



IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy 2023 Midterm Report



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IUCN Commission on
Environmental, Economic,
and Social Policy
2023 Midterm Report

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Message from the IUCN CEESP Chair and Deputy Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

With great honor, we present the CEESP Midterm report as we navigate through the quadrennium following the IUCN Congress. This period has marked significant growth and transformative endeavors, as we steadfastly pursue the reimagining of conservation across all our work areas. We reflect on how we collectively safeguard our planet for future generations.

In our unwavering commitment to advancing environmental protection and social well-being, CEESP maintains a resolute focus on five fundamental pillars: Policy, Leadership, Justice, Stewardship, and our profound mission to Reimagine IUCN. This dedication has been instrumental in mobilizing CEESP, uniting the Union, and extending our influence far beyond, as we work to reshape our perspectives, engagements, and practices in the pursuit of planetary health. This transformative vision directly contributes to the 2021-2024 IUCN Programme and harmonizes seamlessly with the 20-year vision of the IUCN.

Policy: CEESP's dedication to policy reform remains unwavering. Our efforts span a spectrum of vital policy domains, advocating for sustainable resource management, equitable access to natural resources, and the rights of indigenous peoples. Collaborating with our partners, we continue to advocate for the integration of CEESP principles into national and international policy frameworks. It is essential to highlight the critical Biodiversity and Climate Nexus, emphasizing the interdependence of climate and biodiversity and the imperative for integrated strategies to address these global challenges.

Leadership: CEESP is committed to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. Through capacity-building initiatives, mentorship programs, and support for emerging leaders, we pave the way for those who will carry the torch forward. Our investments in leadership development, particularly among youth, are having a lasting impact on the conservation community and are aligned with IUCN's youth strategy.

Justice: The principles of justice and equity lie at the heart of CEESP's mission. We tirelessly advocate for the rights of marginalized communities, Indigenous Peoples, and those most affected by environmental degradation. Our efforts toward social justice have been pivotal in ensuring that conservation contributes to positive change, benefiting everyone which is why we have had a focus on environmental defenders, the doctrine of discovery, and guidance and training on rights-based approaches to conservation.

Stewardship: At CEESP, we recognize that environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility. Indigenous-led and locally-led stewardship of lands, waters, and territories is of paramount importance to the protection of our planet. Indigenous Peoples and local communities have an intimate and profound connection to their environments, often viewing their lands and waters as integral to their cultural and spiritual identities. This connection translates into a unique form of stewardship, where conservation is not merely an objective but a way of life and an integral part of culture and identity. Through CEESP, we continue to support leadership within Indigenous and local communities as essential for enabling effective stewardship. This involves providing the tools, resources, and recognition that these leaders need to carry out their roles. Likewise, women also play a significant role in environmental stewardship and similarly need our ongoing support and engagement.



Kristen Walker Painemilla

Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP)



Ameyali Ramos

Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP)

Reimagine IUCN: Our call to “Reimagine IUCN” transcends a mere slogan; it is a rallying cry to transform the IUCN into an even more influential and dynamic partner for conservation. CEESP’s engagement with regions, thematic groups, and other commissions nurtures a culture of collaboration, innovation, and adaptability. Together, we lay the groundwork for a reimagined IUCN that responds to the ever-evolving challenges confronting our planet. IUCN members such as IUCN Australia, Conservation International, and others have also begun the processes to reimagine conservation.

Our collective endeavors under the banner of “Reimagine Conservation” unite the Union, its members, and other stakeholders beyond IUCN in embracing our vision. We forge partnerships and collaborations that transcend borders, working toward a sustainable and harmonious future for all living beings on Earth.

As we continue on our journey throughout this quadrennium, we remain steadfast in our mission to protect the planet and craft a world where nature and humanity coexist harmoniously. Our vision, principles, and unwavering commitment to reimagining conservation will guide us through the challenges and opportunities that await.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the CEESP Steering Committee members, Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs, CEESP members, partners, and supporters for their dedication, expertise, and unwavering passion. It is through your collective efforts that we make a meaningful impact.

Together, let us inscribe the next chapter in the story of conservation. Let us persist in reimagining our world and our future.

Sincerely,

Kristen Walker Painemilla, Chair
Ameyali Ramos, Deputy Chair



CEESP Steering Committee Members, June 2023 Meeting © IUCN CEESP



CEESP Vision, Mission, & Our Network



VISION

A world where sustainability, social justice, diversity, and equity are valued in nature conservation and in development.

MISSION

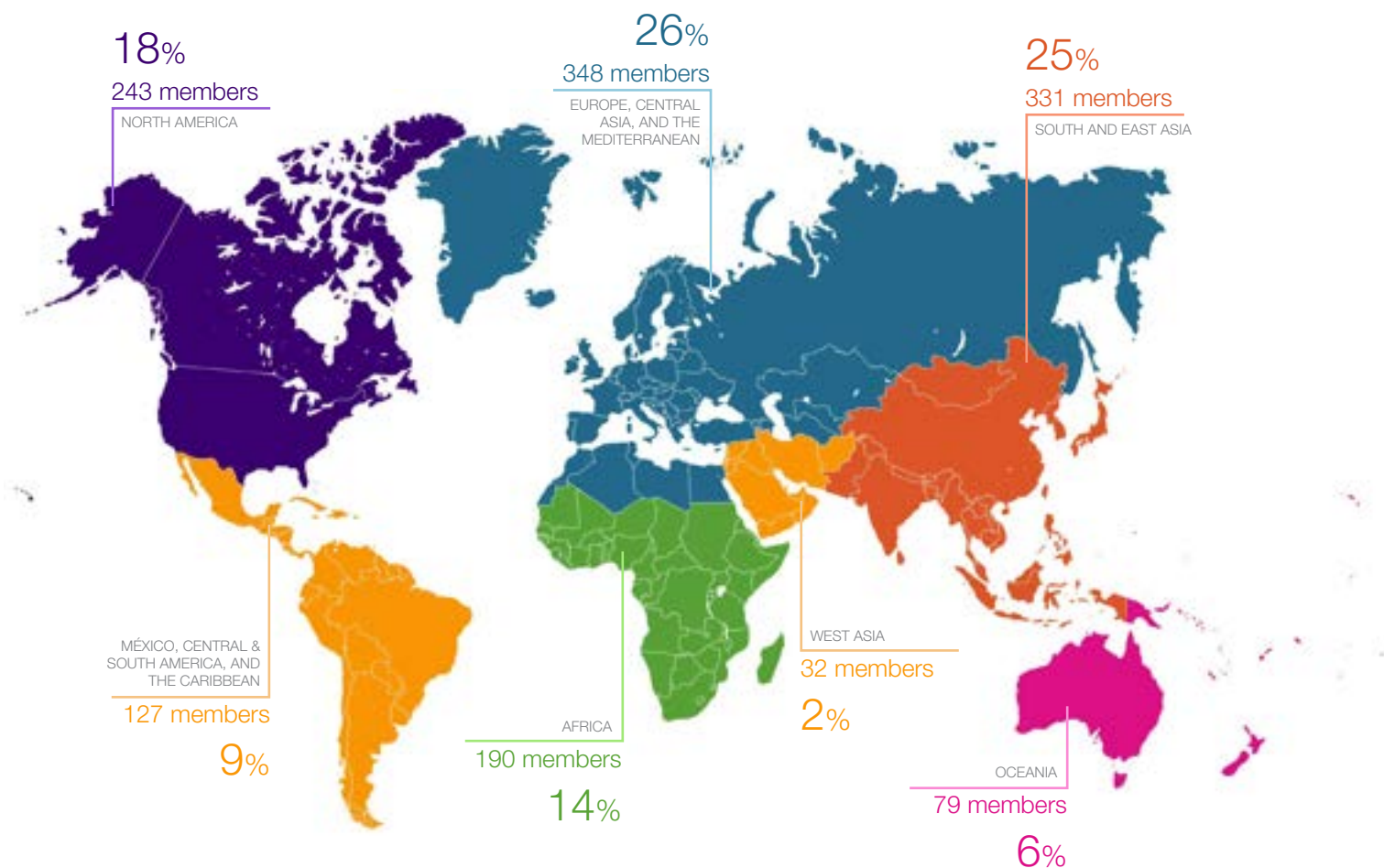
To contribute to the IUCN mission by generating and disseminating knowledge, mobilising influence, and promoting actions to harmonise the conservation of nature with the critical social, cultural, environmental, and economic justice concerns of human societies.

OUR NETWORK

CEESP is a unique network of approximately 1,350 volunteers representing perspectives and disciplines from biology and anthropology, economics and law, to culture and Indigenous peoples - among many others. Our work represents the crossroads of conservation and development. Our members offer resources and expertise to meet the challenges of conservation.

CEESP in Numbers

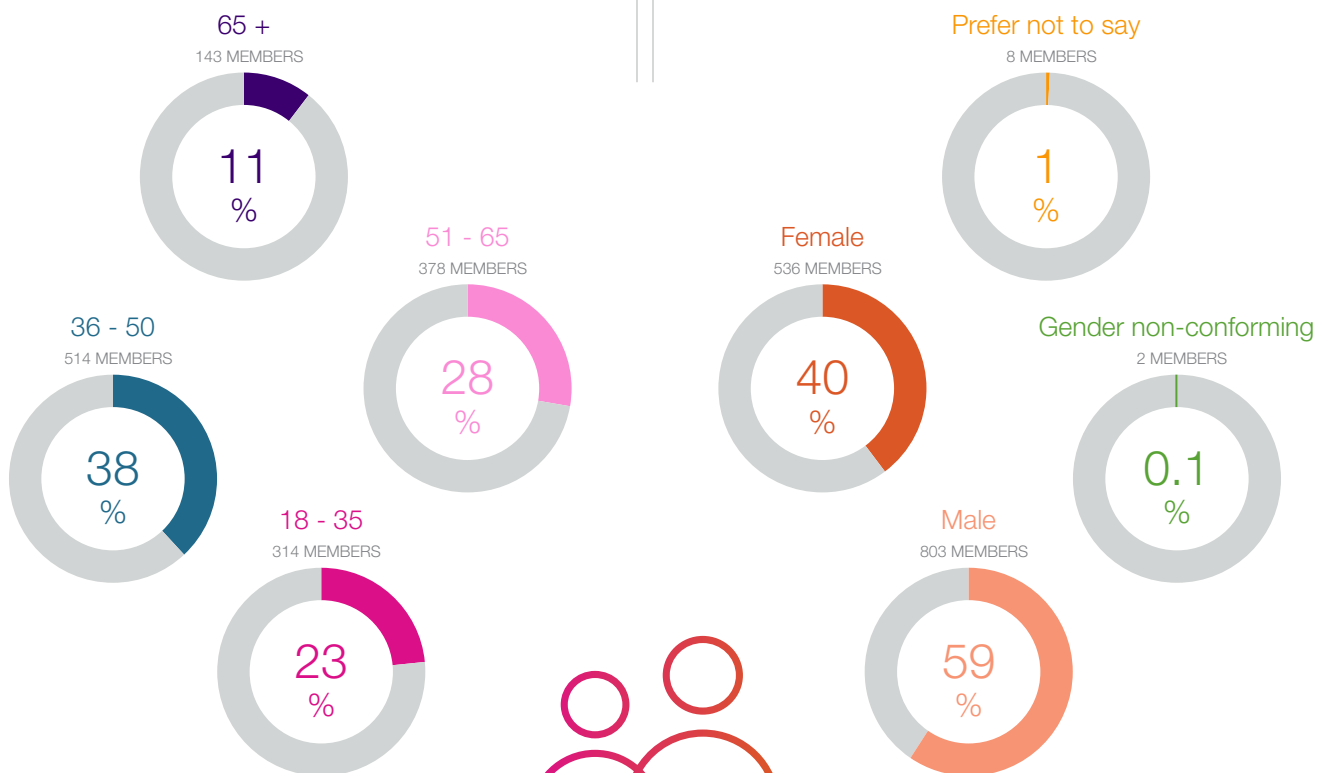




OPERATIONAL REGIONS

AGE

GENDER



Total CEESP members: 1350

As of November 2023



Reimagining Conservation



REIMAGINING CONSERVATION

[Reimagine Conservation](#) was born as an act of rebellion, a way of telling everyone that we need to start rethinking the way we have been doing things.

In 2021, CEESP initiated a program called “Reimagine Conservation,” which aims to challenge mainstream conservation practices and promote a more inclusive and people-centered approach to protecting the planet. Through Reimagining Conservation CEESP, Commissions, IUCN members, and partners have focused on the following objectives:

Reimagine Conservation:

- This initiative seeks to transform the way people think about, engage with, and do conservation.
- It emphasizes the importance of mobilizing the IUCN and its partners to embrace a new vision of conservation.
- The focus is on reimagining conservation to contribute directly to the 2021-2025 IUCN Programme and the organization’s 20-year vision.

Reimagine Justice:

- CEESP advocates for evidence-based dialogue and practices related to human rights and conservation.
- The goal is to change how conservation is traditionally carried out, with a focus on the involvement of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- By elevating the social impacts of conservation, the program aims to protect the planet better.

Reimagine Funding:

- CEESP works to advance dialogue on conservation finance and make funding more inclusive.
- The focus is on ensuring that funding is accessible to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, and women.
- This inclusive approach is essential for achieving climate and biodiversity goals.

Reimagine Leadership:

- CEESP promotes dialogues and evidence-based research on what conservation leadership should look like in the future.
- The objective is to support leadership practices that are more effective in protecting the planet.
- This may involve reimagining the qualities and attributes that conservation leaders need to possess.

Reimagine IUCN:

- The Reimagine Conservation initiative seeks to mobilize not only the CEESP but also the entire IUCN community and its partners.
- The goal is to transform thinking, engagement, and conservation practices to align with the 2021-2025 IUCN Programme and the organization’s 20-year vision.



The initiatives and efforts undertaken under the Reimagining Conservation banner reflect a widespread commitment to rethinking and reshaping the practice of conservation to address the pressing challenges facing the environment and humanity. Here's a sample of engagements and actions undertaken:

1. All IUCN Commissions Aligning and Reimagining Priorities:

- The collaboration of all IUCN Commissions to align and reimagine their priorities signifies a coordinated effort within the IUCN to ensure a unified and effective approach to conservation and that we push and challenge ourselves to reimagining our efforts around conservation.

2. IUCN Council Reflecting on its Role and the 20-Year Vision:

- At the first IUCN Council meeting of this quadrennium, the Council came together under Reimagine to reflect on its role and to 20th year visions indicating a commitment to realigning the organization's strategies and goals with a

3. Commission on Education and Communications' Focus on Dialogue and Education:

- The IUCN's Commission on Education and Communications provides dialogue, tools, and education materials related to the Reimagining Conservation concept, supporting a more informed and engaged conservation community.

4. IUCN Australia's National Committee Reimagining Conservation Forum:

- This forum is a platform for stakeholders in Australia to work together collaboratively to address conservation issues in the country, emphasizing a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach to the long-term vision for conservation.

5. Mexican National Committee Reimagining Conservation:

- The National Committee meeting focused specifically on Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth - a first in the history of IUCN
- CEESP hosted sessions and immersive experiences to help participants Reimagine their role in conservation
- CEESP proposed innovative methodologies to support active sharing, learning, and action

6. Synchronicity Earth's Reimagining Philanthropy:

- Synchronicity Earth is reevaluating philanthropic practices, likely focusing on how philanthropic resources can be more effectively deployed to drive positive conservation outcomes.

7. Conservation International's Human-Centered Design Approach:

- Conservation International is adopting a human-centered design approach to conservation, placing diversity, justice, and inclusion at the core of its strategies.
- The organization aims to protect the planet with greater equity, speed, and scale by actively involving and respecting the perspectives of various communities.

These efforts collectively demonstrate the commitment of various organizations, including Synchronicity Earth, IUCN, and Conservation International, to adapt and innovate in the face of evolving conservation challenges. The focus on human-centered approaches, inclusion, and collaboration underscores the importance of holistic and community-driven solutions for a more sustainable and equitable conservation future.

Reimagine Conservation is a call to action by CEESP and partners to challenge the status quo in conservation and bring about a more inclusive and people-centered approach to protecting the planet. It encourages listening to diverse voices, open discussions, imagination, and active participation to create a more sustainable and equitable future for both nature and humanity. This initiative aligns with IUCN's broader vision for conservation and its commitment to addressing the pressing environmental and social challenges of our time.



Policy Matters



POLICY MATTERS

Policy Matters is a peer-reviewed journal published electronically and in print by CEESP to encourage in-depth research and analysis into issues within the wide spectrum of the Commission’s mandate. Each edition addresses a specific theme and appoints an editorial team and peer reviewers based on their expertise in the subject matter.

Latest Edition: Policy Matters 23

Title: Journeys to more equitable and effective conservation: the central role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

“IUCN CEESP’s Policy Matters 23 journal presents seven case studies illustrating collaborative journeys towards more equitable and effective conservation and acts as a call to reorient Indigenous Peoples and local communities knowledge, practices, and institutions at the centre of a much-needed global transformation in nature conservation.

The seven cases highlighted in this edition of Policy Matters cover forests, rangelands, coastal, and marine ecosystems containing internationally important species and habitats. These innovative cases are examples where communities have resisted externally dominated processes and worked together to take back power and control over their territories and the ecosystems with which they have an intimate bond and cultural connection, and at the same time have generated positive biodiversity outcomes.

Taken together, the seven cases represent the frontline of struggles for the future of critical biodiversity and habitats. All of these cases have, at their core, the well-being of the communities, which is intimately tied to the health of the ecosystems, and demonstrate the contemporary relevance of the knowledge and cultural resilience of Indigenous peoples and local communities.”

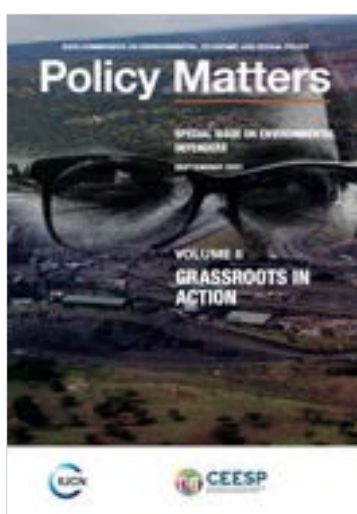
Other publications from this quadrennium:

Policy Matters 22: Special Edition on Environmental Defenders

Volume I



Volume II



Volume III



Cover photo: A young Siona woman from the Aboquëhuira community, Ecuador hides from the rain as she continues her work registering the growth of Yoco (Paullinia yoco), an important medicinal plant. For several years the Siona Nation on the Aguarico River have researched the best conditions to grow yoco in their forest gardens (chagras). (Daris Piaguaje, a Siona indigenous Woman from Ecuador with Alianza Ceibo)



Highlights from CEESP Regions

AFRICA

EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA, & THE MEDITERRANEAN

NORTH AMERICA

OCEANIA

SOUTH & EAST ASIA



CEESP REGIONS

AFRICA

At the African Parks Congress (APAC), Kigali, Rwanda in July 2023, CEESP played an instrumental role, both logistically and substantively. CEESP supported two main pre-congresses - Youth and IPLC - which provided an important opportunity for discussion around strategic engagement and issues of importance. CEESP Africa members also organized several side events that highlighted the work of the commission in the region. CEESP is supporting the implementation of the “Kigali Call to Action”.

In January 2023, the CEESP Regional Vice-chair for Africa participated in the first IUCN All Commissions Meeting which proved to be a great opportunity for Commission representatives from Africa to coordinate and network, ensuring alignment and collaboration. The Deputy Vice Chair also consulted and contributed to the development of CEESP’s youth engagement strategy, and supported the translation of related articles and newsletters. The Africa region has been actively engaged in various youth engagement initiatives to raise awareness of IUCN CEESP and increase its membership. From May 09 to 10, 2023, in Kinshasa, DRC, the Deputy Vice Chair participated in and contributed to the “national dialogue on capitalizing on the gains of taking into account the rights of local communities in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” organized by IUCN and its partners. During this dialogue, we demonstrated that ecosystem approaches stimulate biodiversity conservation through a number of practices identified as likely to contribute to target 3 (30x30) of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The dialogue also helped to guide national and regional contributions through effective systems of protected and conserved areas and to identify the next steps in the implementation of Target 3.

Similarly, in May 2023, the Deputy Vice Chair participated in and led sessions at the first Congolese Youth Summit on Biodiversity. An important and unique moment where young people and other stakeholders were able to discuss and develop clear and concrete proposals regarding the implementation process of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We were also able to set up an exchange framework for an intergenerational dialogue between young people, the private sector, conservation NGOs and the government on the future of Congolese biodiversity in the face of current threats.

The region is actively involved in mobilizing funds for the organization of the second African Youth Summit on Biodiversity, to be held in Morocco from September 19 to 21, 2023.



Monipher Musasa
Regional Vice Chair



Emmanuel Lokpaka
Deputy Regional Vice Chair



Stakeholders on capitalizing on achievements and taking into account the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework

EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA, & THE MEDITERRANEAN

The first half of the mandate for the IUCN CEESP Europe has been focused on mapping its extensive membership now counting 319 experts from all over the continent. The exercise conducted by the vice-chair and his deputy has also focused on identifying specializations that could support the IUCN CEESP mandate and vision.

Major outputs and accomplishments

To gain a better understanding of capacity a survey has been carried out asking members about the priorities they would like to focus on in the next years before the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress. As proposed by the chair, two main themes have been identified: sustainable finance and the newly agreed EU deforestation law. These themes can be strongly interlinked and provide a way forward for the European region's work plan. In addition, CEESP Europe will continue to work on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

In addition, similarly to the IUCN Secretariat's efforts to strengthen coordination in the European region, Luc Bas has been appointed also as Regional Vice-Chair for Eastern Europe & Central Asia. In the fourth quarter of 2023, a webinar will be organised with CEESP members to discuss future opportunities for collaboration and to set concrete milestones to be achieved before the end of the mandate.

CEESP leadership had its steering committee meeting in Costa Rica last June. European input focussed on the work on interlinkages between Climate and Biodiversity policies and Sustainable Finance.

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

- Strengthen members' participation in CEESP and set up a functional communication channel through the Engage platform,
- Develop a series of communication materials with CEESP members on the two priorities of sustainable finance and deforestation,
- Organise a series of webinars for members with the participation of relevant external experts.



Luc Bas
Regional Vice Chair



Tommaso Demozi
Deputy Regional Vice Chair



Costa Rica Steering Committee Meeting



NORTH AMERICA

The North American region has focused on supporting the implementation of the CEESP initiative to Reimagine Conservation, which seeks to provide leadership in constructing a new way of caring for and protecting the planet, based on a people-centered, bottom-up approach that listens to more diverse voices and incorporates the energies of more diverse constituencies that have historically participated in conservation efforts.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

We have agreed in consultations with members that an important initial step should be to seek ways to engage and support conservation initiatives led by Native Americans, First Nations Metis, and Inuit Nations, with a focus on:

- Building collaborations around engagement on environmental issues of shared interest, braiding scientific and Indigenous knowledge, and building tools that help regenerate ecosystems, livelihoods, and identity;
- Identifying and developing opportunities to reconstruct spaces on reservation lands and beyond to strengthen the management of intact ecosystems and restore ecosystem functions and
- Seizing opportunities to promote actions by Indigenous leaders that attempt to make the world better for future generations.

We are aware that well-intentioned attempts to engage can easily end up being a distraction to Indigenous organizations responsible for managing complex conservation initiatives. With this in mind, we seek to identify ways that CEESP can contribute to strengthening existing discussions and initiatives. For example, we have held initial discussions with representatives of the United States National Park Service and have agreed in principle to explore ways that we might work together on issues that include:

- Reconciliation in place names as a step to creating conditions for co-stewardship
- Water governance and management, beginning with the crisis facing the Colorado River Basin
- Ecosystem and cultural restoration, beginning, perhaps with bison reintroduction
- Braiding traditional and scientific knowledge to improve management
- Building linkages to share promotes sharing knowledge and experience, including but not limited to:
 - Between NPS and Parks Canada
 - With and among Indigenous organizations in North America and
 - Sharing experiences globally

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

Our future plans include engaging with the IUCN U.S. and Canada Committees to identify ways to add our support to Indigenous-led initiatives in the two countries.

Finally, members have suggested that, in the spirit of casting a broad net to Reimagine Conservation, we should also reach out to representatives of the Environmental Justice movement, as this would be an important source of input for thinking differently about how we understand conservation. Also, this broader engagement may enrich our efforts to support Indigenous-led conservation by helping formulate proposals that would allow us to offer greater value to Indigenous organizations.



Dr Michael Painter
Regional Vice Chair



Julia Whelan
Deputy Regional Vice Chair



OCEANIA

The main focus of CEESP Oceania since January 2022 has continued to be on 1) furthering partnerships with the region's conservation sector by supporting the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and its implementation arm, the [Pacific Islands Roundtable \(PIRT\)](#); 2) working closely with the IUCN Oceania Regional Office on existing and developing programmes, and 3) increasing CEESP Oceania members' participation in international/regional and national conservation events and programming.

Major outputs and accomplishments

- The establishment of the Nature Culture Working Group of PIRT in June 2022 in partnership with IUCN ORO.
- Hosted a CEESP session at [IMPAC5](#) (the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress) in February 2023 titled 'We Are the Ocean: Transforming Ocean Conservation' in which two CEESP members were panelists.
- Progress on implementation of resolution WCC-2020-Res-019 on '[Stopping the global plastic pollution crisis in marine environments by 2030](#)'
- Research on nature-based solutions is being carried out in the region in collaboration with IUCN ORO.
- Led the CEESP session at IMPAC5 focused on Oceania-led initiatives to transform policy to better reflect traditional and ancestral relationships with the ocean. Presenters included Ann Singeo of Palau (CEESP Oceania Deputy-Vice Chair), and CEESP member James Tremlett of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The Nature Culture Working Group was established in response to IUCN's Nature Culture Journey, and to strengthen implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas's Strategic Objectives which focus strongly on culture. It is also in alignment with CBD CoP15 Decision on Nature Culture, to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity. In the upcoming PIRT Annual Meeting, the NCWG is hosting an inaugural workshop on Pacific languages and conservation, facilitated by linguists from the University of the South Pacific.

Key Partnerships

Patricia Miller-Parkinson, the CEESP focal point on Resolution 019 on plastic waste, has been active in plastics reduction work in Pacific Island countries as part of IUCN's Plastic Waste Free Islands project (PWFI). She is part of a team of global experts contributing to the University of Washington W Nippon Foundation Nexus Center's Marine Plastic Pollution Road Map (MPP Roadmap). The roadmap is a 10-year strategic plan (2022-2032) seeking to influence future developments in action, research and policy for improved marine plastic pollution governance, ensuring that transformative solutions in science and sustainability are adopted in ways that prioritize equity and justice.

CEESP member Digby Race has focused on Nature-Based Solutions in Pacific Islands countries, in work aligned with IUCN objectives in this area, and in collaboration with teams from the Fiji National University, the University of Hawai'i, and Live and Learn. The work has focused on assessing community experiences of 'carbon forestry' agreements in parts of Fiji as well as exploring the extent to which agroforestry can support community resilience to climate change impacts in Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

CEESP Oceania includes many members in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand and some beyond who have an ongoing relationship with the region. Collectively, they continue to contribute to CEESP's mission of fostering justice and equity and a rights approach to conservation through a range of roles.



Dr Elise Huffer
Regional Vice Chair



Ann Singeo
Deputy Regional Vice Chair



SOUTH & EAST ASIA

Dr. Ritu Dhingra, in her role as Regional Vice Chair, has actively organized and participated in webinars to foster collaboration and engagement within the CEESP community. Dr. Dhingra has represented IUCN CEESP at more than 10 events nationally and internationally. Dr. Dhingra has also organized 9 webinars for the members of S&E Asia and engaged the members from almost all the member countries in this region. Dr. Dhingra is still pursuing the aims of CEESP in this region along with the members and Deputy Vice Chair Dr. Swayamprabha Das.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

Below is a summary of some of the events that the region has organized:

- 1. Webinar on SDG 8 and 9 (July 8, 2023)** on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8 and 9.
- 2. Book Release on Environmental Law (June 7, 2023)** The book delves into sustainable development, forest and biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge systems, patenting issues, SDGs, and innovative approaches.
- 3. Online Presentation on Invasive Alien Species (June 2, 2023)** on the urgent need for an international regime to combat the loss of biological diversity caused by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) at the Tarragona International Environmental Law Colloquium.
- 4. Webinars on SDG 6 & 7, and SDG 3 & 4 (May and April 2023):** emphasizing the importance of sustainable development and the role of forests in promoting health, education, and sustainable lifestyles.
- 5. Advocating for Oceans and G-20 Priorities (March 2023):** underlining the connection between environmental conservation and international agendas.
- 6. Engagement in Various International Conferences (2022-2023),** presenting on topics such as ecofeminism, traditional knowledge systems, and the conservation of biodiversity and the environment.

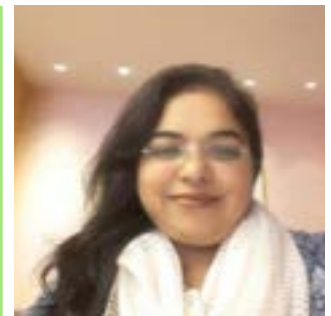
Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

Dr. Dhingra has proposed innovative ideas for the conservation of biodiversity, including the cultivation of native plants and the avoidance of monocultures, which were discussed during the steering committee meeting in June 2023.

Dr. Ritu Dhingra along with the members of IUCN CEESP S&E Asia have worked with dedication and leadership in the promotion of environmental sustainability, conservation of biodiversity, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals have made significant contributions to the work of IUCN CEESP South and East Asia during the reporting period. Her involvement in organizing webinars, presenting research, and advocating for ecofeminism and environmental protection underscores her commitment to a sustainable and resilient future.



Dr Ritu Dhingra
Regional Vice Chair



Dr Swayamprabha Das
Deputy Regional Vice Chair



Highlights from CEESP Groups

THEMATIC GROUPS

SPECIALIST GROUPS

WORKING GROUPS & TASK FORCES



CEESP GROUPS

THEMATIC GROUPS

Business, Best Practice, and Accountability

In addition to drawing on the diverse IUCN individuals, as well as commission members, and the creative synergy of the CEESP community, the Business, Best Practice and Accountability (BBPA) thematic work builds and expands on the previous CEESP projects and initiatives such as the Social and Environmental Accountability in the Extractives (and Accountability in the Extractive and Business sectors (e.g. mining, agriculture, forestry & biofuels, among others).

The focus of the BBPA's 2021-2015 work programme is on three catalytic themes: Regenerative Finance, Cross Sector Business and Conservation Science Collaboration, Climate Change, Energy Transition, and Biodiversity/Nature-based Recovery.

Major outputs and accomplishments

Cross-Sector Business and Conservation Science Collaboration

The Chair became a member of the Technical Expert Group of the [IUCN Global Fund](#) on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), a €40 million catalytic funding for supporting innovative approaches to EbA activities.

Enrolled in a self-paced [edX online course](#) on EbA: Working with Nature to Adapt to a Changing Climate in August/September 2023

Climate Change, Energy Transition, and Biodiversity/Nature-based Recovery

In conjunction with the Chair's role as [Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg](#) (South Africa), DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Chair in Transformative Innovation organized a series of workshops and seminars on climate change, energy transition, and nature-based recovery, with a special focus on Africa, including:

- [May 24, 2022 & University of Johannesburg](#)
- August 14, 2023 & University of Johannesburg
 - In this event, Prof. Park led a discussion on the issues of innovation, entrepreneurship and the energy transition. He also discussed the similarities and differences between the [South African Just Energy Transition](#) and the newly proposed Just Energy Transition model being developed in Senegal.

Regenerative Finance

- The Chair presented and facilitated a group discussion on "Envisioning a New IUCN Nature 2030 Strategy of Finance and Resource Mobilization" at the CEESP Steering Committee meeting in Costa Rica (June 2023).
- The Chair signed a [book contract](#) with Edward Elgar Publishing to write/produce on sustainable finance, including a chapter on conservation/biodiversity finance to be published in 2025.
- The Chair received two international research/management practice impact awards for their co-authored 2022 journal article, How Social Ventures Grow: [Understanding the Role of Philanthropic Grants in Scaling Social Entrepreneurship](#), Business & Society.
 - [2022 Responsible Research in Management Award](#)
 - [2022 Business & Society Journal Best Paper Award](#)



Dr Jacob Park
Chair



UJ Event May 2022 @ University of Johannesburg

Culture, Spirituality & Conservation

The Culture, Spirituality, and Conservation Thematic Group celebrates the inseparable diversity of nature and culture that grows from deep human connections with the natural world. These connections flourish as distinctive ways of being, knowing, seeing, singing, dancing, and caring.

In the past year (2022-2023), the Thematic Group has come together with the Religions, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation, and Climate Justice (ReSpECC) Specialist Group to provide a consolidated hub of expertise in the broad area of culture and spirituality in conservation.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- **Embedding of culture and spirituality into the conservation agenda and conservation approaches.**

- With partners (Divers Earth, WWF's Beliefs & Values Programme, One Nature Institute), the Thematic Group is developing an online global, collaborative platform to provide a stage for indigenous, local, religious, and spiritual custodians of sacred species to tell their stories of relationship and connection and how this leads to species and habitat protection.

- **Technical assistance and advice on culture and spirituality within IUCN.**

- Efforts toward addressing a reconciliation process on the renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery (Resolution 119) within the Union, beginning with the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Working Group. In the CEESP Steering Committee Meeting in Costa Rica (June 2023), members overwhelmingly supported the effort with further discussion focused on ideas on how to make it an impactful theme at the next [World Conservation Congress](#).



Liza Zogib
Co-Chair



Kevin Chang
Co-Chair



© Culture, Spirituality, and Conservation Thematic Group

Holistic approaches for raising awareness and changing behaviour - fostering harmonious consciousness and lifestyle Panel discussion organised/facilitated by Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and A Rocha International, CEPA Fair, CBD COP15, Montreal



Governance, Equity, and Rights

In 2022-23, work under the Theme on Governance, Equity, and Rights (TGER) focused on the Learning for Governance (LFG) Initiative. The Learning for Governance initiative seeks to build a learning network with diverse practitioners around the world who are taking action to understand and improve environmental governance. The initiative is developing tools to support communication and learning, highlight diverse governance stories, and promote power sharing and equity within and beyond our network.



Story Map

Major outputs and accomplishments

- Developed the online [Learning for Governance](#) portal which features a story map highlighting governance stories, approaches, and frameworks from across the globe to foster dialogue and inspire meaningful action. Many governance stories from around the world have been added to the map and more submissions are being accepted in collaboration with community partners.
- Held two workshops to bring together the diverse network to identify areas of collaboration and learning.
 - **May 2022:** participants shared their initiatives and experiences related to environmental governance and how it relates to ways of governing, approaches to recognition and support for diverse governance, approaches to learning and action to governance, and how they wanted to advance the network and portal design, content, and governance.
 - **August 2023:** participants identified possible LFG network governance structures to help support the broader LFG work group and discussed future initiatives and how LFG could be leveraged to support on-the-ground work being done currently globally. The creation of a steering committee to push work forward was mentioned, but all decisions about direction and action should be made collectively.

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

The Learning for Governance initiative under TGER will engage across scales and on equal terms to learn about and from diverse approaches to governing and to understanding and improving governance. These are bold aims; however, they are also increasingly necessary in light of the multiple and intersecting socio-ecological crises we face. These aims are also increasingly possible, in light of the diverse knowledge and leadership of the many actors already learning and taking action for environmental governance, at many scales and in many ways.



Dr Melanie Zurba
Chair



Dr Isa Elegbede
Deputy Chair



Ahmad Hameed
Deputy Chair

Human Wellbeing and Sustainable Livelihoods

Our focus has been on exploring links between the knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, governance, and conservation effectiveness



Policy Matter 23 © Neil Dawson

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- Policy Matters Issue 23: Journeys to more equitable and effective conservation: the central role of Indigenous peoples and local communities (Published to coincide with the GEF Assembly August 2023).

This latest issue presents seven detailed case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America illustrating collaborative journeys towards more equitable and effective conservation, and acts as a call to reorient Indigenous peoples and local communities, their knowledge, practices, and institutions at the center of a much needed global transformation in nature conservation.

- Suich, H. and Dawson, N. (2023). Review of methods for assessing the social impacts of conservation. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.



Dr Neil Dawson

Chair

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

Since early 2022 we have been pursuing the idea of social monitoring of conservation led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities being scaled up to a global platform so as to enhance accountability in conservation. With the ambitious CBD targets to rapidly expand conservation interventions over the next seven years to 2030, there is a clear and urgent need to enhance accountability for the rights and equitable governance enshrined in those targets, as well as to highlight the roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. However, rights, recognition and participation have seldom been monitored or reported at any level, resulting in an absence of accountability mechanisms if social standards are not met. A group of HWSL members have secured GBP£10,000 from the Forest Peoples Program to support the first phase (Mapping initiatives led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities to monitor equity and rights - which we will complete by the end of 2023), and are working on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, to catalog existing efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the globe to monitor rights, equity, governance, and socio-economic impacts associated with conservation. We aim to form connections, assess the potential to collate and scale up existing monitoring efforts, and produce information that can support a larger funding proposal for the next stages.



© Mark Baron, Margaret Pyke Trust

Community members listen to “integrated messages” on human and environmental health and talk about the complex, integrated development challenges they are facing



SPECIALIST GROUPS

Gender

The Gender Specialist Group (GSG) was created after the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016, in response to the growing recognition of Gender in IUCN's programme. The GSG supports the Human Rights in Conservation Team (HRCT) at IUCN and aims to strengthen the understanding of and promote the full achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of conservation and sustainable development policy and practice, including gender-based violence and environmental linkages. This diverse group has specialists in several areas including agriculture, forests, gender-based violence, wetlands, ecosystems, climate change, communities, and indigenous people.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- The CEESP newsletter on Gender on International Women's Day was launched on 8 March 2023 with a focus on *Reimagining Environmental Justice through a Gendered Perspective*.
- A database of Gender Experts to provide a pool of gender resources to CEESP and to IUCN has been developed so that specialist knowledge can be accessed by the wider membership in IUCN.
- Members engaged in the Reimagine Conservation process, research on relevant issues, contributions to the CEESP Newsletter, Policy Matters thematic discussions, involvement in written contributions, and participation in online webinars and workshops according to members' expertise.
- The Chair of the GSG, as a member of the Technical Evaluation Committee, reviewed and evaluated applications from nine countries for the Resilience Inclusive and Sustainable Environments Grant Challenge.
- Creation of the Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force, by the Margaret Pyke Trust, is the first IUCN entity focused exclusively on the connections between reproductive and environmental health.



Meher Noshirwani
Chair



Integrating Voluntary Right Based Family Planning in Conservation

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

Through the new IUCN Engage platform and more CEESP newsletters, the GSG intends to use these platforms to provide more outreach and opportunities to directly engage the members. A Policy Matters issue on Gender is being planned and opportunities to involve members in COP 28 related to gender issues would provide a platform for greater engagement. The Regional Conservation Forums are also platforms for members to engage and work towards the Congress.



Green Criminology

Green Criminology is an analytical and interdisciplinary framework from across the social and natural sciences concerned with environmental crimes and harms, including risks and transgressions that are harmful to humans, ecosystems, and non-human animals, regardless of legality. Doing green criminology requires a sense of scale and interconnectedness of issues, events, places, and earth inhabitants from a non-anthropocentric perspective. The mission of the IUCN CEESP Green Criminology Specialist Group (GCSG) is to assemble an international network of researchers, scholars, and activists concerned with the political, social, cultural, and economic relationships in society that breed socio-ecological damage. The Green Criminology Specialist Group includes different thematic groupings across geographic contexts, to identify the impacts of environmental degradation because of human activity and to provide insightful analysis of these challenges.

Green criminology had its origins more than 20 years ago at an international level. Currently, Mexican criminology is in a stage of disciplinary expansion and maturation in which it is necessary to turn its disciplinary contributions toward other forms of criminality. Among the recent problems facing Mexico, the issues of public security have been given greater consideration than environmental issues in national criminological studies, so the participation of criminology has sought to address various criminal phenomena, such as different types of illegal trafficking (narcotics, humans, and firearms), organized crime, narcoterrorism, homicides, kidnappings, among many others. However, the contributions of criminology on environmental issues have been few and are very recent.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- Coordination and academic organization of the First & Second Interinstitutional Seminar on Green Criminology in Mexico from January-June 2022 and February-May 2023 (in Spanish and with a duration of 48 hours, in remote mode).
 - The main objective was to provide a space for reflection, from an interdisciplinary perspective, on conflicts and socio-environmental problems from the perspective of green criminology, taking into consideration both the national and international context and the participation of members of all sectors of society. The Seminar YouTube channel with all sessions can be accessed [here](#).
 - With kind support from Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT), Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias (CRIM, UNAM), and Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Abasolo (ITESA).



Dr Inés Arroyo-Quiroz
Co-Chair



Dr Daan Van Uhm
Co-Chair



1st Green Criminology Seminar 2022



2nd Green Criminology Seminar 2023

- During 2022, members of the GCSG from Latin America also contributed an article in Spanish for the CEESP newsletter in recognition of UN Human Rights Day with the following title: "[Violencia contra grupos indígenas defensores del ambiente en México](#)" (December '22).
- Actively participated in the 5-day CEESP Strategic Planning Meeting (March); in the CEESP SC and Chairs Virtual meeting (May); and, in the CEESP Steering Committee meeting in June in Costa Rica.
- In October 2023, delivered high-level feedback on the CEESP Updated Workplan 2023-2025 and produced a video with kind support from UNAM (Mexico) about the ethics and risks of using wild animals as pets that can be widely distributed by CEESP.

- Publications:

- Arroyo Quiroz, I. (2023). Responsabilidad de México como agente activo en el comercio de animales silvestres para mascotas. En: Oyama, K. y García Oliva, F. (Eds.). Ecología, medio ambiente y sustentabilidad. Serie La Década COVID en México. Coordinación de Humanidades, UNAM; Secretaría de Desarrollo Institucional, UNAM; Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores, Unidad Morelia, UNAM (Full volume [free access](#)).
- Carpio-Domínguez, J. (2023). *Criminología verde para México: Desarrollo de una perspectiva verde en la herencia criminológica mexicana*. México: Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas-Tirant Lo Blanch. <https://doi.org/10.29059/LUAT.317> (Free Access).
- Arroyo-Quiroz I., Castro Salazar, J. I., y S.E. Serrano Oswald (2022) Using a feminist and green social justice perspective to understanding wildlife trafficking in Mexico Pp. 44-58, En: *Women and Wildlife Trafficking Participants, Perpetrators and Victims*, H.U. Agu y M.L. Gore (Eds.), Routledge, 176p.
- Carpio Domínguez, J.L., I. Arroyo Quiroz, M.T. Villarreal Martínez, J.I. Castro Salazar (2022) Trafficking of a Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) in northeastern Mexico: A social network analysis. *Forensic Science International: Animals and Environments 2*.



Libro Criminología Verde 2023 © UAT

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

For the upcoming months (early 2024), we will be participating in the CEESP webinar series to broaden members' understanding (especially youth) of the importance of Green Criminology and the work happening in the Green Criminology Specialist Group. We are also already organizing the Third Interinstitutional Seminar on Green Criminology in Mexico which will take place from February to May 2024. It is relevant that we continue with this Seminar because: 1) there are still few activities on Green Criminology in the Latin American region (in Spanish) and 2) the scientific knowledge that is generated and disseminated during this activity is directly related to specific socio-environmental problems and conflicts not only faced in Mexico and the Latin American region but worldwide, and the academic and scientific community, through efforts such as this can be linked to other institutions, organizations and the government, as well as facilitate citizen participation.

Con el propósito de que el Seminario Interinstitucional de Criminología Verde continúe siendo un espacio de diálogo en el que se pueda compartir información y experiencias en el marco de la interdisciplina la

CONVOCAN
a personas interesadas en participar como ponentes en el

3 SEMINARIO INTERINSTITUCIONAL DE CRIMINOLOGÍA VERDE EN MÉXICO

En caso de enviar una propuesta, por favor incluir: a) Nombre, b) Datos de contacto, c) Adscripción o grupo de trabajo al que pertenecen, d) Tema de la ponencia y e) Breve explicación de por qué quisieran participar y por qué consideran que el tema propuesto es relevante para el Seminario. Si bien todas las propuestas son bienvenidas, se dará prioridad a aquellas personas que no han participado como ponentes en ediciones previas del Seminario. La fecha límite para el envío de sus propuestas es el 30 de septiembre de 2023. Y por favor enviarlas al correo: seminariocriminologiamexico@gmail.com

Dr. Inés Arroyo-Quiroz (CRIM-UNAM) Dr. José Luis Carpio-Domínguez (UAMRA-UAT) Dr. Jesús Ignacio Castro-Salazar (ETESA-UNAM)

3rd Green Criminology Seminar 2024

Local Economies, Communities and Nature

The IUCN CEESP Local Economies, Communities, and Nature Specialist Group acts as a CEESP focal point for people with an interest in the application of socio-economic concepts and methodologies to the relationship between communities and the natural environment. It is also intended that the group will act as an area of information and specialist advice for other IUCN commissions and the IUCN Secretariat, where possible.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

Publications:

- Trombley, J.B., Sangha, K.K., Andersen, A.N., Thennadil, S.N., 2023. Utilizing Locally Available Bioresources for Powering Remote Indigenous Communities: A Framework and Case Study. *Energies* 16 (2), 666. <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/16/2/666>
- Sangha, K.K., Gordon, I.J., Costanza, R., 2023. Editorial: Ecosystem services, policy, and human well-being. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 11:1174160. doi:10.3389/fevo.2023.1174160
- Kegamba, J.J., Sangha, K.K., Wurm, P.A.S., Garnett, S.T., 2023. Conservation benefit-sharing mechanisms and their effectiveness in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem: local communities' perspectives. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 10.1007/s10531-023-02583-1. doi:10.1007/s10531-023-02583-1
- Balasubramanian, M., Sangha, K.K., 2023. Valuing ecosystem services applying indigenous perspectives from a global biodiversity hotspot, the Western Ghats, India. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 11. doi:10.3389/fevo.2023.1026793
- Sangha, K.K., Gordon, I.J., Costanza, R., 2022. Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing-Based Approaches Can Help Transform Our Economies. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 10. doi:10.3389/fevo.2022.841215

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

New project: Assessing the true value of IPLCs' economies in relation to conservation. Many Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) across the globe work astutely to manage their natural resources for their livelihoods and other usages and benefits. By doing so, IPLCs also deliver several ecosystem services (ES) that benefit not just the local communities but many people living offsite on a local, regional, and global scale. Moreover, managing those resources for other usages and benefits including various cultural and sacred purposes enhances the IPLCs' well-being, which is often not considered in many assessment studies that tend to focus largely on livelihood values. About 10-12 of our members have expressed interest in contributing towards conducting this review study. We aim to publish a review article and an opinion piece on policy in a reputed journal.



Nicholas Conner
Co-Chair



Dr Kamaljit Sangha
Co-Chair



Community planting of Kapok and Cassia saplings to protect the Daka River through a Tree Aid project in Kamborido, Yendi, Ghana.

People and the Ocean

The Nature 2030 IUCN Programme places people at the center of a transformative agenda for nature conservation. This is also the aim of the People and the Ocean Specialist Group of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP). The central objective of the People and the Ocean SG is to promote the need to understand and integrate the voices, visions, rights, and livelihoods of coastal peoples and island nations into policies and practices related to the conservation and management of the oceans.

Priority areas of work include advancing and improving governance of marine protected areas, centering human well-being and rights in fisheries management, mainstreaming gender in ocean governance, promoting equity and inclusion in the ocean economy, addressing [environmental injustices](#) and human rights issues in the ocean, and bringing greater attention to the plight of ocean defenders.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- In 2023, a major focus of work has been to increase understanding of, raise the profile of, and bring greater support to ocean defenders worldwide.
 - Convening a collaborative initiative called The Ocean Defenders Project that involves more than 30 collaborators from around the globe.
 - Project launched on February 2023 during a side event at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver.
- Published "[Ocean Defenders and Human Rights](#)"
- Hosted a panel at the MARE People and the Sea Conference in June, launching the [project website](#).
- Hosted a global webinar with IUCN titled "A Global Spotlight on Ocean Defenders" (additional reports and publications to be released).
 - Project partners: The Peopled Seas Initiative, One Ocean Hub, Environmental Defenders Collaborative, and the University of British Columbia.
 - Seed funding from IUCN was augmented with additional support from the Packard Foundation, Oak Foundation, and Walton Family Foundation.

Areas of Work before the next IUCN Congress

A continued area of work is related to [advancing social equity in marine conservation](#). A dynamic session was hosted at IMPAC5 in Vancouver – during which participants were invited to explore gaps and priorities to make marine conservation more inclusive and equitable. A grant from the Blue Nature Alliance to WWF – titled "Developing Social Equity Metrics to Monitor and Improve Marine Conservation" – will launch a collaborative process to create a framework for assessing progress on equitable governance in marine protected areas at site and national levels. A guidebook will be launched with project partners in 2024.



Dr Nathan Bennett

Chair



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Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation and Climate Justice

The Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation, and Climate Justice (ReSpECC) Specialist Group focuses on outreach to and sharing between faith-based organizations and spiritual institutions, movements, and networks.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- Enhancing cooperation, dialogue, and action with faith-based organisations and interfaith networks towards the achievement of the world's goals on biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development.
 - At the CBD COP 15 in Montreal, Canada, members of both the ReSpECC Specialist Group and the Culture, Spirituality, and Conservation Thematic Group enjoyed extensive networking, sharing, learning together, and collaborating with groups such as the Faith & Biodiversity UN Coordination Group networks and indigenous communities. These collaborations resulted in high-level dialogues, panel discussions, activities, and side events held at the COP, The Nature Positive Pavilion, the CEPA fair and the Faith Pavilion. This enabled us to engage in the negotiations and jointly advocate for Biodiversity.

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

- ReSpECC, the Specialist Group within the CEESP IUCN, is looking forward to participating and co-create meaningful engagement before, during, and post COP 28, to be held in Dubai from 30th Nov to 12th December 2023. Both the Theme and the Specialist Group will collaborate fully in preparation for WCC.



Sarah French
Co-Chair



Shantanu Mandal
Co-Chair



© Religions, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation, and Climate Justice Specialist Group

Olga Letykai Csonka and Allssa Csonka opening the High-Level Dialogue on Spirituality and Conservation during the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille



© Religions, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation, and Climate Justice Specialist Group

SC Meeting Costa Rica



Sustainable Use and Livelihoods

Throughout 2022 and 2023 SULi has been working on a variety of projects both with our diverse membership, and a number of external partners. We have also spent a considerable amount of time trying to get some standard systems in place. Having updated [our strategy](#) we now have a monitoring framework so we can track progress against our key objectives and we have overhauled our membership records allocating all members to regional and thematic working groups according to their preferences.

Major outputs and accomplishments

- Co-hosted the Sustainability and Resilience Pavilion at the 2022 African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) with Maliasili and the African Nature-Based Tourism Platform. SULi led sessions are designed to help promote sustainable use and to provide a platform for community representatives.
- SULi worked with the CITES Secretariat, at CITES CoP19 in Panama, to coordinate the production of 15 case studies where trade in [CITES-listed species has supported local livelihoods](#).
- Partnered with the IUCN Red List Committee in 2022 to publish some guidance on the integration of indigenous and local knowledge in [Red List](#) assessments and an annex on the use of [Red List data](#) in harvesting of threatened species. Work is ongoing to produce more technical guidance on harvesting threatened species.
- Developed in 2022 and launched in July 2023, the [Species Use Database](#) (SpUD) is a new flagship product for SULi which is intended to complement the IUCN Red List with detailed information on species use. Each record in the database documents a particular use of a particular species in a particular place and records the ecological, social, and economic impacts of that use. Over time, and as the body of evidence grows, we expect to be able to generate evidence syntheses that shed some light on the sustainability of different species' uses. The database was presented to SULi members with two introductory webinar launches and ongoing promotion is well underway. More than 180 records have now been entered across a wide range of uses, regions, and species.

Relevant partnerships

SULi is also a key partner in the "[People Not Poaching](#)" database where we have documented over 100 case studies of community engagement to tackle illegal wildlife trade in a wide variety of species. We presented case studies from the database at APAC and also at the CITES CoP.

At the end of August, a number of SULi members attended a joint meeting of the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group hosted by the Government of Peru.

Both Dilys and Nik (Programme Officer) have been actively engaging on the UK's controversial Trophy Hunting Imports (Prohibition) Bill which seeks to restrict the importation of hunting trophies. SULi has been working with several partners pushing for the inclusion of a conservation amendment to maintain habitat protection provided under the umbrella of trophy hunting and to protect rural livelihoods that depend on it globally. In conjunction with this, SULi has been leading on a trophy hunting situational analysis to assess the activity, and its social, economic, and ecological impacts, with a report due at the end of the year.



Dr Dilys Roe
Chair



Nik Long
Programme Officer

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

Other ongoing activities include a project funded by the UK Darwin Initiative where we are working with partners TRAFFIC, IIED, Epic Biodiversity, and Endangered Wildlife Trust to develop a 5-dimensional sustainability assessment framework (the extra two dimensions beyond the conventional environmental, economic, and social, being human health and animal welfare). Field testing of our draft framework will take place over the coming months.

We have also continued with the ongoing work to diversify SULi's taxonomic representation by creating a Fungi Use Group (FUse), assisting with a conservation intervention on the illegal trade of orchids in Indonesia, and helping to create an SSC Task Force on illegal succulent plant trade.

Our next step is to increase the diversity of our membership including by attracting more youth members and more IPLC representatives.



Vicuña herded together for wool harvesting



WORKING GROUPS & TASK FORCES

Biodiversity and Family Planning

As a result of the landslide vote at the 2020 World Conservation Congress to pass [Resolution 072: Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning](#), the SSC CEESP Biodiversity & Family Planning Task Force was established. Chaired by the Margaret Pyke Trust (Carina Hirsch, Head of Advocacy and Policy at the Margaret Pyke Trust, is Co-Chair, jointly with David Johnson, Chief Executive of the Margaret Pyke Trust) the Task Force responds to a significant gap, not only within the IUCN but within conservation policy and practice more broadly, to reflect the inextricable links between human and environmental health. This is in response to the growing recognition that genuine and substantive action to further human health and associated gender equality outcomes is an integral part of conservation.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- Inputted into IUCN policy processes and documents. For example, in the recently published *Cercocebus and Mandrillus Conservation Action Plan 2023-2027*, for five out of the ten taxa considered in the Plan, one of the priority actions needed to save the taxa is to “respond to public health needs and one of the recommended actions is “working with organizations with relevant reproductive health and demographic expertise”.
- Other submissions, such as The Global Species Action Plan and the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan, are in the final stages of review.
- Three working groups have been set up.
 - Training & Education: build the knowledge base of conservationists on the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning in conservation
 - FP 2030 Commitments: further health goals, with health partners, as part of their broader conservation work through research, project implementation or policy commitments
 - Conservation Classification Scheme: creating a dialogue and providing evidence on how removal of barriers to family planning should be included under this scheme in the future
- At COP27 and COP15, the Task Force held side events on [the importance of removing barriers to family planning within African climate policy process](#) and the significance of removing barriers to family planning in conservation, respectively.
- The Task Force supported the simultaneous launch of a guidance document entitled “[Climate change engagement: A guide for SRHR organisations](#)” at the International Conference on Family Planning & COP27 - truly a cross-sectoral initiative.

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

Plans to engage at COP28, including holding official UNFCCC Side Events, are currently underway. The ultimate aim of the Task Force is to bridge the gap between sectors for improved gender, health, livelihood and environmental goals. This spirit of bringing sectors together is reflected in all initiatives undertaken by the Task Force.



Carina Hirsch and David Johnson

Co-Chairs

Biodiversity & Family Planning Task Force Co-chairs, Carina Hirsch & David Johnson, attending the UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, December 2022

CEESP-CEM Natural Capital

The CEESP-CEM Natural Capital Task Force (TF) was set up in 2021, to progress IUCN Resolution 120, 2020: Towards a Policy on Natural Capital.

Major Outputs and Accomplishments

- The TF lead attended the IUCN Leaders forum on Jeju Island, N Korea, in 2022 to discuss the aims and objectives of the TF with the commission and secretariat colleagues.
- Collect information about TF members understanding and use of the concept of natural capital, as a way of identifying different and possibly contradictory perspectives about natural capital held by members of the two commissions (i.e. CEM and CEESP)
- The TF lead has recently engaged in discussions with the TF member who has CEM focal point responsibilities for Resolution 57 -2020, (Accounting for biodiversity: encompassing ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity, to identify possible areas of commonality and synergy between the two potentially-related resolutions).

Areas of Work between now and the IUCN Congress

The CEM focal point and TF lead are currently considering the feasibility of conducting an IUCN-wide (or wider) survey of perspectives on the use of natural capital and its use in IUCN. This proposal was presented for consideration during by the TF lead and CEM Focal point at the CEM Steering Group meeting in Sydney in September 2023. The SC members will shortly provide feedback on this proposal. During this meeting, the TF lead was able to gain detailed information on the background and original purpose of Resolution 120, which will be most valuable in helping to identify actions that can refocus and reenergize the TF.

Further steps are also being considered to reenergize the TF by the Chairs of CEESP and CEM and the TF lead and to develop a set of pragmatic, achievable objectives that can be completed in the next 12 months. One option may be to expand the current task force by adding regional CEM and CEESP vice chairs/members.

The TF lead and CEM FP are scheduled to provide an online 'CEM Dialogue' on natural capital to CEM members in October, as a contribution to the ongoing CEM Dialogues series. The TF will provide the Council with a final report on the work of the TF and suggested next steps before January 2024.



Nicholas Conner

Chair



Dr Kamaljit Sangha

Co-Chair



Young Mangrove, Tree



Intergenerational Partnerships Group

The IUCN CEESP Intergenerational Partnerships Group (IGP) seeks to foster an environment for learning and exchange between young professionals and the expertise within IUCN and CEESP. We aim to enhance the holistic approach of young professionals (YPs) in their projects, research, advocacy, and other initiatives, by incorporating both social and ecological knowledge and understanding. We hope to provide a space for a stronger and more coherent voice for young professionals within IUCN and IUCN CEESP.

Major outputs and accomplishments

- In July 2022, the Chair worked on and lobbied for target 3, a plan to increase the conservation of land and sea areas by up to 30 percent by 2030, at the CBD CoP15 meeting in Nairobi.
- Developed through the [IUCN Youth Strategy](#), the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) brought together YPs from different IUCN Commissions to CBD CoP15. An organized all-commission event on Youth Engagement provided a space for Commission Chairs to speak on current and future plans to improve youth engagement in their Commissions.
- Organized a webinar to introduce all the members to the Intergenerational Working Group and the Professional Working Group. Webinar attendees gave input on the direction and vision they would like to see this working group take, creating a road map for the group.
- Established the CEESP Young Professional Regional Focal Point positions, aiding the work of the Regional Chair and Deputy Vice Chair with a focus on facilitating communication and coordination with other YPs within the region before the next IUCN Congress.
- Edited and published the [CEESP newsletter for International Youth Day](#).

Areas of work between now and the IUCN Congress

Currently, with the help of the IUCN CEESP Executive Office, the group is working on a webinar series to introduce YPs to CEESP's mission and current work across the many groups. Outreach and communication with members is a key goal for this group, so the webinar and related communication strategies are always being advanced. Work is still ongoing in selecting and onboarding YP Regional Focal Points, but expect this group to shape the framework and expectations for the new set of YP Regional Focal Points after the next IUCN Congress.



Swetha Stotra Bhashyam

Chair



UN International Youth Day

Natural Resource Governance Framework

The NRGF was created in 2013 with a mandate to advance knowledge and practice of natural resource governance within and outside of IUCN. In its first phase, it carried out a comprehensive review of natural resource governance knowledge and practice around the world; in its second phase, it identified best practices in natural resource governance and articulated two rights-based cross-cutting values (human rights and rights of nature), ten principles, and four outcomes, which are essential for advancing natural resource governance. Now, in its third phase, the mandate of the NRGF since 2021 is to build a community of practice as a vehicle to promote subscription and engagement with the NRGF by natural resource governance decision-makers, academics, and practitioners in diverse contexts and landscape scales around the world.

Major outputs and accomplishments

- Publication of the NRGF ROAM Report: [Enhancing the integration of governance in forest landscape restoration opportunities assessments: Analysis and recommendations](#).
- Hosting an NRGF learning exchange session at the first-ever IUCN [Africa Protected and Conserved Areas Congress](#) (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda from 18-23 July 2022.



Dr Emmanuel Nuesiri

Chair



NRGF facilitating a governance role play session at APAC Rwanda

- Setting up of the [NRGF LinkedIn](#) Community of Practice Webpage.
- Delivering a natural resource governance presentation to partners within and outside IUCN including the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) South Africa, the EU funded Large-scale RESToration of COASTal Ecosystems through Rivers to Sea Connectivity (REST-COAST) Project, and Kua'aina Hawaii USA.
- Designing and publishing the NRGF monthly newsletter.

Key partnerships

The NRGF is in conversation with People and Plants International to develop a collaborative natural resource governance learning exchange project to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local community groups (IP and LCs) to adopt best practices and demand best practices from other powerful actors

Funding and other resources leveraged

The EU funded Conservation Data Justice (CONDJUST) Project has approved a small grant for the NRGF to carry out a collaborative natural resource governance learning exchange project in Madagascar with our in-country partner Beolobe network; the project will advance best practice in natural resource governance for members of Beolobe and build Beolobe capacity to promote best practice in Madagascar.

Areas of work between now and the IUCN Congress

In addition to the NRGF accomplishments above, the NRGF plans to set up an online rapid governance self-assessment instrument for decision-makers and other natural resource governance practitioners. The NRGF also has plans to collaborate with the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) team at IUCN to develop a robust natural resource governance guide for organizations wishing to comply with the NbS Standards.



CEESP Positions & Affiliations



CEESP POSITIONS & AFFILIATIONS

CEESP Executive Office

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*CEESP Steering Committee member, appointed according to the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. Assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in guiding and coordinating the activities of the Commission.



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