



IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

Terms of Reference 2022- 2025

*Adopted by the IUCN Council, decision C108/11, 19 January 2023
(Updated as required by decision C108/11)*

1. Background

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021, the [resolution](#) to “Establishing a Climate Change Commission” was adopted.

The resolution defines that the ‘*The Climate Crisis Commission*’ **aim is to mobilize and coordinate the Union and engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees and broader civil society efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change based on the best available science** coming from the IPCC and taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the **UNFCCC through the Global Climate Action Agenda**.

It highlights that “**transformative change for a system-wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is necessary**; that current government mitigation contributions alone are insufficient to limit global warming to a level that avoids irreversible harmful impacts to humans and ecosystems; that IUCN has a global reputation for the integrity of its work and the capacity to provide global leadership; and that IUCN, exercising its unique convening powers, mobilizing its membership, and implementing a step change in its communications, can fast-track the necessary transition to a green economy.”

It also stresses “**the essential contribution of biodiversity protection and ecosystem integrity in achieving the targets adopted by the Paris Agreement to prevent global warming from exceeding 1.5°C**”; and “that enhanced action on climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience is necessary to protect communities from the irreversible impacts of climate change”.

2. Vision

The vision of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission is *a world in which global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and society is adapting to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are Nature Positive, and promote just outcomes for all.*

The IUCN CCC, will achieve this vision by **mobilizing and coordinating the Union**, engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees and members, and six Commissions, by promoting productive and constructive partnerships, taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the **UNFCCC, through the Global Climate Action Agenda and other relevant multilateral fora.**

We are facing a climate crisis where humans and nature alike are suffering the impacts from 1.1°C of global warming, with a further 0.4°C anticipated; thus, we will likely approach 1.5°C around 2030. The need to stem a further rise in temperature and for integrated action to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change has been recognized in the last three climate COPs, as well as the sense of urgency to address the intertwined crises that are affecting the most vulnerable.

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report on mitigation found that in addition to the rapid shift away from fossil fuel to clean energy sources of energy and associated decarbonization transformations, among the mitigation options, the protection, improved management, and restoration of forests and 29 other ecosystems (wetlands, savannas and grasslands) have the largest potential to reduce emissions and are the only proven means at scale to sequester carbon. The IPCC report on adaptation concluded that safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is fundamental to climate resilient development, in light of the threats climate change poses to them and their roles in adaptation and mitigation, and that maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30% to 50% of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems. The report also found that building the resilience of biodiversity and supporting ecosystem integrity can maintain benefits for human beings, including livelihoods, health and well-being and the provision of food, fiber and water, as well as contributing to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The joint IPBES-IPCC workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change also highlighted the interdependence of biodiversity and climate change and the need to explore solutions that address both crises.

Climate and biodiversity are therefore strongly connected, as we cannot solve one without addressing the other. Addressing this nexus demands new ways of developing and supporting collaborative efforts, the creation of new plans and policies that implement actions and influence policy in a manner that avoids creating further risks and multiplies synergies.

3. Mission

The IUCN Climate Crisis Commission advances solutions for limiting global warming to 1.5°C that are appropriate and effective in ways that promote justice and ecosystem integrity, based on the best available scientific evidence and learnings from all reputable international bodies and from Indigenous knowledge systems. The IUCN CCC mobilizes and coordinates the Union's efforts by engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees, Members, and Indigenous Peoples, and by building and promoting productive and constructive partnerships that reach for transformational systems change.

This mission will track IUCN's broader mission of conserving the integrity and diversity of nature, which has been successful in promoting over time a strong conservation policy around the world, as well as effective actions to protect biodiversity at ecosystems, species and genetic levels, and ecosystem services. The Climate Crisis Commission's action and results approach will help implement climate solutions consistent with IUCN mission and policy.

The CCC is a vehicle for addressing the dual crises in climate and biodiversity in synergistic ways, achieving transformational change through co-designed actions and through a whole of society approach informed by multi-stakeholder engagement, and that focuses on the clean energy transformation; human settlements and infrastructure; forests and other terrestrial and coastal-marine natural ecosystems; and agriculture and land use, while always giving consideration to equity, human rights and social justice outcomes. The Commission will co-design action plans with Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities, and public and private sector actors in ways that deliver climate justice for all, including future generations, and especially the most vulnerable human communities, species and ecosystems.

The system transitions and climate resilient development that science has recognized as essential will only be possible if we can bring a structural response that can change the foundations of what has created the climate crisis. The chief cause is the greenhouse gas emissions from using fossil fuel for energy, along with the emissions from deforestation and land degradation. The root contributors to the climate crisis arise from how societies value and use nature, respond to scientific knowledge of environmental impacts from the application of technology, and the extent to which we act with a sense of universal responsibility for the health and wellbeing of other members of the human

family, other species and future generations on planet Earth as a whole ecosystem.

The solution space for the climate crisis must therefore address the urgent imperative to decarbonize our economies and protect and restore ecosystems and species, as well as the policies, approaches, public awareness and capacity building that will help bring about the necessary transformations and transitions. The Commission will facilitate a deeper engagement of IUCN with relevant multilateral processes such as UNFCCC, CBD/GBF, UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDG's among some others related to oceans, food, and plastic pollution.

To achieve a unified approach to the climate crisis, the Commission will engage with the other six Commissions, the Secretariat, Indigenous Peoples, Member organizations, and key sectors, like the business community. It will connect existing efforts, promote synergies and build new ones, while avoiding duplication with regard to existing bodies; bringing a 'One IUCN' and 'whole of society' approach. The Commission will leverage IUCN's unique convening power, technical skills, as well as its diverse and unique membership structure and global status.

4. Goal

By 2025, IUCN CCC will have been effective in bringing a more holistic, integrated and just approach to the development and implementation of IUCN climate policy and programs, and the Union's engagement with international and regional processes, effectively contributing to the efforts of the world community to limit warming to below 1.5°C and enable needed adaptation and resilience.

5. Specific objectives

- Develop and promote holistic policies and guidelines that promote the rapid transition away from fossil fuel to clean energy sources, climate and nature convergence and the **enabling conditions** to effectively address both challenges.
- Through strong collaboration with other Commissions and the Secretariat, promote synergistic policies and approaches with relevant multilateral processes in addition to the UNFCCC and CBD including UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDGs and those related to oceans, food production and materials management.
- Help mobilize, coordinate and collaborate with all components of the Union and with external partners under a "One Union", "whole of society approach", leveraging IUCN convening power and knowledge skills.
- Promote and implement solutions that advance synergistic climate-biodiversity outcomes, by integrating science, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, and local community knowledge in this effort.
- Address the controversies that limit the climate and nature convergence.

- Promote the use of accurate data and appropriate technology to bring solutions to address the climate and nature crises, whilst preventing warning and limiting uses of technology that are contrary to climate, nature and sustainability objectives.
- Promote innovative solutions and develop innovative tools/mechanisms, to address the climate and nature crises, through addressing the four climate transitions suggested by IPCC and the 5 key drivers of nature loss identified by IPBES.
- Promote inclusiveness by working with and for local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.
- Raise public awareness and capacity building under a coherent action plan for an effective impact of the commission's measurements.
- Develop the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission mandate for the IUCN 2025 World Conservation Congress based in the current CCC ToRs
- Secure resources for running the Climate Crisis Commission by developing and implementing a strategic plan for resource mobilization that complements existing IUCN resources and avoids impinging on other IUCN Commission resources and funding arrangements.
- Promote science, technology, data and planning for integrated nature and climate strategies, as well as methodologies and frameworks to evaluate progress towards the Commission's climate objectives.

6. Priorities and expected results

The Climate Crisis Commission, through its plans and activities will contribute to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 and will help position IUCN as an influential and effective agent of change, giving new impetus to meeting the challenges of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

6.1. Thematic areas

1. **Policy:** The Commission will build upon the IUCN portfolio of Congress climate-related resolutions and, through engaging with all IUCN's categories of membership, will contribute to multilateral processes in ways that strengthen and promote just decarbonization and synergistic climate-biodiversity policies and actions.
2. **Solutions and innovative tools:** The Commission will co-design and implement solutions and innovative tools based on the best available science, Indigenous Peoples knowledge systems and science, local community knowledge and best practices, and sustainability drivers in the private sector, that promote and consolidate synergistic solutions for the climate and biodiversity crises.

- 3. Finance:** The Commission will work on stimulating collaboration to unlock resource mobilization from all sources, and will contribute to all efforts oriented to transforming the financial system and promoting the creation of innovative, accessible and participatory financial mechanisms.
- 4. Technology and data:** The Commission will convene and promote science, technology, data and planning for decarbonization and integrated nature and climate strategies.

6.2 Cross-cutting areas:

- 1. Communications and outreach:** The Commission will develop a robust communications strategy that conveys IUCN CCC vision, mission and a narrative to support the outreach.
- 2. Partnerships:** The Commission will develop a strategic plan to identify and develop innovative partnerships that contribute to the CCC strategy and Work Plan, as well as helping its position in the climate space.
- 3. Flagship projects/products:** The Commission will develop a flagship project/product that lifts the Commission's profile, conveys the value add of the CCC, supports critical decision making processes, focuses on just decarbonization and the climate and nature convergence, and brings solutions that contribute to scaling up socially just and Nature positive actions.

6.3 Internal organization and structure

- 1. Membership & inclusion:** The Commission will identify and convene members under the structure and Work Plan of the Commission; considering the principles of inclusion, gender, geographic balance, and intergenerational balance.
- 2. Resource mobilization:** The Commission will secure new resources for the Climate Crisis Commission by developing a strategic plan for resource mobilization.
- 3. Cross commission collaboration:** The CCC recognizes that climate change is a crosscutting theme and that the other six IUCN Commissions are developing climate-relevant actions. The CCC will strongly complement, coordinate where appropriate, collaborate across Commissions, and enhance and promote synergies and complementarity as a vital component of its strategy.
- 4. IUCN Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) role at UNFCCC:** The Commission will **work to enhance** IUCN's IGO role at UNFCCC process, seeking, through CCC advocacy, to increase IUCN's influence and visibility as a

trusted/forward thinking organization in the climate debate.

7. Structure

The Commission is led by the chair, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, appointed on May 19th 2022.

The chair is supported by a deputy chair, designated by the chair, based on candidates from the Steering Committee who would like to take this role.

The chair and the deputy chair are supported by eight regional vice chairs and thematic vice chairs, designated by the chair, based on candidates' location, competences and acceptance to take this role. The number of thematic vice chair's positions will be decided by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of IUCN CCC work based on an open discussion, including defining the work plan and budget.

The chair suggests to the Steering Committee, regional vice chairs and thematic vice chairs, the frequency of meetings, information sharing mechanisms, logistic arrangements and communication tools.

8. Membership

The Climate Crisis Commission membership:

1. Will be **convened by regional vice chairs** based on Terms of Reference and Criteria approved by the CCC Chair and through an **open application** process, via the IUCN Commission Membership System.
2. Membership will be until September 2025.
3. The allocation of the regional members into thematic specialist groups (which are the Commission's Workstreams) will be determined by the IUCN CCC Chair in coordination with each one of the vice chairs of these specialist groups.
4. The convening process of the IUCN CCC membership will follow a transparent, inclusive and equitable process, with well distributed socio economic, gender, geographic, professional and intergenerational representation.
5. The membership will be composed of volunteers who are committed to promoting appropriate, effective, just and nature positive solutions to the climate crisis emergency through synergistic solutions that are informed by all types of scientific evidence. Actions undertaken will be framed under the IUCN CCC vision, mission and objectives in order to advance a coherent approach that projects a CCC working team.