



IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

Terms of Reference 2022-2024

Adopted by the IUCN Council on 18 January 2023

(Note: the present version does not yet incorporate the changes required by Council decision C108/11)

1. Vision

The vision of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission is *a world in which global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and society is adapting to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are Nature Positive, and promote just outcomes for all.*

The IUCN CCC will achieve this vision by **mobilizing and coordinating the Union**, engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees and members, by promoting productive and constructive partnerships, taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the **UNFCCC, through the Global Climate Action Agenda and other relevant multilateral fora.**

We are facing a climate crisis where humans and nature alike are suffering the impacts from 1.1°C of global warming and a further 0.4°C anticipated; thus, we will likely reach 1.5°C around 2030. The need for integrated action to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change is recognised in Article 38 of the Glasgow Climate Pact which: “Emphasizes the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to achieve the long-term global goal of the Convention by acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and protecting biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguard.”

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report on mitigation found that among the mitigation options, the protection, improved management, and restoration of forests and 29 other ecosystems (wetlands, savannas and grasslands) have the largest potential to reduce emissions and/or sequester carbon. The IPCC report on adaptation concluded that safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is fundamental to climate resilient development, in light of the threats climate change poses to them and their roles in adaptation and mitigation, and that maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on effective and equitable conservation of

approximately 30% to 50% of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems. The report also found that building the resilience of biodiversity and supporting ecosystem integrity can maintain benefits for human beings, including livelihoods, health and well-being and the provision of food, fiber and water, as well as contributing to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The joint IPBES-IPCC workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change also highlighted the interdependence of biodiversity and climate change and the need to explore solutions that address both crises.

Climate and biodiversity are therefore strongly connected, as we cannot solve one without addressing the other. Addressing this nexus demands new ways of developing and supporting collaborative efforts, developing plans and policies, implementing actions and influencing policy that multiply the synergies at their point of convergence.

2. Mission

To have a world where humans and nature thrive together, the IUCN CCC promotes appropriate, effective, just and nature positive solutions to the climate crisis emergency that are based on the best available scientific evidence and learnings from all reputable international bodies and from Indigenous knowledge systems. The IUCN CCC will mobilize and coordinate the Union's efforts by engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees, Members, and Indigenous Peoples; and by promoting productive and constructive partnerships.

This mission will follow IUCN's, which is to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature has been successful in promoting over time a strong conservation policy around the world and effective actions to protect biodiversity at ecosystems, species and genetic levels, and ecosystem services. The Climate Crisis Commission's action and results approach will help implement climate solutions consistent with IUCN mission and policy.

The CCC is a vehicle for addressing the dual crises in climate and biodiversity in synergistic ways, achieving transformational change through co-designed actions and through a whole of society approach, focussed on the clean energy transformation, and engagement with the industry; human settlements and infrastructure, forests and other terrestrial including mountains and coastal-marine natural ecosystems, agriculture and land use, while always giving consideration to equity, human rights and social justice outcomes. The Commission will co-design action plans with Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities, in ways that deliver climate justice for all, including future generations, and especially the most vulnerable human communities, species and ecosystems.

The system transitions and climate resilient development that science has recognized as essential will only be possible if we can bring a structural response that can change the foundations of what has created the climate crisis. The proximate cause are the

greenhouse gas emissions from using fossil fuel for energy, along with the emissions from deforestation, land degradation and ocean pollution. The root causes of the climate crisis arise from how societies value and use nature, respond to scientific knowledge of environmental impacts from the application of technology, and the extent to which we act with a sense of universal responsibility for the health and wellbeing of other members of the human family, species and future generations on planet Earth as a whole ecosystem.

The solution space for the climate crisis must therefore address the urgent imperative to decarbonize our economies and protect and restore ecosystems and species, as well as the policies, approaches, public awareness and capacity building that will help bring about the necessary transformations and transitions. The Commission will facilitate a deeper engagement of IUCN with relevant multilateral processes such as UNFCCC, CBD/GBF, UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDG's among some others related to oceans, food and plastic pollution.

To achieve a unified approach to the climate crisis, the Commission will engage with the other six Commissions, the Secretariat, Indigenous Peoples, and Member organizations, connect existing efforts, promoting synergies, and building new ones, bringing a 'One IUCN' and 'whole of society' approach, and leveraging IUCN's unique convening power, diverse membership and global status.

3. Goal

By 2024, IUCN will have been effective in giving new impetus to the climate process, bringing a more integrated approach to science, ecosystems and human beings; to contain global warming to 1.5 °C, to secure a just and resilient future aligned to a Nature positive vision, by leveraging IUCN convening power.

4. Specific objectives

- Develop and promote holistic policies and guidelines that promote the rapid transition away from fossil fuel to clean energy sources, climate & nature convergence and the enabling conditions to effectively address both challenges.
- Facilitate a deeper engagement of IUCN with relevant multilateral processes as UNFCCC, CBD/GBF, UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDG's among some others related to oceans, food and plastic pollution; promoting synergistic climate-biodiversity policies and approaches.
- Identify and raise awareness on key priority topics suggested by science to understand climate change events, to address its consequences and to promote innovative and solid scientific based solutions (e.g. arctic, ocean acidification, food, behavioral change - production and consumption-).
- Mobilize, coordinate and collaborate with all components of the Union and with external partners under a "One Union", "whole of society approach". Leverage IUCN convening power.

- Co-design, promote and implement solutions that promote synergistic climate-biodiversity outcomes, integrate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems and science, and local community knowledge.
- Address the controversies that limit the climate and nature convergence including: the impacts on the ways of life and rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and on ecosystems, from the step-change increase needed in mining and infrastructure development for the clean energy transition; not proven climate solutions that exploit the mitigation power of ecosystems to enable ongoing fossil fuel emissions; mitigation commitments that appropriate land needed for food and ecosystems; loss and damage that undermine efforts of most vulnerable to adapt; maladaptive responses that generate negative impacts for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and ecosystems.
- Promote the use of accurate data and technology to bring solutions to address the climate and nature crises, whilst preventing, warning and limiting its use if it is contrary to climate, nature and sustainability objectives.
- Promote innovative solutions and develop innovative tools/mechanisms, to address the climate and nature crises, through addressing the four climate transitions (cities and infrastructure; land use, deforestation and agriculture; energy; industry) suggested by science and the 5 key drivers of nature loss (climate change, pollution, exploitation of natural resources, invasive species, changes in land and sea use).
- Promote inclusiveness by working with and for local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.
- Raise public awareness and capacity building under a coherent action plan for an effective impact of the commission's measurements.

5. Priorities and expected results

The Climate Crisis Commission, through its plans will contribute to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 and to catalyze IUCN as an influential and effective agent of change, giving new impetus to meeting the challenges of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

5.1. Thematic areas

1. **Policy:** The Commission will build upon multilateral processes (UNFCCC, CBD/GBF, UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDG's, among some others related to oceans, food and plastic pollution) and non party stakeholders/rights holders initiatives to strengthen and promote synergistic climate-biodiversity policies and actions.
2. **Solutions and innovative tools:** The Commission will co-design and implement solutions and innovative tools based on the best available science, Indigenous Peoples knowledge systems and science, local community knowledge and best practices, that promote and consolidate synergistic solutions for the climate and

biodiversity crises.

- 3. Finance:** The Commission will work on stimulating collaboration to unlock resource mobilization at scale, mobilize public and private finance, transforming the financial system - redirecting harmful subsidies - and promoting the creation of innovative, participatory financial mechanisms.
- 4. Technology and data:** The Commission will convene and promote science, technology, data and planning for integrated nature and climate strategies.

The role of technologies to tackle the climate change crisis is essential. For UNFCCC, technologies that we use to address climate change are known as climate technologies. They can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change when implemented with the free prior and informed consent when Indigenous Peoples' ecosystems will potentially be impacted.

The Paris Agreement placed modern and Indigenous technologies on the same level. Nature-based Solutions when they can be clarified and well defined, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems could be part of the process to support and protect traditional livelihoods.

5.2 Cross-cutting areas:

- 1. Communications and outreach:** The Commission will develop a robust communications strategy that conveys IUCN CCC vision, mission and narrative to support the outreach.
- 2. Partnerships:** The Commission will develop a strategic plan to identify and develop innovative partnerships that contribute to the CCC strategy and Work Plan, as well as helping its position in the climate space.
- 3. Flagship projects/products:** The Commission will develop a flagship project/product that positions the Commission, conveys the value add of the CCC, supports the decision making process, focuses on the climate and nature convergence and brings solutions that contribute to scaling up, socially just and Nature positive actions.

5.3 Internal organization and structure

- 1. Membership & inclusion:** The Commission will identify and convene members under the structure and Work Plan of the Commission; considering principles as inclusion, gender, geographic balance, intergenerational balance.

2. **Resource mobilization:** The Commission will secure new resources for the Climate Crisis Commission by developing a strategic plan for resource mobilization.
3. **Cross commission collaboration:** The CCC will secure collaboration and promote synergies across Commissions, as a strong component of its strategy.
4. **IUCN Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) role at UNFCCC:** The Commission will reinvigorate IUCN's IGO role at UNFCCC process to strengthen the organization and the CCC advocacy, increase influence and visibility, positioning itself as a trusted/forward thinking organization in the climate debate.

5. Structure

The Commission is led by the chair, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, appointed on May 19th 2022.

The chair is supported by a deputy chair, designated by the chair, based on candidates from the Steering Committee who would like to take this role.

The chair and the deputy chair are supported by eight regional vice chairs and thematic vice chairs, designated by the chair, based on candidates' location, competences and acceptance to take this role. The number of thematic vice chair's positions will be decided by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of IUCN CCC work based on an open discussion, including defining the work plan and budget.

The chair suggests to the Steering Committee, regional vice chairs and thematic vice chairs, the frequency of meetings, information sharing mechanism, logistic arrangements and communication tools.

6. Membership

The Climate Crisis Commission membership:

1. Will be **convened by regional vice chairs** based on Terms of Reference and Criteria approved by the CCC Chair and through an **open application** process, via the IUCN Commission Membership System.
2. Membership will be until September 2025.
3. The allocation of the regional members into thematic specialist groups (which are the Commission's Workstreams) will be in charge of the IUCN CCC Chair in coordination with each one of the vice chairs of these specialist groups.
4. The convening process of the IUCN CCC membership will respond to a transparent, inclusive and equitable process, with socio economic, gender,

geographic, professional and intergenerational representation.

5. The membership will be composed of volunteers who are committed to promoting appropriate, effective, just and nature positive solutions to the climate crisis emergency; through synergistic solutions, informed by all types of scientific evidence. Its actions will be framed under the IUCN CCC vision, mission and objectives in order to undertake a coherent approach that projects a CCC working team.