

# Minutes of the IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee Meeting

11-12 September 2018  
Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China

The Asia Regional Members Committee (ARMC) meeting of IUCN Members in Asia was held in Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China from 11-12 September under the chairmanship of Prof. Ma Keping. The meeting was supported by the Bureau of International Co-operation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administration Committee (HSAC).

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the progress of IUCN Members' activities, Commissions and the Secretariat, and to deliberate on how the ARMC could further strengthen its efforts in tackling environmental challenges. To celebrate IUCN's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director IUCN Asia gave a presentation on IUCN's contribution to nature conservation over the last 70 years.

## 1. Opening Session

In his opening remarks, Prof. Ma Keping, Chair of the ARMC, welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of the year 2020, given that the COP 15 will be held during the same year in Beijing, China. COP 15 will review and adopt the 'Post 2020 Biodiversity Conservation Framework'. In 2020, the IUCN World Conservation Congress will also be held.

Mr. Wenda Wu, Executive Director of Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee (HSAC) graced the occasion with his kind presence at the opening session of the meeting. In his opening remarks, Mr. Wu welcomed all the participants, and explained the importance of Mt. Huangshan as a significant natural reserve that enjoys the status of the UNESCO Heritage Site, the World Biosphere Reserve and the World Geopark. Mr. Wu further added that the HSAC philosophy is that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and that environmental conservation should be prioritised. HSAC's vision is to build Mt. Huangshan into a sacred place for the country and the people, an important reserve for resources and ecological protection, and a place for local communities to improve their livelihoods. Mr. Wu acknowledged IUCN's support in providing guidance on Mt. Huangshan's protection, and invited members of the Asia Regional Committee to provide further support in strengthening cooperation.

IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng gave a welcome speech through a recorded message as he was not able to attend the meeting due to health reasons. President Zhang thanked Prof. Ma for organizing this meeting in Huangshan, which is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in China. He welcomed all participants of the Asia Regional Committee, Regional Councillors and Commission representatives. President Zhang also congratulated IUCN Vice President Malik Amin Aslam Khan on his appointment in August as Adviser on Climate Change to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, with the status of a Federal Minister. In his concluding remarks, the President said *"Let us all promise today that through our responsible action, we will make this world a better place for human and nature to live in peace and harmony."*

Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, Founding President of Baanhn Beli and IUCN former Vice President, on behalf of Mr Amjad Rashid, the Chair of the Pakistan National Committee, who could not attend due to unavoidable reasons welcomed all participants and thanked Prof. Ma for organizing the meeting. He emphasized on the importance of promoting conservation at the time of new geopolitical and go-economic uncertainties. Senator (r) Jabbar commended the Peoples Republic of China for demonstrating that regardless of differences on political policy, the conservation cause is truly one that must and can unite us. He also said that he was privileged to attend the meeting on behalf of Global Vice President Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, who could not attend the meeting due to his recent appointment as Adviser on Climate Change to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Senator (r) Jabbar conveyed greetings from Mr. Amjad Rashid and Mr. Malik Amin Aslam and also acknowledged the support of Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji who pioneered the introduction of IUCN to Pakistan and to the whole region.

IUCN Regional Councillor, Prof. Youngbae Suh made brief remarks and welcomed all the participants to the meeting. He thanked Prof. Ma Keping for organizing the meeting, which was held back-to-back with another successful meeting of the Tripartite Partnership between Members in Japan, Korea (RoK) and China in Beijing.

IUCN Regional Councillor, Prof. Amran Hamzah thanked Prof. Ma for the opportunity to participate in this meeting. He said that he looks forward to discussing how Asia can contribute to the global conservation movement.

IUCN Regional Councillor, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya thanked Prof. Ma for hosting this meeting. He could not attend the previous meeting due to other engagements; however, he was very keen to know how IUCN Members can contribute to the conservation efforts collectively.

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji thanked the host Mr Wenda Wu for the hospitality and for hosting the meeting in this World Heritage Site. She mentioned that this is an important meeting as participants will be looking at what IUCN's achievements have been between Congresses, what we plan to do at the next Congress, and what should be part of the next programme beyond 2020.

Ms Kabraji highlighted some of the challenges faced by Asia and said that Asia has some of the worst environmental issues. For example, Asia is the biggest contributor to plastics in oceans. She pointed out that we need to recognize that China has enormous impact on the economy. She also cited the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as an example, and the impact of which could be both beneficial and worrying. She added that we must recognize that while this initiative brings enormous potential, we must think about how we as IUCN Members, can work with the Chinese Government in ensuring that we bring the best of China's contribution to Asia and to the rest of the world, and also what we can achieve from our particular perspectives in countries.

## **2. Introduction of participants**

Participants of the ARMC meeting introduced themselves. The meeting was attended by Members of the ARMC from 16 countries, including Chairs of the National Committees/ /or their nominated colleagues and representatives of Members from other countries where National Committees do not exist, Regional Councillors from Asia (Prof. Youngbae Suh, Prof. Amran Hamzah and Mr. Mangal Man Shakya), Regional Vice Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and the Secretariat. List of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

## **3. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and adopted.

Adopted agenda of the meeting is attached as **Annex 2**.

## **4. Presentation on 70 Years of IUCN by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director IUCN Asia**

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji gave a presentation of IUCN's work in the past 20 years. Ms. Kabraji explained how IUCN continued to make a difference during these 70 years, starting as the first global environmental union, which brought together governments and civil society organisations with a shared goal to protect nature, in 1948.

During the first decade of its existence, IUCN's primary focus was to examine the impact of human activities on nature. It promoted the use of environmental impact assessments, which have since become the norm across sectors and industries.

IUCN's subsequent work in the 1960s and 1970s was devoted to the protection of species and the habitats necessary for their survival. In 1964, IUCN established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN created the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as a complementary organisation to focus on fund raising, public relations, and increasing public support for nature conservation. IUCN also played a fundamental role in the creation of key International Conventions, including the Ramsar

Convention on Wetlands (1971), the World Heritage Convention (1972), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, (1974) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

In 1980, IUCN – in partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – published the World Conservation Strategy, a ground-breaking document which helped define the concept of ‘sustainable development’ and shaped the global conservation and sustainable development agenda.

A subsequent version of the strategy (Caring for the Earth), was published which served as the basis for international environmental policy and guided the creation of the Rio Conventions on biodiversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Desertification (UNCCD).

In 1999, IUCN was granted official observer status to the United Nations. Until Dec 2017, IUCN was the only environmental organisation with such status. UNGA granted the status to INBAR – The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation in Dec 2017.

In the early 2000s, IUCN established the Business and Biodiversity Programme to scale up its engagement with the private sector in conservation and improve business practices related to the environment.

Later in the 2000s, IUCN pioneered ‘nature-based solutions’ – actions to conserve nature which also address global challenges, such as food and water security, climate change and poverty reduction. At UNFCCC COP23, Parties to the UN Climate Conference increasingly recognised nature-based solutions as essential parts of addressing climate change and, with support from IUCN, adopted UNFCCC’s first Gender Action Plan.

IUCN launched the Bonn Challenge with a target to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020. To date, there are over 45 commitments totalling more than 160 million hectares for restoration.

The presentation was followed by a two-minute video clip on 70 years of IUCN which is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6ghDgOqeo4&feature=youtu.be>

### **Summary of discussion:**

- a) Senator (r) Javed Jabbar highlighted that the first fundamental challenge is to ensure a creative relationship between the elected members represented by the President of IUCN and Regional Councillors and the professional management represented by the Secretariat in Gland and regional offices. He further mentioned that we need to assert the principle that the elected forum must have precedence in policy and management direction, not by micro-management, but setting the direction and overseeing the process. It has been noted that the elected Council tends to give undue way to the appointed secretariat. In Asia, we are fortunate to have a constructive secretariat both at the regional and national levels.

The second element flagged by Senator (r) Jabbar was the fallout from the BRI. He mentioned that in Pakistan, we have now begun to exploit coal on a major scale because of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Tharparkar region in Pakistan has the sixth largest coal deposit in which Chinese State and private sector are investing. While using coal, abundant care is being taken to make the process as clean as possible. At this power plant in Tharparkar, where coal is being used as a source, the Chinese and Pakistanis (government and private sectors) are importing better quality turbines from the USA. If we continue to follow the BRI-CPEC model, without compromising on the environment and any aspects of conservation merely because it’s cheaper or quicker, it can bring a phenomenal social change.

The third issue flagged by Senator (r) Jabbar was that IUCN needs to look at the next 20-30 years to look at new scenarios of non-fossil fuel based world.

The fourth point raised by Senator (r) Jabbar was that IUCN has not yet done adequate work in urban ecology. Half the world’s population is living in cities; hence, problems of sanitation, pollution and despoliation need to be given due consideration.

The fifth point that Senator (r) Jabbar made was that at the last World Conservation Congress when President Obama could not attend for some reason, he visited Honolulu just a day before the opening of the Congress, and made a historic announcement to acknowledge IUCN's presence in the USA and declared a huge area in the Pacific as the world's largest maritime protected area. Unfortunately, Mr. Donald Trump allowed the construction of a pipeline from Canada to North and South Dakota. The damage is not just confined to the USA; by pulling out of the Paris Agreement and by several other actions, he is encouraging destructive elements that exist in policymaking processes to downgrade the importance of ecology and the environment, and we in civil society and those in the government must use our position to not allow the terrible influence emanating from USA to affect our respective approaches to sustaining and strengthening our commitments.

- b) Prof. Amran Hamzah commented that the relationship between Members, Commissions and the Secretariat has always been a challenge. Councillors must work out ways to engage with Members. The governance structure of IUCN has improved considerably and is getting better. The Secretariat now works closely with the Council to cascade the global programme right down to regional and country levels. In this context, Policy, Governance and Finance Committees of the Council have been formed and are instrumental in working with the Secretariat.

He also mentioned that a task force on the private sector has been constituted. Currently, the task force is looking at issues in Europe and North America. It's about time that private sector involvement in Asia, particularly the BRI, is also integrated into the taskforce role.

Prof. Amran Hamzah further said that he fully agrees with Senator (r) Jabbar's concerns on urban ecology, and informed Members that at the last World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, the 'urban alliance' was set as the new agenda for IUCN, and that Prof. Hamzah is a member of the alliance which will be looking at this aspect. He said that it is not easy to find a position for IUCN because there are other entities involved and finding a space for IUCN to make better contributions is difficult at this stage. However, there is potential to contribute through our best practices. Prof. Hamzah suggested that this should be one of the agenda items at the next Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

- c) Prof. Kheng Lian Koh made a point on the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city. She said that the President of China, Xi Jinping, has made many comments on eco-civilisation with Chinese characteristics; we need to explore this concept of eco-civilisation with Chinese characteristics.

Commenting on the other point on urban ecology, Prof. Koh mentioned that there is a need to emphasise nature-based solutions, particularly of a man-made nature. We should pull all of them together, so that we have one concept. We may also need to understand what eco-civilisation means.

- d) Prof. Ma also made a point that all these comments are very valid, and we should probably think about organising a workshop on these topics.
- e) Mr Teppei Dohke made a comment on Ms Kabraji's presentation and said that in IUCN's history, protected areas were a major focus and were also led by IUCN Members and Commissions.

He also mentioned that the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a good opportunity, and IUCN Members in Japan will be having a symposium in October. The Japan NC was created in 1980 and contributed to the Conservation Strategy. In 2010, Japan hosted CBD COP 10 and later hosted the Asia Parks Congress; in 2014 Japan made a contribution to the global agenda of IUCN through the Sendai Framework.

Ms Meher Noshirwani wanted to know when the Commissions emerged in the history of IUCN. Ms Kabraji mentioned that Commissions have been there since the beginning, and requested Raj to find out the further details, and inform Members.

- f) Mrs Hasna Moudud asked what the role is of Members in the Secretariat and Council, and how could we improve our interaction. Her second point was on ocean pollution, coral degradation, and Antarctic melting; she said that all these global issues need to be connected, and asked whether there is any update on the progress on these issues since the Conservation Congress, particularly on the resolutions on Oceans.

Mrs Moudud also said that a coal-based power plant is being built inside the Sundarbans which is a Ramsar site. She also said that Bangladesh has not been able to influence dialogue between co-riparian countries and she is therefore uncertain about the availability and quality of water, which will endanger Bangladesh and the connected regions.

- g) Ms Aban Marker Kabraji commented on the points on the BRI. She said that we are going to see a lot of Asian values coming in with the BRI, such as family and harmony, and that with those values will come a much greater respect for nature, leading to resurgence of nature.

On the question on whether IUCN can play a role and whether Members can be partners in the BRI, Ms Kabraji responded that CPEC is a big project in which US \$46 billion have been invested by China. There is very strong involvement of IUCN with the Government of China and the Government of Pakistan in influencing how the road and other infrastructure will be built. There is also a project which is funded by Italians to see the impact of CPEC in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and Gwadar. IUCN is going to have a meeting with the Government to see how to do this in more countries in Asia. She added that IUCN is hoping to work with more Members in other countries in seeing the impact of CPEC in other countries. It is a model that IUCN is trying out in Pakistan, and if it progresses, will be able to adopt it in other countries. In addition to this, Prof. Ma, Dr Chunquan Zhu and Ms. Kabraji are appointed to the China Council for Internal Economic Development, which is studying the BRI, and Ms Kabraji is one of the team leaders on that study. She added that Members in Pakistan are already involved and they will come to the conference and scope out what should be done. IUCN wants that model and will use it in other countries.

- h) Building on Ms. Kabraji's comments, Prof. Ma said that the current project with Pakistan is a starting point, and that he really hopes that it could be a demonstration for other countries to join. He was of the view that if possible, IUCN, at the global level, should consider developing a strategic plan on IUCN and the BRI.
- i) Dr Chunquan Zhu mentioned that the Chinese government and local governments are going to organise an international event in November on urban ecosystems which Members may wish to attend.
- j) Mr Rishi Shah commented that the time has come that ICT technology be used in environment and problem solving, and that it must be discussed at the Regional Conference.

## **5. Presentation by Dr T. P. Singh, Deputy Regional Director of IUCN Asia**

Dr TP Singh's presentation was two-fold. His first presentation was on IUCN and its activities in Asia and how it relates to the Global Programme Areas of work. The second part of the presentation was on the Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

### **a) Presentation on IUCN in Asia**

A brief overview of IUCN in Asia was presented by Dr Singh, which included IUCN's presence in Asia, membership in Asia, Members that are at risk of rescission if they do not clear their outstanding dues before 24 October 2018, information on Regional and National Committees in Asia, Commission members in Asia, and publication material produced by IUCN.

Explaining the current context, Dr Singh pointed out that according to Danny Quah, the world economic centre of gravity is shifting towards Asia. Asia accounts for 60% of the world's population. Asia's material footprint has increased since 2000 and there is expected to be major growth in natural resource-based sectors and investments in physical infrastructure which will increase pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Dr Singh also presented an analysis on the development context in South Asia, Southeast and Northeast Asia. He further explained how IUCN has been contributing through various projects in Asia to support the three programme areas: 1. Valuing and Conserving Nature; 2. Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources; and 3. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Address Societal Challenges including Climate Change, Food Security, and Economic and Social Development.

Some of the examples that Dr Singh brought to the attention of Members were: Supporting development of NBSAPs and building capacity on the Red List; management of protected areas; conservation of species; enhancing the involvement of private sector in biodiversity conservation; governance of natural resources through hydro-diplomacy work and establishment of GBM Civil Society Organisation Network for Transboundary Water Management, etc.; empowerment of vulnerable groups and providing access and benefits; and Mangroves for the Future.

Dr Singh also highlighted the challenges faced by IUCN in Asia in delivering its programme. These included: staying dynamic and relevant amid rapidly changing socio-political and economic realities in Asia; project implementation across very diverse countries, sectors and actors, and at regional, national and local levels; long-term financial sustainability amid shifting donor priorities; current structure that makes approaching non-traditional donors challenging; rapidly growing IUCN Asia constituency and increasing expectations and demands.

In terms of way forward, Dr Singh mentioned that there is particular scope to engage in large trans-boundary initiatives. IUCN also sees importance in establishing appropriate multi-sectorial governance structures for trans-boundary ecosystem management. IUCN's ability to deliver high-quality results makes it a trusted partner of governments in the region. IUCN also sees the private sector as major driver of economic growth, making it critical to work with Asian companies on achieving net positive impact on biodiversity. There is also a great potential for growth geographically, thematically, and in Membership and Commissions.

#### **b) Presentation on IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)**

Dr TP Singh made a brief presentation on RCF. He explained that RCF is one of Asia's most important regional conservation events.

This gathering of IUCN Members and partners brings together states, government agencies, NGOs, scientific and academic institutions, development agencies and the private sector to discuss the current situation related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Asia, and the ways forward.

Explaining the objectives of the RCF, Dr Singh informed Members that RCF:

- Provides IUCN Members with a platform to present inputs on a joint programme of action for addressing Asia's challenges related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and natural resource management in the coming four years.
- Prepares Members for sessions of the Members' Assembly at the World Conservation Congress and learn more about how to get involved in WCC.
- Provides an open venue where pressing issues are discussed and debated. Participants - both IUCN Members and non-members - are encouraged to share their insights on conservation challenges in the region and on related cross-cutting issues.
- Provides an opportunity to participate in high-level panel discussions of experts where Asia's conservation and biodiversity challenges are discussed and debated.

RCF also provides various other opportunities to:

- Provide input on the formulation of IUCN's Programme for 2017-2020;
- Provide inputs on the recommendations for improvement of governance and reforms, including amendments to IUCN Statutes (if needed) and for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the IUCN Council;
- Learn more about the motions process and discuss relevant motions to be presented by Asia Members to the 2020 Congress in France;
- Members of the ARMC in Asia also elect office bearers in sessions open only to the ARMC.

Dr Singh informed Members that the next RCF is due to be held in 2019. The countries interested in hosting the Asia Regional Conservation Forum must commit on behalf of the Government to financial and institutional support to cover (full or partial) costs of holding the Forum.

### **Summary of discussion:**

Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, who represented IUCN Vice President Mr. Malik Amin Aslam as well as the Chair of the Pakistan National Committee, offered, in principle, to host the RCF in the last quarter of 2019 in Pakistan. He further clarified that the offer is subject to later formal confirmation after further consultations (and mobilisation of required funds). The actual date of the RCF in 2019 will be decided by the Host Government in consultation with the Preparatory Committee to be set up by the Asia Regional Members Committee. The composition of the Preparatory Committee will follow the usual format with representation from the Host Government, the Asia Regional Members Committee and the Pakistan National Committee.

The Members thanked Senator (r) Javed Jabbar for this offer, and the IUCN Office in Pakistan was asked to further liaise with the Pakistan National Committee and with Mr. Malik Amin Aslam to seek formal confirmation and to formalise the arrangements for holding the next RCF in 2019 in Pakistan.

## **6. Adoption of minutes of the last meeting.**

This Session was chaired by Prof. Youngbae Suh.

Minutes of the last meeting held in Kaihua, Zhejiang Province in September 2017 were reviewed and adopted.

Members of the Asia Regional Members Committee were of the view that:

- a) Members must find a way to also review progress on actions proposed by the members of the ARMC.
- b) IUCN HQ staff should be requested to send a representative to the ARMC meetings.
- c) IUCN Commissions' participation in the ARMC meetings should be enhanced.

## **7. Presentation on the IUCN China Programme by Country Representative Dr Chunquan Zhu**

Dr Chunquan Zhu, Country Representative of the IUCN Office in China, presented a report on IUCN's presence in China. He explained the historical background: membership in China, and the national initiatives implemented from Beijing which include protected areas; the Red and Green Lists (RGL); Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP); Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR); Other initiatives as part of GEP provincial pilots in Jilin, Guizhou and inner Mongolia include: 'Miyun Watersheds: securing water for Beijing'; 'Dongjiang Watershed: securing water for Pearl River Delta;' and 'Mangroves: Developing a strategy for China and Mangroves for the Future(MFF)', including a Sino-Viet Nam Exchange.

Dr. Zhu also talked about the role that the IUCN Office in China plays in terms of organising Members' meetings annually since 2012. These meetings allow Members to review progress and share information, plan for the future and explore possibilities for collaboration, welcome new members, and discuss how to build a stronger union in China.

## **8. Country Presentations**

This session was Chaired by Prof. Amran Hamzah and Mr Mangal Man Shakya. During this session, Chairs of the National Committees and Member representatives presented on the progress of their activities, contributing towards the three programme areas of IUCN. Copies of all these presentations can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o7zikMkyFJtdC7MJ8kG6bwZX1npEhLL0/view?usp=sharing>

### **8.1 Presentation from Bangladesh by Mrs. Hasna J. Moudud**

Mrs. Hasna Moudud, Chair of IUCN Bangladesh National Committee gave a general overview of Bangladesh National Committee and IUCN Members in Bangladesh. She mentioned that

Bangladesh National Committee has collectively contributed to the IUCN's three thematic programme areas while focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mrs. Moudud presented details about the projects that are undertaken by Members in Bangladesh supporting the IUCN programme areas. Some of these projects include: turtle conservation; addressing microplastic pollution; flora and fauna inventory; bird conservation; tiger and elephant conservation; marine health protection; educational awareness; plantation and ecosystem restoration; policy research; community-based natural resource management. In term of developing community resilience to climate change, Members are undertaking these projects: promoting alternate livelihood; community-based mangrove agro-aqua silvi. Members are also working towards adapting to climate change and vulnerability and in this regard several projects such as plantations; media campaign; knowledge on technology are being undertaken.

Bangladesh National Committee also organised a symposium to celebrate the World Environment Day in June. The symposium's theme was "Beat Plastic Pollution" and it focussed on reducing the use of plastics. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Forests attended the event as the Chief Guest.

Mrs. Moudud also presented a printed version of a profile of IUCN Members in Bangladesh.

### **8.2 Presentation from Cambodia by Mr. Sophana Om**

Mr. Sophana OM represented Members in Cambodia and presented on behalf of them. He informed members regarding the current membership in Cambodia, and how they work together to promote and circulate information on IUCN membership to motivate Cambodian NGO network members.

He said that membership in Cambodia is growing; three interested NGOs will be submitting the applications for IUCN membership. Members also plan to have a meeting in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018. Mr. Om also presented an update on the activities of Members that contribute towards the three programme areas. Some of the examples of these projects that support valuing and conserving nature are: better natural resources conservation; sustainable use of the natural resources (forest, fishery); local community livelihood improvement; environmental education program on endangered species of Sarus Crane conservation to primary and lower secondary school. To support effective and equitable governance of natural resource, Members in Cambodia are actively engaged in programme/ projects with the local communities and relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Om also shared one of the successful cases of outstanding conservation of Chambok community-based protected area and eco-tourism in Cambodia, which also received National Geographic-USA, World Legacy Award 2017 (WLA).

### **8.3 Presentation from China by Ms. Yinan Liu**

Ms. Yinan Liu presented on behalf of Members in China. She presented an overview of IUCN Members and their active projects in China, for example, Wetland Conservation Practice in Shenzhen Bay and Futian Eco-park by Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation (MCF); Citizen science concept and practice organized by Operation Earth; Community-based eco-education by Evergreen; snow leopard conservation in Sanjiangyuan by Shanshui Conservation Center and Saving Green Peacock Action by Friends of Nature etc.

Ms. Liu focused on scientific research projects on behalf of Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences (BC-CAS) under the leadership of the CAS. Ongoing projects include: Mapping Asia plants (MAP); Chinese forest biodiversity monitoring network (CForBio); compilation of species catalogue of China; Asia biodiversity conservation and database network (ABCDNet); and related biodiversity sharing platform. Details on each of these programmes were also explained by Ms. Liu.

Ms Liu also informed that the BC-CAS has been continuously organising ARMC meetings since 2016 ever since Prof. Ma took over as Chair of the ARMC.



#### **8.4 Presentation from India by Mr. Kedar Gore**

M. Kedar Gore represented IUCN India National Committee, and presented an update on Members' activities in India. Mr. Gore presented a general overview of membership in India and said that the Indian National Committee (INC) of the IUCN came into existence in 2001 and has since provided a forum to discuss and act on a range of issues related to nature and wildlife conservation in the country. The INC is chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Mr. Gore informed that the INC produced Annual Reports of members covering the period 2014-2016. He also talked about Members' involvement in supporting the three programme areas. Some of the examples of Members' work in India are: conservation programmes for threatened species such as Great Indian Bustard, Indian Rhinoceros, Tiger, Dugong, Whale Shark, Gangetic Gharial, Gangetic Dolphin, Forest Owlet, Olive Ridley Turtle, Fishing Cat, Chinese Pangolin, Snow Leopard, Asian Elephant, Gyps vultures and many other species of corals and other marine fauna and flora. Human and wildlife conflict mitigation was highlighted as another example that played a crucial role in protection of species in ecologically important landscapes.

INC members are also involved in policy and advocacy work. They are often consulted to prepare conservation blueprints for major infrastructure projects. They also work with the local ethnic tribal communities and involve them in protection of local fauna and flora.

To support nature-based solutions, Mr. Gore gave an example of a project by one of the members of the INC which implemented a Bioremediation Project of Assi River in Varanasi using coir logs, sandbag weirs and bioremediation through bacteria concentrates achieving pollution abatement.

Mr. Gore also shared a list of useful publications related to species, energy and policies that members of the INC have produced.

#### **8.5 Presentation from Japan by Mr. Teppei Dohke**

Mr. Teppei Dohke represented IUCN Japan National Committee. Mr. Dohke presented a general overview of membership in Japan and said that the Japan National Committee was established in 1980, constituted by 21 members and operating under close collaboration with IUCN Regional Councilor, IUCN Liaison Office and IUCN Goodwill Ambassador: IRUKA

Mr. Dohke talked about the Nijyu-maru Project, which encourages civil society, private sector, local government and other stakeholder to make commitment for Aichi Biodiversity Target. He said that the long-term strategic direction of Members in Japan is to support implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target and enhance the work and governance of Japan National Committee.

Mr. Dohke also spoke about the symposium for 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IUCN which the Japan National Committee is planning to organize on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 in Tokyo. The title of the symposium is "Nature based achievement of SDGs-New cooperation calling out from Japan to world"

Mr. Dohke also talked about future plans of the Japan National Committee that involves collaboration with all other IUCN members for effective participation in and contribution to IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020 and COP15.

#### **8.6 Presentation from Korea (DPRK) by Mr. Myong Hyok HO**

Mr. Myong Hyok Ho represented the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP), DPRK which joined IUCN as a Government Agency member in May 2017. In his presentation, Mr. Ho talked about current activities of MoLEP which included land Management (reforest and protect the environment); protecting forests and underground resources; protecting beneficial animals; marine resources protection; and development of national strategy for environmental protection.

Mr. Ho informed that the Government of DPRK has formulated several laws and regulations for the protection of environment. These include: Law on Land; Law on Environment Protection; Law on Fishery; Law on Water Resources; Law on Useful Animals Conservation; Law on Land Use Planning; Law on Nature Reserves; Regulation on Protection of Natural Monuments and Scenic

Spot. He also talked about how various departments/organizations within the government work together to support the government on various initiatives.

Mr. Ho explained that under the International Cooperation for Wetland Conservation, MoLEP supported biodiversity conservation in West Sea of DPR Korea and also undertook a project of red crowned crane protection of Anbyon county. MoLEP also undertook survey on migratory birds. MoLEP also worked on information sharing and knowledge exchange, and in this regard attended various capacity building workshops.

Mr. Ho also pointed out that there are several challenges that impede the progress, which include: lack of regional and sub-regional cooperation in East Asia – Australasian flyway partnership region; training of migratory bird experts; introduction of eco-tourism in wetland reserves.

### **8.7 Presentation from Korea (ROK) by Prof. Youngbae Suh**

Prof. Youngbae Suh, Chair of the IUCN Korea National Committee made a presentation and gave an update on the progress of Korea National Committee's involvement in the upcoming World Leaders' Conservation Forum which is scheduled to be held in Jeju in October 2018.

Prof. Suh explained that through this event, Members in Korea are collaborating with IUCN to celebrate IUCN's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Prof. Suh also talked about the previous World Leaders Conservation Forum which was held in 2015, and said that since then the Government of Republic of Korea and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province committed to continue organising this forum on a regular basis.

Prof. Suh mentioned that the World Leaders Conservation Forum in October 2018 comprises experts' meeting / IUCN 70th Anniversary celebration on the first day; official opening / Leaders' dialogue on the second day and excursion on the third day. The Forum will be followed by an IUCN Council Meeting from Oct 6-9, 2018.

### **8.8 Presentation from Malaysia by Mr. Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim**

Mr. Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim, Director General, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia represented Members in Malaysia and presented on their behalf. He mentioned that Malaysia joined as a State Member since 1961. Currently seven organisations are Members of IUCN including government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Kadir presented an update on conservation initiatives in Malaysia which include: development of ecological corridors; community-based research. Several projects under species conservation programme are being undertaken which include: National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP); National Elephant Conservation Action Plan (NECAP); National Tapir Conservation Action Plan; A Redlist of Mammals for Peninsular Malaysia Ver. 2 was published 2017. He also informed that four Protected Areas networks (a total of 2.98 million ha) was formed by various management authorities.

As a way forward, Malaysia looks forward to forming a National Committee of IUCN Members in Malaysia in 2018; producing Red List assessment for other wildlife taxa (amphibian, reptiles, etc.); and collaborating with IUCN expert groups.

### **8.9 Maldives**

Ms. Zameela Ahmed presented on behalf of Live & Learn – Maldives (L&L) which is the only Member organization in Maldives so far. She mentioned that L&L has projects in 9 countries, most of them are small Island States. Geographically, in Maldives, there are 1192 Islands – 19 atolls; 186 Administrative Islands and 120 Resorts. Tourism and fishing- are main economic activities in Maldives.

The thematic focus of L&L Maldives is human rights & freedom; environmental protection; climate change; disaster risk reduction and gender and women empowerment. Ms Ahmed also talked about several projects of L&L as part of community education that focus on environmental and social change, community mobilization, and education for Sustainable livelihoods. L&L has also produced various documents on education programs / tool kits & publications for communities

and schools. L&L also works with Island communities for awareness and mobilization of support. L&L also implements livelihoods project for women empowerment.

#### **8.10 Presentation from Myanmar by Mr. U. Myint Aung**

Mr. U Myint Aung represented Members in Myanmar and presented on their behalf. Mr. Aung presented a general overview of membership in Myanmar. He talked about Members activities in Myanmar which include: supporting Protected Areas management; sustainable resource use practices; wildlife survey and research; conservation and community development; sustainable forest management; wildlife protection; grassroots level community development; disaster risk reduction and sustainable land use.

Mr. Aung acknowledged IUCN's support in collaborating with Members and said that IUCN works with Members in Myanmar to strengthen the technical and operational capacity of NGOs and government partners working on issues of global conservation significance. Mr. Aung also presented a list of projects undertaken by Members in collaboration with IUCN.

He also said that in July this year, 70 of Myanmar's top species experts gathered to start working on a National Red List of Threatened Species. Members in Myanmar are also involved in combatting illegal wildlife trade.

#### **8.11 Nepal**

Mr. Rishi Shah, Chair of IUCN Nepal National Committee made a presentation on IUCN members' activities in Nepal. He presented a general overview of membership in Nepal and governance structure and composition of Nepal National Committee (NNC). He mentioned that NNC's main areas of focus include: forest, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services; alternative energy technology; nature based eco-tourism and livelihood; environment education; capacity development, knowledge management, awareness; policy, advocacy; human wildlife conflict and Illegal trade; climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

Mr. Shah mentioned that the NNC works closely with IUCN Commission members in Nepal, and held a joint workshop between NNC and Commission members in Nepal.

He also talked about future priorities of NNC which will look into project concept development and collaboration with IUCN Country Office in Nepal; forming 4-5 sub-thematic groups from IUCN NNC Nepal members; organizing award functions to promote experts in the field of conservation; and creation of a website of IUCN Members in Nepal.

Mr. Shah also informed that IUCN Nepal celebrated the World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The event was held in collaboration with the Central Zoo and other Members of IUCN. Mr. Shah also offered to host the next ARMC meeting 2019/20 in Nepal.

#### **8.12 Presentation from Pakistan by Senator (r) Javed Jabbar**

Senator (r) Javed Jabbar presented on behalf of Chair of the Pakistan National Committee (PNC). He gave a general overview of membership in Pakistan and talked about the meetings of the PNC held recently and in the past. In one of the recent meetings in September, Members discussed about initiating a plastic waste collection with the support of coastal communities during the sea turtle laying season.

He also talked about joint projects with Members, and one of which was the Mangroves in curbing sea intrusion. Another one was a Billion Trees Afforestation Project (BTAP) Assessment.

A consultative workshop in collaboration with the Sindh Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh was also organized to discuss the findings of a study jointly conducted on illegal trade of freshwater turtles in Sindh and Balochistan.

He also informed that the PNC members met with Prof. Ma Keping who visited Pakistan this year and organized a visit to mangroves and sea turtle beach. Prof. Ma also took part in planting a mangrove sapling during his visit. Another important event which was attended by IUCN Vice President Mr. Malik Amin Aslam and other PNC Members was the China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) Summit in April this year. IUCN and PNC members also celebrated, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and the Serena Hotel, the World Water Day and the International Day of Forests.

He also updated Members about the Astola Island, which is Pakistan's first Marine Protected Area, where recently a baseline study was conducted under IUCN's MFF Program and some members of the PNC were part of it.

He also informed the members that IUCN Vice President & Regional Councillor, Asia and a Member of the IUCN National Committee Mr. Malik Amin Aslam has been appointed as the Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change. Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia was conferred *Tamgha-i-Imtiaz* Award by Government of Pakistan – A high level civil award.

### **8.13 Presentation from Singapore by Prof. Kheng Lian Koh**

Prof. Kheng Lian Koh represented Members in Singapore and presented on their behalf. She explained that the Sino- Singapore Tianjin Eco-City (SSTEC) was conceived by the former Singapore PM Goh Chok Tong and PRC Premier Wen Jiabao on 26 April 2007.

Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed the "Framework Agreement on the Development of an Eco-city in the PRC. Under the Framework Agreement, the PRC and Singapore will collaborate to share their expertise and experiences in the formulation of policies and programmes to engender social harmony as well as in urban planning, environmental protection, resource conservation, recycling, ecological infrastructure development, use of renewable resources, reuse of wastewater, and sustainable development in the development of the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city.

Although the concept of Eco-city itself is wider in scope than a 'low carbon society', the combination of the two would be an eco-city with a low carbon green economic growth. The Tianjin Eco-City and other eco- cities around the world are models that can be tailored to suit the objectives required for each city to deal with the impacts of climate change.

### **8.14 Presentation from Sri Lanka by Mr. Ajith D. Silva**

Mr. Ajith D. Silva, Chair of the Sri Lanka National Committee made a presentation on Members' activities in Sri Lanka. He gave a general overview of membership and commission members in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Silva updated on major activities in Sri Lanka and talked about implementation of NBSAP; Private Sector innovative design on ecosystem/biodiversity valuation; Marine and coastal conservation. He also said that Sri Lanka is working on a joint management and benefit sharing approach under GEF6 in conflict affected Northern Area. Other initiatives include: Ridge to reef joint programming and exploring opportunities to introduce PES at River Basin level.

Mr. Silva informed that in 2017/18 members efforts on ecosystem based approach used in the rebuilding planning in the conflict and tsunami affected northern region was recognized by UN Environment as a global model.

Mr. Silva highlighted that IUCN system can work as a knowledge partner in the Sri Lanka's rapid development process that has the potential to induce pressure on natural resources compounded by climate challenges.

IUCN Members, commission members and the secretariat can be better organized, empowered and coordinated to support the efforts of Government, Non-Government and Private sector towards sustainability and resilience including high level advocacy on natural resource use and use of nature based solutions.

### **8.15 Presentation from Thailand by Dr. Pinsak Suraswadee**

Dr. Pinsak Suraswadee, Chair of IUCN Thailand National Committee made a presentation on membership in Thailand. He presented a general overview of IUCN Members in Thailand and provided details on how Members are contributing to the three programme areas. To support

valuing and conserving nature, Members are involved in various activities such as: World Heritage nomination for Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) and monitoring of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKY) World Heritage site; Community based forest conservation and watershed restoration; Forest Landscape Restoration, and other legal frameworks and capacity building initiatives. Members are also involved in Human and Elephant conflict mitigation; Elephants and tiger conservation in the critical habitats; Transboundary tiger conservation; and Turtle conservation and private engagement, etc.

Some Members in Thailand are actively involved in contributing to the second programme area through collaboration on developing the draft act of “Community Forest” on the community rights to community forest; acting as the Thailand’s National Reform Committee on the strategies related to natural resource governance; updating the list of Thailand Red Data; developing management plans for endangered species listed in the Thailand Red Data Vertebrate, etc.

To support the nature-based solutions, Members are jointly developing “Green Growth” strategy under Thailand’s national Reform Committee; Policy development for urban forest and waste database in Thailand; collaborating with other international and local NGOs to provide the inputs on “Ecosystem based Adaptation”; and promoting “Nature based Solution” to other related government agencies for natural resource management.

#### **8.16 Presentation from Viet Nam by Dr. Hoang Van Thang**

Dr. Hoang Van Thang, Chair of IUCN Viet Nam National Committee made a presentation on IUCN membership in Viet Nam and presented an update on progress. Dr. Thang made a brief introduction of IUCN Members and informed that the Viet Nam National Committee held two meetings and made good progress in terms of strengthening Member’s activities. Members have been involved in several projects including collaboration among Members and between Members and IUCN Viet Nam; supported women in solid waste management to tackle marine debris - ocean without plastic.

To support valuing and conserving nature, Members conducted a river clean-up campaign together with coastal and marine clean-up (“Ocean without plastic” of CECR and MCD) in response to the Earth Day of 2018 to collect floating waste along the right bank areas of the branch of the Red river. Also, organized several other activities to support the second programme area, such as: organised a workshop for Enabling Boat project (MCD); facilitated the adoption of the first district climate change adaptation action plans of Red River Delta area, and similar other activities.

Dr. Thang also highlighted some of the important activities being undertaken by individual Members in Viet Nam. Dr. Thang also shared a detailed plan for future outlook of Members activities next year and beyond.

### **9. Presentation on IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) by Ms. Meher Noshirwani, Regional Vice Chair Asia for CEESP**

Ms. Meher Noshirwani presented an overview of CEESP and its engagement in Asia. She mentioned that CEESP is a unique network of approximately 1,500 volunteers representing disciplines from biology, anthropology, economics and law, to culture and indigenous peoples. CEESP work represents the crossroads of conservation and development.

The governance structure of CEESP comprises Steering Committee Members which include: Chair, Regional Vice-Chairs, Thematic Group Chairs, Specialist Group Chairs, and Knowledge Basket Chairs. Steering Committee meetings are held twice a year, to review and take forward the CEESP mandate and programme. A number of IUCN staff also act as CEESP Focal Points to support the network at the global, thematic and regional levels.

Explaining the one programme approach, Ms. Noshirwani explained that CEESP works across the Secretariat and programs in various ways. For instance, in the Nature-Base Solutions CEESP has been working side-by-side with the secretariat in the design and development of the Global Program on Governance and Rights. For the biodiversity group, CEESP has been supporting Resolution 080 and collaborated with IUCN Secretariat. CEESP is also supporting the People in Nature Program. In the Policy and Program Group CEESP participated and supported engagement in IPBES, UNFOCC

and most recently the Permanent Forum. All this has been done in collaboration with Members and commissions, including Indigenous Peoples' Organizations.

Ms. Noshirwani also spoke about her role and involvement as part of gender specialist group, and said that a session on 'Gender' was organized at the international conference in May 2018 in Halifax, which brought together IUCN experts, partners, practitioners and community members to share experiences and strategies for promoting women's empowerment and gender-responsive solutions. A Panel discussion was held which focused on the changing roles and issues related to women and environment.

Talking about CEESP membership in Asia, Ms. Noshirwani informed that there are 113 CEESP members in Asia, and one of the objective of CEESP in Asia is to work towards increasing membership in Asia; engage with Members, and contribute to CEESP's mandate and programme.

CEESP future plans are to explore opportunities to engage with the other Regional Vice Chairs, within the rest of CEESP's regions, and focus on developing linkages at this level; develop a webpage for CEESP in Asia; enhance CEESP presence on National Committees with a view to establishing contact with the Chairs of the National Committees, and identifying a focal point from CEESP members in each country, so that CEESP can be represented on all National Committees in Asia.

## **10. Group discussion**

Participants of the ARMC meeting were asked to form two groups led by group leaders. Each group was requested to have a discussion on a set of questions that are strategically important to building a stronger Union, and present a report at the last session. Group 1 was led by Ms. Zameela Ahmed from Live & Learn Maldives, and Group 2 was led by Mr. Teppei Dohke from Nature Conservation Society of Japan.

### **Recommendations of group discussions:**

#### **a) How to enhance the strength of IUCN Asia?**

- Through the next two years, to ensure efficient continuity and coordination within ARMC, before and during the RCF due in 2019, and WCC in June 2020, it is vital that the Asia Regional Director and respective Country Representatives remain the same and actively engaged.
- Equipping IUCN country offices with adequate human resources.
- Joint projects with Members (including regional projects).
- Capacity-building to strengthen technical capacity.
- Invite organisations from Brunei and Timor Leste to Join IUCN.
- Increase involvement of IUCN Commission members (for a start - circulate the report of the Nepal National Committee's joint workshop with Commissions).
- Integrate technical capacity of experts in project implementation (different disciplines).
- Increase Membership of organisations, NGOs and Commission members.
- Explore vast potential in indigenous philanthropy within Asian countries to obtain funding support for IUCN Member and Commission projects and activities.
- Share, celebrate, and project the large number of success stories achieved by IUCN Asian Members more widely on social media and mass media
- There is a dire need to ensure stability and increased cooperation between Members and Commissions on the one hand, and the Secretariats in Bangkok and Gland.
- While existing support from IUCN HQ to Asia in various forms is greatly appreciated, Asian Members of IUCN are entitled to receive funding support in fair proportion to the contribution made by Asian Members through membership fees and other means, in order to build IUCN funds.
- Discuss and form a Task Force on Resolution Implementation and a facilitation mechanism under the Asia Regional Committee. The major roles of the Task Force should be to follow up on progress of implementation of resolutions, enhance collaboration with IUCN ARO, and analyse the current status of Motions submitted by Asia Members for RCF and WCC.

## **b) Ways National Committees can mobilise Members**

- Raise funding through voluntary contribution - India National Committee members pay a nominal fee – to be a part of the committee
- The Pakistan committee is the most active – share good practices / coordination
- Establish good connectivity between members – phone / social media / Skype etc.
- Use IUCN facilities to encourage members to participate in meetings
- Invite members to participate in the implementation of IUCN programmes
- Mobilise Members by sharing meeting minutes, having video conferences, etc.
- IUCN providing seed money for National Committees (separate funding source for committee operations)
- Mobilise financial support from the governments.
- National Committees (NCs) could support members to provide successful story in Asia for inclusion in reports in Asia and at the global level.
- National Committees can provide a collective voice on an issue in the country which a single Member may not be able to raise effectively as an individual.
- NCs could facilitate common, innovative techniques for conservation, such as new technology and ICT
- Opportunities:
  - a. Annual meetings in countries
  - b. More input to Union Portal
  - c. IUCN Asia Annual report
  - d. Asia Regional Conservation Forum
  - e. Seek ways to provide financial resources to supporting Members' activities

## **c) Successful cases for the implementation of IUCN Work Programme 2017-2020**

- Mangroves for the Future (most countries) has gender-based projects within its programme which can be cited as good examples
- Conservation of endangered species
- Habitat connectivity / restoration should be ensured (transboundary)
- Wildlife trade / urban resilience to climate change
- National Green Tribunal – could be adopted - “Green Court” (India)
- Factors leading to success – community engagement, smart-patrol with support from Govt.
- Ecosystem solutions for development activities (assessment, restoration, recovery, conservation planning, implementation & monitoring)
- Vulture conservation / protection – safe zones (Nepal, India, Bangladesh & Pakistan)
- Community-based solutions to mitigate human violation of wildlife
- In case of extremely endangered species, habitats should be absolutely be protected!
- Ocean Clean-up (Viet Nam)
- Use of appropriate technology in enforcement
- Illegal Wildlife trade – international environmental crimes (appropriate international guidelines should be considered)
  - a. Implementation is crucial / Policies developed should be made into LAW
  - b. Thailand – on the way to increase penalties for trade in local & international species
  - c. What are quick interventions and fast track solutions? Could IUCN help?
  - d. Work with an existing convention?
- Established first MPA in the country, with support of WCC2016 resolution (Pakistan)
- Used IUCN network for technical support and international collaboration for wetland conservation, research and capacity building, which also contributed to WCC2016 resolution (DPRK)
- Stop the dam construction with less consideration to environment impact, to include and enhance biodiversity perspectives into construction plan as implementation of WCC2012 resolution (China)
- Change the railroad construction route, originally planned to pass a National park (Nepal)
- Conservation of Endangered species such as tigers
- Transboundary cooperation for expanding connectivity of terrestrial ecosystem such as forests (Malaysia, Bangladesh)
- Expanding protected areas with consensus from local communities and ensuring long-term cooperative management (Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and other countries)

- Many actions taken by IUCN Members in Asia in line with IUCN Programme and WCC resolutions, including:
  - a. Stopping/changing unsustainable construction projects,
  - b. Establishment/expansion of terrestrial and marine PAs,
  - c. Empowering and engaging IUCN Members and local communities,
  - d. Transboundary projects for ecosystems and species,
  - e. Blue Economy - common water resources from mountain sources to the sea should be sustainably utilised and conserved

**d) Conservation Strategy and policy toward 2020 and post 2020**

- Continuing alignment of IUCN Programme with UN 2030 agenda, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)
- Activating IUCN private sector task force participation at the regional level
- Encouraging private sector participation in implementation of IUCN programmes
- Inviting key private sector organisations to IUCN forums
- Prohibiting infrastructure development in critical habitats!
- Use of technology / should not be counter-productive.
- Establishing new conservation areas – where people can be guardians!
- Focus on few critically endangered species, such as Great Indian bustard, and work towards preventing their extinction. There should be a programme launched to highlight the plight of such species.

**e) How will Asian countries participate in the CBD COP 15**

- Members to be part of the country delegation (ask the Govt. / Govt. will not fund)
- Including members as part of IUCN delegation
- IUCN to raise funds through private sector for members' participation in CBD
- Members to contribute through country delegations (if not able to physically participate)

**11. Presentation by Prof. Ma Keping on Post-2020 biodiversity conservation framework; progress and possible structure**

Prof. Ma Keping presented on the importance of post-2020 biodiversity conservation framework and informed Members that CBD COP 15 will be held in 2020 in Beijing, China, which will review progress on implementation of the 2011–2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan, and review and adopt a 'Post 2020 Biodiversity Conservation Framework'. Prof. Ma provided details on the background and shared information on the preparation for the post-2020 biodiversity conservation framework.

He also talked about how the IUCN Programme is aligned to not only contribute to the implementation of the biodiversity framework, but also to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prof. Ma also talked about IUCN Resolutions adopted at the Conservation Congress in Hawai'i that relate to developing a post-2020 strategy. He also brought to the attention of Members the statement made by the IUCN Director General, which reinforces IUCN's efforts in bringing together the world's leading actors for sustainable development at the next Congress *"to define how we can reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and ensure a successful achievement of the SDGs. The critical stakeholders must bring this broader vision to Beijing later that year, where the CBD COP15 will define the roadmap to 2030 for biodiversity."*

Prof. Ma also reminded Members regarding the survey being conducted by IUCN to gather input to inform global biodiversity frameworks. He also brought to the attention of Members some important publications from Edward O Wilson on Half Earth and other related important documents that could form the basis for input on the post-2020 biodiversity conservation framework.

**12. Closing session**

The Chair invited Regional Councillors to make closing remarks.

Prof. Youbae Suh thanked Prof. Ma Keping and all his team for organising the meeting. Prof. Amran Hamzah expressed his appreciation and said that through this meeting we have gathered enough content for Asia to be taken up to the RCF. Mr. Mangal Man Shakya also thanked Prof. Ma and said that new and innovative ideas need to be looked into and that ARMC should find ways to encourage



commissions to participate in these kinds of meetings. He also reiterated that Nepal would like to host the next ARMC meeting in Nepal.

Prof. Ma suggested that if we want to be fully engaged in the RCF, we must propose a sub-committee of the ARMC to work with the Secretariat in designing the programme. The sub-committee would comprise Councillors and some members of the National Committees who are part of ARMC.

Mrs. Hasna Moudud thanked Prof. Ma, his entire team and the Secretariat on behalf of all Members of the ARMC and offered a "get well soon" message to President Zhang.

Senator (r) Javed Jabbar thanked Prof. Ma Keping for steering the meeting. He also congratulated IUCN for completing 70 years, and acknowledged IUCN's contribution and achievements in the field of environment and sustainable development for such a long period. He also thanked the Chair and all Members of the ARMC for endorsing Pakistan's interest in hosting the next RCF in Pakistan, and assured that all the necessary requisites would be met.

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji thanked everyone, particularly Prof. Ma Keping and his entire team, including volunteers and the local hosts who worked hard on this. She also thanked all the participants of the meeting for their participation and generosity in sharing information and knowledge. She expressed her appreciation over good participation from Members which also includes some new participants and which demonstrates how the circle is getting bigger and bigger.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Ma Keping summarised key actions and recommendations made at the meeting as follows:

1. Organise activities to engage members through:
  - a) Informative website
  - b) meetings
  - c) joint projects
  - d) annual reports
2. Enhance interactions with Commission members and try to invite the IUCN President, Council and DG to ARMC meetings
3. Annual Report of members in Asia 2017 is being prepared and Members should contribute to it by providing successful cases.
4. Through the next two years, to ensure efficient continuity and coordination within ARMC, before and during the RCF due in 2019, and WCC in June 2020, it is vital that the Asia Regional Director and respective Country Representatives remain the same and actively engaged.
5. Members to make joint efforts in implementing Asia-related resolutions and recommendations. ARO to report on the progress and gaps and propose possible solutions; this can be supported by national committees in collaboration with Members.
6. A decision on forming a taskforce on motions implementation and facilitation was adopted. The Chair suggested that a similar taskforce on other issues, such as BRI, should also be constituted.
7. The draft 2021-2024 IUCN Programme will be discussed at the RCF in 2019. However, before that Members can carry out research on this, and share their feedback with the Secretariat.
8. Prof. Ma shared a very preliminary summary on the post-2020 biodiversity conservation Framework and welcomed everyone to join him in sharing their views and ideas.
9. Share report on the outcomes of the ARMC meeting with IUCN Council and DG.
10. Based on the discussions, it was unanimously agreed that given the in-principle offer from Pakistan to host the RCF in the last quarter of 2019, there is no need to send out a note asking countries to express their interest to host the Asia RCF in 2019.
11. A decision to set-up a Preparatory Committee for RCF in 2019 was also adopted.

Prof. Ma also thanked Pakistan for the offer to host the next RCF and Nepal for the intention to host the next annual meeting of ARMC. He thanked representatives of the National Committees and representatives of Members from countries which do not have National Committees for their participation in the meeting; President Zhang Xinsheng and the Global Councillors for their

contribution; moderators and the two young group leaders; ARO; local organisers Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee; and BC-CAS Ms. Yinan Liu.

Prof. Ma closed the meeting by wishing everyone a wonderful trip to Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area the next day, which is one of the top scenic spots in China.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

No.	Title	Name	Position	Institute	Country	Email
1	Ms.	Aban Marker Kabraji	Regional Director, Asia	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	aban.marker-kabraji@iucn.org
2	Dato	Abdul Kadir Bin Abu Hashim	Director General	Department of Wildlife and National Park, Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia	kadir@wildlife.gov.my
3	Prof.	Amran Hamzah	IUCN Regional Councillor / Professor	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia	merang@utm.my
4	Ms.	Chaemin LEE	Research Assistant	Seoul National University	Republic of Korea	endemic56@snu.ac.kr
5	Dr.	Chunquan Zhu	Country Representative	IUCN China Office	China	Chunquan.ZHU@iucn.org
6	Ms.	Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud	Chair	Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN / Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association	Bangladesh	cleanwater07@gmail.com
7	Dr.	Hoang Van Thang	Chair	Viet Nam National Committee of IUCN / Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environment Studies	Viet Nam	tvhoang@cres.edu.vn; thangcresvnu@gmail.com
8	Senator (r)	Javed Jabbar	Founding President	Baanhn Beli	Pakistan	javedjabbar.2@gmail.com
9	Mr	Kedar Girish Gore	Director	The Corbett Foundation	India	gore.kedar@gmail.com
10	Prof.	Keping Ma	IUCN ARMC Chair/Secretary General	Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	kpma@ibcas.ac.cn
11	Prof.	Kheng Lian Koh	Professorial Fellow	National University of Singapore	Singapore	lawkohkl@nus.edu.sg
12	Mr.	Kiran Timalsina	Chairperson	Green Governance Nepal	Nepal	kirantimalsina@hotmail.com
13	Mr.	Koralage Ajith Ilex Damasus Silva	Director	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Sri Lanka	koralage2001@yahoo.com
14	Mr.	Mangal Man Shakya	IUCN Regional Councillor / Chairman	Wildlife Watch Group	Nepal	Mangal.Shakya@gmail.com

No.	Title	Name	Position	Institute	Country	Email
15	Ms.	Meher Marker Noshirwani	Regional Vice Chair Asia and Specialist Group on Gender (SGG) for CEESP / Technical Advisor, TCCR	Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources (TCCR).	Pakistan	meher.noshirwani@gmail.com
16	Mr.	Myint Aung	Executive Director	Friends of Wildlife	Myanmar	myintaungwildlife@gmail.com
17	Mr.	Myong Hyok Ho	Senior Officer	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection	DPR Korea	guktodae@star-co.net.kp
18	Dr.	Pinsak Suraswadee	Deputy Director General	Department of National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Thailand	pinsak@gmail.com
19	Mr.	Prasanna Yonzon	Vice Chair, NNC IUCN	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	Nepal	prasanna@wcn.org.np
20	Mr.	Raj Kumar	Membership Manager, Asia	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	raj.kumar@iucn.org
21	Mr.	Rishi Keshab Bikram Shah	Chairperson/ Founding Director	Nepal National Committee / Hosts Hainse	Nepal	rishi@lotusholdings.com
22	Mr.	Song Nam KIM	Vice Chairman	Nature Conservation Union of the DPRK	DPR Korea	ncuk3@star-co.net.kp
23	Mr.	Sophana OM	Executive Director	Mlup Baitong	Cambodia	mlup@online.com.kh
24	Dr.	Tejpal Singh	Deputy Regional Director, Asia	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	tp.singh@iucn.org
25	Mr.	Teppei DOHKE	Vice Chair	Japan Committee for IUCN / Nature Conservation Society of Japan	Japan	dohke@nacsj.or.jp
26	Ms.	Yinan Liu	Director of Office	Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	yinan@ibcas.ac.cn
27	Mr.	Yong Nam KIM	Director, Department of Land Master Planning	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection	DPR Korea	guktodae@star-co.net.kp
28	Prof.	Youngbae Suh	IUCN Regional Councillor / Professor/Chair	Seoul National University / Korea (RoK) National Committee of IUCN	Korea	ysuh@snu.ac.kr
29	Ms.	Zameela Ahmed	Country Manager	Live and Learn Environmental Education Maldives	Maldives	zameela.ahmed@livelearn.org

# Agenda

## Supported by

Bureau of International Co-operation, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee (HSAC)

## Organizer

Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences

## Co-organizers

IUCN Asia Office  
IUCN China Office

## Venue

Huangshan International Hotel  
31 Huashan Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China

<b>September 10</b>	
Arrival of all participants	
<b>September 11</b>	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:40	<b>Opening</b> - Opening remarks by Mr. Wenda Wu, Executive Director of HSAC; Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, Former Vice President of IUCN; Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Regional Councillor; Prof. Amran Hamzah, IUCN Regional Councillor; Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, IUCN Regional Councillor and Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director, Asia - Round of self-introduction - Agreement on agenda
09:40-10:20	Keynote speech Prof. Xinsheng Zhang, President for IUCN
10:20-10:40	Group photo and Coffee break
10:40-11:10	Contributions of IUCN to nature conservation over the last 70 years in the world and Asia by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director
11:10-12:00	Discussion on the past and future of IUCN
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:25	Review and adoption of minutes of the 2017 ARMC meeting Mr. Rishi Keshab Shah, Secretary for Asia Regional Members Committee – Chair Nepal National Committee
14:25-14:50	Presentation on IUCN Asia and Asia Regional Conservation Forum 2019 Dr. T.P. Singh, Deputy Regional Director, IUCN Asia Regional Office
14:50-15:10	Progress report of IUCN China by China Office Dr. Chunquan Zhu, Country Representative, IUCN Office in China
15:10-15:30	Comments and suggestions on the progress reports
15:30-15:50	Coffee break
<b>Presentations from National Committees and Member Representatives</b>	
15:50-16:00	1. Mrs. Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud – Bangladesh
16:00-16:10	2. Mr. Sophana OM – Cambodia

16:10-16:20	3. Ms. Yinan Liu – China
16:20-16:30	4. Mr. Kedar Girish Gore – India
16:30-16:40	5. Mr. Teppei DOHKE – Japan
16:40-16:50	6. Mr. Myong Hyok Ho – Korea (DPRK)
16:50-17:00	7. Prof. Youngbae Suh – Korea (ROK)
17:00-17:10	8. Mr. Abdul Kadir Bin Abu Hashim – Malaysia
17:10-17:20	9. Ms. Zameela Ahmed – Maldives
17:20-17:30	10. Mr Myint Aung – Myanmar
17:30-17:40	11. Mr. Rishi Keshab Bikram Shah – Nepal
17:40-17:50	12. Senator (r) Javed Jabbar – Pakistan
18:00-20:00	Reception (hosted by Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee)
<b>September 12</b>	
<b>Presentations from National Committees and Member representatives continue...</b>	
09:00-09:10	13. Prof. Kheng Lian Koh – Singapore
09:10-09:20	14. Mr. Ajith D. Silva – Sri Lanka
09:20-09:30	15. Dr. Pinsak Suraswadee – Thailand
09:30-09:40	16. Dr. Hoang Van Thang – Viet Nam
09:40-09:50	17. Ms. Meher Noshirwani – Regional Vice Chair Asia, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
09:50-10:30	Discussions 1. How to enhance the strength of IUCN Asia Successful cases for the implementation of IUCN Work Program 2017-2020 2. Ways and good practices in mobilizing members by national committees
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	Continue discussions
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	Post 2020 biodiversity conservation framework: progress and possible structure Prof. Keping Ma, Chair, Asia Regional Members Committee
14:30-17:00	Discussions 1. Successful cases for the implementation of IUCN Work Programme 2017-2020 2. Suggestions on conservation strategy and policy toward 2020 and post 2020 3. How will Asian countries participate in the CBD COP 15
17:00-17:30	Reports by group leaders
17:30-17:50	Closing remarks
18:00-20:00	Dinner
<b>September 13</b>	
08:00-16:00	Excursion - Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area <b>Note:</b> Some participants will depart this night
<b>September 14</b>	
Departure of participants	