



## A global environmental organization for Nature conservation (IUCN)

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IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most vital environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network – a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, Switzerland.

It is a unique membership association founded in 1948 as the world's first global environmental organization and named the Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France. The organization changed its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956 with the acronym IUCN. This remains the full legal name to this day.

Almost 11,000 voluntary scientists and experts are united in six Commissions:

1. Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
2. Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
3. Commission on Environmental Law (CEL)
4. Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
5. Species Survival Commission (SSC)
6. World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

The Union is a neutral forum for governments, NGOs, scientists, business and local communities and is governed by a Council elected by member organizations every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The main vision is world nature values conservation. The mission is to participate in decision-making to improve laws, policies, instruments and institutions, implement and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN develops and supports cutting edge conservation science, particularly in species, ecosystems, biodiversity, and the impact these have on human livelihoods. IUCN is a union of members that cares deeply about biodiversity and whose fundamental expertise is on species, habitats and ecosystems. Conservation can only succeed if attention is given to the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, while actions are taken at the same time to mitigate the direct drivers of change. It is demonstrated that effectively managed natural resources are the key to sustainable development, support peaceful communities and can help reduce poverty.

The Republic of Croatia is actively involved in the IUCN work through governmental and non-governmental member organizations:

1. Ministarstvo kulture, Uprava za Zaštitu Prirode (Zagreb, Croatia)
2. Hrvatsko Prirodoslovno Društvo (Zagreb, Croatia)
3. Hrvatsko Biološko Društvo (Zagreb, Croatia)
4. Hrvatska Perpetološka udruga Hyla (Zagreb, Croatia)
5. Eurocoast-Hrvatska (Zagreb, Croatia)

The IUCN Program 2009–2012 adopted at the World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008 proclaims following: contribution directly to targets agreed internationally by governments to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity, and contribute an environmental perspective to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the Plan of Implementation of the World

Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as other relevant international commitments. Successful biodiversity conservation must link environmental health and human well-being to ensure that internationally agreed targets and goals are based on sound environmental principles. Building on the knowledge-based approach, and in view of the ever-growing threat to environmental health and the lack of progress towards sustainability, the IUCN Program recognizes the continuing need to support biodiversity conservation at all levels, with governments, civil society and the private sector. It is the basis for developing more effective and strategic interventions linked to the global sustainability agenda in the areas of climate change, energy, poverty and security, and economy. The Core Program Area (Conserving biodiversity) of the IUCN Program 2009–2012 remains the focus of IUCN's efforts, but the linkages between biodiversity loss and key underlying causes must also be involved.

Therefore, another four thematic programs are included in the IUCN Program :

1. Changing the climate forecast
2. Naturally energizing the future
3. Managing ecosystems for human well-being
4. Greening the world economy

For sixty years, IUCN has lead the development of conservation science and knowledge, and brought together governments, NGOs, scientists, companies and community organizations to help the world make better conservation and development decisions.

