



IUCN  
WORLD  
CONSERVATION  
CONGRESS  
*Marseille*



# RESILIENCE IS IN OUR NATURE

3-11 SEPTEMBER 2021



*“We know that we can’t live well and in good health on a sick planet, and there is no vaccine for a sick planet.”*

Emmanuel Macron, President of France



*“We all drink the same water, and it comes from nature. We all eat the same food... the food comes from nature. We all breathe the same air. The air comes from nature.”*

Hindou Ibrahim, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee



*“We’ve got to make things happen. We’ve got to make it happen now... come on everybody, let’s get to work!”*

Harrison Ford



The IUCN World Conservation Congress was held from 3-11 September 2021 in Marseille, France, bringing together experts and leaders from government, civil society, Indigenous peoples’ organisations, business, and youth representatives to tackle the world’s most pressing environmental and sustainability issues. The decisions taken at the IUCN Congress will guide humanity’s relationship with our planet for decades to come.





### The Forum

a hub of public debate, offered **over 500 sessions** bringing together stakeholders from all sectors at all levels to drive action on nature and sustainable development



### The Members' Assembly,

IUCN's highest decision-making body, resulted in **137 Resolutions** and **11 Recommendations, setting the global conservation agenda** for the coming years. Members also approved the 2021-2024 IUCN Programme and elected a new Council to lead the Union.



### An Exhibition

with **over 100 stands** and **500 events** highlighted the latest in conservation science and policy. The exhibition offered Members and partners from the public and private sectors an opportunity to showcase their work and host events.



A **HYBRID** EVENT WITH THREE COMPONENTS

**2,300+** youth participants under 35 years old

**25,000+** visits from the general public to the Exhibition and Nature Generation Areas

**Dozens** of concrete commitments to act for nature from states, regions, cities, private companies, civil society

**10,000+** news media articles about the Congress across 140 countries

**9,200+** in-person and virtual participants from around the world

## IUCN CONGRESS AT A GLANCE

Over **54 million people** reached daily through social media

Earned **sustainable event certification**

**50,000** online views of Forum sessions



Earned the **"Event Gender Equity"** label for inclusivity



## IUCN Global Youth Summit

The IUCN Global Youth Summit began in April 2021 as a virtual event with 8,000+ participants from around the world. The Summit concluded in Marseille with a powerful **Outcome Statement** advocating for meaningful youth engagement. It connected young leaders across the world, giving them a platform to learn, network, and share their vision for the planet.



*“We must ensure youth are engaged as equal partners and stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation when it comes to biodiversity conservation.”*

Jayathma Wickramanayake,  
UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth

## IUCN CEO Summit

IUCN’s **CEO Summit** provided a platform for leaders in business and finance to work towards a nature-positive future, and share their efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change. Sectors from food to fashion and energy to transportation were present, with panels focussing on safeguarding nature throughout value chains, developing new business models and partnerships, and promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



## World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature

The World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature successfully brought together IUCN Indigenous Peoples’ Organisation (IPO) Members and Congress participants in discussions over Indigenous peoples’ rights and their role in biodiversity conservation. Members including COICA voiced their requests and presented their **Global Indigenous Agenda**, as well as Motion 129 calling for the protection of 80% of the Amazon by 2025. IUCN Members approved Motion 129 in Marseille, sending a powerful signal to decision makers around the world. This call was followed by a pledge from world leaders at the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP26) to end deforestation by 2030.



# CONGRESS SUMMITS TO ENGAGE KEY ACTORS

*“The world’s cities are at the forefront of biodiversity conservation issues.”*

Benoît Payan, Mayor of Marseille



## IUCN Local Action Summit

Dedicated to subnational governments, the IUCN **Local Action Summit** brought together leaders from cities and regions to share commitments and concrete action taken at the local level to deliver conservation outcomes. In addition, Congress **Governance Motion A** was approved by the Members’ Assembly to include subnational governments in IUCN’s membership, paving the way for the voices of cities and regions to be heard in the conservation community. Over 30 subnational governments, representing around 100 million citizens, committed to enhancing urban biodiversity and using the IUCN Urban Nature Index.





## THE MARSEILLE MANIFESTO

The Marseille Manifesto sets out major commitments and actions emerging from the IUCN Congress. It helps shape the direction of post-COVID recovery and our collective response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies, recognising these are two sides of the same crisis. IUCN Members welcomed the Manifesto by acclamation as the Members' Assembly ended on 10 September 2021.

France committed to achieve **30% of protected areas** nationally by 2022 and **5% of Mediterranean maritime area** under strong protection by 2027.

**15 new country commitments** to the IUCN Green List Standard were made, totalling more than 30 million hectares of protected and conserved areas.

On behalf of more than 100 organisations, the **International Hydropower Association made a no-go commitment to operations within World Heritage sites.**

*“The rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities underpin their central role in conservation, as leaders and custodians of biodiversity. The agency of those who are marginalised, whether economically, socially or politically, including women, must be enhanced.”*

Marseille Manifesto

The Manifesto commits to the inclusivity of all stakeholders, encouraging global cooperation as well as local action.



## NATURE-BASED RECOVERY

A major goal of the IUCN Congress was to drive a post-COVID recovery based on nature. IUCN Members approved new resolutions aimed at incorporating biodiversity conservation into economic and financial systems, strengthening the call to invest in nature.

*“Restoring and protecting our lands is the solution for a fairer and sustainable recovery.”*

Carlos Quesada, President of Costa Rica

*“What I have been hearing over and over again here in Marseille is that the environment is our economy.”*

Rémy Rioux, CEO of the French Development Agency

*“Investing in nature can contribute to recovery efforts by creating jobs, targeting the poorest communities, and building long-term resilience.”*

Mari Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnership, World Bank

IUCN calls on governments to direct **10% of global recovery investment** into initiatives that protect and restore nature.

Commitments made at the IUCN Congress include:

France committed to strengthen investments in biodiversity and include financial risks linked to biodiversity loss in economic and financial analyses, helping to **direct recovery efforts towards nature conservation and sustainable agriculture.**

Western Indian Ocean states, IUCN and partners committed to supporting the **Great Blue Wall Initiative** for a blue economy that will help conserve and restore marine and coastal biodiversity while benefitting 70 million people.

### CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS



**Resolution 056** . Biodiversity financing  
**Recommendation 109** . Increasing funding for biodiversity in developing countries  
**Resolution 120** . Towards a policy on natural capital



*“Climate and biodiversity are two sides of the same coin.”*

Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank



*“We can’t change things if we don’t measure them properly.”*

Emmanuel Macron, President of France

## BIODIVERSITY POST-2020

The IUCN Congress focused on halting global biodiversity loss, elevating the ambition of the CBD COP15 meetings, and helping shape the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. IUCN calls for the framework to set concrete, measurable action targets and to protect 30% of the planet by 2030.

*“To many, [the 30 by 30 initiative] is seen as particularly ambitious. However, many would argue that this is not ambitious enough; these are the bare minimum, and no longer should we question the mobilisation of resources into conservation.”*

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO of the Global Environment Facility



Commitments made at the IUCN Congress include:

Greece committed to reduce overfishing by establishing **no-take zones in 10% of its territorial waters** by 2030 and to reduce marine plastic pollution by 60%.

Five multi-national companies – Kering, Holcim, L’Occitane, LVMH and Pernod Ricard – committed to restore and enhance biodiversity through nature-positive corporate strategies and actions.

### CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS



- Resolution 116** . Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Resolution 105** . Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Resolution 125** . Calls for IUCN to support the 30 by 30 target of protecting and conserving at least 30% of terrestrial areas (including inland waters) and of coastal and marine areas by 2030
- Resolution 018** . Valuing and protecting inland fisheries

*“Investing in the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the world’s ecosystems can provide around a third of the cost-effective climate mitigation that we need by 2030.”*

Dr Bruno Oberle, Director General of IUCN



*“We cannot afford to deal with climate on Monday and biodiversity on Tuesday.”*

Nigel Topping, UN High Level Climate Action Champion



## CLIMATE CHANGE

Nature can and must play a significant role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The IUCN Congress resulted in concrete actions on nature-based solutions, deforestation, and protecting and restoring forests, coasts and other ecosystems.

Commitments made at the IUCN Congress include:

Commitment from El Salvador, Belize, Pakistan, Chile and Region Sud, France to **restore a collective total of 5.5 million hectares of forest**, increasing the total Bonn Challenge commitments to over 215 million hectares.

Commitment to establish a partnership between the UNFCCC High Level Champions for Climate Action and IUCN to accelerate global and regional net-zero initiatives and integrate nature and nature-based solutions into climate finance.

### CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS



- Resolution 060** . Promotion of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions
- Resolution 044** . Climate crisis legal toolkit
- Resolution 032** . Ocean impacts of climate change
- Resolution 008** . Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate
- Resolution 030** . Enhancing the resilience of coastal areas in the face of climate change, biodiversity crisis and rapid coastal development





*“If the human rights of Indigenous peoples will be violated, then the hope for us to have a nature-positive world is really not going to happen.”*

Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director of Tebtebba Foundation

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ VOICES AT THE IUCN CONGRESS

Indigenous peoples possess ancestral knowledge of conservation practices and have long been stewards of nature, contributing to conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources. IUCN Indigenous Peoples’ Organisation (IPO) Members have participated in IUCN World Conservation Congresses since 1988. The engagement of IPOs in Marseille resulted in groundbreaking decisions on the protection of the Amazon and the first ever self-determined global indigenous strategy for the governance of indigenous territories.

*“National parks have funding. They have the support of governments. They have laws to ensure their protection. But we can only defend our Indigenous territories ourselves with our lives, with our blood, with our fight. It is time that our Indigenous territories receive the same protection.”*

Jose Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, COICA  
(Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin)

Commitments made at the IUCN Congress include:

IUCN committed to support and implement the first IUCN Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources, a self-determined strategy developed and owned by Indigenous peoples.

### CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS



- Resolution 129** . Avoiding the point of no return in the Amazon by protecting 80% by 2025 – passed with 100% approval during the Members’ Assembly
- Resolution 002** . Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning Indigenous peoples
- Resolution 118** . Recognising and supporting Indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights and roles in conservation



IUCN and the French government took every precaution to ensure the health and safety of all participants in the pandemic context.

Thanks to the efforts of IUCN Congress organisers and staff, **the event delivered both large-scale impact and a safe experience for participants** despite the pandemic-related challenges.



## A SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS DESPITE THE CHALLENGES

### A hybrid success

The first-ever hybrid IUCN Congress, the Marseille Congress successfully included participants from around the world both onsite and virtually.

**3,553 virtual participants** were able to engage with events such as the opening and closing ceremonies, the Summits, 500+ Forum sessions, observe the Members' Assembly proceedings and participate in contact groups.





## Inclusivity

The IUCN Congress in Marseille aimed to achieve gender equity, and to foster a professional, respectful, inclusive, and harassment-free environment for all participants. With IUCN's gender strategy and anti-harassment policies, the event successfully obtained the "Event Gender Equity" Label.

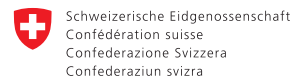


## A Green Congress

IUCN and the French Government implemented sustainability initiatives at the venue in Marseille and provided a Sustainability Guide for Participants, promoting eco-friendly actions. The event earned the ISO20121 Event Sustainability Management international standard.

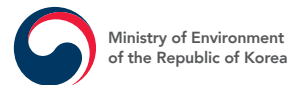
## AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EVENT





Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN



## BECOME AN IUCN CONGRESS SPONSOR OR PARTNER

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is a unique platform to connect and network with a broad range of actors from the public and private sectors, as well as to showcase and invest in conservation and sustainability initiatives. Special thanks to our 2021 IUCN Congress Sponsors. Their support was particularly important to make this Congress happen, given the unprecedented challenges we all faced due to the pandemic.

Powerful sponsorship and partnership opportunities abound before and during the next IUCN Congress in 2025.

Please contact [congress@iucn.org](mailto:congress@iucn.org) to enquire about how your organisation can benefit from becoming an IUCN Congress sponsor or partner.

- International Media Partners -



We also wish to thank the [50 Partners of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition](#), our International Media Partner France Médias Monde, and IUCN's [Framework Partners](#).



### About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,500 Member organisations and the input of more than 18,000 experts in six Commissions. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

### About the IUCN World Conservation Congress

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most inclusive environmental decision-making forum. IUCN convenes the Congress every four years, and since 1996, it has had both Members' Assembly and Forum components. The Members' Assembly is IUCN's highest decision-making body and a unique global environmental parliament where IUCN Members debate, establish and guide environmental policy. The Forum is a hub of public debate with a variety of sessions and events which allow the global community to share ideas and inform the decisions taken by IUCN Members. IUCN Congresses draw thousands of participants and focus the world's attention on conservation and sustainable development efforts both in the host country and around the globe.

IUCN thanks the Congress photographers from Ecodeo (Kiara Worth, Jan-Joseph Stok, Sam Hollenshead, Margarita Corporan, Liz Rubin), and IISD-ENB (Mike Muzurakis) for the pictures making this brochure possible.

*“This is the decade for our planet, the decade for action.  
It’s the totality of life that inspires us.”*

Razan Al-Mubarak, President of IUCN



TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD BACK BETTER



For more information visit  
[www.iucncongress.org](http://www.iucncongress.org)  
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