



# Building green standards

## Fact sheet on the new IUCN Conservation Centre

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, has reached an exciting milestone in its 60-year history. It has extended its current headquarters into a new Conservation Centre. This state-of-the-art complex enhances IUCN's position as the world's leading environmental network and helps cultivate partnerships for stronger collective action among the conservation community, government, private sector and society.

The IUCN headquarters in Gland on Lake Geneva sets a benchmark in sustainable construction. The new building incorporates a series of innovative green building techniques while operating within tight cost constraints. Functional, economic and architectural criteria were used as the basis for the design.

To leverage these criteria, building components serves multiple purposes. In addition, a minimal amount of material and technology was used throughout the design while maximizing the quality of the working environment and the building's energy performance.

Finally an expert team of architects, partners, consultants and engineers were chosen and tasked with design and building standards which meet the highest levels of certification with both LEED and MINERGIE.

IUCN's primary objective was to realize a sustainable work environment that is viable, comfortable and affordable. This building exemplifies how development and sustainability can co-exist and highlights what sustainable construction can accomplish in terms of energy and material use.



## Highlights

### Espace Rencontre Luc Hoffmann

- An outdoor terrace, partially enclosed, for receptions and events.

### Holcim Think Tank

- Large modular conference space located on the top floor.
- Capacity for 150, with elevator access and kitchen facilities; spectacular views of the lake and alps.

### Natural Garden

- Visitors will be able to experience the natural beauty of local flora and fauna just outside our office door in the spectacular natural garden; tours will be available.

### Meeting Facilities

- The Conservation Centre offers numerous meeting rooms which can be rented for conferences or special events.

### Members and Partners

- Member and partner organizations are hosted in the Centre, including Fondation MAVA, WAZA and RAMSAR, enabling collaboration on conservation issues.

### Visitor Centre

- The interactive visitor centre presents current environmental issues. The work of IUCN, its members and partners in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation will all be showcased.

# Technical specifications

## Surface Areas

- Ground external surface: 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Building surface: 3,400 m<sup>2</sup>
- Gross floor area surface: 5,400 m<sup>2</sup>
- Atrium, terrace and balcony surface: 1,900 m<sup>2</sup>
- Underground parking surface: 2,200 m<sup>2</sup>

## Cost

- 25 million Swiss francs

## Workspaces

- 110 to 140 workspaces over 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>

## Benchmarks

- In all aspects of design and construction, IUCN was striving to achieve the highest U.S. Green Building Council standard rating: LEED Platinum (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). IUCN's goal is to be the first office building in Europe with a LEED Platinum certification. [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED)
- MINERGIE-P-ECO®. The MINERGIE standard is a voluntary, Swiss-based construction standard that promotes the rational use of energy and renewable energy sources. It mitigates negative environmental impacts and sets high demands in terms of comfort. [www.minergie.com](http://www.minergie.com)

## Water Efficiency

- High efficiency system for drinking water
- Rain water recuperated on the roof and used to flush toilets and if necessary irrigate the garden
- Waterless urinals

## Energy Efficiency

- Reversible geothermal heat pump: 15 wells at 180m depth
- Heating and cooling through thermal mass concrete
- Production of hot water through recuperation of heat from refrigerators
- 100% of the energy consumption comes from renewable sources
- A photovoltaic installation producing 145,000 kWh per year
- 27% of the photovoltaic energy used to run the building, covering 20% of the total energy needs

## Lighting

- Most innovative and low consumption lighting system: EU Energy Label – Class A
- Movement and daylight sensors
- Maximization of daylight through skylights

## Materials and Resources

- Minimal use of materials
- 40% recycled concrete
- Locally sourced materials
- 75% FSC wood [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

## Indoor Environmental Quality

- A building and site that explicitly support a healthy work and lifestyle, interaction and innovation
- A decentralized CO<sub>2</sub> controlled air supply system
- Balconies and adjustable blinds to avoid overheating in summer and allow passive solar gain in winter, while taking advantage of natural light

# Donors

The following donors have provided cash and in kind contributions:

- Holcim Ltd
- Kinnarps AB
- MAVA, Fondation pour la Nature
- Confédération suisse
- Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction
- Loterie Romande
- Margot Bennett-Mathieson
- Philips
- Ville de Gland

# Project team

## Total contractor

- KARL STEINER SA, Total Services Contractor  
*Sebastian Schütze, Jean-Manuel Megow, Laurent Rollier*

## Architecture

- agps.architecture Zurich / Los Angeles  
*Marc Angelii, Sarah Graham, Manuel Scholl, Reto Pleninger, Hanspeter Oester, Dominik Arioli, Ines Trenner, Angelika Scherer*

## Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Building Physics

- Amstein + Walthert SA, Zurich / Geneva  
*Hansjurg Leibundgut, Adrian Altenburger, Matthias Achermann, Gisela Branco*

## Structural Engineering

- Guscetti & Tournier SA, Carouge  
*Jérôme Pochat, Claudio Pirazzi, Friedrich Kalix, Benoît Favre*

## LEED Consulting

- Architectural Energy Corporation, Colorado, USA  
*Michael Holtz, Sally Blair*

## Pilot

- Institut pour l'Economie de la Construction SA (IEC SA), Lausanne  
*Daniel Dorsaz, Michel Coubès, Christian Morand (Techdata SA)*

## Loan Management

- Fondation des Immeubles pour les Organisations Internationales – FIPOI

## IUCN

- Michael Davis, Chief Financial Officer
- Christian Laufenberg, Head General Services Unit