



What is UNGA 80?

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the UN, which will be the focus of the high-level week (HLW) starting on the 22nd of September. Another highlight of the week is the Climate Stocktaking summit that the Secretary-General is hosting on the 24th of September; here countries are expected to announce their new and enhanced NDCs.

Given the current challenging geopolitical times, the focus of the week will be on the importance of a rules-based international order and multilateralism, as well as highlighting the achievements of the UN system in making progress on poverty eradication, sustainable development and conflict prevention in recent years. The president for the 80th General Assembly is Ms. Annalena Baerbock of Germany, and the theme of the 80th General Assembly chosen by the President is “*Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights*”.

Due to the timing of the week just ahead of the World Conservation Congress, the IUCN delegation this year is slightly reduced, and we are not organizing any events. The IUCN delegation taking part in the different segments of UNGA80 will include the IUCN President, the Regional Director for North America, the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, the IUCN Global Ocean Policy Director and other supporting staff member.

What kinds of activities will take place in New York during UNGA 80?

The main part of the UN HLW is the **opening of the 80th session of the General Debate on September 23 which will highlight the 80th anniversary of the UN**. As an Observer IUCN cannot make a statement in the general debate but will be present at the opening as well as at the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the UN on the day prior. The full list of the formal meetings held during the week can be found [here](#). For IUCN, key meetings for this year include the following:

1. Climate Action stocktaking meeting

The stocktaking meeting will take place on the 24th of September (from 2 to 6 pm) and only member states are expected to be given speaking slots. *Solutions dialogues* will also be organized throughout the week.

2. SDG Moment

This is an annual meeting, hosted by DSG and organized by DESA to highlight the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will take place on the 22nd of September.

3. High-level meeting on Beijing +30

The high-level meeting was mandated by member states and will take place on the 22nd of September. The theme of the meeting is “*Recommitting to, resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for all women and girls*”. IUCN will have a statement in the general debate.

In parallel, [Climate Week NYC](#) will take place (22-30 September 2025). This event brings together over 900 events and activities across the City of New York. It brings together business leaders, decision-makers and civil society representatives from a wide variety of backgrounds, and from all over the world, to drive the transition, speed up progress, and champion change.

Side-events

The gathering in New York will feature several side-events and speaking opportunities where IUCN will be able to *be the voice of nature* and to further raise awareness about its comprehensive portfolio. Key events include:

- 22nd September, 8.30 – 12.00: **NASDAQ Building the Future Summit**: Discusses climate, energy and nature-based solutions required to sustain us in the future. RD NARO and 3 Patrons of Nature are attending to engage in smaller discussions with CEOs from the private sector through this invite only event.
- 22nd September, 12.30 – 14.00: **Igniting Global Momentum: Paving the Road to IUCN Congress 2025**: Nature Guardian Majlis roundtable hosted by UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and IUCN(closed event, by invitation only)
- 22nd September, 14.00 -- 15:30: **Education's Role in Responding to the Planetary Crisis**: Roundtable event for 40 people invited to a closed session to share insights from the program [Nature Based Education: Time for Action](#) that IUCN CEC was a partner in, and that was organised by Salzburg Global.
- 22nd September, **Internattional Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Heads of State Reception at UNGA**: Reception is being hosted in partnership with Rob Walton Foundation and African Wildlife Foundation to continue raising awareness about the Africa Keystone Protected Areas Partnership. Rob Walton to attend.
- 23rd September, 8.30 -- 10.00: **Mobilizing Finance for Conservation and Sustainable Development: Delivering 2030 Goals and Targets**: UNGA80 High-Level Breakfast event, invitation only, hosted by Enduring Earth (IUCN members Pew, WWF and CI).
- 23rd September, 16:45 – 18:00: **Nature Leaders High Level Event: 30x30** – Safeguarding Nature, Securing Peace and a Sustainable Future at the 80th United Nations General Assembly
- 23rd September, 18.00 – 19.00: **BBNJ High Level event**
- 23rd September, 18.00 - 19.30: **Foreign Policy Live taping of the Podcast Counterpoint**: Two leading experts will debate one pressing question re UNGA 80- relevance of multilateralism other topics covered with leading thinkers and policymakers.
- 24th September, 10.30 - 12.00: **Reimagining Science for All of Us – The future of Science for Inclusive Climate Action**: Invited to participate by the host and IUCN member NRDC, covering issues in data saving and recovery, relevant to IUCN's ESRI discussions in the US.
- 24th September, 11.30 – 13.00: **Scaling Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Action on the Road to COP30**, a closed-door roundtable organized by COP30 Presidency, the High Level Climate Champions, and the Marrakech Partnership
- 24th September, 14:00 – 16:30: **Beyond Fragmented Metrics: Unifying Nature Measurement for Global Impact**
- 24th September, 6.30-8.30: **Exploring Comprehensive Climate Strategies at Climate Week NYC 2025**: Invitation only, hosted by Ernst & Young LLP, to participate in smaller group discussions on how to shape the future of sustainability with CEOs, IOs, and NGOs.
- 25th September, 11.00 -- 1.00: **Engineering Resilience: Emerging Tech for a Biodiverse Future**: Invited to attend this event held at The Explorers Club (IUCN member) by another IUCN member Earth X who is co-hosting it. This conversation will explore the transformative potential of emerging interventions, from genetic rescue and cryopreservation to AI-driven and synthetic biology solutions.

- 25th September, 14:00 – 16:00: **IPBES NEXUS Report on the Interlinkages between Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health**
- 25th September, 18.00 – 19.00: **Accelerating Global Action on Land Restoration and Drought Resilience, from Riyadh to Ulaanbaatar**
- 25th September, 16.30 -- 19.00: ***Insights from the global landscape of nature-related assessment and reporting practices: Releasing TNFD's first Status Report***; IUCN President is speaking as a keynote speaker, results of the report will be highlighted.

IUCN key messages for UNGA 80

Our key messages for this year's HLW will focus on four central themes: multilateralism, climate action, the 2030 Agenda, and gender equality. Environmental cooperation is a tangible way to show that international cooperation works, and if done right, leads to improved outcomes for people and communities. A predictable international rules-based order provides the stability needed for long-term environmental planning. Examples of successes of the multilateral system include milestones such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the BBNJ Agreement, and progress made under the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

This year the global conservation community is gathering for a true celebration of multilateralism at the IUCN World Conservation Congress – bringing together the global conservation community to take decisions on emerging environmental issues. We share the same home, Planet Earth, and the global ecosystem ties us together even during times when it feels like political divisions are pushing us apart. The World Conservation Congress is a key milestone on the 2025 international environmental agenda, positioned just after HLW and in the run-up to both UNFCCC COP30 and UNEA-7. In Abu Dhabi, senior government officials will join leaders from civil society, business, Indigenous peoples, and youth, to discuss and commit to actions on issues of scaling up conservation, reducing climate overshoot risks, delivering on equity and justice, transitioning to nature-positive economies and societies, and innovation and leadership.

For more information, please contact:

Sofie Sandstrom Jaffe, Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN (sofie.jaffe@iucn.org)