



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Abu Dhabi 2025

IUCN Climate Change Programme

iucncongress2025.org

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

11:30 - 13:00
Hall 4-A: Forum
Session Room 1

High-level Plenary Session: Driving equity, rethinking inclusive conservation

Organized by:



This session explores how equity, rights, and cultural perspectives can transform conservation, centering Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities. It will critically assess current models and highlight pathways for more just, inclusive, and impactful biodiversity partnerships.

Moderators:

- **Musonda Mumba**, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands

Speakers:

- **His Royal Highness**, Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah Crown Prince of Pahang
- **H.E. Minister Jennifer Olegeril**, Justice Minister, Republic of Palau
- **Grethel Aguilar**, Director General, IUCN
- **Joënia Wapichana**, President of the he National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI)
- **Nigar Arpadarai**, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29 Azerbaijan (tbc)
- **Niila-Juhán Valkeapää**, Vice Chair of the Sámi Parliament Youth Council of Finland
- **Whaia Sonic**, Australian transcendent vocalist, alchemical performer, First Nations Multi-instrumentalist, Designer, Creative Cultural Producer and visionary Facilitator.

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

13:30 - 15:00
Programme
Pavilion
Stage 2 Green

COP30 Ocean Action Agenda - Moving from
Ambition to Action - The One Ocean Partnership

Organized by:



This session will highlight how vulnerable coastal communities are addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and social vulnerability. Drawing on lessons from the ReSea project in the Western Indian Ocean, it will showcase inclusive, community-driven approaches to resilience and pathways for scalable, regenerative solutions.

Moderators:

- **Loreley Picourt**, Executive Director, Ocean & Climate Platform
- **Thomas Sberna**, Regional Head, Coastal & Ocean Resilience, IUCN East and Southern Africa (ESARO)

Speakers:

- **Tessa Hempson**, Chief Scientist, Mission Blue
- **Barkha Mossae**, Regional Regenerative Blue Economy Manager, IUCN ESARO
- **Cynthia Barzuna**, Director, Ocean Action 2030, World Resources Institute
- **Alfredo Giron**, Head of Ocean Action Agenda and Friends of Ocean Action, World Economic Forum
- **Michelle Bender**, Legal Counsel, Ocean Vision Legal
- **Torsten Thiele**, Founder, Global Ocean Trust
- **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**, Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager, IUCN ESARO
- **Guillermo Crespo**, Co-Lead, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas High Seas Specialist Group
- **Minna Epps**, Director, Global Ocean Policy, IUCN



FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

14:00 - 15:30
Forum - Virtual
Channel 2

Mainstreaming biodiversity in international
solidarity: Connecting development,
humanitarian and environmental organisations

Organized by:



This session will examine how biodiversity can be effectively mainstreamed in international cooperation, including development and humanitarian actions, in line with Target 14 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It will explore challenges, synergies, and practical approaches to ensure that biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development objectives are pursued in harmony.

Moderator:

- **Raphaël Billé**, Programme Director and Deputy General Director, Tour du Valat

Speakers:

- **Nishanie Jayamaha**, Secretariat Co-coordinator, Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations
- **Verónica Ruiz Garcia**, Senior Programme Manager – Nature, Climate and People and Coordinator of the FEBA Working Group on NbS in Humanitarian Contexts, IUCN
- **Cheryl Margoluis**, Executive Director, Care-WWF Alliance
- **Chloé Orland**, Ecology Advisor, Action Against Hunger France



FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

14:00 - 15:30
Forum - Hall 4B:
Session Room 2

ENACT Stories from the Ground: What Do
Successful vs Unsuccessful Nature-Based
Solutions Look Like?

Organized by:



This session will highlight transformational Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate action, examining barriers and enablers to effective implementation. Through case studies and dialogue, participants will explore scalable approaches for advancing NbS in support of the Rio Conventions.

Moderators:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Oliver Konz**, Director General, BMUKN, Germany
- **H.E. Dr. Manal Awad Mikhail**, Minister of Local Development, Egypt
- **H.E. Hambardzum Matevosyan**, Minister of Environment, Republic of Armenia
- **Stewart Maginnis**, Deputy Director General, IUCN
- **Melissa De Kock**, Deputy Director, UNEP-WCMC
- **Kerry Max**, Deputy Director, Partnering for Climate, Global Affairs Canada
- **Jun Hashimoto**, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
- **Alfredo Redondo**, Nature Team Lead, High Level Climate Champions
- **Atsuhiko Yoshinaka**, Professor, Environmental Dep., Rakuno Gakuen University, Japan
- **Angela Andrade**, Chair, IUCN Commission for Ecosystem Management
- **Liette Vasseur**, Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission for Ecosystem Management



SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

16:00 - 17:30
Forum -
Conference Hall A:
Session Room 6

Can climate adaptation be truly integrative? Yes,
with the NAbSA Operational Framework

Organized by:



This session will present a new practitioner-driven tool for gender-responsive Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in climate adaptation, built on global lessons and innovative methodologies. Participants will explore practical applications that integrate nature, climate, and people to strengthen resilience and sustainability.

Moderators:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN
- **Verónica Ruiz García**, Senior Climate & Resilience Manager, IUCN
- **Zoe Jafflin**, Programme & Grants Associate, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Kerry Max**, Deputy Director, Global Affairs Canada
- **Andréanne Martel**, Project Director, Mission Inclusion
- **Olivia Nasewicz**, Project Manager, World University Service of Canada
- **Gaétan Quesne**, Thematic Lead in Biodiversity & Forestry, Baastel
- **Frédérique Thomas**, Director, SOCODEVI
- **Renée Brunelle**, Senior Advisor, SOCODEVI

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

18:00 - 19:00
West Asia Pavilion

Bridging Nature, Climate, and People: Driving
Integrated Action for Resilience

Organized by:



This session will convene humanitarian, development, and conservation actors to explore integrated solutions that place people and nature at the centre. Building on recent guidance and successful models, it will showcase cross-sector partnerships and catalyse new pathways for collaboration, co-investment, and resilience.

Moderators:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Chloé Orland**, Ecology Advisor, Action Against Hunger
- **Dr. Jihad AlSawair**, Advisor of the Minister of Environment in Jordan
- **Dr. Abdullah AlTasat**, Protected Areas Planning and Oversight Manager, The National Center of Wildlife (NCW) Saudi Arabia
- **Dr. Said Damhouryeh**, Regional Counselor of IUCN-ROWA
- **Ola Alhaj**, Founder, Syria RECO Environmental Project
- **Verónica Ruiz**, Senior Programme Manager, Climate, Nature and People, IUCN

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

11:00 - 12:30
Forum -
Conference Hall B:
Session Room 8

Supporting Nature and Biodiversity in the COP30
Global Climate Action Agenda

Organized by:



This session will present the COP30 Action Agenda's dedicated axis on stewarding forests, ocean, and biodiversity, outlining its key objectives, progress, and opportunities for engagement. It will highlight scalable, inclusive nature-based solutions and seek inputs on successful models, financing mechanisms, and locally anchored approaches to inform COP30 outcomes.

Moderator:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Alfredo Daniel Redondo**, Nature Team Lead, Climate Champions Team
- **Loreley Picourt**, CEO, Ocean and Climate Platform
- **Sandeep Sengupta**, Global Policy Lead, Climate Change, IUCN

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

14:00 - 15:30
Forum -
Conference Hall A:
Session Room 5

People of the Oceans Breakthrough: Identifying
Key Priorities for Ocean Peoples Climate Action

Organized by:



This highly interactive fishbowl session will be led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and supporting stakeholders. A diverse panel of Indigenous leaders will guide the discussion, with audience members free to join the inner circle and contribute their perspectives and thoughts. It builds on the priorities voiced by Ocean Peoples during recent global and regional gatherings and offers a space to co-identify the issues that the new People of the Oceans Breakthrough should amplify and advance.

Moderator:

- **Malidadi Langa**, Chairman, Alliance for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Conservation in Africa (Moderator and Speaker)
- **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**, IUCN's IPLC Champion; Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager, IUCN (Introduction & Audience Facilitator)
- **Thomas Sberna**, IUCN Regional Head - Coastal and Ocean Resilience, Ocean Lead, High-Level Climate Champions (Introduction)

Speakers:

- **Jose Monteiro**, Executive Director, ReGeCom
- **Remmy Safari Shoka**, Co-Management Development Manager Oceans Alive Trust
- **Alifireti Tawake**, Executive Director, LMMA Network International Trust
- **Sara Omi**, Embera Leader, General Embera Congress of Alto Bayano
- **Rodgers Lubilo**, Chairperson, Zambia Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum
- **Magdalynne Were**, Regional Lead Gender and Blue Economy, Mission inclusion

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

15:00 - 15:45
Indigenous
People's Pavilion

The Road to Bélem – COP30

Organized by:



This session will spotlight Indigenous leadership in shaping COP30 priorities, linking governance, knowledge, and youth perspectives from Brazil, the Andes, and the Pacific to actionable tools and financing. It will highlight partnerships, including ENACT, that transform commitments into concrete outcomes for climate and biodiversity.

Moderator:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Puyr Tembe** (Keynote), Co-founder, FEIPA & ANMIGA
- **Verónica Ruiz García**, Senior Programme Manager, Nature, Climate & People, IUCN
- **Verena Klinger-Dering**, Federal Ministry for the Environment, BMUKN (Germany)
- **Alfredo Daniel Redondo**, Nature Team Lead, Climate Champions Team
- **Alfredo Vargas Pio**, Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes



MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

12:00 - 13:30
Programme
Pavilion
Stage 2 Green

Granting Conservation a Chance: exploring the impact of IUCN's grant-making programmes

Organized by:



This session will showcase how IUCN's diverse grant-making facilities empower local actors to deliver impactful, context-specific conservation solutions. Participants will gain insights into funding mechanisms supporting over 500 grantees worldwide and explore opportunities for greater collaboration and engagement.

Speakers:

- **Maria Fernanda Arraes**, Consultant, UNEP
- **Christine Mentzel**, Regional Programme Development Manager, IUCN ESARO
- **Enni Kallio**, Programme Officer, Global EbA Fund Secretariat, IUCN
- **Hélène Willem**, Mubadarat CSO Programme Officer, Mediterranean and North Africa Programme, IUCN
- **Elisa Facchini**, Programme Officer, Conservation Action, Species Conservation Action, IUCN
- **Beatriz Nobre da Fonseca**, Senior Programme Officer, Business and Nature, IUCN
- **Antoine Ouellet-Drouin**, Director, Institutional Performance Management and Evaluation Unit, IUCN
- **Marie Fischborn**, Senior Manager, Knowledge Management, Learning, and Library Services, IUCN



MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

13:30 - 15:00
Programme
Pavilion
Stage 2 Green

What Role Should Nature Play in Community-based Adaptation?

Organized by:



Gain insights into how community-led Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) can be scaled through participatory, gender-responsive, and policy-integrated approaches. This session showcases lessons from Southern Africa, offering practical pathways for inclusive and resilient climate action.

Moderator:

- **Simba Mandota**, Team Leader, CBA Scale+

Speakers:

- **Alec Crawford**, Director of Nature for Resilience, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- **Myrna Semaan**, Secretary General, Friends of Nature
- **Carla Manjate Rombe**, Country Programme Manager, IUCN Mozambique
- **Helene Hoffmann**, Project Manager Marine Biodiversity, International Climate Initiative
- **Júlio João**, Provincial Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for Inhambane, Mozambique

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

16:30 - 18:00
Programme
Pavilion
Stage 2 Green

Community-Led Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Local Solutions for Global Climate Resilience

Organized by:



**Global
EbA
Fund**

This session will highlight how locally led Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) solutions strengthen climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Drawing on examples from the Global EbA Fund, it will showcase community-driven practices, challenges, and opportunities for scaling inclusive, nature-based climate action.

Moderator:

- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Director, Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Kathryn Goodwin**, Global EbA Fund Secretariat, IUCN
- **Helene Hoffmann**, Project Manager Marine Biodiversity, International Climate Initiative
- **Hari Krishna Nibanupudi**, Global Climate Change and Ageing Adviser, HelpAge International
- **Myrna Semaan**, Secretary General, Friends of Nature
- **Peter Cutter**, Director, Program Coordination and Technical Services, Regional Community Forestry Training Center Thailand



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You are invited!

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