out the Green List of Protected Areas and conserved areas, implement the large GEF programme, The Restoration Initiative, strengthen the support to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and continue working with the private sector.

Presentation by panellists

Panellists:

- Mr. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Environment, Wildlife and Forest Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, Pakistan
- Dr. Srijana Joshi Rijal, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
- Dr. Anita Varghese, Keystone Foundation, India
- Dr. Zhi Xin, Beijing Forest Society, China

Mr. Shahid Khan gave a presentation referring to the government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa led Billion Tree Afforestation project, an initiative to increase forest coverage by 2% in five years, rehabilitate degraded forests, establish rules for REDD+ and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The project led to an increased forest cover in the province from 20.3% to

26% and provided 0.5 million green jobs. The restored landscape enabled the stabilisation of landslides and positive attitudinal and behavioural change toward forest ecosystems in the country.

Dr Joshi mentioned that in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya region, ICIMOD has been working jointly with governments on the restoration of transboundary mountain landscapes to sustain ecosystem goods and services to improve livelihoods, and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio cultural resilience to environmental changes. ICIMOD is working using a science-based approach and an integrated landscape management approach. It included gender and social inclusiveness strategies and looked at upscaling research/ practice into policy.

Dr Anita Varghese gave a presentation on her work in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in southern India where restoration efforts were implemented to enhance the quality of life and the environment by applying eco-development approaches for indigenous communities in the mountain areas. In a growing urbanisation context, the restoration and conservation of shola grassland mosaic is leading to the restoration of functions, habitats and water resources in the area.

Dr Zhi Xin presented on the experience in the Miyun Watershed in China; restoration efforts led to an increase of forest coverage from 1.3% in 1950 to 43.5% in 2018. A Sino-German cooperation project (2008-2015) supported the strengthening of restoration efforts and the development of forest management plans and training courses.

Wrap-up/Key Messages

The session illustrated the multiples benefits of restoration, beyond benefits for biodiversity only. These initiatives all led to socio-economic improvements by providing water, livelihoods and in some cases employment for local communities. These initiatives contribute to meeting commitments of States under several global conventions and frameworks including the CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC (NDCs) and SDGs (e.g. SDG 6, 13 and 15).

In all cases, partnerships were identified as a key element of success, through the joint involvement of governments, local communities and the private sector. Local examples can serve as a basis for the development of large-scale restoration initiatives and can in some cases trigger policy changes at national level. Restoration programmes at transboundary level support strengthened cooperation, leading to large-scale benefits for countries.

ii) **Healthy Oceans**

Introduction and overview

Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar, Former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor in his opening remarks mentioned that the Planet should be called Planet Ocean instead of Planet Earth given that more than 65% of its surface is covered by oceans. He then invited Ms Maeve Nightingale, Senior Programme Officer, Coastal and Marine, IUCN Asia to give her overview presentation.

Maeve Nightingale commenced her presentation by mentioning that globally, Asia region is considered as the centre of marine biodiversity, being the home to 42% of the world's mangroves, and over 30% of seagrass beds. The Indo-Pacific accounts for 91% of the coral reefs in the world with 30% in SE Asia and 23% in the Indian Ocean region. In addition, countries of EAS region account for 80% of global aquaculture and around 60% of the world's captured fisheries.



Speakers during the session on Healthy Oceans, including Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar, Former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor (Center) and Ms. Ms Maeve Nightingale, Senior Programme Officer, Coastal and Marine, IUCN Asia (Left)

She then referred to the summary of the first global integrated marine assessment identifying that climate change and related changes in the atmosphere are having serious implications for the ocean. Ms Nightingale subsequently highlighted the issues in terms of Healthy Oceans in the Asia region to include the following:

- Impacts of climate change on Oceans;
- Exploitation of living marine resources exceeding sustainable levels;
- Over exploitation and depletion of fish stocks;
- Threats to fisheries and food security as small-scale fisheries are a critical source of livelihoods and food security;
- Increasing inputs from human populations, industrial and agricultural production such as plastics pollution;
- Increasing pressure on marine biodiversity;
- Increasing use of coastal and ocean space leading to increasing conflict and cumulative pressure;
- Cumulative impacts and lack of integrated coastal management; and,
- Gaps in knowledge, skills and capacity, and resources for undertaking more coherent integrated management approaches.

Ms. Nightingale referred to the Secretariat's Healthy Oceans related, ongoing, and past programmatic initiatives including Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and emphasised that there is a need to adopt integrated analytical approaches to address the challenges faced by the coasts and oceans. She then presented the draft key results for the Healthy Oceans Programme Area being: 1) ecological integrity of the oceans secured; 2) strengthen coastal resilience; and 3) oceanic and coastal conservation outcomes enhanced.

Presentation by panellists

Panellists:

- Mr. Abdul Jabbar, Chief Conservator Balochistan Forest Department, Government of Balochistan Pakistan
- Ms. Benjamas Chotthong, Thailand Environment Institute, Thailand
- Ms Meher Noshirwani, Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources and CEESP focal point for Gender, Pakistan
- Ms. Ting Chen, Director of Academic Outreach, Shenzhen Dapeng Coral Conservation Volunteer Federation (Dive for Love)

Mr. Abdul Jabbar initially referred to the ecological hotspots along the coast of Balochistan including Ramsar sites, mangrove forests, Astola Island Marine Protected Area, Hingol National Park, coastal rivers and the Churna Island that was being proposed as the next Marine Protected Area (MPA). He commended IUCN's support in declaring Astola Island as a MPA following the adoption of the WCC Hawaii Resolution. Mr. Jabbar then presented some of the challenges related to conservation of the coastal areas in Balochistan including impact of economic development, deforestation in mangrove areas, saline intrusion, habitat destruction and impact of climate change. He then spoke of the lessons learned from the work on declaring Astola as a MPA and then presented a slide on the way forward for Astola in terms of strengthening the effectiveness of the MPA. He concluded his presentation by referring to the Government of Balochistan's efforts in establishing two other MPAs, one being the Churna Island and the other one is the Miani Hor.

Ms. Benjamas Chotthong commenced her presentation with a discussion on the serious problem of plastic pollution in Thailand. Every year, 27 million tonnes of municipal waste is being generated. Marine debris accounts to more than 1/million tonnes a year, and waste generation rate being as high as 1.14kg/person/day with a recycling rate of only 26%.

She recognised the support provided by the Thailand Environment Institute's (TEI) to the Government of Thailand. TEI has committed to help the country in its efforts to move towards ending plastic waste by 2027. This aim includes developing the roadmap on the Cabinet-approved plastic waste management plan 2018-2030. This plan includes banning of three (3) plastic items by 2019 and another four (4) items by 2020. The establishment of joint venture with private companies to produce high-quality recycled PET and recycled HDPE plastic resins is also planned.

She concluded that it is more important to achieve reduction of plastic consumption than influencing consumer behaviour. She ended that establishing partners with the private sector in the development and production of high quality recycled plastics and identify alternatives to plastics is also important.

Ms. Meher Noshirwani started her presentation by emphasising the message that empowering women to conserve coastal and marine areas will lead to significant positive change. She then presented a slide on IUCN's key policy milestones related to mainstreaming gender equality including reference to IUCN's establishment of a working group in 1984. This is followed by the discussion on the 1996 Montreal WCC, which created a gender programme and policy followed by the adoption by the Council of a gender policy and action plan, and in 2019 adopted the gender mainstreaming strategy. Ms. Noshirwani mentioned on the IUCN-USAID study on gender in fisheries that revealed that women are very actively involved in the fisheries value chain. However, their needs are not reflected in the value chain and hence vital to empower women. She then referred to the work on Gender and Oceans that implied viewing the oceans from a gender lens. Ms. Noshirwani then updated the RCF on some of the gender equality mainstreaming work undertaken through the Mangroves for the Future Initiative in Pakistan specifically providing an example of the Keti Bunder project.



(Podium) Ms Meher Noshirwani, Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources and CEESP focal point for Gender, Pakistan, speaking as a panellist during the session

Ms. Ting Chen gave a presentation on marine protected areas policy and practice in China. She initially presented a slide on the underlying policies enabling Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) legislation such as the Eco redlining system, Eco-Civilization and the newly established National Parks system in China that recognises National Parks, Nature Reserves and Natural Parks. Ms Chen spoke of the three management systems for MPAs in China, exclusive management committee as in the case of the Sanya Coral Reef Nature Reserve, MPA co-managed with NGOs with Shenzhen Mangrove Ecological Park being an example and thirdly, civil protected area. The one, which is co-managed with NGOs, is characterised by community engagement in the open area or high seas, then also in terms of dynamism i.e., benefiting from the resource flows and thirdly being easily impacted by the surroundings.

Moderated panel discussion / Q&A

The Co-Chair Honourable Admiral Mr. Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, Chief of the Naval Staff of Pakistan Navy referred to the challenges oceans are facing, as they are increasingly becoming significant conduits for trade and commerce. He noted that the maritime industry contributes to generation of significant global goods is impacted by plastics.

Subsequently there was a facilitated Question and Answer session. Mr. Shahid Khan from Pakistan queried on whether there were any plans to include signboards informing that Astola was a MPA to dissuade any commercial activities. Also, the member queried on whether the government was trying to address the potential ecological problem of constructing a jetty on the Churna Island.

Mr. Antonio Claparols from the Philippines emphasised the critical state of the Coral Triangle coral reef ecosystems and raised concern on the increased economic and military activities in the area. In addition, he urged IUCN to convene an international marine symposium. Ms Nightingale responded that IUCN was proactively trying to address the challenges in the Coral Triangle and would consider organising such an international symposium.

Honourable Mr. Javed Jabbar concluded the session referring to the importance of enacting legislation and furthering advocacy. He highlighted the damage that had been done on the Exclusive Economic Zones because of unchecked economic activities including seabed mining. Mr. Jabbar mentioned that it might be important to consider revising the Law of the Sea.

iii) **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

Introduction and overview

Mr. Alex Mc William provided the background information and statistics on climate change and outlined the climate change associated impacts in Asia. He highlighted the new predictions on Sea Level Rise (SLR), which is expected to impact 300 million people affected in Asia by 2050. He stressed that nature is important in trying to adapt and mitigate climate change-related impacts.

Presentation by panellists

Panellists:

- Professor Ma Keping, Chair, ARMC, IUCN Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- Mr. Tashi Tobgyel, Chief Forestry Officer Department of Forests and Park Services, MoAF, Royal Government of Bhutan

- Mr. Binh P. Pham, Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Viet Nam
- Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, Center for Natural Resources Studies, CNRS, Bangladesh

Professor Ma Keping provided examples of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) in China, highlighting the application of natural rules for the development of urban areas. He explained that NbS policy and Eco-Civilization policy place nature and spiritual values at the centre of China's future development and how China is supporting important international dialogues on NbS, such as at the UN General Assembly in September 2018.

Prof Ma Keping further elaborated on the national planning policy. He explained that the plan focuses on function-oriented spatial planning with territory. These are divided into four areas such as (a) Areas for optimisation of environment, (b) Areas where environment is prioritised (ecosystem function zoning) - ecological space, production space, linear space, (c) Restricted use environment areas (the ecological red line initiative); and (d) the Prohibited environment area - farmland are safeguarding food, urban area control line (hold the line).



Panelists during the session on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Mr. Tashi Tobgyel, a Forestry Officer for one of 10 Protected Areas in Bhutan explained that Bhutan is a small country and will be graduating from a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a Medium Developed Country (MDC) in the near future. He explained that fifty percent of the country is covered by Protected Areas and had made the commitment that Bhutan will attain carbon neutrality at the COP 21 meeting in Paris in 2009. He explained that the Gross National Happiness (GNH) Philosophy guides Bhutan's development and that EbA approaches are already integrated into national policies and legislation such as the Constitution (2008), which stipulates that a minimum of 60% of the forest must be maintained (current cover is 71%).

Mr. Tashi Tobgyel explained that the Water Act of Bhutan 2003, 2011, 2014, 2016 adopts the IWRM principles, and that the National Forestry Policy 2003 supports Integrated Watershed management and the role of upstream communities in forest protection through PES schemes. He explained that the Food and Nutrition Policy 2012 supports EbA approaches for mainstreaming goods and services for food security and that Environmental Laws such as the Biodiversity Act of 2003 recognises biodiversity value, and supports the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

Bhutan has had a constitutional democracy since 2008, which outlines the role and responsibility of local government units and communities. He further highlighted that the

sustainable hydropower policy required a minimum of 1% reinvestment of profit into watershed management.

Mr. Binh P. Pham from Viet Nam provided some background information on Mekong Delta, a rich productive system with a large population, highly vulnerable to disasters, where developments along the river and upstream are undermining the integrity of the delta ecosystem as a whole. He explained that the recently developed Mekong Delta Plan suggests the wider use of NbS such as integrated aquaculture (complementing local knowledge) and outlined that it is the task of the government to intervene with policies and planning to promote NbS and prevent large-scale transformations within the delta. He included that provinces are encouraged to work together to achieve this. Lastly, he also mentioned that since the Mekong River is an international river, a transboundary NbS approach is necessary.

Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman from Center for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS) Bangladesh shared an example from small coastal islands in the Sundarbans, which accordingly is prone to impacts of climate change, focusing on the riverside land or *Char* land - barren land, which opens to the Sundarbans river systems. These areas are made productive through community based- mangrove restoration/ assisted mangrove restoration within fenced areas. This model shows that after six years, the forest is productive with dense mangrove patches colonized by shrimps, crabs, and fish. However, Mr. Mokhlesur emphasised that the future security of the people remains at risk as the land belongs to the government and how the decisions between the Forest Department and the Local Government regarding the question of local management/ stewardship rights for the people will pan out is still unclear.

He gave another example of Sri Mongol wetland site that is shrinking due to high deposition of sediment and experiencing huge fishing pressure. There are around 150 wetlands of different sizes and NbS solutions to management including cultivation of riparian vegetation, creation of corridor to reduce erosion, plantation of mangroves and excavation of canals to provide year round water source offers an ideal solution. The policy challenges remain with wetlands coming under the Ministry of Land as the 2009 wetland policy only recognizes fisher rights to access and does not include other users. After 10 years, the wetlands given to Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) are taken back and returned to traditional leaseholders who destroy the environment through short-term interests. Thus, even for wetlands that are ecologically stable the long-term policy support is not clear.

Moderated panel discussion / Q&A

During the facilitated Q&A, there were a number of queries raised by participants from Pakistan including on the impact of China's investments on Pakistan's environment including the coal-fired power plants in specific. Professor Ma Keping responded by mentioning that he was pleased to see interest in reducing China's impact which is what IUCN is trying to support the Chinese government to ensure that Chinese companies comply with environmental regulations beyond the boundaries of China.

Jennifer Mohamed - Katerere, Chair of the Governance Committee, provided the synthesis of the session. She posed some thought provoking questions and take home messages such as the reminder to keep in mind that NbS can only provide an adequate response if it is designed in an adequate way. Another is the consideration that NbS is all about harnessing

the power of nature with a focus on innovation. She also shared the question on How do we define NbS consistently – is NbS simply anything that includes nature as a component? Does NbS lead to Determinist way of thinking? How do we take on future planning thinking? NbS stories currently tend to be simplistic how do we best communicate lessons simply and maintain the complexity? Interrogation of our own IUCN NbS solution is important and we are developing the NbS Standards to lead this work.

The session concluded with the announcement that the Resolutions related to this subject would be presented in the afternoon and would relate to the idea of initiating a Climate change Commission and Biodiversity.

i) **Equitable Governance of Natural Resources**

Introduction and overview

Professor Amran Hamzah commenced the chairing of the session by recalling the long-term vision of IUCN as, a *just* world that values and conserves nature, that emphasises that conservation needs to be underpinned by effective governance of natural resources, which is essential to ensuring multiple benefits for people and nature. Equitable governance of NR is an overarching theme with associated key results for the 2021-2024 quadrennial programme. Myriad of examples from across the Asia region in particular illustrate promising practice for IUCN, from state and non-state collaboration across borders to effective engagement of – and results for – key stakeholders including women, youth and indigenous peoples, through participatory, inclusive, gender-responsive processes. Examples noted include:

- a hydrodiplomacy initiative, which involves transboundary governance in Asia, brings together 35 CSOs from five countries;
- the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), convenes governments, CSO and academia from five countries of Lower-Mekong region;
- the Yellow Sea Working Group facilitates dialogue between China, North Korea, and Republic of Korea;
- Mangroves for the Future has not only made small grants to IPO and women's organisations to strengthen government at local level, but also developed and applied a gender toolkit, to engage women as restoration leaders;
- the Billion Tree Tsunami exemplifies the importance of inclusive community engagement in design and implementation, for example with women involved in nursery raising;
- the Green List is championed as a global standard; and finally,
- the Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF) is a key framework developed and promoted by IUCN, at the leadership of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), and now co-hosted and championed by the Global Programme on Governance and Rights, for application across varying contexts.

Panel Discussion

Panellists:

- Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) – Ms Kristen Walker, Chair, CEESP
- Mr. Sanot Adhikari, Chairperson, Youth Alliance for Environment (YAE), Nepal
- Mr. Sovann Bunthai, Highlanders Association, Cambodia
- Mr. Doug Watkins, Chief Executive, East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat

Panellists shared governance strategies, insights and impact from across the Union, highlighting in particular the importance of youth and indigenous participation and leadership, the catalytic and diplomatic role IUCN can play in transboundary conservation, and IUCN's strategic investment in developing and applying a conceptual framework for greater governance outcomes through its NRGF.

CEESP Chair Kristen Walker recalled that governance came to the fore for IUCN in Jeju as Members called for the development of a conceptual framework, which was then integrated into the IUCN programme. Led by CEESP, the Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF) was developed through a robust multi-stakeholder process, including in regions. Envisioned as an overarching tool with multiple applications depending on context, the NRGF is anchored by ten guiding principles. An NRGF assessment is taking place right now in Tanzania, implemented by the Global Programme on Governance and Rights, which now co-hosts NRGF.

The priorities of youth and indigenous member organisations featured prominently in the session. Mr. Adhikari mentioned that *Youth Alliance for Environment (YAE)* is an IUCN member that works to empower youth, including restoring wetlands. Engaging the youth by including their voices is increasingly important to tackle global challenges, for example climate change. Youth are not always taken seriously or engaged in critical processes, but their involvement is crucial and fundamental to the rights and sustainable future of all. Youth must also be considered in rights-based multi-stakeholder processes and resources should be allocated for such.

Mr. Bounthai introduced *Highlanders Association*, an indigenous organisation from Cambodia and new member of IUCN. He shared best-practice examples and presented the five programmes related to NRM with local communities, including related to the right to food and advocacy around mining. During the presentation, it was mentioned that the indigenous peoples respected nature as they believed that nature manifested by mountains and lakes were spirits that protected them.

Dr. Doug Watkins mentioned that an example of an impactful multi-stakeholder partnership, the *East Asia – Australasia Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)* originally championed by Japan and Australia with a set of NGOs, works to conserve migratory water birds across the Asian-Australian flyway which, spans 22 countries. Eighteen countries are members of the partnership along with six INGOs and other organisations. The network includes 146 sites – which poses significant challenges for strengthening management of these sites. IUCN is an important convening and diplomacy partner in the EAAFP, in particular as a useful convener in developing an initiative around the Yellow Sea.

Moderated panel discussion / Q&A

Through discussion moderated by Professor Amran Hamzah and Mr Raphael Glemet, the participants raised numerous key issues, including the important and unique value-added function of IUCN, which is to foster inclusive governance processes, facilitating dialogue between government and non-governmental actors across all levels, and with key diverse stakeholders such as youth, women, and indigenous peoples.

Members highlighted that IUCN offers the unique space in which regional and transboundary partnerships can build and flourish. For example, with IUCN's unique membership structure, it can combine technical capacities of experts with official processes of government agencies and the NGOs' flexibility. Also, indigenous peoples' status and rights can be supported through IUCN, in particular when it comes to land and natural resource management. IUCN's wide range and breadth of platforms and tools can be applied throughout the Union's membership, across specific contexts, and Members expressed their interest for IUCN to build capacities to apply different tools. It was recognised that challenges on the global agenda are complicated but cannot risk action being delayed due to the complexity or lack of a perfect solutions. The discussions culminated with a challenge for continuous innovation to solve global problems, including through consistently advancing comprehensive understanding of and strategies for inclusivity.

Session VI: Members Session

IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2020

Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann

Global Director, IUCN Union Development Group



Dr. Lahmann outlined the purpose and importance of the WCC, emphasising the critical role that IUCN Members have in the proceedings and influencing the global conservation agenda. He then proceeded to focus on the 2020 Congress; presenting the seven (7) themes that will shape the agenda, components of the Congress (e.g. Forum, Exhibition, Member's Assembly), and the location and site plan in Parc Chanot, Marseille, France.

Dr. Lahmann proceeded to present details of the Forum, Exhibition and Members Assembly. The selection process for the Forum is nearing its conclusion, and the announcement of successful proposals will be on 13 November 2019. The Exhibition will be a 14,000m² area with small, medium and large stands, thematic villages, and a central stage for official events and thematic sessions. Key dates and procedures for the Members Assembly processes (e.g. Motions and Elections) were also presented. Details about Sponsored Delegates and Registration were also shared. For more details, see also, <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>.

Youth involvement in the IUCN World Conservation



Congress

Mr. Sean Southey Chair, Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Mr. Southey provided an overview of IUCN Youth Champions, a campaign focused on providing youth (under 35) with a platform to make a real contribution to the IUCN Congress and post 2020 biodiversity framework. At the Congress, IUCN will utilise a two-pronged strategy; 1) mainstreaming youth involvement in all sessions, and 2) prioritising youth-owned and driven spaces (e.g. Youth Pavilion in the Forum, and Youth Summit at the Members

Assembly). IUCN has already begun implementing this strategy by integrating youth focused sessions in many RCFs, collaborating with global youth events such as the 24th World Scout Jamboree, building partnerships with donors and organisations to support the youth agenda at the Congress. Mr. Southey called on Asia Members to inform him of relevant youth networks in the region that would be useful to engage in the Congress, and to send in suggestions for youth delegates who, IUCN could support to attend the congress to represent younger generations in the Congress proceedings. For more information, see also, #NatureForAll, <http://natureforall.global/>

Motions from Asia

Mr. Anshuman Saikia

Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia

Mr. Saikia presented an overview of the progress of the motions process to date, focusing on motions received from the Asia region. Seventeen motions were submitted by IUCN members from Asia; six have been approved without requests for merging. Forty-three motions from IUCN Members outside Asia, but with co-sponsors from within Asia, have been approved. Mr. Saikia delivered a brief overview of each of these motions, and the timeline for appeals for those motions that have been rejected, to date. For more information, see also, <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/event/members-assembly/motions>

Discussion on Motions on governance

Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere

Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee

Ms. Mohamed-Katerere provided an overview of three motions specifically related to IUCN governance, which include the following:

1. Archiving obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations and future policy reviews (proposed by the Council)
2. Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning indigenous peoples
3. Establishing a Climate Change Commission

The requirements for adopting motions on governance and amendments to IUCN Statutes were also presented. Ms. Mohamed-Katerere concluded by encouraging all IUCN Members to exercise their rights in IUCN governance processes.

Discussion/Q&A

Mr. Teppei Dohke from Japan enquired about what roles IUCN National Committees (NCs) play in the motions process at the IUCN Congress. The delegate from Japan also acknowledged the importance of engaging youth during the Congress. Dr. Lahmann emphasised the importance of NCs participation in the motions process. He advised that NCs in each country should convene prior to the congress and discuss the motions submitted and approved. These are available online at <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/assembly/motions>.

An IUCN member from Pakistan suggested that the opportunity to propose new motions should be extended to some period after the Asia RCF. Dr. Lahmann explained that this would not be possible as the timeline for motions proposals and review has already been outlined and agreed upon, and there are several steps to complete in advance before the IUCN Congress where all Members will consider motions.

An IUCN member from Pakistan enquired further about the process for sponsorship of youth delegates for WCC. Mr Southey responded that there are three approaches; 1) as part of the registration process, delegates must indicate their age so IUCN can assess youth applications, 2) IUCN encourages Members to directly approach CEC, and 3) IUCN is currently seeking funding to subsidize youth participation. An IUCN member from China asked if youth candidates recommended by IUCN Members would be considered. Mr. Southey responded that IUCN is requesting Members to do this exactly, and encouraged them to contact him directly with their recommendations.

Session VII: a) Special Session (Implementation of the WCC Resolutions on IPBES and Synthetic Biology)

Introduction

The session was opened by Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee. She drew attention to IUCN's gender mainstreaming policy for events, which can be found on the WCC website at: https://www.iucncongress2020.org/files/iucn_staff/pages/gender_mainstreaming_strategy_for_iucn_events_v1.0_and_annex_1.pdf. She emphasised that panels should not be dominated by one gender, and that men and women should have equal speaking time. In this regard, she called upon Dr. Flore Lafaye de Micheaux, IPBES Programme Officer, to speak first.



(L to R): Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux, IPBES Programme Officer; Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee, and Dr. Thomas Brooks, Chief Scientist IUCN – at a Special Session on Operationalization of the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Dr. Lafaye de Micheaux introduced the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). She explained that the aim of the session was to demonstrate the ways in which the two resolutions on IPBES that had been adopted at the IUCN Congress in 2012 had led to positive outcomes and to the development of a strong partnership between IUCN and IPBES. Following a short introductory film on IPBES, Dr. Lafaye de Micheaux gave the floor to Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Chair of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and co-chair of the IPBES regional assessment

report for the Asia-Pacific. Dr. Karki explained that IPBES is an inter-governmental body set up in 2012. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science. In order to achieve this objective, IPBES:

- 1) Produces scientific assessments;
- 2) Triggers new knowledge;
- 3) Supports policy development; and
- 4) Carries out capacity building

IPBES has produced eight reports to date, including thematic reports (e.g., on pollination), geographically focused reports (e.g., the regional assessment for Asia-Pacific) and methodological reports (scenarios and models). The latest is the Global Assessment report. The reports are requested and approved by IPBES members. Rigorous procedures have been adopted for the assessments. The Global Assessment report was the product of an interdisciplinary approach with a geographical balance among authors. It integrated local and indigenous knowledge, and received high political and media visibility. The report looked at both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and systematically analysed progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the SDGs.

The Global Assessment report revealed that there has been relatively little progress towards these global targets to date, except in a few areas such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on terrestrial and marine protected areas. In terms of ecosystem services, the report highlighted that food, energy and raw materials are the only ecosystem services that are increasing; all the others are declining. The report called for transformative change and identified potential leverage points, such as enhanced implementation of environmental law and the modification of incentives. Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux went on to describe the IUCN-IPBES strategic partnership in detail. She noted that IUCN and IPBES are strongly complimentary to each other. IPBES, for example, is purely an inter-governmental organisation, whereas, IUCN brings together States, government agencies and civil society organisations.

WCC-2012-Res117 called for IUCN to play a key role in the operationalization of IPBES. Similarly, WCC-2012-Res-118 called for IUCN to play a significant role in the implementation of the IPBES programme. An MOU between IUCN and IPBES was signed in 2016, and has led to a number of positive outcomes. Many IUCN experts (e.g., from the Commissions) have contributed to the IPBES assessments; IUCN data (e.g. from the Red List and on Key Biodiversity Areas) has been used in the assessments; and IUCN has contributed significantly to stakeholder engagement.

The IUCN-IPBES partnership received strong support from the French government. Dr Lafaye de Micheaux is seconded by the French Government to IUCN, and spends 50 per cent of her time serving as the IPBES Stakeholder Engagement Officer. Dr Lafaye de Micheaux noted that IPBES has placed an emphasis on stakeholder engagement through its stakeholder engagement strategy. For example, a stakeholder day is held in advance of all plenaries, for which there is a simple, online registration process. Interested parties are also encouraged to contribute through the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet), an online platform that can be found at <https://www.ipbes.net/group/onet>

Dr Lafaye de Micheaux concluded her presentation by noting that a partnership cannot rely on only a few people. It will be important for the entire IUCN constituency to support IPBES, at multiple levels. She encouraged IUCN to increase its contributions to the IPBES

processes at regional, national and sub-national levels. She noted that there are many different ways to become involved – for example, as an author, as a reviewer, and through participation in national IPBES platforms, which now exist in multiple countries. There are also many opportunities to assist in disseminating IPBES findings.

Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere summarised the session by concluding that – although IUCN and IPBES have some similarities - they have managed to avoid competition and build a strong partnership. She said that she had been struck by the extent to which IUCN data had been used in the IPBES assessments, and by the many opportunities for the IUCN constituency to contribute to IPBES processes.

Questions and Answers

A participant asked how sub-national governments could become involved in IPBES processes, given that IPBES members are composed solely of national governments. In response, Dr Karki and Dr Lafaye de Micheaux drew attention to the fact that IPBES experts are nominated from both governments (80%) and organisations such as IUCN (20%). IPBES has also produced a guide on carrying out biodiversity and ecosystem assessments that can be used by national governments to carry out their own assessments, which can involve consultation with sub-national entities as well as NGOs and indigenous and local community groups. They also noted that IPBES has a national focal point (NFP) in all its member countries and that national IPBES committees are being established in some countries to enhance stakeholder engagement. Finally, they noted that ONet seeks to enable different stakeholders to contribute to IPBES processes. Although this network is rather dominated by researchers at present, a broader range of stakeholders is invited to join, including IUCN Members and experts.

Implementation of Resolution WCC-2016-Res-086 [Development of IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology]

Dr. Thomas Brooks
Chief Scientist IUCN

Dr Thomas Brooks, IUCN Chief Scientist, gave a presentation on Resolution WCC-2016-Res-086, on the development of an IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology. Dr Brooks noted that there is no widely agreed definition of synthetic biology. However, the CBD has developed a working definition, which reads as follows: “Synthetic biology is a further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems.” A number of different techniques can be used in synthetic biology. These include:

- Altering DNA outside a cell and then reinserting it into a different cell;
- Altering DNA within the cell itself;

- Adding new nucleotides and changing DNA.

Dr Brooks emphasised that synthetic biology is not some futuristic scenario – it is already happening. For example, synthetic biology in agriculture is being used to increase micronutrients in existing crops, enhance drought tolerance and improve disease resistance. Synthetic biology also has a wide range of medical applications. Dr Brooks noted that synthetic biology, as a discipline will be driven by younger generations. There has been relatively little consideration to date within the field of synthetic biology to issues of importance to conservation or impacts on the natural world. Resolution 86, adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in 2016, called on IUCN to undertake an assessment of synthetic biology and its implications for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

The assessment was undertaken through a three-step process:

- 1) A Task Force was established, composed of specialists in conservation and synthetic biology. The appointment of the chair of the Task Force was undertaken with the authority of the Director-General and the chairs of the six (6) IUCN Commissions. A Technical Sub-group was also established, whose members served as the lead authors of the report. All Task Force and Technical Sub-group members were asked to sign statements to declare any potential conflicts of interest;
- 2) A first draft of the assessment was prepared;
- 3) A wide peer review process was then undertaken. This included seeking input from across the Union and posting the draft report on the IUCN website in order to make it publicly available. The IUCN Director-General also invited reviews by selected individuals with particular scientific expertise. Some 750 comments were received in total; each comment received a response from the Task Force.

In order to ensure objectivity, IUCN took a decision not to seek funding from the private sector or from campaigning organisations for the publication of the assessment. Ultimately, funds were received from the Governments of France and Switzerland, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Luc Hoffman Institute. The assessment was published during the first quarter of 2019, and is entitled: *Genetic Frontiers for Conservation: An Assessment of Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation*. In addition to the main report, there is a set of online annexes and a synthesis for policy makers. The assessment concluded that synthetic biology could have a wide range of potential negative and positive impacts on the conservation of biology. Negative impacts, for example, could include the risk that some synthetic biology life forms could become invasive; there is also a risk that synthetic biology could be co-opted for private gain or military use. On the positive side, synthetic biology holds out the promise of preventing extinctions and creating jobs, amongst other benefits. However, because synthetic biology is a relatively new field, there is little evidence to support these claims at the moment. This meant that it was necessary to extrapolate likely impacts from the evidence available in other fields. Dr Brooks noted that many of the potential impacts are contentious and that their interpretation is heavily driven by values and the worldviews of particular constituencies.

Dr Brooks observed that synthetic biology has the potential to affect biodiversity conservation in both direct and indirect ways. As an example of a direct application, the

genes in corals could potentially be modified in order to increase resilience to climate change. Indirect impacts may arise through the application of synthetic biology in fields that affect conservation. For example, efforts to reduce the number of mosquitoes that carry malaria could have indirect impacts on biodiversity conservation objectives. Important messages from the assessment include the fact that synthetic biology is developing very fast and that the conservation community cannot ignore it. There are possible – but untested – beneficial conservation impacts, as well as possible but untested detrimental conservation impacts. Governance will play a key role in determining how decisions are made and their impact on nature.

Dr Brooks noted that the final clause of Resolution 86 asked Council to develop a policy on conservation and synthetic biology. Rather than prepare a policy *per se*, Council decided to prepare a set of guiding principles. These have been incorporated into a motion for consideration at the IUCN Congress. The draft document identifies the purpose of the principles, their intended audience and their scope. The document also notes that the principles are grounded in the precautionary approach. Eight key principles are identified:

- 1) The biodiversity conservation imperative;
- 2) Intergenerational equity and sustainable development;
- 3) Respect for rights, beliefs and cultures;
- 4) Stakeholder and rights holder participation;
- 5) Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC);
- 6) Evidence;
- 7) Multi-disciplinary dialogue between conservationists and synthetic biologists;
- 8) Ethics.

Dr Brooks urged Members to engage in the discussion. He noted that the process will run until the beginning of next year, and that the motion will almost certainly be taken forward for debate in Marseille.

Question and Answer

Prof Ma Keping noted that a biosafety protocol (the Cartagena Protocol) has already been adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity. He wondered about the overlap with synthetic biology and asked whether it is possible to revise the protocol to address issues related to synthetic biology. Dr Brooks responded by agreeing that the Cartagena Protocol is highly relevant. However, he noted that the issue is not straightforward because the definition of synthetic biology is not yet clear or agreed. He also noted that there is an anomaly in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, in that it contains a specific target for the Nagoya Protocol but not for the Cartagena Protocol.

A participant from Pakistan wondered why IUCN was advocating for GMOs. He felt that this would undermine organic lifestyles. Another participant from Pakistan expressed concern that synthetic biology would undermine the conservation of nature. Dr Brooks clarified that IUCN is not an advocacy organisation. It brings together many different organisations under its umbrella, often with widely varying views. He explained that the principles outlined in the motion on synthetic biology do not advocate for any particular actions, but rather, put forward a framework to guide the future development of IUCN's policy.

Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere concluded the session by reiterating that the motion on synthetic biology was now available for review. She urged Members to become involved in the assessment process.

Session VII b): Special Session (Commission session)

In this session dedicated to the work of IUCN commissions, each commission representative was invited to provide a brief overview of the commission activities and main outcomes.

a) Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Ms Kristen Walker
Chair, CEESP

Ms Kristen Walker introduced CEESP. It is comprised of 1042 experts globally of which 186 members are in the Asia region. Its structure is organised along six themes and seven specialist groups. Ms Walker namely mentioned the gender specialist group, and the two recent specialist groups: people and oceans, green criminology. This commission is engaged in many topics such as community livelihoods and conservation, migration and environmental change, culture, spirituality and religion as well as economics and economic valuation of nature. CEESP often works through partnerships such as with SSC (task force on migration and environmental change), CEM (ecosystem values and nature), IPBES, and with increased focus on culture, spirituality and religion. It is also involved in the work related to the natural resource governance framework and in environment and peace issues, in liaison with the IUCN flagship report team. It also works with the Council and with University of Geneva to reflect on how to better support threatened environmental defenders (460 deaths in 2018). CEESP will consider hosting one of its next steering committee meetings in Asia, in order to take the opportunity to directly engage with IUCN Asian members.

b) Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Mr. Sean Southey
Chair, CEC

Mr Southey mentioned that CEC is the third largest IUCN commission in Asia in terms of number of members. The commission is comprised of 400 members from South and South East Asia; this region gathers the second larger group of experts among the eleven IUCN regions. The main questions that the work of the CEC aims to address is on how IUCN can influence change of the wider world in terms of knowledge and habits that lead towards achieving sustainability. CEC is mainly involved in policy engagement, youth engagement and communication content. It has developed products with UNEP and UNESCO. These publications are also available in local languages such as Hindi or Mandarin in order to increase the products' outreach. He mentioned that CEC is actively involved in global

initiatives such as the Nature for All Campaign, or One Union initiative. Nature for All had grown from Hawai'i Congress with more than 300 partners and 63 countries involved from all regions of the world. The objective is to amplify actions through communities' engagement through their love of nature.

c) Commission on Ecosystem Management

Dr Madhav Karki

Deputy Chair, CEM

Dr Karki mentioned that the mission of CEM is to develop integrated approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems to promote biodiversity conservation. The commission is organised along thematic groups, specialist groups, task forces and networks (for example synthetic biology). There are 373 members in Asia (2018). South Asia has the largest number of members. CEM work deals with several disciplines and themes. It is strongly involved in the Nature based Solutions (NbS) principles and standards, in ecosystem risk assessment (to prevent ecosystem collapse) while promoting interaction with other IUCN products such as the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), or ecosystem governance. In West Asia, CEM leaders have worked on dry land initiatives, while in Central Asia, CEM provided trainings for young people and local communities on climate change. CEM participated in conferences and knowledge sharing in North East Asia, in a publication on agroforestry in Viet Nam (South East Asia) or on knowledge products like the contributions of experts to IPBES regional and global assessments (South Asia). He also mentioned that in the future, CEM will further contribute to the NbS standards, to the Red List of Ecosystems and will contribute to the UN decade for ecosystem restoration 2020-2030. To conclude, Dr Madhav Karki invited the experts in the audience to join the commission.

d) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Mr Agus Budi Utomo

Regional Vice-Chair for SE-Asia, WCPA

Mr Agus gave a presentation on the WCPA. Globally, WCPA is comprised of more than 3,000 members, of which 34% are women. There are 21 Specialist Groups and four task forces under the commission. The objective of the commission is to promote Protected Areas as natural solutions to address social issues. This is particularly relevant for Asia, in the context of post-2020 global framework for biodiversity. In this regard, the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas may help to increase the performance of current practices, as one of its four component is related to conservation outcomes. As of now, six zones from China are on the Green List and three from South Korea. Another important theme for WCPA is the recognition and further support to Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

This means that there may be a range of governance or types of conservation (primary, secondary or ancillary) but with tangible conservation outcomes such as effective delivery of conservation outcomes regardless of management objective. WCPA provides technical guidance on identifying OECM and works for a decision to be operationalised at the CBD level.

In Asia, several workshops were organised such as the one held from 4 to 5 November for ASEAN member states. Another workshop for the Asian Protected Areas Partnership countries will be held on OECMs in 2020. Finally, he referred to the priorities for 2021-2024, which are the strengthening of the management of green list, the extension of protected areas in marine and terrestrial environments, and the linkages between protected areas and climate change to include Protected Areas as natural solutions but also as places that are affected by climate change. In 2020, WCPA will celebrate its 60 years of existence and will prepare for the Asia Parks Congress in May 2021.

e) Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Dr. Jon Paul Rodriguez (video)

Dr Rodriguez presenting through a recorded video mentioned that SSC is the largest commission. It is comprised of 9,201 members and 163 specialist groups, with a high diversity of species related specialist groups, from mammals to insects. The members include researchers, veterinarians, government officials, zoo or botanical garden professionals, field biologists, protected area managers or plant, animal or fungi experts. There are 166 countries represented in SSC. SSC's mandate is to provide technical support to advise decision-making and to mobilise action for species that are threatened with extinction. The strategic plan and activities of SSC follow the species conservation cycle, with activities related to assessment, planning and action. The assessment activities are mainly related to the Red List of Threatened Species™, an extensive database that classifies over 91,500 species, among which 28% are threatened. There are also national Red Lists conducted in several countries, with 108 countries that conducted national assessments and 43 countries that carried out repeated assessments. The Planning activities are mainly developed by the Conservation Planning specialist group that aims to scale up effective species conservation planning in the SSC, through guidelines for species conservation planning.

Finally, the action activities are projects dedicated to one particular threatened species, like tiger, snow leopard or the Sumatran rhino, to name a few. Jon Paul Rodriguez concluded his presentation by wishing greater interactions between Members and commissions. He suggested such increased collaboration through SSC participation in regional and national committees or members developing national red lists with SSC support. He also offered SSC to support intervention letters to local and national governments, private sector or any other action about conservation of species.

Session VIII: Members' Session

Discussion on the proposals from Council or Members for governance improvements and reforms including possible amendments to the Statutes

Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere
Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee



Ms. Jennifer-Mohamed-Katerere gave a presentation on the proposals from Council or Members for improvements of IUCN's governance. The first proposed reform is, *'inclusion of subnational governments in IUCN membership.'* This has been considered in two previous IUCN Congress, culminating in the adoption of a Governance Resolution during the congress in Hawaii. She noted that the resolution defines sub-national governments as all levels of government with mandate and authority below the national level and proposes that a new third sub-category for subnational governments be created with the Government House of Membership (Category A).

The second proposed reform is, 'election procedures and inclusiveness of dependent territories', which refers to clarifying that dependent territories of countries such as United States of America, European countries, Australia, etc. even though might be found in a different part of the world. This implies that their election procedures will be linked to that of the main State, i.e., Councillor candidate from Puerto Rico will be considered as a US Councillor. Therefore, there is a need to amend Article 40 of the Statutes to clarify any ambiguity.

The third reform for consideration is, 'establish an elected indigenous Councillor position', In May 2018, the IUCN Council appointed Mr Ramiro Batzin Chojoj as *"additional appointed Councillor"* on the proposal of IUCN's Indigenous Peoples' Organisation (IPO) Members, as per Article 38 (f) of the Statutes. The Council will study the feasibility of establishing an elected Indigenous Councillor position for implementation in 2024, if a proposal in this sense is adopted by the 2020 Congress. She noted that in the meantime, IUCN Members are encouraged to nominate/elect indigenous persons for existing elected positions.

She then presented the fourth reform for consideration, *'Modification of the term "Regional Councillor"*, given that all regionally elected Councillors termed as Regional Councillors should act in the best interest of IUCN as a whole. Council's Governance and Constituency Committee has therefore been considering amendments to Article 38 of the Statutes to modify the definition of the members of Council, as well as clarification of the Councillors' roles in other provisions or documents such as the Council Handbook. Ms Katerere subsequently presented the fifth proposed reform, 'improvements to the motion process'. She presented three proposed changes to the Statutes as follows:

- 1) Increase the majority required to adopt motions from a 'simple majority to a two-thirds majority (new Article 31bis);

- 2) Require and guarantee the scientific independence of the work carried out by Commissions and the Secretariat (new Article 3bis); and,
- 3) Put a cap on the number of abstentions in order for a motion to be adopted (amendment to Article 32).

The sixth reform she presented was on the *'role of commissions in national and regional committees'*, which referred to the formalisation of the involvement of commissions in national and regional committees, which existed as a practice in certain regions including the Asia region. This would involve amendment of the 'Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees' (2011) in order to allow National and Regional Committees to include one representative from each IUCN Commission who would have the right to speak but not to vote. The final reform/update on governance was on the follow-up to the external review of IUCN's governance on which Ms. Katerere updated that the Council was in the process of preparing the management response to the most recent External Review.

She concluded by mentioning that the Council looked forward to receiving Members' views on the proposed reforms and would also appreciate if any other governance issues could be brought forward as well. There was a single query from a member on what would be the manner in which Commissions will participate in the national committee meetings. It was clarified that each commission would identify one representative.

Presentation of draft membership strategy

Dr. Enrique Lahmann



Dr. Enrique Lahmann gave a presentation on the draft Membership Strategy initially referring to the rationale for the strategy being on maximising the joint working within the Union of its constituent elements and also identify new expertise, new partnerships and new approaches that might be required to address the planet's conservation challenges. He referred to the various processes that had led to the development of a draft strategy including consultation with IUCN Council and Secretariat leadership team, 2017/2018-member survey, 2019 member online consultation, draft updated and posted on the Union Portal, 2019 discussions in Regional Conservation Fora across the planet. He mentioned that the draft membership strategy will be approved at the 98th IUCN Council Meeting. Dr. Lahmann referred to the highlights of the online consultation feedback and feedback from RCF, including:

- 1) Emphasis on Monitoring and Evaluation;
- 2) Need for the strategy to be nested in the One Programme approach;
- 3) Importance of capacity building;
- 4) Role of National and Regional committees;
- 5) Role of Regional Offices;
- 6) Role of Regional Councillors; and,
- 7) Need to broaden IUCN membership.

Dr. Lahmann then presented the membership strategy's four key objectives:

1. *Strategic engagement of Members.* Members actively participate and contribute to conservation by being involved in the development and implementation of the IUCN Programme of work, building capacity where necessary and effectively using their knowledge.
2. *Learning and improving Knowledge products, knowledge sharing, science and knowledge.* Members are aware of, use and participate in the development of knowledge products, conservation tools and IUCN Publications.
3. *Influencing the environment and sustainable development agenda.* Members, through their IUCN membership, effectively influence key national, regional and international agreements and policies in order to advance conservation outcomes.
4. *Networks, Partnerships and alliances.* Members are able to achieve their conservation goals through networks, partnerships and alliances formed because of their IUCN membership and their engagement with IUCN's Programme.

One of the Members commented on the importance of youth involvement as part of networks, partnerships and alliances including establishing internships in IUCN Secretariat offices, and involving youth in Commissions, among others. Some of the Members of the panel responded by clarifying that Commissions already have significant youth involvement.

Presentation by candidates for Regional Councillors election

Professor Amran Hamzah, who referred to the nomination process being automated through the Marseille Congress Portal, chaired this sub-session and then noted four important aspects related to the nomination process. He clarified that the deadline for submitting nominations is on 11 December 2019. These aspects are as follows:

- 1) The nominee can only be from the specific Statutory region which in this case is South and East Asia;
- 2) Must be a national of a country within the region;
- 3) Minimum of five Members from the region need to nominate; and,
- 4) She/he should submit a CV and a declaration on their willingness to serve in the IUCN Council.

The candidates that announced their interest in running for Councillor position are as follows:

- Professor Ma Keping from People's Republic of China, former Regional Councillor and currently Chair of Asia Regional Members' Committee
- Professor Amran Hamzah from Malaysia, current Regional Councillor, contesting for a second term;
- Professor Kazuaki Hoshino from Japan, Professor of Kagoshima University, Japan and formerly Director General of Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan

- Mr. Jong Soo Yoon from the Republic of Korea, former Vice Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Dr. Mangal Man Shakya from Nepal, current Regional Councillor, contesting for a second term;
- Ms. Meher Noshirwani from Pakistan, Vice-Chair for Asia of CEESP
- Dr. Vivek Menon of India, Founder and Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

Each of the candidates made a brief statement.

Session XI: Closing Session

The closing session began with a recitation from the Holy Quran.



IN PICTURE

Top left: (L to R): Dr Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan being presented a memento by IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, accompanied by Prime Minister's Advisor to Climate Change, Mr. Malik Amin Aslam (also IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor).

Top right: (Extreme Right) – Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania; (Centre) – IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng planting a tree, accompanied by Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change and IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor)

Bottom Left Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan moderating the closing session.

Welcome remarks

*Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema
Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan*

Mr. Cheema began by extending his gratitude to the President, His Excellency Mr. Arif Alvi, for attending the Closing Session of the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum. He proceeded to report that representatives from more than 35 countries have attended various events during the RCF, emphasising the unique construct of IUCN, Members, Commissions and Secretariat working together for a common cause. He acknowledged the overwhelming willingness of the Government of Pakistan to host the RCF and thanked all involved for their efforts to make the event a success.

Remarks

Professor Ma Keping, newly elected Chair of IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee

Prof. Ma expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan (GoP) for hosting the RCF. He noted the high level of political engagement by the government, and commended the organisers for the excellent facilities provided during the forum. He also specifically thanked the GoP and other sponsors for the financial support provided to ensure that the RCF was a success. Prof. Ma highlighted the importance of following up after the RCF and to engage with the GoP, such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami. He described the success of the RCF in preceding days, as a venue, providing an opportunity to discuss, debate and plan actions to conserve nature. Prof. Ma strongly emphasised the great potential of Members to contribute to IUCN, the One Programme approach, and delivering Nature-based Solutions.

Remarks

*Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji
IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania*

Ms. Kabraji noted that this had been the largest RCF in Asia with more than 550 delegates attending the three-day event. Rich discussions about the draft IUCN programme were held as well as several side events hosted by and for Members, were most engaging. Ms Kabraji emphasised that the outcomes from the RCF will be incorporated into the WCC. She thanked the GoP for demonstrating committed political leadership regarding the environment, and also thanked His Excellency, Mr. Alvi, and Honourable Mr. Aslam, for dedicating their time to join the Closing Session of the RCF. She noted that the forum has been an ideal showcase for Pakistan's future look and advanced approach dealing with environmental issues. Ms. Kabraji concluded her remarks by highlighting that 2020 will be a pivotal year for nature, that we have the next decade to make a real difference, and it is up to us all to work together to find solutions for our common future.

Remarks

Dr. Grethel Aguilar

IUCN Acting Director General

Ms. Aguilar noted that it was a pleasure for IUCN to gather in Pakistan for this RCF. She mentioned that the Members appreciated the proceedings of the Forum, which also provided an opportunity to learn about the biodiversity conservation efforts being undertaken in Pakistan. Ms. Aguilar acknowledged the investments being made in Pakistan for conservation and congratulated the government, other Members, and the Secretariat for their efforts.

She noted that the planet faces many challenges but the natural capital solutions on show here in Asia are an example to others. She further stated that we must strike a balance so that nature and economic development work in harmony. We must strive to achieve the SDGs by 2030, and IUCN stands ready to work with government and civil society to ensure nature thrives for future generations.

Ms. Aguilar expressed her sincere thanks to the government and people of Pakistan for hosting the RCF, to the IUCN Asia and Pakistan teams for all their efforts to make the event a success, and to the IUCN Members for all their commitment to nature and conservation across the region. She concluded by thanking the President of Pakistan for his kind presence at this occasion and that noting she looks forward to seeing everyone at the IUCN Congress in Marseille.

Remarks

Mr. Amjad Rashid

Chair IUCN Pakistan National Committee

Mr. Rashid thanked the Prime Minister and President of Pakistan for their attendance at the RCF opening and closing sessions, respectively. He noted that this showed the commitment of the GoP to address environmental issues, highlighting the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami as a practical example of this commitment.

Remarks

Honourable Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President

Mr. Aslam noted what a pleasure it has been to host the Members of IUCN from 35 countries over the last three days of the RCF. He also emphasised the importance of ongoing work of IUCN across the Asia region. He congratulated all participants on their efforts to carry forward the conservation agenda as we approach the IUCN Congress and CBD COP 15. Mr. Aslam thanked the President of Pakistan, noting the *green angle* of the current government, and the strong support of both the President and Prime Minister for the environment focused policy agenda in Pakistan. He also expressed his gratitude to the

IUCN Asia Regional Office and the IUCN Pakistan office for successfully organising the RCF.

Closing remarks

Mr Zhang Xinsheng

IUCN President

Mr. Zhang first thanked the President of Pakistan for joining IUCN on this occasion, noting how much his leadership and wisdom means to all in attendance at the RCF. He also thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan for his inspirational address at the opening of the RCF and extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to the IUCN Congress in Marseille. Mr. Zhang made mention of the recent joint statement made by France and China expressing their firm support for the Paris climate change accord. He also noted that both countries would host important events during 2020, the IUCN Congress in France and CBD COP 15 in China, respectively. These events will set the foundation for future actions for nature conservation.

The RCF has been a valuable and engaging event, highlighting the strengths of IUCN's One Programme and One Union approach. Mr. Zhang congratulated the ARO and the ARMC, noting the importance of working together with IUCN Members and commissions as we march forward together. Mr. Zhang also thanked the Government of Pakistan for their efforts to support IUCN, and IUCN Members for making the RCF a success. He concluded by presenting a gift to the President of Pakistan on behalf of IUCN.

Address by the Chief Guest

His Excellency Mr. Arif Alvi

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

(L to R): President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, speaking at the Closing Ceremony of the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum, in Islamabad. Others at the head table are: Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania; and Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, President IUCN.



Pakistan is a biodiverse country. Climate change is one of the great concerns to both the country and the region. He shared that humanity's carbon footprint is crushing the world around us. President Alvi convinced the decision makers of the need for change. He noted in particular the action of youth around the world in driving the global public discourse on climate change and other environmental issues. His Excellency mentioned the Paris Agreement and the need for countries to meet their targets.

His Excellency President Alvi emphasised the importance of our dependence on species diversity, as they are the building blocks of humanity. He added that human activities are destroying this diversity at an alarming rate. For example, the recent reports that pollinators around the world are dwindling, threatening the mechanisms, like agricultural production, that support humanity. His Excellency underscored the need for each one of us to take steps to minimise our impacts on the environment and preserve it. We need to *listen to the diagnosis* that there are issues that affect us all and need to be addressed. Yes, in some cases we have plans to address these issues, but what is lacking is implementation of these plans. Our global leaders need to change their thinking about the problems we face and increase the pace of change.

Concluding his remarks His Excellency congratulated all the organisations for making the RCF a success, and stressed the need for the *message of conservation* to go further. He emphasised on the need to leave the planet to our children in a way that will make them proud of our actions to conserve it.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Agenda of the 7th Asia RCF



Asia Regional Conservation Forum

Greening Asia for Nature and People

Islamabad, Pakistan, 6-8 November 2019
Venue: Serena Hotel, Islamabad

AGENDA

5 NOVEMBER 2019 - REGISTRATION

1500-1800 Registration starts at Serena Hotel, Islamabad (Kehkashan Hall 1)

DAY 1: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (Wednesday)

0830-0900	Registration	<i>Room: Kehkashan Hall 1</i>
0900-1015	<p>Session I: IUCN Towards 2024</p> <p><i>This session will be chaired by IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng and co-chaired by Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan.</i></p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of IUCN's Vision and what this means for the Asia Region, as well as Pakistan's conservation priorities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A video by IUCN "We are the generations" • Key note address by President Zhang Xinsheng • Vision for IUCN by Dr. Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General • Pakistan's conservation priorities by Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan 	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>
1015-1030	<p>Networking Break</p> <p><i>(Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair)</i></p>	
1030-1200	Session II: Inauguration	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of guests • Arrival of the Chief Guest • Recitation from the Holy Quran • Welcome remarks and video by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania • Address by Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General • Address by Honourable Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President • Address by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President • Address by the Chief Guest
1200-1230	Networking break <i>(Access to Knowledge Fair and exhibition booths)</i>
1230-1345	Lunch <i>Location: Lobby in front of Kehkashan 1,2,3 and Courtyard</i>
1400-1500	Side Events

Room No.	Side Events	Organised by
Kehkashan 1	Strengthening knowledge for action: Tools to deliver a gender-responsive IUCN 2021-2014 Programme	Ms Meher M Noshirwani Regional Vice Chair Asia and Specialist Group on Gender - CEESP
Kehkashan 2	Fostering cooperative governance in shared river basins: Learning from the BRIDGE programme in Asia	Mr Raphael Glémet Senior Programme Officer Water and Wetlands, IUCN ARO
Kehkashan 3	IPBES global assessment: Why and how is it relevant to IUCN?	Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux IPBES Programme Officer IUCN HQ
Sheesh Mahal	Vulture conservation case studies	Mr Danish Rashdi Programme Coordinator IUCN Pakistan

1515-1615	Session III: Plenary IUCN Programme 2021-2024 <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i> <i>This session will be chaired by Amb. Masahiko Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor</i> <i>This session will provide an overview of the IUCN draft Programme 2021-</i>
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	<p>2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the draft IUCN Programme 2021-2024 <i>By Mr. Anshuman Saikia, Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia</i> • IUCN's Position on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework followed by discussion on linkages between the IUCN 2021–2024 Programme and the post 2020 global biodiversity framework <i>By Dr. Thomas Brooks, Chief Scientist IUCN</i>
1615-1645	<p>Networking Break Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair</p>
1645-1800	<p>Session IV: Members' Session <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i> <i>This session will be chaired by Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President</i></p> <p><i>Co-Chair Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann, Global Director, IUCN Union Development Group</i></p> <p>Members' Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee <i>By Prof. Ma Keping, Chair Asia Regional Committee</i> • Elections of office bearers of the Asia Regional Members' Committee - [NB: This is a closed session and involves Members of the Asia Regional Committee only] <i>Location: Kehkashan 1</i>

1800-1900	Side Events
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Room No.	Side Events	Organized by
Kehkashan 1	The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP): Promoting regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas	Dr Scott Perkin Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia
Kehkashan 2	Protecting Mountain River Ecosystems to Address Regional Challenges	Mr Kiran Timalisina Chairperson Green Governance Nepal Nepal
Kehkashan 3	Biodiversity conflict mitigation during the refugee influx: A case study from Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	Mr Raquibul Amin Country Representative IUCN Bangladesh
Sheesh Mahal	Business and biodiversity platforms: Shaping the future of how the private sector values nature	Mr Danish Rashdi Programme Coordinator IUCN Pakistan

1930-2100	<p>Dinner / Reception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan • Remarks by Mr. Hassan Nasir Jami, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan • IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) Excellence Award by Mr Sean Southey, Chair, CEC • Announcement of results of the elections of office bearers of the Asia Regional Members' Committee by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania • Congratulatory remarks by Dr. Grethel Aquilar, Acting Director General, IUCN • Remarks by Mr Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President • Introduction to Pakistan cultural performance by Representative of Serena Hotel • Dinner and Pakistan cultural performance 	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>
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DAY 2: 07 NOVEMBER 2019 (Thursday)

0900-1515	<p>Session V: Plenary Programme Session</p> <p><i>This session will explore multiple perspectives on each of the programme areas defined by IUCN for the next four years: Healthy Lands and Waters; Healthy Oceans; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources. The goal is to show case 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.</i></p>	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>
0900-1000	<p>i) Healthy Lands and Waters</p> <p><i>Chaired by: Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President</i></p> <p><i>A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on lands and waters.</i></p>	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>

Time	Topic	Speaker
0900-0905	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Mr Malik Amin Aslam Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President
0905-0915	Introduction and Overview	Dr. Scott Perkin Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia
0915-0925	Billion Trees Afforestation Project & 10-BTTP	Mr Shahid Ullah Khan Secretary, Environment, Wildlife and Forest Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, Pakistan
0925-0930	Opportunities and challenges for ecosystem restoration in the Hindu Kush Himalayas	Dr. Srijana Joshi Rijal, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
0930-0935	Restoration efforts in hill wetlands and grasslands - experiences from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India	Dr. Anita Varghese, Keystone Foundation
0935-0940	Restoration of the Miyun Watershed in China: Experiences and lessons learned to date	Dr. Zhi Xin, Beijing Forest Society
0940-0944	Screening of a short video on the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP) to Combat Desertification in Pakistan	
0944-0955	Discussion / Q&A	Moderator: Mr Malik Amin Aslam
0955-1000	Summary and wrap-up	Mr Malik Amin Aslam
10:00	Close	

1000-1040	Networking Break <i>(Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair)</i>
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1040-1145	<p>ii) Healthy Oceans <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i></p> <p><i>Chaired by: Vice Admiral Abdul Aleem, H.I (M), Director General, National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Pakistan and Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar, Former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor</i></p> <p><i>A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on oceans.</i></p>
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Time	Topic	Speaker
1040-1045	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar Former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor
1045-1055	Introduction and Overview	Ms Maeve Nightingale Senior Programme Officer, Coastal and Marine Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia
1055-1103	How can MPA management be more effective at securing the ecological integrity of coasts and oceans – A focus on the updates and lessons from Astola Island MPA, Pakistan	Mr Abdul Jabbar Chief Conservator Balochistan Forest Department Government of Balochistan Pakistan
1103-1111	Ocean Pollution with a specific focus on Marine Plastics – Thailand Action on Plastic Waste Management	Ms. Benjamas Chotthong Thailand Environment Institute, Thailand
1111-1119	Why gender equality matters in coastal and ocean governance for sustainability: Empowering women to conserve our coasts and oceans	Ms Meher Noshirwani Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources and CEESP focal point for Gender, Pakistan
1119-1127	Shared policies for a sustainable, ocean-based economy; Shared Marine Protected Area policy in China with practical experiences	Ms Ting Chen Director of Academic Outreach Shenzhen Dapeng Coral Conservation Volunteer Federation (Dive for Love)
1127-1137	Moderated panel discussion / Q&A	Senator (r.) Javed Jabbar, Former IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor
1137-1145	Wrap-up and a video on “Sheroes of the Coast”	
1145	Close	

1145-1250	<p>iii) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i></p> <p><i>Chaired by: Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, IUCN Regional Councillor and Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee</i></p> <p><i>A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</i></p>
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Time	Topic	Speaker
1145-1150	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, IUCN Regional Councillor
1150-1200	Introduction and Overview	Mr. Alex McWilliam Programme Coordinator, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia
1200-1235	Panel discussion	
	Nature-based Solutions for climate change in policy and planning <i>Perspectives from China, Bhutan and Viet Nam</i>	Professor Ma Keping Chair, ARMC, IUCN Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
		Mr. Tashi Tobgyel Chief Forestry Officer Department of Forests and Park Services, MoAF, Royal Government of Bhutan
		Mr. Binh P. Pham Director General of International Cooperation Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Viet Nam
	Nature-based Solutions for climate change in practice <i>Perspectives from Indonesia, and Bangladesh,</i>	Ms. Cristi Mari Nozawa Executive Director The Samdhana Institute, Indonesia
	Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman Executive Director Center for Natural Resources Studies, CNRS, Bangladesh	
	Discussion	All panellists
1235-1245	Q&A	All panellists
1245-1250	Summary and wrap up	Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere

		Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee
1250	Close	

1250-1400	Lunch	<i>Location: Lobby in front of Kehkashan 1,2,3 and Courtyard</i>
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1400-1500	iv) Equitable Governance of Natural Resources	<i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i>
	<i>Chaired by: Prof. Amran Hamzah, IUCN Regional Councillor</i>	
	<i>A panel discussion will explore issues, emerging trends, challenges and solutions related to IUCN's work on equitable governance of natural resources.</i>	

Time	Topic	Speaker
1400-1405	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Prof. Amran Hamzah IUCN Regional Councillor
1405-1415	Introduction and Overview	Mr. Raphaël Glémet Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia
1415-1455	Panel discussion – moderated by Mr. Glémet	Mrs. Kristen Walker Painemilla Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy Mr. Sovann Bunthai Highlanders Association, Cambodia Mr. Sanot Adhikari Chairperson Youth Alliance for Environment (YAE), Nepal Mr Doug Watkins, Chief Executive of East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat
1455-1500	Summary of discussion and wrap up	Prof. Amran Hamzah, IUCN Regional

		Councillor
1500	Close	

1500-1530	Networking Break <i>(Tea and Coffee; Access to Knowledge Fair)</i>
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	<p>Session VI: Members' Session <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i> <i>This session will be chaired by Prof. Ma Keping, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair and co-chaired by Amb. Masahiko Horie, IUCN Regional Councillor</i></p> <p>Presentation on the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2020 and sharing of information on key processes, deadlines and statutory requirements including sponsorship criteria for delegates/Members, Congress Forum, Members Assembly; medals & awards <i>By Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann, Global Director, IUCN Union Development Group</i></p> <p>Youth involvement in the IUCN World Conservation Congress <i>By Mr Sean Southey, Chair, Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)</i></p> <p>Motions from Asia <i>By Anshuman Saikia, Regional Programme Support Coordinator, IUCN Asia</i></p> <p>Discussion on Motions on governance <i>By Ms. Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee</i></p>
1700-1900	<p>Session VII: Special Session <i>Room: Sheesh Mahal</i></p> <p><i>This session will be chaired by Ms Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of Resolution WCC-2016-Res-086 [<i>Development of IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology</i>] <i>By Dr. Thomas Brooks, Chief Scientist IUCN</i> - Implementation of Resolutions WCC-2012-Res-117 and WCC-2012-Res-118 [<i>Operationalization of the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on</i>

	<p align="center"><i>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)]</i></p> <p><i>By Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and</i></p> <p><i>Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux, IPBES Programme Officer</i></p> <p>Commissions</p> <p>Presentations from IUCN Commissions and discussion on Commissions Mandates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) World Commission on Environmental Law Dr. Parvez Hassan, Chair Emeritus of the World Commission on Environmental Law Steering Committee ii) Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) Mr. Sean Southey, Chair, CEC iii) Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Chair, CEM iv) Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Ms Kristen Walker, Chair, CEESP v) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mr Agus Budi Utomo, Regional Vice-Chair for SE-Asia, WCPA vi) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Dr. Mirza Kusri, SSC Regional Vice-Chair for South and East Asia
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1900-2000	Side Events
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Room No.	Side Events	Organized by
Kehkashan 1	HIMEK Alliance proposal for mitigation of climate change in the Himalayas and the contiguous Mekong Basin	Mr Cheppudira Poonacha Muthanna Coorg Wildlife Society, India
Kehkashan 2	The Yellow Sea - A global heritage: Updates and progress with the implementation of WCC Resolution 26	Mr Raphael Glémet Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia
Kehkashan 3	Ecosystem-based management from mountains to mangroves	Mr Muhammad Jamshed Iqbal Chaudhry WWF-Pakistan
Sheesh Mahal	Human-wildlife conflict case studies	Mr Danish Rashdi Programme Coordinator IUCN Pakistan

2000-2100	Dinner	<i>Location: Lobby in front of Kehkashan 1,2,3 and Courtyard</i>
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DAY 3: 8 November 2019 (Friday)

	<p>Session VIII: Members' Session <i>Room: Shamadan Hall</i></p> <p><i>This session will be chaired by Prof. Ma Keping, IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee Chair and co-chaired by Prof. Amran Hamzah, IUCN Regional Councillor</i></p> <p>i) Discussion on the proposals from Council or Members for governance improvements and reforms including possible amendments to the Statutes</p> <p><i>By Ms Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair of the Council Governance and Constituency Committee</i></p> <p>ii) Presentation of draft Membership Strategy and discussion <i>By Dr. Enrique J. Lahmann, Global Director, IUCN Union Development Group</i></p> <p>iii) Identification/presentation of candidates to nominate for election as Regional Councillors</p>
1130-1300	<p>Session IX: Closing Session <i>Room: Shamadan Hall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of guests • Arrival of the Chief Guest • Recitation from the Holy Quran • Welcome remarks by Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan • Remarks by the newly elected Chair of IUCN Asia Regional Members' Committee • Remarks by Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania • Remarks by Dr. Grethel Aquilar, IUCN Acting Director General • Remarks by Mr. Amjad Rashid, Chair IUCN Pakistan National Committee • Remarks by Honourable Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President • Closing remarks by Mr Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President • Address by the Chief Guest
1300-1400	<p>Lunch <i>Location: Lobby in front of Kehkashan 1,2,3 and Courtyard</i></p>
1430-1600	<p>Tree planting arranged by the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan</p>

Annex 2: Media and outreach initiatives during the RCF



(Left): Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania, attending a press conference on the eve of the inaugural session of the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

(Right): Participants including Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania, at the plantation ceremony following the conclusion of the RCF.



Coinciding with the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the RCF is the most important event organised 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 through its programmes is highlighted, the RCF can also serve a larger organisational goal of raising the profile of the Union among external audiences. Given this perspective, outreach to

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 tree planting activity were undertaken during the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

Media relations

A pre-event article was distributed to the press. A total of 21 press releases, announcing the event's conduct was made. Post-event press release number to 19. The list of media coverage/releases is listed below:

Pre-event/On-the-day

1. Daily DAWN: Pakistan beset with serious environmental, climate change challenges: PN
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1515337/pakistan-beset-with-serious-environmental-climate-change-challenges-pm>

2. Daily Business Recorder: Green Pakistan, wildlife preservation main target in ecological conservation: PM
<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/11/06/542024/green-pakistan-wildlife-preservation-main-target-in-ecological-conservation-pm/>

3. The News: PM Imran Khan asks Punjab, KP to launch online purchase system
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/551834-pm-asks-punjab-kp-to-launch-online-purchase-system>

4. Daily Business Recorder: Thar Foundation focuses on conservation of vulture
<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/11/07/542276/thar-foundation-focuses-on-conservation-of-vulture/>

5. The Nation: Environment protection govt's top priority: PM
<https://nation.com.pk/07-Nov-2019/environment-protection-govt-s-top-priority-pm>

6. Pakistan Today: Govt to launch 'massive' tree plantation drives: PM
<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/11/06/govt-to-launch-massive-tree-plantation-drives-pm/>

7. SAMAA TV: 10b trees to be planted in Pakistan this year: PM
<https://www.samaa.tv/news/2019/11/10b-trees-to-be-planted-in-pakistan-this-year-pm/>

8. Radio Pakistan:
Protection of country's environment Govt's top priority: PM
<https://www.radio.gov.pk/06-11-2019/protection-of-countrys-environment-govts-top-priority-pm>

9. Associated Press of Pakistan: Pakistan unveils evolution of green economy under PM's leadership: Amin Aslam
<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-unveils-evolution-of-green-economy-under-pms-leadership-amin-aslam/>

10. Pakistan Defence: PM Imran Khan Speech at 7th Asian Regional Conservation Conference in Islamabad by IUCN
<https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/pm-imran-khan-speech-at-7th-asian-regional-conservation-conference-in-islamabad-by-iucn.642154/>

11. Urdu Point: Thar Foundation Focuses On Vulture Conservation In Thar

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/thar-foundation-focuses-on-vulture-conservati-755411.html>

12. APP: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing at the inaugural session of 7th Asian Regional Conservative Forum of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). APP

<https://photo.app.com.pk/photo/2019/11/islamabad-november-06-prime-minister-imran-khan-addressing-at-the-inaugural-session-of-7th-asian-regional-conservative-forum-of-international-union-for-conservation-of-nature-iucn-app/>

13. Urdu Point: 7th IUCN Asia RCF: Over 170 Foreign Delegates To Participate Including India

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/7th-iucn-asia-rcf-over-170-foreign-delegates-754473.html>

14. Press Information Department: PM IMRAN KHAN SAYS TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS KEY PRIORITIES OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT

http://pid.gov.pk/site/press_detail/12229

15. SUCH TV: PROTECTION OF COUNTRY'S ENVIRONMENT IS TOP PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT: PM IMRAN

<https://www.suchtv.pk/pakistan/general/item/91162-protection-of-country-s-environment-is-top-priority-of-government-pm-imran.html>

16. GEO TV: Protection of country's environment govt's top priority: PM Imran

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/254869-protection-of-countrys-environment-govts-top-priority-pm-imran>

17. NEWS BOX: Asian Regional Conservative Forum of International Union for Conservation of Nature

<https://www.newsbox.pk/tag/asian-regional-conservative-forum-of-international-union-for-conservation-of-nature/>

18. SHAFQA: Protection of country s environment top priority for govt, says PM Imran

<https://pk.shafaqna.com/EN/AL/330216>

19. PAK TALES: Vulture Conservation is the Main Focus For Thar Foundation

<https://www.paktales.com/vulture-conservation-is-the-main-focus-for-thar-foundation/>

20. Urdu Point: <https://www.urdupoint.com/daily/livenews/2019-11-05/news-2128206.html>

21. Urdu Point: <https://www.urdupoint.com/daily/livenews/2019-11-06/news-2129747.html>

Post-event

IUCN Asia: Largest regional conservation forum: Nature-based solutions key to securing Asia's future

<https://www.iucn.org/news/asia/201911/largest-regional-conservation-forum-nature-based-solutions-key-securing-asias-future>

The News: [Speedy efforts stressed against global warming](https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/552808-speedy-efforts-stressed-against-global-warming)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/552808-speedy-efforts-stressed-against-global-warming>

Daily Observer: President for joint action of world leaders to save planet from environmental degradation

<https://pakobserver.net/president-for-joint-action-of-world-leaders-to-save-planet-from-environmental-degradation/>

Radio Pakistan: President calls for accelerating efforts at int'l level to deal with issue of global warming

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/08-11-2019/president-calls-for-accelerating-efforts-at-intl-level-to-deal-with-issue-of-global-warming>

Daily DAWN Editorial: Climate Change

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1515586>

Associated Press of Pakistan: President for joint action of world leaders to save planet from environmental degradation

<https://www.app.com.pk/president-for-joint-action-of-world-leaders-to-save-planet-from-environmental-degradation/>

Urdu Point: President Dr Arif Alvi For Joint Action Of World Leaders To Save Planet From Environmental Degradation

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/president-dr-arif-alvi-for-joint-action-of-wo-756845.html>

DNA News: President for joint action to save planet from environmental degradation

<https://www.dnanews.com.pk/president-joint-action-save-planet-environmental-degradation/>

National Courier: Climate Change Ministry, IUCN discuss plan to deal with Asia's environment issues

<https://www.natcour.com/pakistan/2019/11/climate-change-ministry-iucn-discuss-plan-to-deal-with-asias-environment-issues/>

First Post: At the IUCN conference, experts highlight issues of rapidly melting glaciers in the Himalayas, resultant food and water shortages

<https://www.firstpost.com/living/at-the-iucn-conference-experts-highlight-issues-of-rapidly-melting-glaciers-in-the-himalayas-resultant-food-and-water-shortages-7648681.html>

The Third Pole: Water and food shortage imminent in the Himalayas

<https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/2019/11/13/water-and-food-shortage-imminent-in-the-himalayas/>

Bhaghi TV; President for joint action of world leaders to save planet from environmental degradation

<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:-8rjSd8o0kgJ:https://en.baaghitr.com/president-for-joint-action-of-world-leaders-to-save-planet-from-environmental-degradation/+&cd=12&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=pk>

PID Twitter: https://twitter.com/pid_gov

Express Tribune: <https://www.facebook.com/etribune/videos/president-arif-alvi-speaking-at-the-7th-iucn-asia-regional-conservation-forum/1723158457818977/>

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Photos: Arif Alvi addressing the 7th International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Conservation Forum

<https://photo.app.com.pk/photo/2019/11/islamabad-november-08-president-dr-arif-alvi-addressing-the-7th-international-union-for-conservation-of-nature-iucn-regional-conservation-forum-app/>

Media Today: President for joint action of world leaders to save planet from environmental degradation.

<http://mediaonlinetoday.com/president-for-joint-action-of-world-leaders-to-save-planet-from-environmental-degradation/>

MCD website: MCD PARTICIPATED IN THE 7TH IUCN ASIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM 2019 IN ISLAMABAD

<http://mcdvietnam.org/mcd-participated-in-the-7th-iucn-asia-regional-conservation-forum-2019-in-islamabad/>

Urdu Point: 8m Tonnes Of Plastic Ends Up In Oceans: Experts

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/8m-tonnes-of-plastic-ends-up-in-oceans-exper-756075.html>

Urdu Point: Experts Urge Action To Tackle Climate Change And Conserve Wildlife

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/experts-urge-action-to-tackle-climate-change-757020.html>

Press Conference

The opening of the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum was announced through a press conference conducted on 5 November 2019. It was attended by the Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, Asia and Director of the IUCN Regional Hub for Asia – Oceania, Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan, Dr. Grethel Aquilar, IUCN Acting Director General Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and IUCN Vice President and Mr. Amjad Rashid, Chair IUCN Pakistan National Committee. Press organisations from Pakistan and the region were given an overview of the activities for the 3-day event as well as the key dignitaries who will be gracing the occasion.

Digital Work

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

A website was launched and it served as the central information hub for Members and interested participants. Social media posts on the IUCN Asia Facebook and Twitter pages were also made to proactively post RCF-related contents.

Featured Events

IUCN CEC Excellence Award - East Asia Award Ceremony



In 2019 the IUCN Commission on education and communication (CEC) launched a special prize – IUCN CEC Excellence Award – to be given to one outstanding CEC member in each region to recognize his/her work for communicating nature and environmental education. By the Excellence award, IUCN CEC aims to value Members' efforts and personal commitment in strengthening the regional networks and local communities, engaging people with nature

conservation, achieving the goals of IUCN and the One Union approach to make the future brighter and harmonic.

This year, the award for [East Asia was bestowed to Xingliang Chen](#) from the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF). CSF is an IUCN Member organisation has done excellence in nature education throughout China to include:

- Project “Youth Camp in Forest” have been organized for 36 consecutive years
- 150 education and communication centers have been set up over in forest reserves all over China
- Educational campaigns at the Annual Forest Week in the past 10+ years
- Dozens of international exchanges on nature education and scientific research.

Tree Planting Activity



The 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum also served as a venue for Members and partners to showcase support to conservation efforts initiated by host countries. For this RCF, participants showed their support to the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative of the Government of Pakistan and took part in the tree planting activity in Shakar Parian, Islamabad.

Annex 3: List of side events

November 6, 14:00-15:00	
Side Event	
<p>Strengthening knowledge for action: Tools to deliver a gender-responsive IUCN 2021-2014 Programme</p> <p>One of the main objectives of the side event was to emphasise the critical importance of gender analysis to systematically, mainstream a gender perspective in natural resources management. Key findings and outcomes from IUCN research: <i>Gender-Based Violence and Environment, understanding links to enable action</i>, identified major knowledge gaps in gender-based violence and environment linkages.</p> <p>The Mangroves for the Future Programme (MFF), <i>Gender Dimensions in Coastal and Fisheries Resources Management in South Asia and Southeast Asia</i>, provided concrete examples of strategies, tools, and case studies. The Gender Analysis Toolkit for Coastal Management Practitioners was presented as a means to undertake a critical gender analysis in the coastal and fisheries sectors in South and Southeast Asia. Research findings that were discussed also emphasised the importance of strengthening the understanding of women's diverse and unique roles and contributions to natural resources management, which was often undervalued due to gender discriminatory norms.</p>	
<p>Fostering cooperative governance in shared river basins: Learning from the BRIDGE programme in Asia</p> <p>To highlight the significance of cooperative governance of shared river basins for regional peace and security in Asia, IUCN Asia Water Programme, led by Mr. Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia, facilitated the side event, <i>Fostering cooperative governance in shared river basins: Learning from the BRIDGE programme in Asia</i>. The event included presentations from IUCN and partners sharing lessons learnt from the various water governance initiatives in the region. Attended by more than 40 participants, the event provided an overview of water governance issues and challenges from across Asia and the examples of tools to facilitate multi-level cooperation and conflict resolution in transboundary river basins.</p> <p>Mr. Vishwa Ranjan, Water and Wetlands Officer, South Asia shared lessons learnt from the IUCN BRIDGE Programme in Asia, with particular focus on the Ganges-Brahmaputra- Meghna (GBM) and the Mekong River. Mr. M. Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, highlighted the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in water diplomacy efforts, which contribute to resolving transboundary issues. Mr. Asoka Rasphone, Deputy Director-General, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR, shared information on the current policy and institutional framework for transboundary cooperation in the Lower Mekong region. Mr. Jake Brunner, Head, IUCN Indo-Burma Group, Vietnam Office, presented the role of energy, food and environmental sectors Nexus assessments in trade-off identification and conflict</p>	

<p>resolution.</p>	
<p>IPBES global assessment: Why and how is it relevant to IUCN?</p> <p>The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, published in May 2019, triggered significant media and political reactions. The IPBES side-event aimed to share the key outcomes of the report and to discuss why and how the IUCN community should engage further with IPBES products and IPBES work programme.</p> <p>In the first half of the session, Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux introduced the IPBES Global Assessment to the audience, emphasising the drafting process and the report's key findings. In particular, the authors' call to simultaneously tackle direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss through five priority governance interventions (levers) at key points where efforts yield large effects (leverage points), was highlighted. The second half of the session was a discussion with the participants, led by Dr Madhav Karki, to identify the barriers as well as the opportunities for IUCN experts and members to engage with IPBES.</p>	
<p>Vulture conservation case studies</p> <p>The panel discussion aimed to share the efforts being made for the conservation of vultures in Pakistan and to encourage the corporate sector contributions in biodiversity conservation by highlighting the case studies. Participants obtained insights from the perspective of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC), which is engaged with IUCN in vulture conservation in Thar Desert.</p> <p>The session provided an opportunity for cross-learning from the experiences of the participants representing different countries of the region. The session allowed SECMC to showcase its valued role in supporting different biodiversity conservation initiatives in Thar Desert. The session centered on the following key points/topics: Priority needs for the conservation of vultures in Pakistan; importance of private sector engagement in nature conservation; contribution of biodiversity conservation in Thar in achieving SECMC's goal to make Islamkot the first SDG compliant sub-division of Pakistan; and experience sharing on vulture conservation in the region.</p>	
<p>November 6, 18:00-19:00</p>	
<p>The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP): Promoting regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas</p> <p>The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) is an informal regional platform for government protected area agencies and other stakeholders that has been created to: promote best practices and innovative solutions to the challenges facing the region's protected areas; strengthen transboundary and regional cooperation; and raise awareness of the multiple benefits of Asia's protected areas, both within and outside the region. Since its launch in 2014, APAP has grown rapidly, and the Partnership now has 21 Members from 17 countries, as well as two Associate Members.</p> <p>The aims of this side event were to introduce APAP to RCF participants, to review the progress of APAP over the last five years, and to explore future priorities and opportunities. Approximately 70 people attended the event. The event included an opening remarks by Dr Jong-Soo Yoon, on</p>	

<p>behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea followed by overview presentation on APAP by Dr Scott Perkin. This was followed by a presentation by Ms Minsun Kim, Programme Officer, IUCN on the recent APAP technical workshop on tourism and visitor management in protected areas held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. The final presentation was made by Dr Maklarin Lakim from Sabah Parks, introducing the plans for the 2nd Asia Parks Congress, which is to be held in Kota Kinabalu from 24 to 28 May 2021. In addition, participants identified a number of priority topics that they recommended be addressed by APAP in the future, including: engagement with the private sector; engagement with youth; species conservation; the conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas; ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples; and the control of development in and around protected areas.</p>	
<p>Protecting Mountain River Ecosystems to Address Regional Challenges</p> <p>Nepal lies in the central part of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, covering major portion of Himalaya which serve as the major source of Ganges as well as 6000 other rivers. Rivers in Nepal can be typically classified into three types depending on their origin. Major rivers originating from Himalayas and carry snow-fed flows with significant discharge even in the dry season. Five large rivers originate from mid-hills of mountains and are fed by spring sources. Besides these river systems, there are large numbers of small rivers, which originate from the Southern Siwalik region, and are seasonal with little flow or completely dry during the dry season but are the major cause of flooding in monsoon. These river systems are the major contributors to the national GDP of Nepal. In the course of time mountain ecosystem in Nepal is facing serious pressure from human activities particularly, fragmentation of forests, unplanned infrastructure, land use change, pollution, climate change, and rapid spread of invasive species.</p> <p>This side event involved a number of IUCN members from Nepal, who identified key priority issues as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large scale studies, research and knowledge management are required to enhance knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services with Regional co-operation on research, monitoring and data sharing; • landscape conservation approach with corridor and connectivity is important to maintain the biodiversity specially for wildlife population; and, • strong environmental planning and monitoring system and institution with adequate human resources and policies should be developed for protecting the river ecosystems. 	
<p>Biodiversity conflict mitigation during the refugee influx: A case study from Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh</p> <p>The main Objective of the session was to present an example from Bangladesh on the challenges and solutions in biodiversity conservation and social cohesion in the face of the humanitarian crisis happened with the influx millions of displaced refugees in Cox’s Bazar. IUCN and Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) are working with UNHCR and bringing innovative solutions to address both humanitarian and environmental crisis. Both organisations are working to green the camps and create livelihood options to keep the delicate balance of peace and harmony between refugee and host communities.</p>	

<p>During the session, the audience gained understanding on current and future threats to various environmental aspects created by conflict and humanitarian crisis. A presentation was made on similar experiences from Sri Lanka on how environmental impact from displacement was tackled after the civil war. The session also identified a way forward on how migration and displacement can impact sensitive ecosystems and how the impact can be mitigated.</p>	
<p>Business and biodiversity platforms: Shaping the future of how the private sector values nature</p> <p>The panel discussion focused on showcasing how businesses play a key role in conservation and sustainable development. The session highlighted the effectiveness of business and biodiversity platforms in helping business take on sustainability challenges. The session provided an opportunity for cross-learning and for Engro, the host of the session, to showcase its leadership role in spearheading such a platform in Pakistan.</p> <p>The session also discussed a number of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importance of multi-stakeholder, including private sector, engagement in nature conservation; • importance of mainstreaming conservation in businesses, and contributing to achieving the SDGs; • relevance of business and biodiversity platforms: success factors, challenges, membership, governance structure, management, activities, operations, funding, etc.; and, • identifying and addressing needs of conservation partners looking to set-up and maintain such platforms. 	
<p>November 7, 19:00-20:00</p>	
<p>The side event was held to focus on the need to mitigate climate change in the Himalayas and the contiguous Mekong region. Through the Himalayan and Mekong (HIMEK) Alliance, a regional cooperation of the Himalayas and the Mekong basin countries, efforts will be made to mitigate climate change through reduction in black carbon emissions coupled with large-scale forestland restoration. The event was well attended involving the presence of Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President.</p> <p>Colonel Muthanna making a presentation emphasised the role of Black Carbon in the warming of the Himalayas and the adjoining Mekong Basin and the need for regional cooperation of the countries in the Himalayas and the Mekong Basin to achieve drastic reduction in Black Carbon emissions coupled with large scale forest restoration projects in the region. He stated that the HIMEK Alliance concept could be applied to other snow and ice covered regions such as the Arctic region, the Alps and the Andes. Mr Jake Brunner spoke on the existing Forest Land Restoration projects in the Mekong Region and stated that these projects could be dovetailed into the HIMEK Alliance program. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Professor Madhav Karki, Vice Chair, South Asia, IUCN CEM and also a speech by IUCN President.</p>	
<p>The Yellow Sea - A global heritage: Updates and progress with the implementation of WCC Resolution 26</p> <p>The side event on <i>The Yellow Sea – A Global Heritage: Updates and Progress with the Implementation of WCC Resolution 26</i> brought together</p>	

<p>representatives from the Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and China to discuss progress on the conservation of the intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea and associated migratory birds. Raphaël Glémet of IUCN opened the event and updated the participants on the Yellow Sea Working Group (YSWG), an informal working group gathering representatives from the three countries, to develop and harmonise action plans on the conservation of intertidal wetlands and migratory birds of the Yellow Sea.</p> <p>Following this, a representative from the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea presented several initiatives, including the recent submission of plans to designate intertidal wetlands on the west coast as World Natural Heritage Sites within the UNESCO framework. Mr. Alex Zhang, from Eco Forum Global (EFG) continued with developments on conservation efforts in China, following the designation of a portion of the Yellow Sea coast as a World Natural Heritage Site. Ms. Ri Kyong, representative from Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a presentation, referring to the country's recent accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as well as to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership including referring to the Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve, the first Ramsar Site in the country, which has been developed and promoted as a conservation area. Doug Watkins, Chief Executive of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership, emphasised that the cooperation of representatives of all countries along the Yellow Sea, as well as the close exchange and work among international partners is crucial to preserve the biodiversity along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.</p>	
<p>Ecosystem-based management from mountains to mangroves</p> <p>Climate change is one of the most challenging issues that Pakistan faces today. It is affecting all ecosystems, from mountains to mangroves, including species and habitats. The glaciers in the Hindukush-Himalayan region are receding, the consequences of which are resulting in changes in river inflows. The event focused on the challenges of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), floods, droughts, heatwaves, other extreme weather events, and cropping pattern and agricultural issues induced by climate change and its impacts on ecosystems. The presenters gave an overview of the organisation's work in Pakistan and shared that the country is bestowed with wildlife such as snow leopards, Indus dolphins and brown bears. They shared that to enhance communities' resilience on climate change and promote alternative livelihoods, WWF-Pakistan, in collaboration with government departments, has implemented climate change adaptation initiatives from the Upper Indus Basin to the Indus Delta.</p> <p>As part of the event, a panel discussion was held where experts shared best practices to build climate resilience of local communities and collaborate on addressing climate issues. The discussion spanned past, present, and planned ecosystem based management interventions to address climate change impacts in Pakistan. The <i>Recharge Pakistan</i>, being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan was also discussed.</p>	
<p>Human-wildlife conflict case studies</p> <p>The panel discussion aimed to share the efforts being made for the conservation of snow leopards using the ecosystem protection approach. The session highlighted case studies that focused on human wildlife conflicts and the underlying issues linked to it including from Pakistan and</p>	

China. The thrust of the session was on understanding how serious Human-Wildlife Conflict is in a country, the trends and issues and challenges in addressing the constraints. It also focused on identifying key measures put in place to resolve the issues and understanding what worked and did not work. In particular, the session highlighted the role IUCN could play in the protection of snow leopards.

During the session, it was recognised that human wildlife conflicts quite often emerge from certain misconceptions, which trigger community reactions and could lead to unwanted attacks on snow leopards by the community as a retaliatory measure. The approach should be holistic in nature so that the root causes of the issue can be resolved through essential participation of communities.



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