



## **IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**

### **Management report for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **2021 Results**

IUCN ended the year with a net surplus of CHF 5.7 million and with total income of CHF 137 million, significantly higher than the level of CHF 109 million realised in 2020. Unrestricted income reached CHF 33.3 million compared to CHF 31.4 million in 2020. Project income and expenditure reached CHF 104 million compared to CHF 78 million in 2020.

The significant increase in project implementation was attributable to a growing project portfolio and the relaxation of Covid restrictions. In 2021, travel restrictions were eased or lifted and IUCN, together with partner organisations, was able to resume on-the-ground, community-based activities which has been put on hold in 2020.

The healthy surplus was achieved through a variety of factors:

- With COVID-19 measures gradually being lifted, the majority of projects in the portfolio were able to resume activities, resulting in an increased implementation rate and an increase in the level of overhead recovery.
- Increased operational efficiency and an increase in the funding of operational costs from the project portfolio reduced the pressure on unrestricted funds to cover operational costs.
- Strengthened project planning, budgeting and reporting through a new, coherent planning and budgeting cycle led to more efficient delivery.
- Investment made in resource mobilization in resulted in an increase in framework funding (unrestricted programmatic funding)
- Membership dues income was higher than budgeted due to the payment of arrears.
- A successful Congress resulted in a surplus and the write back of provisions made in previous years.

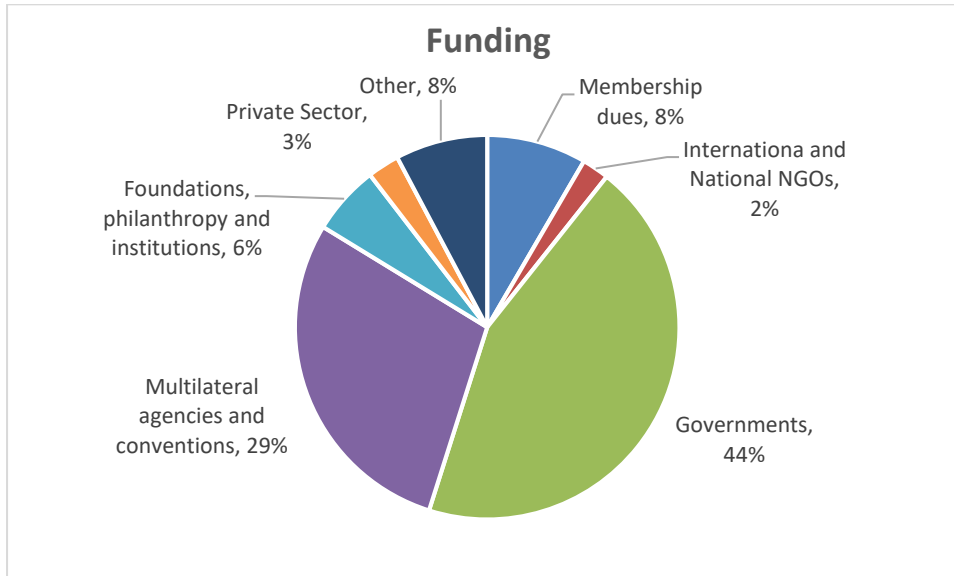
Unrestricted reserves stood at CHF 20.6 million at the end of 2021 compared to CHF 15.1 million at the start of the year.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, was held from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille, France. It brought together experts and leaders from national and subnational governments, civil society, indigenous peoples' organisations and business, along with youth representatives, to tackle the world's most pressing environmental and sustainability issues. 9,200 people attended the Congress, either in person or virtually.

The Congress, was initially scheduled to be held in June 2020, but was postponed to September 2021 as a result of Covid related travel restrictions. Postponement resulted in additional costs and the need to make provision for possible losses in the 2020 accounts. However, due to a high level of participation, these provisions (CHF 1.7 million) proved unnecessary and were reversed in 2021, contributing to the surplus for the year.

## Funding

Governments and multilateral agencies provided 73% of the organisation's income, alongside Membership dues, income from foundations, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.



## Unrestricted income

**IUCN's Framework Partners** continue to be instrumental in building and supporting a strong Union through multi-year funding agreements:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Government of France
- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- United States State Department

Framework income of CHF 13.6 million was received compared to CHF 12.1 million in 2020. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark joined as a new framework partner in 2021. Framework income continues to be essential in providing financial stability and flexibility that allows IUCN to play its unique role in influencing and assisting societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature.

**Membership income** reached CHF 12.6 million, a similar level to 2020. 44 new Members joined IUCN in 2021, including one new State Member, Uzbekistan. At the end of 2021, there were 1,501 Members across 172 countries.

## Restricted income: programme and project portfolio

IUCN's project portfolio continues to grow strongly. At the end of 2021, the value of the project portfolio stood at CHF 834 million, comprising 527 projects in 161 countries. The



government of Germany, was IUCN's largest donor, followed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the European Commission (EC)

## **Outlook**

The outlook for 2022 is positive. Funding is strong and the portfolio continues to show healthy growth. Implementation levels are expected to increase by over 10% compared to 2021. Several steps are being taken to improve long-term financial sustainability. Investments continue to be made in resource mobilisation to boost the level of unrestricted funds. In addition, a new overhead and costing framework was rolled out in early 2022 with the objective of improving project budgeting and increasing the funding of operational costs by the project portfolio.

Details of IUCN's programme of work and highlights, together with further information on the Union can be found in the Annual Report.

[IUCN 2021 : International Union for Conservation of Nature annual report](#)