

IUCN Member Benefits

Inform, influence,
implement

WORKING WITH MEMBERS FOR A JUST WORLD THAT VALUES AND CONSERVES NATURE

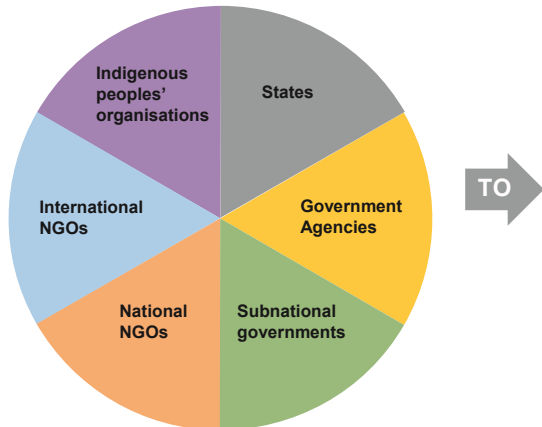
INTRODUCTION

Inform, influence, implement. These three actions sum up the vast and formidable benefits that can result when the world's diversity of conservation organisations unite under the common goal of conserving life on Earth.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the first and largest global environmental union, bringing together governments and civil society organisations with a shared goal to protect nature. Today, with subnational governments and Indigenous peoples' organisations further enriching its Membership, it brings together the collective expertise, influence and capacity of some 1,400 Members in over 160 countries, and 15,000 Commission experts, all supported by a Secretariat of some 1,000 staff, based in 50 countries around the world.

IUCN produces and delivers the latest science, generating objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise that drive IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. Members work together to forge and implement solutions to the planet's greatest environmental challenges. Combined, IUCN's knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards.

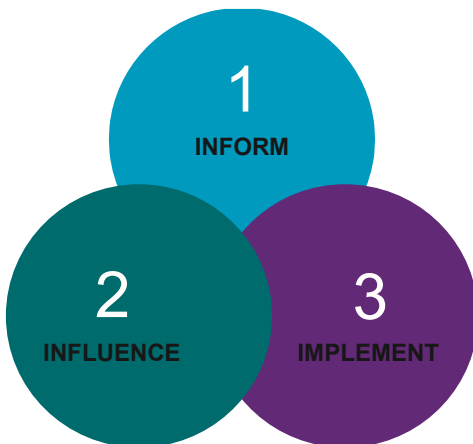
Bringing
together
IUCN
Members



Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations convene and influence diverse stakeholders at the highest level, all in support of nature conservation. They are also part of a transparent and democratic process, voting on IUCN motions which drive the global conservation agenda. Furthermore, as an official United Nations Observer, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has an influential voice at the highest level of international governance.

IUCN's expertise and extensive network also provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation programmes and projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these programmes and projects work to halt and reverse biodiversity and habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information which further feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

The unique value of working together as a Union cannot be understated or reproduced. IUCN's history is built on the results of Members putting knowledge, influence and execution to work for a more sustainable future for nature and people through **informing**, **influencing**, and **implementing**.



A just world
that
values
and
conserves
nature

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INFORM

IUCN is the global authority on nature and the actions needed to safeguard it. Our wealth of knowledge is created together with our Members and maintained for use by Members to inform and target conservation action for maximum impact. Members also use IUCN's trusted global standards, guidelines and best practices to advance their conservation agendas. The Union's knowledge capacity is anchored in solid data and formidable analytical capacity generated by its network of thousands of leading experts and on-the-ground experience.

Conservation Tools

Effective conservation requires a detailed understanding of the state of nature, trends, and the impact of interventions. IUCN provides Members with the most comprehensive and scientifically sound conservation tools available. These include:



- **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:** The world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species.



- **The Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR)** metric assesses potential contributions towards global goals for halting extinctions. It helps Members to target their investments and activities to achieve conservation outcomes and contribute to global policy aims.



- **The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems** measures the relative risk of ecosystem collapse for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems at subnational, national, regional and global scales.



- **ECOLEX:** The most comprehensive global source of information on national and international environmental law.

Members use IUCN's data, analysis, assessments, guidelines, standards and best practices to advance their conservation agendas as well as contributing to this knowledge.



EXAMPLE

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species. Currently, there are more than 147,500 species on the list.

TESTIMONIAL



The IUCN Red List has long been humanity's eyes and ears, alerting us to the loss of nature and its dire consequences.

Conservation International

IUCN Member since 1987

Member category:

International non-governmental organisation

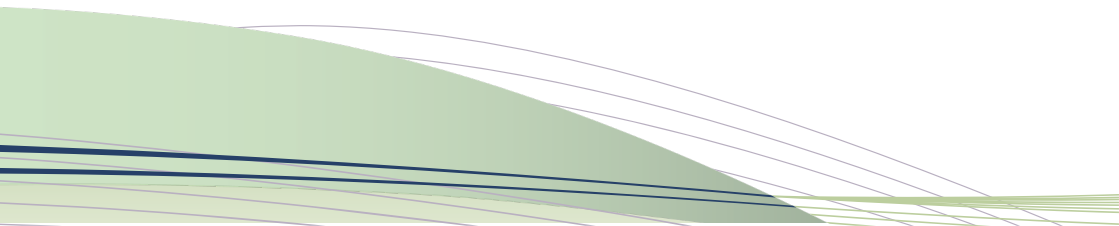
Guidelines, best practices and standards

IUCN standards help guide Member conservation efforts and ensure the proper and most effective implementation of conservation action worldwide. These include:

- **The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions**, which verifies that the Nature-based Solution being applied will make a positive contribution to tackling one of the following goals: climate change, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, food security, human health, social and economic development and water security.
- **Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas:** An international benchmark for high-quality protected and conserved areas that motivates improved performance and achievement of conservation objectives.
- **Natural World Heritage sites:** IUCN is the official advisor on nature to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and evaluates potential natural World Heritage sites and monitors those sites already recognised as the planet's most important protected areas.



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The Pastaza River, large tributary to the Marañón River in the northwestern Amazon Basin © Shutterstock



Bromo volcano at sunrise, Tengger Semeru National Park, East Java, Indonesia © Shutterstock

2 INFLUENCE

The Union substantially boosts Members' power to influence the conservation agenda, both individually via IUCN's democratic processes, and collectively. With over 1,400 Members, uniquely composed of State and national government agencies, regional and local authorities, civil society organisations, and Indigenous peoples' organisations, IUCN's power to influence is unparalleled. Supported by this collective power and underpinned by an extensive knowledge base, Members are particularly well-equipped to both guide and influence national and international environmental policy, global negotiations, private sector ambitions for operating sustainably and much more.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress

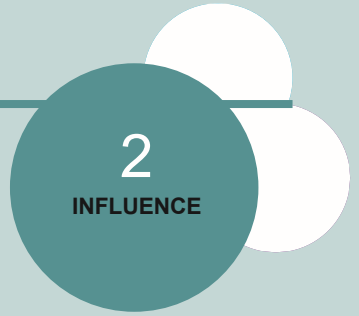
As the world's largest and most democratic recurring conservation event in the world, the IUCN World Conservation Congress (the "Congress") brings the expertise and influence of its powerful membership to bear on the most pressing issues of the time. By submitting motions and voting on recommendations and resolutions, Members shape the global conservation agenda as well as the Union's future strategies and work programmes. In doing so, they influence international, national and local law and ultimately, the global conservation agenda.

Over the years, IUCN Congresses have been instrumental in helping create and develop major environmental conventions and international agreements, including the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The global environmental policy agenda

IUCN has a proven track record as a trusted policy and scientific advisor, and in supporting the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Rio Conventions and a number of other biodiversity-related conventions. Through the Union's collective voice, Members can bring their specialist knowledge and expertise and contribute to the development of IUCN policies, which in turn influence discussions at the global level.

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EXAMPLE

IUCN Members, via the World Conservation Congress have been instrumental in creating major environmental conventions including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

TESTIMONIAL



IUCN Congress is “a space where we can engage and influence the global conservation agenda as we have a decision-making status that does not exist in other spaces.”

Inuit Circumpolar Council
IUCN Member since 1988
Member category:
Indigenous peoples' organisation



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IMPLEMENT

With its vast portfolio of projects and strong track record and relationships with donors, IUCN has an unparalleled ability to bring Members into project work.

EXAMPLE

Across the entire IUCN active project portfolio worth CHF 710 million, 133 Members are involved in 116 projects in 2023.

TESTIMONIAL



Restoring and protecting our lands is the solution for a fairer and sustainable recovery.

Republic of Costa Rica

IUCN Member since 1980

Member category:

State

3

IMPLEMENT

With its vast portfolio of projects and strong track record and relationships with donors, IUCN has an unparalleled ability to bring Members into project work. IUCN channels a large share of its project funds through the portfolio to Member organisations. For example, across the entire IUCN active project portfolio worth CHF 710 million, 133 Members are involved in 116 projects in 2023. IUCN also supports Members by carrying out capacity development, and monitoring results.

Projects on the ground

The multiple projects implemented with Members are both diverse and impactful. These range from State Member, Pakistan working with IUCN on its first Climate Change Gender Action Plan to government agency Members enhancing their transboundary water cooperation via an IUCN-led project to numerous Members awarded grants by IUCN to carry out species conservation action.

Donor relationships

IUCN enjoys Global Environment Facility Agency status, and is an accredited entity of the Global Climate Fund. IUCN also enjoys a privileged relationship with major development agencies, many of which are themselves Members. These include the French Agency for Development, the German development agency GIZ, the United States Agency for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and many more.

Many Members also benefit from IUCN's brand and status as a trusted partner to access funding that may otherwise be difficult or impossible to reach.

Capacity Building

IUCN Academy provides opportunities for capacity building and knowledge sharing for Members such as training for the Professional certificate on the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based solutions.

IUCN also runs workshops and training events aimed at building IUCN Member capacity, supporting them to better design, develop, and implement projects and programmes. It also provides peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices.



Become an IUCN Member

If you are interested in more information on how to apply for IUCN membership:

<https://www.iucn.org/members>

Our network of Regional Membership Focal points is also on hand to support you through the process and answer any questions you may have:

<https://www.iucn.org/membersupport>

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Cover image: View from Ecola State Park looking south toward Canon Beach and haystack Rock, Oregon coast, USA. © Shutterstock

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

