

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

International Union for Conservation of Nature - United States



The International Union for Conservation of Nature – United States (IUCN-US), a 501(c)(3) organization, has been supporting IUCN and its network of members and partners for nearly 30 years. IUCN is the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, the effective and equitable governance of nature's use, and nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, and development.



Photo credit: IUCN Photo Library/ Vincent Crausaz

Valuing and conserving nature

Promoting and supporting
effective and equitable
governance of natural resources

Deploying nature-based solutions
to global challenges

Letter from the CEO



2016 was a remarkable year for the conservation community in the United States. It saw the largest conservation convention ever held in the United States; the launch of new initiatives like the IUCN U.S. National Committee, Nature For All, the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership, and the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC); and significant political changes

during the U.S. presidential election. Throughout it all, IUCN-US provided steady support to the national and global conservation community, supporting both important foundational and inspirationally innovative projects and efforts.

If 2015 was a year for setting the international environmental agenda, 2016 was a year for beginning to think about implementation and about the new tools and techniques that we will need to achieve those aspirational goals. IUCN-US provided support to begin developing those new conservation mechanisms, both for assessing the state of the natural world and mustering the human resources to address key challenges. The magnitude of the challenges we are facing is such that achieving the scale needed to address them will require the coordinated, concerted action of all sectors of civil society, including public, private, academic, and non-profit actors, as well as indigenous, community, and local actors.

IUCN-US provided support for the foundational basics of conservation science and assessment, including support for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, implementation guidelines for the new Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the piloting of new tools for harnessing earth observations in accessible, useful formats.

IUCN-US also supported the development of new policy and financial tools for addressing conservation challenges. There is significant interest in conservation and available capital within the private sector, but a dearth of investable projects. IUCN-US supported work to bridge that capacity gap by standardizing, replicating, and aggregating investable opportunities and projects, unleashing the full potential of private sector investments in

conservation. IUCN-US also provided support for raising awareness of new policy measures for financing conservation, such as “debt for adaptation” swaps.

In times of political change, robust civil society efforts are important for maintaining progress towards the world’s conservation goals. IUCN-US helps to build and sustain a community of conservation actors, including supporting attendance of under-represented groups at the World Conservation Congress and building the community of marine policy professionals around the globe. As we move into 2017 and beyond, IUCN-US will continue to provide support to the international conservation community in order to achieve our vision of a just world that values and conserves nature.

Dr. Frank Hawkins
CEO, IUCN-US
Secretary, IUCN-US Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of connected, wavy lines that form a stylized representation of the name 'Frank Hawkins'.



Photo credit: IUCN Photo Library/ Tokiniaina Rasolofoarimanana

Global support for nature conservation

Freshwater

2016 saw the close of program activities on the IUCN-US' first USAID cooperative agreement "A Water Secure Future for Southern Africa: Applying the Ecosystem Approach in the Orange-Senqu Basin," which started in June 2012 with the goal of building governance capacity by mainstreaming the ecosystem approach into transboundary Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

With the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the project worked on four pilot sites: Khawa, Botswana, focusing on community-led ecotourism; Mphaki, Lesotho, focusing on rangelands and wetlands management; Gibeon, Namibia, focusing on invasive alien species management; and Orange-River Mouth, South Africa, focusing on management and rehabilitation. The project also built a foundation of knowledge about water management in the region for future projects, documented best practices, and raised awareness of and interest in continuing to mainstream the ecosystem approach into IWRM in the Orange-Senqu River Basin. The project was well aligned with the work of the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission and the Southern African Development Community, which will help to ensure future continuity in project outcomes.

Marine

With funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), IUCN-US supported the Sargasso Sea Commission in hosting a workshop from 21–22 March 2016 at the NOAA Eco-Discovery Center in Key West, Florida to test and provide feedback on the COVERAGE-Sargasso Sea pilot project. COVERAGE will provide a near-real-time global mapping system focused on animating and illustrating critical satellite data of oceanographic conditions. This project will make important information more easily available to a wide diversity of users and stakeholders, creating a powerful tool for tracking and learning about the Sargasso Sea and its ecosystem, and more effectively leveraging government investments in earth observations infrastructure. The expert recommendations from the workshop will help to improve the COVERAGE product for possible global expansion.

Debt for adaptation swaps are a new and innovative mechanism for financing adaptation. Made possible by contributions from the Waitt Foundation, IUCN-US supported the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) in raising awareness of and interest about this unique mechanism at high levels of government. GLISPA showcased the successful Seychelles Debt for Adaptation Swap during events at the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders (30–31 August 2016) and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (1–10 September 2016). GLISPA also raised awareness of another innovative financing mechanism, the Republic of Marshall Island's Blue Fee, in a high-level event at the Thirteenth Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (4–17 December 2016).

Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance (HLCBA) is a broad partnership of governmental actors, businesses, and grassroots organisations dedicated to protecting the natural integrity of the Ha Long Bay (HLB) World Heritage Site (WHS) implemented under a cooperative agreement with IUCN-US and in partnership with IUCN Vietnam. The HLCBA undertook a suite of activities to engage community members and stakeholders on protecting Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba Archipelago, including training local tour guides on the site's biodiversity values, organising a beach clean-up, and supporting expanding the re-nomination of the HLB WHS to include the Cat Ba Archipelago.

The project has engendered significant governmental support; for example, the Hai Phong City People's Committee banned expanded polystyrene from HLB following the results of the beach clean-up and a survey of uses of expanded polystyrene that showed it to be a threat to the health of the Bay. The success of this cooperative agreement earned it a time and cost-extension from USAID and additional objectives to lend additional focus and support to biodiversity in Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba Archipelago.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation remained a high priority for IUCN-US. Through the generous donations of many individuals and Ellusionist.com, Inc., IUCN-US provided support for the Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group, the Bumblebee Specialist Group, and for the work of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, including for assessments of honeybees. The IUCN Red List is the world's most comprehensive and objective approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species, and is a vital resource for understanding the status

of species globally.

IUCN-US also provided support to an IUCN Red List Assessment Workshop for reptiles in Central Asia (4–8 April 2016). With support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, 21 specialists from Russia, the United States, and five Central Asian countries worked together to complete Red List assessments for 194 species of reptiles. The workshop was an invaluable opportunity to foster collaboration among experts and gain access to previously inaccessible species data. It also laid the groundwork for future collaborations with the Zoological Institute of St. Petersburg, which hosted the successful workshop.

In September 2016, IUCN joined forces with ten other conservation organisations to launch the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership, an initiative to support the development of The World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. With funding from the Tiffany & Co Foundation, IUCN-US is supporting the development of guidelines and a handbook for responsible business operations in and around KBAs. The project is developing the guidelines through an innovative and consultative approach that engages constructively and meaningfully with businesses and private sector associations.

In addition, contributions from NuHerbs Co. allowed IUCN-US to continue its support of the FairWild Foundation, an international non-profit working globally to promote the sustainable sourcing and fair trade of wild collected natural ingredients. The FairWild Foundation developed and maintains the FairWild Standard and certification system, encouraging and supporting the sustainable management and collection of wild plants by industry and other stakeholders.

World Conservation Congress

The World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawai'i was an important focus in 2016. Through contributions from The Leona M. & Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, IUCN-US supported the participation of 44 IUCN Member and local civil society representatives from Ecuador, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Vietnam, and seven Pacific island countries. The WCC is an important forum for shaping conservation agendas, initiatives, and policies. Supporting these delegates enabled the promotion of diverse conservation initiatives and showcased community-based management and indigenous initiatives to enhance biodiversity conservation and secure livelihoods.

Outreach

IUCN-US continued its support of the Global Marine Community: Americas (GMCA) in 2016. The GMCA is coordinated by IUCN's Global Marine and Polar Programme, with support from the Munson Foundation. Community engagement in the GMCA's various social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and an email list-serve, continued to grow. The GMC also hosted several events, including a photography and networking evening reception in Miami Beach, Florida on 1 April, 2016; a roundtable discussion in Washington, DC on 1 May, 2016; and a roundtable discussion at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. The GMCA newsletter and community continue to be essential resources for the professional development of the marine policy community in and around Washington, D.C.



Confluence of the Orange and Vaal Rivers, South Africa. Photo credit: IUCN/Cathrine C. Mutambirwa



Ha Long - Cat Ba Alliance Cleanup. Photo credit: IUCN Vietnam

Our Board of Directors

The IUCN-US Board of Directors is actively involved in the organization's grantmaking process and other operations. The Board plays a critical role in ensuring that the programs IUCN-US supports are in line with the mission and vision of IUCN and its members. Several Board Members are affiliated with IUCN, IUCN members, IUCN commissions, or civil society, while others hail from varied academic, philanthropic, corporate, and financial institutions.

Thank you, Board Members!

JOHN G. ROBINSON, Executive Vice President Conservation and Science, Wildlife Conservation Society

FRANK HAWKINS, Director, IUCN Washington DC Office (ex officio)

BARBARA J. BRAMBLE, Vice President for International Conservation and Corporate Strategies, National Wildlife Federation

NANCY COLLETON, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

HELEN CROWLEY, Head of Sustainable Sourcing Innovation, Kering

CHRISTOPHER DUNN, The Elizabeth Newman Wilds Director, Cornell Botanic Gardens

CHRISTOPHER HOLTZ, Director for Conservation and Sustainable Development, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

JESSICA MCGLYN, Founder and President, Catalynics LLC

MICHAEL A. MEHLING, Executive Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at MIT

SABINE MILTNER, Program Director, Conservation and Markets Initiative, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

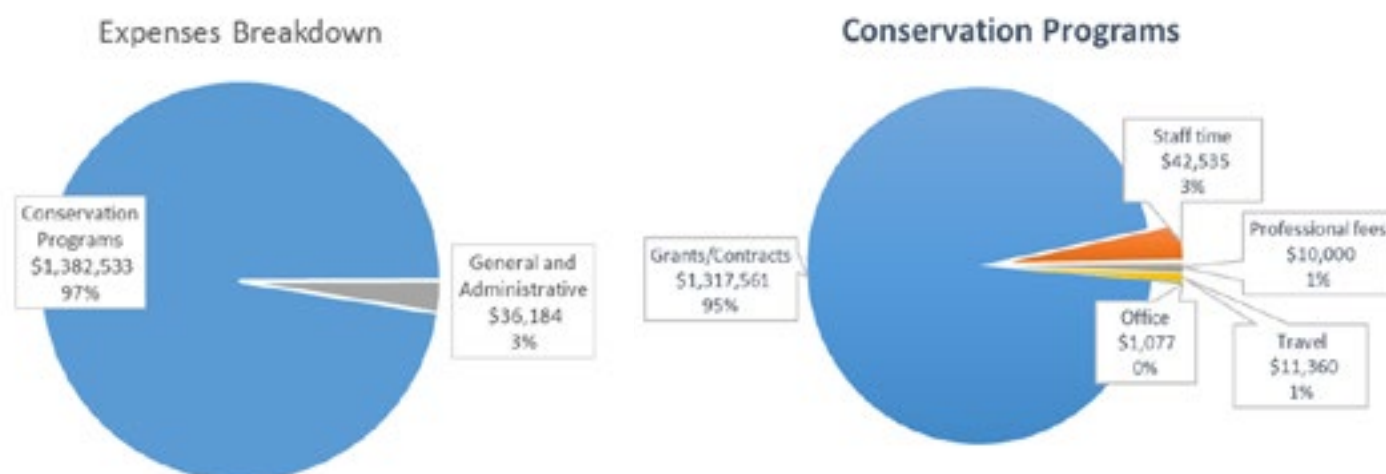
PAUL SALAMAN, CEO, Rainforest Trust



Photo credit: IUCN Photo Library / Joelle Dufour

Financial Report

Proportional expenses, 2016 (by activity):



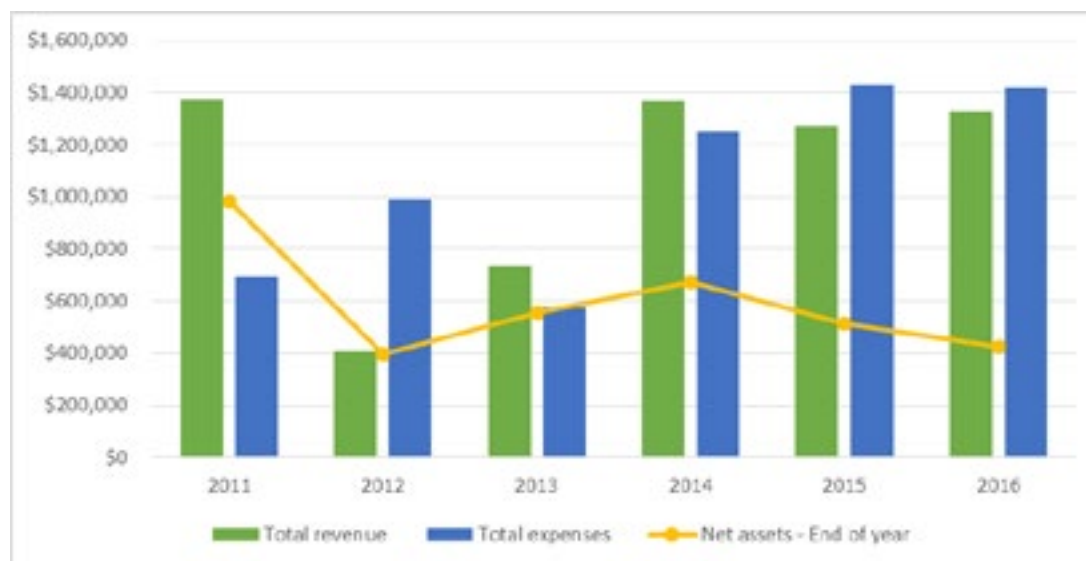
Expenses, 2016 (USD):


	Conservation programs	General and administrative	TOTAL
Grants/contracts	\$1,317,561	-	\$1,317,561
Staff time	\$42,535	\$18,360	\$60,895
Professional fees	\$10,000	\$12,350	\$22,350
Insurance	-	\$2,834	\$2,834
Bank charges	-	\$346	\$346
Office	\$1,077	\$1,670	\$2,747
Meeting expenses	-	\$624	\$624
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,382,533	\$36,184	\$1,418,717

Annual revenue, expenses, and end-of-year net assets (USD), 2014-2016:

	2014	2015	2016
Grants and contributions	\$1,345,567	\$1,271,334	\$1,329,079
Interest income	\$396	\$351	\$194
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,365,379	\$1,271,685	\$1,329,273
Conservation programs	\$1,166,699	\$1,348,438	\$1,317,561
General and administrative	\$81,214	\$82,942	\$101,156
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,247,913	\$1,431,380	\$1,418,717
Change in net assets	\$117,466	(\$159,695)	\$(89,444)
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$672,594	\$512,899	\$423,455

Annual revenue, expenses, and end-of-year net assets (USD), 2011-2016:





1630 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20009
+202 387 4826
info@iucnus.org