

ANNUAL

2020

REPORT



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FRONT COVER

Unidentified Jellyfish at Pearl and Hermes Atoll in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument; the largest contiguous, fully protected conservation area under the U.S. flag, and one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world.

©Greg McFall/NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 2011



Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Muir Woods, California
©Daniel Peckham

INTRODUCTION

The IUCN U.S. National Committee (USNC) was proposed in 2016 and officially began at its inaugural meeting in June of 2017. Since that time, our Executive Committee and members have been active across the U.S. and the globe. Although 2020 has proved to be a challenging year, to say the least, the IUCN U.S. National Committee continues to evolve, grow its membership, and find new ways to implement its mission. U.S. members have been active in preparation for the Marseille Congress and the online forums.

We are confident that 2021 will bring more opportunities and look forward to engaging all U.S. IUCN members to advance the conservation of nature and contribute to IUCN.

USNC Goals

1. Provide a channel for communications and networking.
2. Provide a platform for IUCN U.S. members to share and communicate.
3. Provide a forum to discuss and consider collective actions.
4. Ensure that the IUCN U.S. members' views make an effective contribution to the work of IUCN.
5. Disseminate IUCN policy positions, publications, reports and information to IUCN U.S. members.



Roosevelt Elk in the Hoh Rainforest of the Olympic National Park, Washington © Linda Tanner

Vision: A robust and engaged IUCN U.S. membership that contributes to IUCN's vision of "A just world that values and conserves nature."

Mission: To encourage and support co-operation among IUCN U.S. members, to facilitate their influence and impact on nature conservation, and to contribute effectively to the global programs and governance of IUCN.

LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee 2019-2021



Christopher Dunn
(Chair), Cornell
Botanic Gardens



Deb Hahn, International
Association of Fish
& Wildlife Agencies



Healy Hamilton,
NatureServe



Scott Hajost, Antarctic
and Southern Ocean
Coalition + National
Whistleblower Center



Jennifer Luedtke, Global
Wildlife Conservation



David Reynolds,
George Wright Society

Membership & Communications Subcommittee co-Chairs

Bonnie Wyper, Thinking Animals United

Paul Salaman, Rasmussen Family Foundation and Galapagos Conservancy

Policy & Strategy Subcommittee co-Chairs

Scott Hajost, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition + National Whistleblower Center

Danielle Kessler (previously Beth Allgood), International Fund for Animal Welfare

Steve Olsen, Association of Zoos and Aquariums

IUCN D.C. Office Contacts

Dr. Frank Hawkins, Director

Debbie Good, Membership Focal Point US/Canada Human Resource Manager

Kaia Boe, Partnerships and Grants Management Officer

USNC ACTIVITIES – 2020

Governance

- Updated and approved Constitution and Rules of Operation
- 2020 Annual General Meeting of members held in December 2020 and January 2021
 - Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General appointed in 2020, started the January 2021 with a presentation and Q&A for the members
- Active engagement by members in consultation on Council elections, governance motions, Commission mandates, draft IUCN Programme, etc.

Member Engagement

- Active engagement by members in development and discussion of, and voting on Congress motions
- Organized three virtual forums for the USNC members to interact with each of the three IUCN Presidential candidates
- USNC regularly circulated matters of possible general interest to Members as well as reminders on important dates and deadlines
- USNC meeting with USFWS Director Aurelia Skipwith

Member Recruitment and Service

- Active recruitment of new members: 18 new Members joined in 2020
- Membership and Communications Subcommittee prepared a template for a USNC website to go live in early 2021
- Policy and Strategy Subcommittee co-chairs prepared an information compendium on Covid-19 resources and associated legislation

Engagement with IUCN Directorate

- USNC presented ideas to Council on how IUCN should respond to Covid-19



Bridge over the New River, one of the few in North America to flow North; the New River Gorge National Park, West Virginia was established in December 2020 © Shawn Ullerup

IUCN GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

To find all of IUCN's top news, please visit the dedicated section on the website here. IUCN has also collected a number of resources on conservation and COVID-19 here. Some 2020 highlights below:



New IUCN Director General

Bruno Oberle was appointed IUCN's new Director General in July 2020, succeeding Inger Andersen. Dr. Oberle brings over 40 years of experience to IUCN at a time when redefining humanity's relationship with nature is more urgent than ever. Before joining IUCN, Dr. Oberle served in some of Switzerland's most prestigious positions related to the environment. Learn more about Bruno Oberle:

www.iucn.org/about/senior-management/director-general



Frank Hawkins, IUCN US Director stepping down; search for new Director underway

After 8 years as the Director of the IUCN North America Office, Dr. Frank Hawkins will be departing in April 2021. Until about 2007, Frank worked primarily in Madagascar for about 20 years with CI and other NGOs, where he conducted research on birds, lemurs and carnivores, and supported the government, local communities and local NGOs in implementing the National Environmental Action Plan. It is therefore fitting that he is headed back to Madagascar to continue his work with IUCN on policy related issues. An active search is ongoing for a new Director for the IUCN North America Office. Once in place, an announcement will be made to all members.



IUCN World Conservation Congress

IUCN and the French government have agreed to hold the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille. The event, originally scheduled for June 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information can be found here.

IUCN Nature-based Solutions Standard

In July 2020, IUCN launched a Global Standard providing the first-ever set of benchmarks for nature-based solutions to global challenges. The new IUCN Global Standard will help governments, business and civil society ensure the effectiveness of nature-based solutions and maximize their potential to help address climate change, biodiversity loss and other societal challenges on a global scale.

NEW US MEMBERS IN 2020

A warm welcome to the 18 IUCN Members who joined in 2020!

