



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

116th Meeting of the IUCN Council (C116)¹

Abu Dhabi, 16 October 2025

Decisions

Approval of the Agenda

COUNCIL DECISION C116/1

The IUCN Council,
Adopts the Agenda of its 116th Meeting. (Annexe 1)

Appointment of the Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland)

COUNCIL DECISION C116/2

The IUCN Council,
Appoints Mrs. Martine Rohn-Brossard as Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat.

Appointment of Deputy Chairs and members of the steering committees of the IUCN Commissions (Regulations 46 and 73)

COUNCIL DECISION C116/3²

The IUCN Council,
In accordance with Regulation 73, with the purpose of enabling the Commissions to be functional as soon as possible following the end of the Congress, pending additional nominations to be made by the Chairs for approval at the first ordinary meeting of the Council (117th meeting to be held in the first quarter of 2026) taking into account criteria such as technical qualification, geographic representation and gender equity,
On the recommendation of the respective Commission Chair,
Appoints the following individuals as:

1. World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL):

Deputy Commission Chair: Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui (Morocco)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (Tanzania)
- Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote (Kenya)
- Ms. Maria Muavesi (Fiji)
- Dr. Nilufer Oral (Turkey)
- Prof. Dr. Agnès Michelot (France)
- Assoc. Prof. Claudia de Windt (Dominican Republic)
- Prof. David Forman (USA)
- Ms. Christina Pak (USA)
- Dr. John Scanlon (Australia)
- Prof. Nicholas Robinson (USA, *ex officio*)
- Dr. Sheila Abed (Paraguay, *ex officio*)
- Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin (Brazil, *ex officio*)

¹ First meeting of the Council members elected on 15 October 2025 by the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

² The Chair of the Climate Action Commission (CAC) expressed the wish to make his nominations for Deputy Chair and members of the Steering Committee at the 117th Council meeting. In the meantime, in accordance with Regulation 73, *“until the Council appoints their successors, the incumbent Deputy Chair and Steering Committee members shall continue in office”*.

- Ms. Sandrine Friedli Cela (Switzerland, *ex officio*)
- Prof. Dr. Amanda Kennedy (Australia, *ex officio*)

2. World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA):

Deputy Commission Chair: Andrew Rhodes Espinoza (Mexico)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Lucy Emerton (Sri Lanka - UK, *Sustainable Finance*)
- Alfred DeGemma (USA, *World Heritage*)
- Brent Mitchell (USA, *Global PCA Policy*)
- Erika Vaida-Bela (Romania, *Regional*)
- Florence Palla (Cameroon, *Marine/Regional*)
- Harriet Davies-Mostert (South Africa, *Regional*)
- Helen Tugendhat (UK, *Governance, Equity, and Rights*)
- Mike Appleton (UK, *Capacity*)
- Mohamed Imam Bakarr (Sierra Leone, *Multilateral Agency*)
- Sandra Valenzuela (Colombia, *Regional*)
- Yang Rui (China, *Regional*)
- Carl Amirgulashvili (Georgia, *Regional*)

3. Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM):

Deputy Commission Chair: Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães (Mexico)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Professor Ian Convery (UK)
- Dr. Peter Lawrence Smith (Australia)

4. Commission on Education and Communication (CEC):

Deputy Commission Chair: Margaret (Meg) Beckel (Canada)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Hanying Li (*Regional Vice Chair -East Asia*)
- Alex Zavarzin (*Regional Vice Chair - Eastern Europe; Citizen and Community Science*)
- Jason Pitman (*Regional Vice Chair - Oceania*)
- Katalin Czippan (*Strategic Advisor*)
- Sean Southey and Luis Camargo (*Nature Based Education Co-Chairs*)
- Ana Valeria Mandri (*Reimagining Communications*)
- Cheryl and Vasanti Rao (*Natureforall Co-Chairs*)

5. Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP):

Deputy Commission Chair: Melanie Zurba (Canada)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Raquel Jimenez Acosta (Mexico)
- Jessica Campese (USA)
- Neil Dawson (UK)
- Fatima El-Aarabi (Morocco)
- Luc Bas (Belgium)
- Veefeni Ingaveuya Priscilla Mundilo (Namibia)

6. Species Survival Commission (SSC):

Deputy Commission Chair: Dr. Rima Jabado (Lebanon)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Masha Vorontsova (*Regional Vice Chair: Eastern Europe and Central Asia*)
- Pat Awori (*Regional Vice Chair: East and Southern Africa*)
- Greg Mueller (*Conservation Committee Chair: Fungi*)
- Paul Smith (*Conservation Committee Chair: Plants*)
- Axel Hochkirch (*Conservation Committee Chair: Invertebrates*)
- Domitilla Raimondo (*Conservation Committee Chair: National Species*)
- Topis Contreras Macbeath (*Conservation Committee Chair: Freshwater*)
- Luigi Boitani (*Conservation Committee Chair: Red List Technical and Scientific Committee*)
- Jenny Gray
- Simon Stuart

- Sonja Luz
- Aroha Mead
- Ibukun (Ibukunoluwa) Balogun
- Norbert Baerlocher
- Russ Mittermeier

Expenditure authorization for the first quarter of 2026

COUNCIL DECISION C116/4

The IUCN Council,

On the proposal of the Secretariat, pending the approval of the IUCN Budget 2026 during the 117th Council meeting,

Decides to grant its provisional approval of expenditure authority to the Director General for the first three months of 2026 not exceeding CHF 58m.



116th Meeting of the IUCN Council ¹

Abu Dhabi, UAE - 16 October 2025 from 9.00 to 13:00 local time

Draft Agenda

Preliminary notes:

- The present Draft Agenda has been prepared by the Secretary to Council taking into account the usual agenda of the first Council meeting held immediately following the close of the World Conservation Congress.
- Council Members not present in person will be offered the possibility to connect remotely
- Simultaneous interpretation will be provided onsite in the three official languages of IUCN (English, French and Spanish)

09:00-09:30	Agenda Item 1: Introduction by the President and approval of the agenda Including roundtable of all participants briefly introducing themselves	DEC
09:30-09:35	Agenda Item 2: Appointment of the Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland) Council will be invited to consider for approval a proposal from the Government of Switzerland to appoint an individual as Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, in accordance with Article 38 (d)(iii) of the IUCN Statutes and 45 (b) of the IUCN Regulations.	DEC
09:35-09:50	Agenda Item 3: IUCN's information technology relevant for Council members Presentation by François Jolles, Director, Global Information Systems Group about the IUCN's IT infrastructure relevant for Council members and specifically on security/safety of usage. IMPORTANT NOTICE: from 13:00 to 15:00 IUCN's Information Systems team will be available to assist all members of the IUCN Council 2025-2029 accessing their iucn.org mailbox and installing the authenticator required to access IUCN systems. Please bring your laptop and smartphone for this purpose.	INF
09:50-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:00	Agenda Item 4: Meeting with the members of the outgoing Council 2021-25 as required by 2008 Congress Resolution 9 ² The outgoing Council members will be invited for this agenda item (only) in order to present their recommendations for the incoming Council.	INF
11:00-11:05	Break	
11:05-11:35	Agenda Item 5: Appointment of Deputy Chairs and members of the steering committees of the IUCN Commissions (Regulations 46 and 73) As soon as they will have been elected during the Congress, the Chairs of the Commissions will be invited to submit the name of the candidate they propose to Council for appointment as Deputy Chair of their Commission and, as the case may be, as members of the steering committee of their respective Commission. They may also submit the candidates (or additional candidates) for the Steering Committee at the next	DEC

¹ First meeting of the new IUCN Council 2025-2029 elected by the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (Abu Dhabi, 9-15 October 2025)

² "CALLS ON IUCN's Council, beginning with the 5th Session of the World Conservation Congress (2012), to schedule a meeting at each Session of the World Conservation Congress to be attended only by all current and newly elected Councillors, to review and discuss Council's obligations and responsibilities to the membership, as well as major issues facing the new Council."

	Council meeting in 2026. The Secretary to Council will distribute the proposals received as much as possible in advance of the Council meeting.	
11:35-11:50	Agenda Item 6: Expenditure authorization for the first quarter of 2026 It is standard practice in a Congress year to prepare after Congress the draft Work Plan and Budget for the following fiscal year. The Secretariat will prepare the draft for consideration by Council at its first ordinary meeting (C117) convened for March 2026. In the meantime, the Director General proposes that Council grants its provisional approval of expenditure authority for the first three months of 2026 not exceeding the average monthly operating budget of the previous year +10%. A similar approach was followed in 2016 and 2021.	DEC
11:50-12:00	Agenda Item 7: Registre du Commerce To satisfy a requirement of Swiss Law, personal data about the Council members must be recorded at the Registre du Commerce (company register). IUCN's Legal Adviser, Sandrine Friedli Cela will explain.	INF
12:00-12:50	Agenda Item 8: Date and place of the first ordinary meeting of the Council following the 2026 Congress (C117) In order to ensure appropriate hotel accommodation, the Secretariat has made tentative bookings of hotel space for a meeting to be held at the IUCN Conservation Center in Gland, Switzerland, in w/c 5 March 2026. The meeting will include induction of Council members to Council's role, structure and procedure.	DIS
12:50-13:00	Agenda Item 9: Any other business	
13:00	Lunch	
13:00-15:00	Set-up IUCN account with Microsoft 2-step authentication on individual Council members' electronic devices	



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport,
Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

CH-3003 Bern

FOEN; BN

POST CH AG

Ms. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
IUCN President
Dr Grethel Aguilar
IUCN Director General
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland

congressvips@iucn.org

File: BAFU-061.2-15.3-8/12/2

Business event:

Your reference:

Bern, 25 September 2025

**IUCN World Conservation Congress (Abu Dhabi, 9-15 October 2025)
Nomination of Martine Rohn for host country seat in the IUCN Council**

Dear Madame President,
Dear Director General,

I would like to thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress, which will take place from 9 – 15 October 2025 in Abu Dhabi.

After the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and in times of a certain disengagement in multilateral processes, this meeting will be crucial to lead the international community of governments, civil society organizations and scientists in the right direction, the direction of sustainable development.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments I will not be able to attend the WCC in person. However, I am pleased to inform you that the Swiss delegation composed of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation SDC will actively engage in the different parts of the Congress.

IUCN and Switzerland are linked through a close and fruitful relation. I am sure that you personally could experience the important role that Switzerland and "La Genève internationale" play for the IUCN and its headquarters in Gland VD. From our side, I can also confirm our appreciation of the work done by the IUCN. Given its incomparable scientific expertise, the IUCN has been for many decades a major player in international environmental policy and a leader in project implementation for nature conservation. The organization you lead is very successful in mobilizing communities, indigenous groups, experts working for biodiversity and sustainable development. By valuing and conserving nature, by promoting the effective and sustainable use of ecosystems and by fostering nature-based

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Norbert Bärlocher
3003 Bern
Location: Monbijoustrasse 40, 3011 Bern
Tel. +41 58 46 547 57 Fax +41 58 46 303 49
norbert.baerlocher@bafu.admin.ch
<https://www.bafu.admin.ch>



solutions for global challenges such as climate change, food security and economic development, IUCN is one of the most relevant actors in international environmental governance.

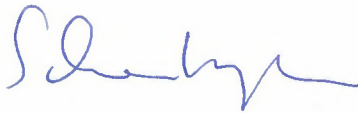
The important relation between IUCN and Switzerland, the Canton of Vaud and the municipality of Gland is underlined by the fact that the host country has a permanent representative in the IUCN Council. As you might know, the mandate of our representative Norbert Bärlocher will end at the next World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. We are thankful to Mr. Bärlocher who has followed the work of the Council closely and has actively taken part in the deliberations of this important IUCN body.

It is my pleasure to inform you that I have nominated Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard, Deputy Head of the International Affairs Division and Head of the Section Europe, Trade and Development Cooperation within the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN as Switzerland's candidate for the host country seat in the IUCN Council. Ms. Rohn looks back on more than 30 years of experience in international environmental policy, including international economic and environmental issues, minerals, deep sea mining, free trade agreements and bilateral relations. She will also be part of the Swiss delegation attending the forthcoming World Conservation Congress. I am sure that her background will allow her to act as a strong link between IUCN and the Swiss administration. Ms. Rohn's CV is attached to this letter. I am looking forward to her approval by Council as host country member of the IUCN Council at the end of the WCC in October.

I wish you a successful World Conservation Congress and I assure you Switzerland's continued support of the IUCN activities.

Yours sincerely,

Federal Office for the Environment



Katrin Schneeberger
Director

Enclosure:

– CV Martine Rohn-Brossard

Copy to:

– WEF, BN, WAN, MRB

CV Martine Rohn-Brossard



Martine Rohn-Brossard is Deputy Head of the International Affairs Division and Head of the Section Europe, Trade and Development Cooperation within the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN. She is in charge of international economy, trade and environment issues including minerals, deep sea mining, free trade agreements, WTO, UN-Economic Commission for Europe, OECD, EU environmental issues and bilateral relations. From 2017 to 2019, she was the Chair of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine. She has also a broad experience in institutional and financial issues of international organizations. Martine Rohn-Brossard is an economist with a postgraduate degree in ecology and environmental science.

Proposal for Commission appointments

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL):

Deputy Commission Chair:

- Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, Morocco

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Tanzania (based in Nairobi, Kenya)
- Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Kenya
- Ms. Maria Muavesi, Fiji
- Dr. Nilufer Oral, Turkey (based in Singapore)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Prof. Dr. Agnès Michelot, France
- Assoc. Prof. Claudia de Windt, Dominican Republic (based in Washington DC, USA)
- Prof. David Forman, USA
- Ms. Christina Pak, USA (based in Manila, Philippines)
- Dr. John Scanlon, Australia (based in Geneva, Switzerland)

Ex-officio members of the Steering Committee:

- Prof. Nicholas Robinson, USA (former WCEL chair, ex officio)
- Dr. Sheila Abed, Paraguay (former WCEL chair, ex officio)
- Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin, Brazil (former WCEL chair, ex officio)
- Ms. Sandrine Friedli Cela, Switzerland (IUCN Legal Officer, ex officio)
- Prof. Dr. Amanda Kennedy, Australia (Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, ex officio)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA):

Deputy Commission Chair:

- Andrew Rhodes Espinoza (Mexico, PCA Policy)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Lucy Emerton - (Sri Lanka, UK, Sustainable Finance)
- Alfred DeGemmis - (USA, World Heritage)
- Brent Mitchell - (USA, Global PCA Policy)
- Erika Vaida-Bela - (Romania/Regional)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Florence Palla - (Cameroon, Marine/Regional)

- Harriet Davies-Mostert - (South Africa/Regional)
- Helen Tugendhat- (UK, Governance, Equity, and Rights)
- Mike Appleton - (UK, Capacity)
- Mohamed Imam Bakarr - (Sierra Leone, Multilateral Agency)
- Sandra Valenzuela - (Colombia/Regional)
- Yang Rui - (China/Regional)
- Carl Amigurgulashvili (Georgia/Regional)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM):

Deputy Commission Chair:

- Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães (Mexico)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Professor Ian Convery (UK)
- Dr. Peter Lawrence Smith (Australia)

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC):

Deputy Commission Chair:

- Margaret (Meg) Beckel (Canada)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Hanying Li (Regional Vice Chair -East Asia)
- Alex Zavarzin (Regional Vice Chair - Eastern Europe)
- Jason Pitman (Regional Vice Chair - Oceania)

Strategic Advisor: Katalin Czippan

Nature Based Education:

- **Co Chairs:** Chair Sean Southey and Luis Camargo

Reimagining Communications: Ana Valeria Mandri

Citizen and Community Science: Alex Zavarzin

Nature for all:

- **Co Chairs:** Cheryl and Vasanti Rao

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP):

- Deputy Commission Chair:
- Melanie Zurba (Canada)
- Members of the Steering Committee:
- Raquel Jimenez Acosta (Mexico)

- Jessica Campese (USA)
- Neil Dawson (UK)
- Fatima El-Aarabi (Morocco)
- Luc Bas (Belgium)
- Veefeni Ingaveuya Priscilla Mundilo(Namibia)

Species Survival Commission (SSC):

- Conservation Committee Chair for **Fungi**: Greg Mueller
- Conservation Committee Chair for **Plants**: Paul Smith
- Conservation Committee Chair for **Invertebrates**: Axel Hochkirch
- Conservation Committee Chair for **National Species**: Domitilla Raimondo
- Conservation Committee Chair for **Freshwater**: Topis Contreras Macbeath
- Conservation Committee Chair for **Red List Technical and Scientific Committee**: Luigi Boitani

Other Steering Committee Members:

- Jenny Gray
- Simon Stuart
- Sonja Luz
- Aroha Mead
- Ibukun (Ibukunoluwa) Balogun
- Norbert Bärlocher
- Russ Mittermeier

Climate Action Commission (CAC):

Deputy Commission Chair:

to be submitted for C117

Members of the Steering Committee:

to be submitted for C117