

8th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum



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UNITED STATES

Acting together to drive conservation impact

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL | ARLINGTON, VA

AUGUST 20-21, 2024

Followed by the IUCN US National Committee Annual Meeting on
August 22, 2024



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Held every four years, the IUCN United States Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) serves as the leading platform for knowledge and partnerships in the region, bringing together key stakeholders in nature and biodiversity conservation. This year, the IUCN North America Regional Office and the US National Committee will convene the 8th RCF to address key transformative directions and actions for achieving a nature positive future for the United States and the world.

125 representatives of Union constituents, partners and supporters will gather at Conservation International in Arlington, VA for the two-day event.

Co-organised with the IUCN United States National Committee, the RCF aims to evaluate conservation progress, revisit priority goals and propose strategic directions for the region's key stakeholders to best address challenges concerning the environment and biodiversity over the next 20 years, while also planning for 2030 in synch with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Interactive Workshops for IUCN Members to **contribute to the 20-Year Vision and 2026-2029 IUCN Programme.**
- **Plenary and thematic sessions** on key regional challenges and trends
- Presentations of **IUCN Tools and Resources**, including the IUCN Engage, the Conservations for Nature Platform,
- Updates from **IUCN Commission Chairs**
- **Networking** with conservation leaders from across the country
- Presentations by **US Government Members** on key national issues and opportunities
- **In-depth discussions on key IUCN governance topics** prior to the 2025 World Conservation Congress, including reviewing the Motions process, voting, and Resolutions.
- **Engage in organizing around new motions** with other IUCN Members across the country, with support from the IUCN Motions Working Group.

KEY THEMATIC AREAS

CLIMATE CHANGE + ENACT | 30X30 + ACT30
LARGE LANDSCAPES + HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
NATURE CRIME | EDUCATION | YOUTH
#NATUREFORALL



This is a critical time for the United States and the world to come together to make progress on the most ambitious conservation agenda in generations. The IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in the United States is a vital and transformative opportunity for IUCN Members, leaders, and staff to connect, strategize, and shape the priorities of the Union for the next five years. The Forum will be as practical as it is inspirational, with opportunities to engage with IUCN senior experts on conservation tools, policy, and scientific expertise of the Union.

DR. TRACY FARRELL | IUCN NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

WHY ATTEND

- **Engage with key experts** from government, NGOs, Indigenous peoples organizations, scientific and academic institutions.
- **Contribute to the decision-making process for the IUCN Programme**, paving the way to influence the global agenda-setting at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (October 9-15, 2025 in Abu Dhabi)
- **Discover and learn from Member initiatives in alignment with pertinent global commitments**, including the Sustainable Development Goals Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- **Develop new partnerships** with a diverse range of stakeholders from across the country.

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AGENDA

DAY 1 | AUGUST 20, 2024

8:00am - 9:00am - Registration and Light Breakfast

9:00am - 9:45am - Welcome and Opening Remarks

Moderator: Dr Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director

Panellists:

- Dr M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International
- H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, President of IUCN
- Dr Grethel Aguilar, Director General of IUCN
- Patrick Reilly, Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

9:45am - 10:30am - Nature Looking Forward to 2030

A diverse panel of Members and experts on where nature and biodiversity stand now, global policy opportunities and targets, and offer reflections and insights on how IUCN might position ourselves looking towards 2030 for a better future for nature.

Panellists:

- Patricia Zurita, Chief Strategy Officer, Conservation International
- Alex Dehgan, CEO, ConservationX Labs
- Millie Jimenez, Former NPS Ranger and Community Engagement Specialist, Assistant to the Director, National Parks Service
- Seth Thomas, Climate and Energy Fellow at the National Wildlife Federation, and Co-Founder of GYBN USA
- Masha Kalinina, Senior Officer, Conservation Support, Pew Charitable Trusts

Break 10:30am - 11:00am

11:00am - 1:30pm - Input Session on IUCN Draft 20-Year Vision and Draft 2026-2029

Programme of Work

Members and Commission members are invited to provide feedback and comments on both the IUCN 20-Year Strategic Vision and the 2026-2029 Programme. Members will have advance access to the draft program, which will be updated from the Nature 2030 Program but renewed in the context of both the 20-Year Vision and the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The 20-Year Vision Draft and the Draft 2026-2029 Programme will be circulated to Members in advance of the RCF for review. These session will include two 50-minute breakout sessions allowing Members to provide input into the 20-Year Vision and 2026-2029 Draft Programme of Work.

Lunch 1:30pm - 2:15pm

2:15pm - 2:45pm - Input Session on IUCN 20-Year Vision and 2026-2029 Programme of Work (continued)

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AGENDA

DAY 1 | AUGUST 20, 2024 (CONTINUED)

2:45pm - 3:30pm - IUCN Tools

Senior IUCN experts showcase Contributions for Nature, other IUCN Conservation Tools, and Members showcase how they are using these tools.

- [IUCN Contributions for Nature Platform | Collective progress on conservation impact for global goals](#)
- [IUCN Engage | The virtual community for Union constituents](#)
- [IUCN Members Magazine | Unite for Nature](#)
- [Crossroad Blogs | Open Letters to IUCN Members](#)
- [Panorama | Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)

3:45pm - 4:30pm - Initiatives and Novel Approaches

- [Synthetic Biology and Nature Conservation | Union-wide process and engagement towards a policy on synthetic biology](#) - Led by Sonia Peña Moreno, Director, IUCN Centre for Policy and Law
- [Act 30 | Mapping Diverse and Effective ways of conserving 30% of our planet](#), A new initiative of IUCN, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and Esri. Led by Swati Hingorani, Global Coordinator, Act30, and Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas Team

4:30pm - 6:00pm - Commissions Spotlight

IUCN's Director General will facilitate a session for participants to learn about IUCN's 7 expert Commissions, their main priorities, and tools and knowledge products of relevance to Members. Members and guests are welcome to then connect further with Commission Chairs and representatives during the Commission-focused Networking Reception to follow.

- Sean Southey, Chair, Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Angela Andrade, Chair, Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
- Barney Long, Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- Kristen Walker Painemilla, Chair, Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
- David Forman, World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)
- Brent Mitchell, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Chair, Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

6:00pm - 7:00pm - Networking Reception

Get to know the IUCN Commission representatives, learn more about their work, and join a Commission over drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

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DAY 2 | AUGUST 21, 2024

8:00am - 8:45am - Registration and Light Breakfast

8:45am - 9:00am - Insights from Day 1 and Agenda Setting

Dr Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director will review accomplishment and insights from Day 1 and set the stage for Day 2. Members will dive more deeply into the preparations required for the upcoming [2025 World Conservation Congress](#) (to be held in Abu Dhabi, October 9-15, 2025), including governance review, voting, and how to prepare motions. Day 2 will include interactive workshops and work groups, allowing Members to discuss themes of interest, review Resolution progress, organize around new motions, and collaborate to drive conservation action around mutual areas of interest.

9:00am - 10:30am - Road to Congress

This session will provide a review of statutory requirements to prepare for World Conservation Congress, including governance, voting, elections, timelines and other WCC preparation. Led by Sarah Over, Head of Membership and Commission Support Unit, and Dr Susan Lieberman, Vice President, International Policy at Wildlife Conservation Society and IUCN Council IUCN Councillor for North America and the Caribbean.

Break 10:30am - 10:45am

10:45am - 3:45pm - Status of Resolutions, and Organizing around new Motions for Conservation Impact

This session will offer thematic opportunities for collaboration on priority themes, a review of current Resolutions and progress or obstacles towards their implementation and impact and allow space for Members to organize around new motions.

10:45am - 11:30am - Motions Process

Led by Sonia Peña Moreno, Director, IUCN Centre for Policy and Law, and Kathryn Gwiazdon, J.D., Esq., member of the IUCN global Motions Working Group, US National Committee Executive Committee, and Executive Director, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law.

11:30am - 11:45am How Thematic Groups might support the Motions Processes

Led by Dr Tracy Farrell, IUCN Regional Director for North America, this session will include a review of thematic priorities emerging from RCF Registration and live-time polling during the event, and support Members to organize around thematic priorities to act together.

Lunch 11:45am - 12:45am

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DAY 2 | AUGUST 21, 2024 (CONTINUED)

12:45pm - 3:45pm - Motions Breakout Sessions around Emergent Themes

Motions Breakout Groups will allow significant space and time for Members to collaborate to draft new motions and coordinate on emergent priorities ahead of the [2025 World Conservation Congress](#). Workgroups will be facilitated by Members of the US National Committee and the IUCN Motions Working Group. This is an interactive workshop time for Members to connect with each other and make significant progress towards collaboration on new motions, and to take stock of past Resolutions, including a review of their impact or obstacles to implementation. This session will include opportunities for RCF participants to engage in two 75-minute Motions Breakout Sessions to review Resolution progress and activities, and to explore opportunities for new Motions within themes aligned with their interest.

Break 3:45pm - 4:00pm

4:00pm - 5:00pm - Member Initiatives Showcase

This session will showcase new research, initiatives, and conservation process of US IUCN Members through engaging TED Talks, Pecha Kucha presentations, videos, or posters/other visual imagery.

5:00pm - 5:30pm - Closing Remarks - Action on our Vision

IUCN leaders from the IUCN US National Committee, IUCN Commissions, IUCN Members, and IUCN Secretariat will close the RCF and share directions for conservation collaboration.

5:00pm - 5:10pm - Closing remarks and directions ahead of the 2025 WCC – Dr Grethel Aguilar, Director General IUCN

5:10pm - 5:20pm - Shared conservation objectives until 2030 – Kristen Walker Painemilla, Senior Vice President, Community-led Solutions Partnership, Conservation International

5:20pm - 5:30pm - Acting on our Vision – Dr Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director and Dr Christopher Dunn, Executive Director of Cornell Botanic Gardens and Chair of the US National Committee Executive Committee

5:30pm - 7:00pm - Reception