

8th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum

CANADA

*Uniting Conservation Actions -
Canada and Global*

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE | OTTAWA
OCTOBER 1-2, 2024

Presenting
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IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Canada

Hosted by the IUCN North America Regional Office and the
Canadian Committee for IUCN

OCTOBER 1-2, 2024 | OTTAWA

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

The Canada Regional Conservation Forum aims to evaluate conservation progress, revisit priority goals and propose strategic directions for Canada's key stakeholders. 120 representatives IUCN Members, CCIUCN Members, and partners will gather at the **Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa** for the two-day event, with additional participants joining virtually. **Day 1** will showcase conservation progress across Canada and is open to all IUCN Members, Commission Members, and CCIUCN Members. **Day 2** is the Members Forum, open to IUCN Members. *CCIUCN Members who are not IUCN Members and/or Commission Members may attend as observers.*

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 Commissions**
- **Networking** with conservation leaders from across the country
- **Workshops** on key thematic areas.
- **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

BROADENING CONSERVATION ENGAGEMENT
BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION ACTION
CONNECTIVITY | DIVERSE LEADERSHIP



The Regional Conservation Forum in Canada will assemble the country's preeminent conservation professionals and stakeholders to explore collective goals for nature conservation in Canada. It will be an opportunity to align with Canada's National Biodiversity Strategy and commitment to co-stewardship of lands and waters with its indigenous peoples, and hear about global to sub-national plans for biodiversity, nature and nature-based solutions, meet strategic partners, learn about national-level environmental education initiatives, engage youth in conservation efforts, and set the future of Canada's protected areas. IUCN is proud to co-host this event with CCIUCN and to bring together Canada's conservation community.

**DR. TRACY FARRELL | IUCN NORTH AMERICA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

WHY ATTEND

- Learn more about **conservation action** pursued by IUCN and CCIUCN Members
- **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.
- **Advance conservation action and policy** that are Canadian priorities.

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DAY 1 - AGENDA

8:00am - 8:30am - Registration and Light Breakfast

8:30am - 9:30am - Opening Remarks and First Nations Ceremony

- Introductions by Robin Lawson, Chair and President of the CCIUCN Board, and Dr. Tracy Farrell IUCN North America Regional Director
- Video Opening from Parks Canada
- Welcome from Dr. Danika Goosney, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature
- Land Acknowledgement and Opening Ceremony by Elder Peter Decontie, Sacred Fire Keeper, Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
- Welcome Remarks (video) from H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, President, IUCN

9:30am - 10:15pm - Exploring the Benefits of IUCN Membership

This session will be led by Sarah Over, IUCN Senior Membership Engagement Manager and Dr. Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America Regional Director. It will explore IUCN Member engagement and opportunities. Robin Lawson, Chair and President of CCIUCN will present CCIUCN and its engagement with IUCN. IUCN Members will present testimonials on how IUCN Membership supports their organizational goals and international engagement.

10:15 - 10:30 - Coffee Break

10:30am - 12:30pm - Panel Series: Nature Looking Forward to 2030

This Panel series will highlight Canada's Whole of Government and Whole of Society approaches, which set the context for conservation needs and challenges, and how they are being approached in Canada, and how Canada is impacting conservation efforts globally. IUCN aims to both highlight Canadian efforts on the global stage to enable sharing of IUCN expertise and best practices across Canada.

10:30am - 11:30am - Panel 1: Nature Looking Forward - Government Approaches

Federal and provincial government speakers will focus on international to national level biodiversity and nature conservation commitments made covering lands, waters and oceans. Presenters will share international and national-level initiatives and whole-of-government approaches for nature conservation.

Moderator: Rick Bates, IUCN Regional Councillor – North America and the Caribbean

Panellists:

- Elias Abourizk, Director General, Biodiversity Policy and Partnership
- Darlene Upton, Vice President for Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation, Parks Canada
- Niall O'Dea, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Patricia Peña, Director General for Economic Development at the Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD)
- Jacob Martin-Malus - Quebec (virtual), Assistant Deputy Minister, Biodiversity, Wildlife and Parks, Ministry of Environment, Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

11:30am - 12:30am - Panel 2: Nature Looking Forward - Beyond Government

Ambitious conservation goals have been set at the National level through Canada's Nature 2030 Strategy and Internationally through IUCN's Nature 2030 Programme of Work. While it is the role of federal and International bodies to provide leadership and coordination on these, much of the progress towards these goals will be won at the local level by diverse organizations and people working in many different sectors and jurisdictions. Representatives from the non-profit and private sectors, industry, academia and beyond will highlight some of the key tools and solutions they are using to achieve 2030 nature goals, the role of collaboration across sectors and the opportunities for IUCN and Canada's Federal government to ensure the success and durability of conservation projects in Canada.

Moderator: TCB

Panellists:

- Dawn Carr, Director of Strategic Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Additional panellists TBC

Lunch 12:30pm - 1:00pm

1:00pm - 1:45pm - Spotlight on IUCN Commissions

A fireside chat with IUCN Commissions presenting their priority objectives in the run up to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress, with a focus on Canadian activities and how these fit against a global context of their work.

1:45-2:15 pm - IUCN Tools

Led by Sarah Over, IUCN Senior Membership Engagement Manager, this session will introduce IUCN Conservation and Communication Tools to the audience and showcase how these tools elevate Member stories and progress.

- [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](#)

Break 2:15pm - 2:30pm

2:30pm - 5:15pm - Concurrent Workshops

A series of IUCN Member and Commission-led Workshops will showcase initiatives in Canada and around the world advancing progress towards IUCN's Nature 2030 Programme of Work. RCF participants will be able to participate in one of the following workshops:

Workshop 1: Nature-based Education as a Whole of Society Solution

This intergenerational workshop explores how the Canadian Conservation community is responding to the call for engagement with the Formal and Non-Formal education sectors in order to meet the objective of the UNFCCC, UNCBD and IUCN 20 year Vision. It aligns with the draft CEC Nature Based Education Initiative, and proposed WCC 2025 motions for Green School Grounds, K-12 Nature Curriculum, Teacher Training and Nature Immersion Programming. The objectives of the session are to highlight promising practices and areas where Canada can learn from others to empower Conservation educators, elevate public constituency for nature, and provide a gateway for education organizations and systems to become IUCN Members.

This Workshop is led by the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), and facilitated by:

- Sean Southey, CEO Canadian Wildlife Federation
- James Bartram, Independent Education Consultant
- Mike Bingley, Director of Education, Canadian Wildlife Federation



Workshop 2: Empowering Change: NAbSA Workshop on NbS Impact

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation: Monitoring & Impact Evaluation, or NAbSA, is funded by Global Affairs Canada to support Canada's nature-positive programming, including through Partnering for Climate (P4C), a \$315 million initiative that supports gender-responsive NbS programming in Sub-Saharan Africa. Led by IUCN's Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, NAbSA's core objective is to improve climate resilience and reduce poverty for vulnerable communities in Sub-Saharan Africa by enhancing the rigorous application of gender-responsive NbS for climate change adaptation in 19 GAC-funded projects, addressing the triple planetary crises of biodiversity loss, nature-climate, and inequality. The workshop will bring P4C projects, all led by Canadian NGOs, together for our second meeting this year. On this occasion, the workshop will focus on 2 key topics to foster discussions and knowledge exchange across P4C projects: gender and human rights and monitoring and evaluation. The Workshop will include experiences from IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management welcoming the Commission's Deputy Chair and co-lead of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy and Practice thematic group. The session will highlight their work on Nature-based Solutions for adaptation to inform discussions on M&E for impact, alongside the P4C context.





Workshop 3: Identifying Measures to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Habitat Protection Legislation and Policies

In response to the urgent challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, it is more crucial than ever to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat protection legislation and policies to guide decision-makers and ensure that conservation efforts yield meaningful outcomes. There is a considerable gap in the consistent evaluation and reporting of conservation targets, hindering our ability to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of habitat protection instruments and make the necessary adjustments to them. This workshop, led by Ducks Unlimited Canada, will seek to identify measures (including tools and metrics) to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat protection legislation and policies at national and subnational level. Through collaborative discussion and shared expertise, this workshop will identify measures that will be used to support regulatory accountability, awareness, and clarity ensuring better outcomes for biodiversity and ecosystems within public policy frameworks.

This Workshop is led by Ducks Unlimited and facilitated by:

- Jim Brennan, National Director of Industry & Government Relations at Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Erin Brown, National Policy Analyst at Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Gia Paola, National Policy Analyst at Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Michael Champion, Head of Industry and Government Relations - Saskatchewan at Ducks Unlimited Canada



Workshop 4: Contributions For Nature

This Workshop is hosted by IUCN and the IUCN North America Regional Office, and invited RCF participants to an interactive session to learn more about [IUCN's Contributions for Nature Platform](#) and to work with the IUCN Team on data entry for Contributions submissions. The Contributions for Nature platform allows IUCN Members to document where they are undertaking (or planning to undertake) conservation and restoration actions. It overlays data for biodiversity and for nature-based solutions to climate change. This allows IUCN constituents to document their intended contributions to IUCN's Nature 2030 Programme and by extension, other conservation frameworks and agreements such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, Paris Agreement, and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the long-term vision for the Contributions for Nature platform spans the entire of the Nature 2030 IUCN Programme, its first phase focuses on documentation of potential contributions to the Programme Areas on Land and Climate.

This Workshop will be led and facilitated by:

- Nicholas Macfarlane, PhD, Senior Scientist & Programme Manager, Centre for Science and Data, IUCN
- Sarah Over, Senior Membership Engagement Manager, IUCN
- Deborah Good, Member Liaison, IUCN North America Regional Office

5:15pm - 5:35pm - Day 1 Closing Remarks

Led by IUCN Regional Director North America Dr. Tracy Farrell and Closing Ceremony by Elder Peter Decontie, Sacred Fire Keeper, Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

5:35pm - 7:30pm - Networking Reception hosted by the NAbSA Project Team, Global Affairs Canada, and IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management

7:30pm - 9:30pm - Evening Activity Options



Trivia Night hosted by #NatureForAll

7:30 pm | 361 Elgin St. Ottawa

Join us at The Lieutenant's Pump for a nature-themed trivia night! Team up, test your knowledge, and win fantastic prizes.



2024 Trails Film Awards and Showcase

7:15 - 10:30pm | Location TBC

Join participants of the 2024 World Trails Congress for the 2024 Trails Film Awards and Showcase. More details to come.

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DAY 2 - AGENDA

8:00am - 8:30am - Registration and Light Breakfast

8:30am - 8:45am - Opening remarks and ceremony

Led by IUCN North America Regional Director Dr. Tracy Farrell, and Land Acknowledgement and Opening Ceremony by Elder Peter Decontie, Sacred Fire Keeper, Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

8:45am - 10:15am - Interactive Input Session on IUCN's 20-Year Strategic Vision and 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 breakout sessions allowing Members to provide input into the 20-Year Vision and 2026-2029 Draft Programme of Work.

Break 10:15am - 10:30am

10:30am - 11:45am - Interactive Input Session on IUCN's 20-Year Strategic Vision and 2026-2029 Programme of Work (Continued)

Lunch 11:45am - 12:15pm

12:15pm - 12:45pm - Innovations and Initiatives - Whole of Union for IUCN

This session will present two innovation initiatives in Canada that engage a Whole of Union approach across IUCN.

- **30x30 work in Canada and links to the Union of IUCN:** Olaf Jensen (CWS, ECCC) and Mike Wong (WCPA)
- **Project for Permanence work in Canada and links to the Union of IUCN:** Angela Stadel (DFO/MPO)
- **Q&A**

12:45pm - 2:00pm - 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.

Break 2:00pm - 2:15pm

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DAY 2 (CONTINUED) - AGENDA

2:15pm - 3:15pm - Motions Process

Led by Sarah Over, Senior Membership Engagement Manager, IUCN with Jessika Woroniak, Policy Analyst, International Oceans Policy at Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Member of the IUCN Motions Working Group. this session will familiarize participants with the Motions Process in the lead up to the 2025 World Conservation Congress, and will cover:

- Overview of the timeline of the submission process, and the Urgent Motions submission process
- How Motions are reviewed, selection criteria, and how to draft and submit a robust motion
- How to partner on Motions, gather sponsors, or join to support a Motion
- What happens on the Members Assembly Floor and during Negotiations at the World Conservation Congress
- Q and A

3:15pm - 4:30pm - Resolution Progress and how Thematic Groups might support the Motions Process

Led by Natalie Cox, Program Officer with IUCN North America Regional Office, this session will invite participants to share stories around motions organizing, will explore emerging themes around new motions, and will explore how thematic groups might support this process through WCC 2025.

4:30pm - 5:30pm - IUCN Member Initiative Showcase

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

- Overview of the timeline of the submission process, and the Urgent Motions submission process
- How Motions are reviewed, selection criteria, and how to draft and submit a robust motion
- How to partner on Motions, gather sponsors, or join to support a Motion
- What happens on the Members Assembly Floor and during Negotiations at the World Conservation Congress
- Q and A

5:30pm - 6:00pm - Closing Remarks

Led by IUCN North America Regional Director Dr. Tracy Farrell and CCIUCN Chair and President Robin Lawson. Closing ceremony led by Elder Peter Decontie, Sacred Fire Keeper, Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg.

6:00pm - 7:30pm - Closing Reception generously hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Federation

