



Expression of interest

State and government agency Member Representatives to the IUCN Urban Alliance

Deadline: 5 April 2026

Background:

The IUCN Urban Alliance was operationalised on 24 September 2018, in response to Resolution 029 at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress “Incorporating urban dimensions of nature conservation into the work of IUCN” (WCC 2016 Res 029).

A stocktake was carried out in 2023, in view of further informing how the Alliance could continue to serve as a strategically focused and relevant body that advises on and supports IUCN’s growing programme of work on urban. Consequently, the revised mandate for the Alliance consists in providing advice to the IUCN Council, the IUCN Director General and Secretariat on biodiversity issues in urban areas at both national and sub-national levels and support the Union’s critical role in working on urban nature. Urban dimensions are now embedded in the IUCN Programme 2026–2029 and in the Union’s 20-Year Strategic Vision. The structure of the IUCN Urban Alliance comprises a Chair, Secretariat, Commissions and IUCN member representatives.

Description of the position

The present Expression of Interest is open to IUCN State and government agency Members.

As State and government agency Member Representatives to the IUCN Urban Alliance, the incumbent will perform the following tasks:

- Advise IUCN Council on the vision, strategy and priorities of the Union as they relate to the urban dimensions of nature conservation;
- Support further expansion of IUCN’s influence and networks within the urban biodiversity policy and implementation spaces;
- Actively support membership growth of IUCN’s sub-national membership category, which serves as a pathway for long-term and impactful engagement with cities and sub-national governments with significant urban responsibilities;
- Identify opportunities for political support, resources and collaborations that will facilitate further growth and impact of IUCN’s programme of work on urban;
- Facilitate collaboration between IUCN constituents (members, commissions, secretariat) to address the needs identified by cities members of IUCN for better integration of nature and biodiversity in urban planning, including through the design of new projects and knowledge products;
- Undertake agreed external representational roles for IUCN, in coordination with the Director General and Secretariat, in support of the IUCN Programme;

- Provide oversight to progress on the Union's fulfilment of urban related mandates as defined within IUCN resolutions.

The duration of membership functioning and mandate of the Urban Alliance is to coincide with the IUCN World Conservation Congress cycle (four years) and renewed, or not, as appropriate at the end of each cycle. Thus, the chairing and membership arrangements may be revised following each Congress. The Urban Alliance will be led by a Chair and will comprise of:

- Two IUCN Secretariat members drawn from senior leadership;
- Three Nominated representatives from Commissions: CEC, CEM, WCPA (others may join voluntarily for programme delivery)²;
- One representative of State and government agency Members;
- One Representative of National or international non-governmental organization Members;
- Three IUCN Subnational Government (SNG) city representatives, preferably from different regions. All nominated representatives must demonstrate a specific interest or mandate for urban nature, to ensure the Steering Committee functions effectively and remains focused on its core mission.

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Communications will be conducted primarily via email and conference calls. The IUCN Urban Alliance Steering Committee will meet quarterly including, if possible, at least one face-to-face meeting.

The IUCN Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the meetings and must ensure that:

- Agendas are co-developed with the Urban Alliance members and shared in advance of meetings;
- Minutes and action points are taken and circulated for comments following the meetings within two weeks.

Actions to follow up on decisions of the Urban Alliance will be undertaken by relevant members, and/or the IUCN Secretariat, or other actors as appropriate.

The proceedings of Urban Alliance meetings are generally open to all IUCN constituents (Secretariat, Membership, and Commissions) upon request, to ensure transparency. When sensitive matters arise, members may submit views in advance to the IUCN Secretariat for anonymized inclusion or request that their contributions not be recorded. Additionally, specific agenda items may be designated as confidential and omitted from the official minutes upon request of the Urban Alliance.

In alignment with the IUCN Programme cycle, the Urban Alliance will develop a **four-year workplan and strategy** to guide its contributions to the delivery of the Global Transformation for Sustainable Cities. This workplan will outline priority actions, partnerships, and milestones aligned with the Urban Alliance's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and will be reviewed and updated as needed to reflect evolving priorities and opportunities.

REQUIREMENTS

- Expertise in enabling cross-sectoral collaborations
- Minimum seven (7) years in conservation or sustainable development, ideally working with transdisciplinary approaches

- Specific interest and demonstrated understanding and engagement in urban biodiversity issues is highly desirable, especially in mainstreaming biodiversity issues
- Members are drawn from IUCN Secretariat, IUCN Commissions and IUCN member organisations through a transparent selection process
- Official proof of endorsement of the IUCN Secretariat Team, Commission or Member wishing to represent

Knowledge of all three of the Union's working languages is an advantage. Membership must ensure appropriate gender balance, as well as cultural and regional diversity.

REMUNERATION

Serving as Member representative of the IUCN Urban Alliance is a voluntary commitment. IUCN covers travel and daily subsistence costs, subject to prior approval of IUCN Secretariat.

APPLICATIONS

The IUCN Cities, Culture and Youth Team is committed to further enhancing the diversity of its expert base, including an improved regional balance. IUCN also strongly encourages applications from women, young and mid-career experts as well as from local and Indigenous communities.

To apply, please submit to loredana.scuto@iucn.org your updated CV and endorsement letter using "Expression of Interest State member representative IUCN Urban Alliance" as subject line. In your email, please specify which category you would like to apply for.

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.