



IUCN World Conservation Congress

Abu Dhabi 2025

IUCN Renewable Energy Journey

iucncongress2025.org

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

13:00 - 14:00
Hall 2 - Ground
Floor - IUCN
Meeting Room 8

Press Conference: IUCN-IRENA Memorandum of Understanding Signing

Organized by:



As the leading conservation organisation and renewable energy agency, IUCN and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) will join forces to promote a just energy transition contributing to the global goals on climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Moderator:

- **Qiulin Liu**, Programme Officer, Energy Transition, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Gauri Singh**, IRENA DDG
- **Jinlei Feng**, Programme Officer, IRENA
- **Rachel Asante-Owusu**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Energy Transition, IUCN
- **Stewart Maginnis**, IUCN DDG

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

13:30 - 15:00
Programme
Pavilion Stage
Red 3

Renewables for Nature --- Challenges, Solutions and Opportunities

Organized by:



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



As renewable energy expands to meet climate goals, it must also safeguard biodiversity. This session will showcase IUCN's Renewables for Nature (REN) Coalition tools and insights for nature-positive wind and solar development.

Moderators:

- **Qiulin Liu**, Programme Officer, Energy Transition, IUCN
- **Rachel Asante-Owusu**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Energy Transition, IUCN

Speakers:

- **Adonai Herrera-Martínez**, Director of Environment and Sustainability, EBRD
- **Aonghais Cook**, Senior Principal Consultant, The Biodiversity Consultancy
- **Astrid Delaporte Sprengers**, Biodiversity Engineer, TotalEnergies
- **Craig Bennett**, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts
- **Jinlei Feng**, Programme Officer, IRENA
- **Karen Westley**, Vice-Chair, Ipieca
- **Libby Sandbrook**, Director of Business & Nature, Fauna & Flora
- **Manoswini Sarkar**, Global Energy Policy Officer, BirdLife International
- **Patricia Claverie**, VP Environment & Societal, TotalEnergies
- **Tris Allinson**, Senior Conservation Scientist, Birdlife International

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

15:30 - 16:00
Forum - Virtual
Channel 5

Podcast: Developing wind energy while taking into consideration birds of prey populations and behaviors

Organized by:



This podcast shares the story of an unlikely partnership between wind energy developers and researchers working together to reduce bird collisions and advance renewable energy responsibly.

Speakers:

- **Alexandre Millon**, Lecturer, Aix-Marseille Université
- **Raymond Klaassen**, Researcher, University of Groningen
- **Tonio Schaub**, Postdoctoral researcher, Aix-Marseille University

17:00 - 17:30
Forum -
Collaboratorium

Conservation Showcase: Enhancing Global Biodiversity through national-scale Electrocutation Mitigation

Organized by:



How can we make power lines safer for birds? Mongolia's bold action cut raptor electrocutions by 95%. Learn how this scalable solution aligns energy & biodiversity goals.

Speakers:

- **Andrew Dixon**, Director of Science & Conservation, Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund
- **Dr Munir Virani**, Chief Operating Officer, Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund

17:30 - 18:00
Forum -
Collaboratorium

Conservation Showcase: Innovative Carbon Neutral Solutions: Action Plans for Reforming Transportation and Energy System

Organized by:



Jeju (Republic of Korea) is on the path to 2035 Carbon Neutral. Join this session to explore renewable energy, sustainable transport & circular economy strategies — and discover how global cooperation can scale climate solutions.

Speakers:

- **Myongkee Jin**, Vice Governor, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
- **Yuanqing Hou**, Deputy Secretary General, China Green Carbon Foundation

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

14:00 - 15:00
Forum -
Collaboratorium

Lightning Talk: Strengthening Resilience Through
Community Utility Companies and Nature-Based
Energy Solutions

Organized by:



In remote mountain regions, community-led micro hydropower is delivering clean energy, transforming livelihoods, and strengthening climate resilience. This session highlights scalable models that cut emissions, empower communities, and drive inclusive, nature-positive energy transitions.

Speaker:

- **Jamil Uddin**, General Manager, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)

17:00 - 17:45
Central Stage
Transition to
Nature- Positive

High-Level Panel on Renewables, Grids and
Nature Protection

Organized by:



How can we triple renewable energy capacity while protecting 30% of land and water by 2030? This high-level ministerial panel will chart pathways for aligning climate and biodiversity goals through the GINGR initiative.

Moderator:

- **Tinne Van Der Straeten**, former energy minister of Belgium

Speakers:

- **Antonella Battaglini**, CEO, Renewables Grid Initiative
- **Gauri Singh**, IRENA DDG
- **Juan Carlos Castro**, Minister of Environment, Peru
- **Ralph Regenvanu**, Vanuatu's Minister for Climate Change Adaptation, Energy, Environment, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards and Disaster Management
- **Stewart Maginnis**, IUCN DDG

Renewables 
Grid Initiative

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

10:30 - 12:00
Programme
Pavilion Stage 3
Red

Promoting Co-Benefit Actions for Positive
Environmental and Social Impacts from Wind
and Solar Projects

Organized by:



As the renewable energy transition accelerates, how can we ensure wind and solar deliver for both people and nature? This session will highlight tools, case studies, and partnerships driving nature-positive and socially inclusive energy solutions.

Speakers:

- **Adonai Herrera-Martínez**, Director of Environment and Sustainability, EBRD
- **Hao Ma**, Director General, Qinghai Provincial Development and Reform Commission
- **Jiali Zhang**, Senior Engineer, CREEI
- **Jinlei Feng**, Programme Officer, IRENA
- **Karen Westley**, Vice-Chair, Ipieca
- **Libby Sandbrook**, Director of Business & Nature, Fauna & Flora
- **Miao Yu**, General Manager, SPIC Huanghe Hydropower Development Co., Ltd.
- **Sophie Depraz**, Deputy CEO, Ipieca
- **Steven Dickinson**, Corporate Biodiversity Expert, TotalEnergies



SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

14:00 - 15:30
Conference Hall
A: Forum Session
Room 6

Thematic Session: Dams in a social-ecological ecosystem approach to freshwater conservation

Organized by:



As global demand for water security and renewable energy grows, how can future dam development balance human needs with biodiversity and community well-being? This session will explore best practices, alternatives, and updated guidance to inform governments, funders, and industry.

Moderators:

- **Félix Feider**, Senior Programme Officer, Synchronicity Earth
- **Kathryn Gwiazdon**, Chair, Ethics Specialist Group, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

Speakers:

- **Genny Ngende**, Senior Campaign Coordinator, Africa Program, International Rivers
- **Ian Harrison**, Co-Chair, IUCN-SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee
- **James Dalton**, Director, Water and Wetlands, IUCN
- **Rosa Elena Licuy Vargas**, President, Piatúa Resiste
- **Shannon Ames**, Executive Director, Low Impact Hydropower Institute

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

15:00 - 18:00
Programme
Pavilion Stage 2
Green

Workshop: Aligning principles for Marine NPI in the Energy Sector

Organized by:



ipieca

This session will examine lessons from implementing Nature Positive Initiatives (NPI) in the marine environment, with particular attention to offshore wind. It will provide a platform to identify challenges, solutions, and opportunities towards developing practical marine NPI principles for the energy sector.

Speakers:

- **Artemis Kostareli**, Nature Director, Ipieca
- **Kristie Lo**, Nature Senior Manager, Ipieca
- **Larissa Leitch**, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, Shell
- **Neil Cousins**, Founder and Director, Bluedot Associates Ltd
- **Qiulin Liu**, Programme Officer, Energy Transition, IUCN
- **Rachel Asante-Owusu**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Energy Transition, IUCN
- **Steven Dickinson**, Corporate Biodiversity Expert, TotalEnergies



SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

Africa Pavilion
18:00 - 19:00

High-Level Panel: Financing Nature and Climate
Action in Africa: Navigating Challenges and
Unlocking Opportunities

Organized by:



This high-level panel will address the gap between global climate and biodiversity ambitions and Africa's financing reality. It will highlight African-led solutions and innovative finance models to advance a resilient, equitable, and nature-positive future for the continent.

Moderator:

- **Imen Meliane**, Senior Adviser- Climate Finance, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Speakers:

- **Daouda Sembene**, Founder and CEO, AfriCatalyst
- **Evelyn Ndlovu**, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Government of Zimbabwe
- **Hussein Alfa Nafo**, Co-Chair, Green Climate Fund
- **Pradeep Kurukulasuriya**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund



SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

19:00 - 21:00
West Asia
Pavilion

Biodiversity and ecosystem services
management in business operation peer-to-peer
workshop

Organized by:



ipieca

This interactive workshop will equip participants with practical skills to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) into business operations. Through case studies, peer exercises, and facilitated discussions, it will foster actionable insights and collaborative solutions for nature-positive practices in the energy and private sectors.

Moderator:

- **Libby Sandbrook**, Director of Business & Nature, Fauna & Flora

Speakers:

- **Alex Ross**, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC
- **Anita Mosby**, Biodiversity Supervisor, ExxonMobil
- **Artemis Kostareli**, Nature Director, Ipieca
- **Astrid Delaporte Sprengers**, Biodiversity Engineer, TotalEnergies
- **Rachel Asante-Owusu**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Energy Transition, IUCN
- **Sonja Kaulbarsch**, Biodiversity Specialist, Eni Global Natural Resources
- **Steven Dickinson**, Corporate Biodiversity Expert, TotalEnergies



SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

11:00 - 12:30
Hall 4C: Forum
Session Room 3

Thematic Session: Nature Positive Renewables:
Aligning Climate and Energy Goals

Organized by:



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



International Renewable Energy Agency

This session will explore strategies to align renewable energy deployment with ecosystem restoration and conservation. Experts and regional partners will share insights on advancing a low-carbon, inclusive energy transition that supports climate and nature-positive goals.

Speakers:

- **Adonai Herrera-Martínez**, Director of Environment and Sustainability, EBRD
- **Dr Hao Jiang**, Assistant Director General, Chief Technical Expert of China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute
- **Gauri Singh**, IRENA DDG
- **Karen Westley**, Vice-Chair, Ipieca
- **Marco Lambertini**, Convener of the Nature Positive Initiative

11:00 - 12:00
Forum - Virtual
Channel 3

Podcast: Beyond the hype: implications of AI for conservation

Organized by:



This session will examine the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence (AI) in conservation, drawing on peer-reviewed research. It will provide balanced insights and practical recommendations for ethical and effective AI adoption in biodiversity and sustainability contexts.

Moderator:

- **Magda Zachara**, Programme Officer, IUCN Academy

Speakers:

- **Alex Dehgan**, CEO & Co-Founder, Conservation X Labs, Inc.
- **Chris Sandbrook**, Professor of Conservation and Society, University of Cambridge

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

13:00 - 14:00
Business
Pavilion

Nature-Powered Energy Transition: Business Leadership for a Just and Sustainable Future

Organized by:



This roundtable will examine how energy companies can align with global climate goals while safeguarding biodiversity. Participants will explore IUCN tools and collaborative approaches to advance a just, inclusive, and nature-positive energy transition.

Speakers:

- **Adonai Herrera-Martínez**, Director of Environment and Sustainability, EBRD
- **Erik Berglöff**, Chief Economist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- **Karen Westley**, Vice-Chair, Ipieca
- **Patricia Claverie**, VP Environment & Societal, TotalEnergies
- **Rachel Asante-Owusu**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Energy Transition, IUCN

12:00 - 13:30
Programme
Pavilion Stage
3 Red

Prosper with Nature: Safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral governance

Organized by:



This session will explore how mineral governance can safeguard ecosystems, biodiversity, and human rights amid rising demand for transition minerals. Drawing on global case studies, it will highlight safeguards, best practices, and actions to align the energy transition with climate and biodiversity frameworks.

Moderator:

- **Shirleen Chin**, Executive Director, IUCN World Commission on Environmental

Speakers:

- **Ana di Pangrazio**, Biodiversity Director, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- **Daryl Bosu**, Deputy National Director, A Rocha Ghana
- **Grizelda Anda**, Member, Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme Asia
- **Liliana Jauregui**, Director, IUCN Netherlands
- **Madhu Rao**, Senior Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society



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You are invited!

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