



IUCN Report of UNFCCC COP28

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE 28TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. Overview

Convened under the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28) was held in Dubai, UAE, from 30 November to 13 December, together with the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP18), and the 5th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5). Sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention – the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA59), and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI59) – were also convened over this period.

With nearly 100,000 registered participants on-site in the Blue Zone – including over 150 Heads of State and Government, 51,000 Party delegates, 25,000 observers, 4,000 media representatives and 16,000 support staff – COP28 was the largest UN climate conference to date. In addition, an estimated 500,000 participants also attended a range of events organised by the UAE Presidency and various local and international non-state actors in the more informal ‘Green Zone’ of the conference.

The central highlight of COP28 was the successful conclusion of the [First Global Stocktake](#) of the Paris Agreement. This marked the culmination of a two-year long process where Parties assessed the collective progress that had been made to date in achieving the long-term goals of the Agreement, and set a course for future action, particularly to increase the ambition of the next round of their climate plans, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in 2025. A landmark development in this regard was the inclusion – for the first time ever – of an explicit call in the formal decision text on the global stocktake for governments to contribute to ‘transitioning away from fossil fuels ... in a just, orderly and equitable manner’ to keep the agreed global temperature rise limit of 1.5°C within reach. Although this fell short of a call for a clear ‘phase-out’ of fossil fuels that many had wanted, it was nevertheless acknowledged as being a strong signal to mark the [‘beginning of the end’](#) of the fossil fuel era. Also notable in the Global Stocktake outcome was a decision to launch a joint ‘Road map to Mission 1.5’, involving a troika of current and future COP Presidencies (UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil) to significantly enhance international cooperation and NDC ambition and implementation over the coming COPs to keep the 1.5°C goal alive.

Another landmark achievement of COP28 was the historic agreement that was reached, under the leadership of the COP28 President, to operationalise the funding arrangements, including a dedicated fund, for addressing the pressing issue of [loss and damage](#). Funding pledges of around US\$ 700 million for this new fund were announced over the course of the conference. A range of other climate finance pledges were also made during COP28, including for the

second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as for the Least Developed Country Fund (LCDF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF). However, as many noted, and as was acknowledged in the global stocktake decision, these still fall far short of the trillions that are needed today to fully implement the mitigation and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement, with climate finance remaining a core issue of debate and contestation over the course of the meeting.

Other key formal outcomes of COP28 included reaching agreement on a concrete framework for guiding the achievement of the Paris Agreement's [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) with detailed targets put in place for 2030 (called the 'UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience'). A two-year 'UAE-Belem Work Programme' was also launched to develop indicators for measuring progress towards these targets. A decision elaborating the objectives, elements and modalities of a 'Just Transition Work Programme' that had been established at COP27 last year was also successfully adopted in Dubai. The advanced unedited versions of these key decisions (that formed the core components of what was termed by the COP28 Presidency as the 'UAE Consensus' package) are provided below:

- [Outcome of the first global stocktake](#)
- [Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4](#)
- [Glasgow –Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3](#)
- [UAE Just Transition work programme](#)

Links to the advanced unedited versions of the various other COP/CMP/CMA decisions that were adopted at the conference are available [here](#). The final versions of these decisions, after editing and [numbering](#), will be made available on the [UNFCCC decisions](#) webpage.

In addition to the formal negotiations, a large number of other high-level events and meetings were organised on a wide range of issues throughout the two weeks of the conference in various spaces across the COP venue. Many of these provided a platform for both governments and non-state actors, including from business and civil society, to collaborate and showcase their practical climate solutions. These ranged, for example, from the [World Climate Action Summit](#), which saw several high-level announcements being made by Heads of State and Government, to [UAE COP28 Presidency-led declarations](#) and the [Global Climate Action agenda events and initiatives](#) convened under the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) by the two UN Climate Change High-Level Champions. More detailed information and analysis on the conference proceedings can be viewed [here](#) and [here](#).

2. Key highlights of IUCN's engagement at COP28

IUCN actively participated at COP28 through an official delegation led by the Director General and comprising Secretariat staff, Commission members, and Councillors. Additionally, a number of Secretariat staff, Commission members, and Councillors also served on other national and observer delegations (see Annex I for list of IUCN delegation members and staff at COP28). IUCN's participation in COP28 was greatly aided by the Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), which provided crucial political, logistical, and substantive support both in the lead-up to and during the conference. Strong cooperation with IUCN's West Asia Members, Councillors from the region, and the UAE government, ensured that the Union's impact at this Climate Change Conference was at its the most impressive in many years.

IUCN's overall policy engagement in Dubai was guided by its [COP28 position paper](#). The position paper, developed in close collaboration with the IUCN COP28 Working Group (comprising Councillors, Commission Chairs and Secretariat staff), marked a high point in IUCN's engagement in international policy processes through its early development and

release nearly 3 months ahead of COP28. This allowed sufficient time for IUCN to socialise and mobilise support for its 10 key messages across its global membership via letters sent to State Members, UN missions in New York and Geneva, organisation of regional webinars, preparation of supporting commission technical briefs, and multiple other forms of outreach. These consequently laid a solid foundation for IUCN's on-the-ground engagement in Dubai.

Nature received unprecedented attention at COP28, with growing recognition and momentum for addressing the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises in an integrated and inclusive manner within both formal and informal processes across the conference. IUCN played a central role in this effort, particularly with its President also serving as the [UN Climate Change High-Level Champion](#) on behalf of the UAE COP28 Presidency, which resulted in the topics of both nature and inclusion being highlighted as key COP Presidency priorities. IUCN's efforts were also boosted on-site by the presence of 6 Councillors, 6 Commission Chairs and 2 Commission Vice Chairs (representing all 7 IUCN Commissions), which enabled a powerful amplification of Union's key messages and work across multiple arenas during the conference.

This amplification was made further possible through IUCN's hosting of a dedicated 150 sqm ['Unite for Nature' Pavilion](#) in the COP28 Blue Zone. This provided a concrete platform for all of IUCN's constituents and partners to come together and showcase their collective work in addressing the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises and supporting a just transition. Functioning as the *'Home of the Union'*, the IUCN pavilion hosted 77 events (including 34 led by Members, 18 by Commissions, 23 by Secretariat and 2 by National Committees) and 10 receptions over the two-week period of the COP. These sessions, which were organized following a rigorous selection process, covered a wide range of topics and included the participation of several high-level dignitaries, including present and former heads of state and government, senior ministers, heads of international organizations, framework partners, donors, and various other high-level officials and leaders, including from IUCN's membership and business and civil society, around the world. The events had strong attendance, with around 2500 participants on site and nearly 9000 livestream views registered over the 12 days of the COP. An overview of the events held in the IUCN pavilion is available [here](#) and are also detailed further under section 3 below. The pavilion, which was supported by the UAE COP28 Presidency, the Ant Group, and Tilad, also offered dedicated office spaces for conducting various high-level bilateral meetings (see Annex II for a list of some of these). Furthermore, its powerful slogan and design of *'Unite for Nature'* provided a strong rallying cry and much-used photo backdrop (see IUCN COP28 Photo Gallery in Annex III) in support of IUCN's policy positions at COP28, with its ten key messages also featuring on one of the pavilion walls.

The **major substantive highlights** of COP28 from IUCN's perspective included the following:

- **Strong recognition of the importance of nature and inclusion in formal COP28 decisions/ outcomes**

The key COP28 decisions adopted by Parties on both the Global Stocktake (GST) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) include strong references to adequately considering the important role of nature in climate action. The [GST decision](#) reiterated the importance of ensuring the 'integrity of all ecosystems' and underlined the 'urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss' as well as the 'vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action'. The decision also noted the 'critical role' of 'water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits' (Preamble). In relation to mitigation, it emphasised the 'importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal', and called for enhanced efforts towards 'halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030' – the first time such a target was explicitly included in a UNFCCC COP decision. The role of 'other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting

as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases', and of biodiversity conservation more generally was also recognised in this regard. It was also noted – importantly – that these efforts would need to be 'in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework' (Para 33). The GST decision also invited Parties to 'preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and scale up, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation action' (Para 35). Likewise, from an adaptation perspective, the role of 'nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches' were explicitly recognised for their multiple benefits, including for improved resilience, and encouraged to be implemented (Para 55). The benefits of 'ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures' were also noted (Para 56). The importance of undertaking both 'long-term transformational and incremental adaptation' including for the 'preservation and regeneration of nature, for current and future generations' was also stressed in the context of the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, further noting that these would need to take the 'worldviews and values of Indigenous Peoples' into account (Para 61). The GST outcome specifically called on Parties to 'meaningfully engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their climate policies and action' (Para 116). It also encouraged both Parties and non-Party stakeholders to enhance cooperation, particularly on 'their work under the Rio Conventions', in order to facilitate the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals in a 'synergistic and efficient manner' (Para 163).

Similarly, the [GGA decision](#) adopting the 'UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience' also urged Parties to undertake 'long-term transformational and incremental adaptation' and to enhance adaptation ambition, action, and support at scale across all levels in 'alignment with other global frameworks' (Para 9). It also called for achieving specific targets for adaptation by 2030 across different thematic areas. On nature, the 2030 targets included, for example, 'Reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems' (Para 9c). They also included planning-related targets such as calling on Parties to have in place by 2030 'country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent national adaptation plans, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies, covering, as appropriate, ecosystems, sectors, people and vulnerable communities' (Para 10b). The GGA decision furthermore encouraged Parties to take into consideration 'vulnerable ecosystems, groups and communities' both when implementing the framework and on when 'integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions' (Para 13). It also emphasized that adaptation action should be based on and guided by the best available science, traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems (Para 14). It particularly recognized the 'leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as stewards of nature', and encouraged 'ethical and equitable engagement' with them as well as called for the application of their knowledge, wisdom and values while implementing the above framework (Para 22). IUCN was strongly involved in providing inputs into both the GST and GGA processes, both via the various formal submissions that it made and through its active participation in the meetings/roundtables that were held on them, together with joint advocacy with like-minded members and partners to ensure these strong final outcomes.

- **Key nature-related high-level events, announcements and declarations convened by the UAE COP28 Presidency/ High Level Champions**

In addition to, and in support of, the formal negotiations, a large number of high-level events and ministerial roundtables on nature-related topics were convened by the UAE Presidency and the High-Level Champions, including under the [Marrakesh Partnership](#)

[for Global Climate Action](#), over the two-week period of the COP. These focused on the need to address the climate change and biodiversity loss crises in an integrated manner; to build greater synergies across the three Rio Conventions; to recognize and support the critical role of Indigenous peoples in safeguarding the world's ecosystems; to advance new partnerships and raise additional funding for nature conservation and restoration efforts across different categories of ecosystems; and to build relevant connections with other nature-related sectors. IUCN was actively engaged in several of these initiatives, which also helped to build momentum and support for the strong inclusion of nature in the formal outcomes of COP28. Many of these were also organized as part of the dedicated '[Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day](#)' and led to a number of key announcements and declarations, which included the following:

- [COP 28 Joint Statement for Climate, Nature and People](#): this was co-led by the UNFCCC COP28 and CBD COP15 Presidencies (UAE and China respectively) and supported by 16 other governments that are currently leads/chairs of major nature-related initiatives/partnerships, including, for example, Egypt and Germany as co-chairs of the IUCN-supported ENACT Partnership.
- [Ministerial Roundtable on Enhancing Ambition and Cooperation on Nature for Climate Action at COP28](#): this was co-chaired by Colombia and Germany with support from the High-Level Champions, Nature4Climate, IUCN and others; it called, including through an [open letter](#), for stronger consideration and inclusion of nature and nature-based solutions in the formal outcomes of the Global Stocktake.
- [Ministerial Roundtable on Protection and Restoration of Freshwater Ecosystems](#): co-organised by the COP28 Presidency, IUCN, WWF, UNEP and others, this led to 38 new countries joining the [Freshwater Challenge](#) that was launched at the UN Water Conference in March 2023 as the world's largest initiative to restore degraded rivers, lakes and wetlands and to protect vital freshwater ecosystems.
- [UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#): signed by 153 governments, this called for scaling-up adaptation and resilience activities to reduce the vulnerability of agricultural communities to climate change, including through financial and technical support for solutions that promote sustainable food security, production and nutrition, while conserving, protecting and restoring nature. This declaration was also supported by the [Non-State Actors Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate](#), led by the High-Level Climate Champions and endorsed by 200+ non-state organisations/entities, including by IUCN which [joined](#) the call.
- [Country Packages for Forests, Nature and Climate](#): various new funding was announced at COP28 by the EU, France, UAE and others to support country packages on forests, nature and climate, including for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Papua New Guinea, and Ghana to help stop and reverse forest loss by 2030; IUCN supported the EU-France led US\$100 million [country package for Papua New Guinea](#) aimed at protecting 30% of their land and seas by 2030. Brazil, separately, also proposed a major '[Tropical Forests Forever](#)' fund to raise \$250 billion from both governments and the private sector for efforts to protect and restore the world's tropical forests.
- [Ocean Breakthroughs](#): building on the [launch](#) at the 2023 IUCN Leaders Forum of the Ocean Breakthroughs, which are a set of 5 ocean-based sectoral

pathways to drive the transition towards a net-zero world, IUCN together with Conservation International co-led the development of the Marine Conservation sector pathway, which aims to secure investments of at least \$72 billion for protecting, restoring, and conserving at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. COP28 also witnessed the launch of the [Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance \(ORCA\)](#) fund by various philanthropies, with an initial pledge of US\$ 250 million to foster ocean-based climate solutions.

- [Mangrove Breakthrough](#): 21 countries formally endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough, a collaborative effort between the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA), of which IUCN is a part, and the High-Level Champions that aims to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030 through US\$ 4 billion of new investment. A formal partnership was also announced between the Mangrove Breakthrough and the UAE/Indonesia-led Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC). This means 49 governments (representing around 60% of the world's mangroves) as well as over 50 non-state actors are now supporting the Mangrove Breakthrough targets.
- [Expansion of the ENACT Partnership](#): COP28 witnessed the expansion of the ENACT Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) launched by Egypt, Germany and IUCN at COP27, with 6 new countries – Belgium, Pakistan, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States, and 1 UN organization – UNEP together with its World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) – joining the partnership.
- [Launch of Nature-based Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific](#); the Asian Development Bank (ADB) together with partners, including IUCN, launched a NbS-Finance Hub at COP28 which aims to attract at least US\$ 2 billion into investment programs that incorporate nature-based solutions in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly focused on capital markets and other sources of private capital.
- [Joint Declaration and Task Force on Credit Enhancement of Sustainability-Linked Sovereign Financing for Nature and Climate](#): signed by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) at COP28, this declaration built on the [previous joint MDB statement on nature](#) at COP26. MDBs also agreed on a set of [common principles](#) for tracking nature-positive finance at COP28.

A more detailed analysis of some of the nature-related outcomes and discussions at COP28 can be found [here](#).

- **Growing recognition of Indigenous Peoples voices at COP28**

During COP28, Indigenous Peoples, represented by a delegation of over 350 leaders, made their voices and concerns clearly heard. They emphasized that the burden of the climate crisis should not disproportionately fall on the shoulders of the most vulnerable, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Their argument underscored the necessity of creating conditions for a just transition to a green economy, a crucial step in enabling communities to shift away from fossil-fuel-based economies. The [Indigenous Peoples' address](#), presented at the COP28 World Climate Action Summit Presidency Event also stressed the imperative of respecting their land rights. In addition, the [UNFCCC's Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform \(LCIPP\)](#) also convened its annual meeting ahead of COP28, concentrating on formulating the next three-year work plan and devising strategies to engage governments more effectively at the national level. There was also a recognition of the

need for enhancing overall government participation in the platform. A noteworthy development is the increased invitation of Indigenous Peoples by various bodies of the UNFCCC to participate in their sessions. While this marks a significant change, there is recognition that more work is needed to adequately support and prepare Indigenous Peoples for these technical discussions. A number of [other LCIPP sessions](#) were also organised during COP28.

IUCN, including through CEESP, played an active role in working with and supporting Indigenous Peoples throughout COP28, including on the above. A particular focus for us was advancing discussions on Direct Access Financing for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. It also co-led the development of the following initiatives:

- [Launch of the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative](#): With the engagement of the COP28 High-Level Champion, IUCN, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPO) members jointly launched the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative at COP28. This initiative will facilitate the Indigenous-led design of direct funding approaches; scale-up direct investment of Indigenous-led conservation and climate actions; strengthen and build the capacity of Indigenous organisations to access, manage, and govern these investments; and promote Indigenous rights and leadership, particularly that of women and youth, in global biodiversity and climate policy spaces. The initiative aims to mobilise up to US\$ 200 million by 2030 in biodiversity and climate finance to provide direct funding to Indigenous Peoples, ensuring no less than 85 per cent of these funds reach Indigenous territories and communities.
- [Launch of Act30](#): Together with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the technology company ESRI, IUCN launched the Act30 initiative at COP28 aimed at conserving 30% of the planet guided by Indigenous knowledge. The initiative is designed to support the 190 governments that have committed to the 30x30 target of conserving 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas by 2030, under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, agreed in December 2022. Act30 will transform 30x30 from a global goal to a national and local reality by partnering with countries to develop roadmaps for conservation efforts, while upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples and their lands and territories. The governments of Jordan and Egypt announced their participation in Act30 during the launch, which IUCN ROWA facilitated.
- **Strengthening of gender equality and women's empowerment at COP28**

IUCN continued to actively support gender-responsive climate policy and action at COP28. Ahead of the conference, IUCN provided training and technical support to UNFCCC gender focal points (GFPs) from 20 countries, including on the submissions and negotiations for the third Gender Action Plan under the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender, which is expected to be approved either at COP29 or COP30. The COP 28 Presidency and High-Level Champion also played a leading role in launching the [COP 28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#). The 78 governments that signed the Partnership committed to working collaboratively to support just and inclusive transitions that advance gender equality and the goals of the enhanced Lima Work Program on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.

Other key achievements for IUCN on gender included the following:

- [Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data](#): convened jointly by the COP28 Presidency, High-Level Champion, UNFCCC, UN Women, IUCN and WEDO, the [conference](#) brought together over 200 participants in-person and

virtually to signal the need for urgent action to increase the collection and use of gender and environment data to support gender-responsive climate and environment action globally, resulting in a [Global Call to Action](#). IUCN and UN Women also announced their partnership on the [gender equality and climate policy scorecard](#) to monitor gender equality in national climate policies and actions. IUCN also strengthened its collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) at the conference and in three [Gender and Environment Data Alliance \(GEDA\) events/engagements](#), repositioning IUCN's leadership and relationship with the convenors of the Women and Gender Constituency Group under the UNFCCC.

- [Additional support for IUCN's RISE grants challenge to address gender violence](#): IUCN's leading role in addressing gender-based violence was strengthened at COP28 by an announcement by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) of a contribution of US\$ 2.9 million to IUCN's [Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Environments \(RISE\) grants challenge](#). The initiative, so far supported by USAID, is the globe's first dedicated fund to strengthen women and girls' safety from gender-based violence in the context of environmental degradation and climate change.
- **Other major IUCN institutional announcements, initiatives and partnerships**

Other important IUCN institutional launches, engagements and activities at COP28 included the following:

 - [COP28 High-Level Segment Plenary Statement by IUCN Director General](#): As an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) observer to the UNFCCC, the Director General of IUCN was invited to deliver a statement to the plenary during the High-Level Segment of COP28. In her statement, the Director General emphasised the importance of the Global Stocktake process delivering strong outcomes on emission reductions, nature and finance, including for Indigenous peoples. The statement was also posted on the [UNFCCC website](#). IUCN's closing statement released at the end of COP28 is also available [here](#).
 - [Release of IUCN Red List Update](#): An update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was successfully released during COP28. The update, and associated press conference and launch event, showed how climate change threatens a growing number of species, from Atlantic salmon to green turtles. The Red List update also included the first global freshwater fish assessment, and highlighted the impact of illegal logging and trade on mahogany. It also highlighted how conservation efforts have successfully brought two antelope species back from the brink of extinction, but changing climatic conditions could undermine their future. In the 24 hours following the release, the update generated 1,676 media mentions, reaching an audience of over 3.7 million. For reference, this is strong (especially given the non-charismatic species headline) but in line with other Red List updates; it is significantly higher than the average IUCN press release (see also the media coverage and communications section below).
 - [Contribution to 2023 Earth Information Day](#): Based on the mandate of the Earth Information Day to provide a space in the UNFCCC for exchanging information on the state of the global climate system and developments in systematic observation, IUCN was invited share its views on 'Ecosystem monitoring and interlinkages between adaptation and disaster risk reduction'. The Chair of IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management made a [presentation](#) on the contribution of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (GET) and the Red List of Ecosystems in this regard.

- [Launch of GINGR Initiative](#): In partnership with the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI), IUCN announced the launch of the Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables (GINGR) at COP28. This initiative seeks to accelerate the deployment of renewables and electricity grids while ensuring the protection and restoration of nature. GINGR will provide tools and methodologies to measure efficacy of nature-positive solutions and monitor and report progress towards agreed targets. GINGR will also collect and showcase best practices and provide capacity building to support efforts towards nature-positive infrastructure development.
- [Signing of various MoUs](#): IUCN signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at COP28. The MOU establishes a cooperation agreement focused on sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change, and the protection of environmental defenders in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. It has a special emphasis on collaboration for the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America, known as the Escazú Agreement.

IUCN ROWA also signed an MoU with the World Food Programme (WFP) Iraq during COP28. The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between IUCN and WFP for planning and implementation of applied research on topics of mutual interest in a structured, strategic, and comprehensive manner, including on: nature based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation; integration of governance ecosystem restoration initiatives for community resilience; sustainable land and grassland management for conservation and livelihoods; and addressing the water-food-energy nexus for sustainable development.

MoUs were also signed between IUCN and Jeju and between IUCN ESARO and Citibank during the conference.

- [Support to 2023 UN Global Climate Action Awards](#): IUCN supported the UNFCCC secretariat in the short-listing and selection of the 2023 UN Global Climate Action Award winners. These flagship UNFCCC-organized awards are aimed at highlighting the innovative climate action that people around the world are undertaking to ensure that their communities are more sustainable, resilient and equitable places to live. A 3-member IUCN council/commission/secretariat panel representing different geographical regions selected the final winner under the 'nature/youth' category, with Director General presenting the award at a [ceremony](#) held during COP28.
- [COP28 Global Climate Action Closing High-Level Event intervention by IUCN](#): This official high-level session on Global Climate Action brought together all the current and former UN Climate Change High Level Champions along with the COP28 Presidency and the UNFCCC secretariat to highlight the progress made by various non-state actor coalitions in advancing practical climate action, including under the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action. IUCN was the only IGO observer invited to take the floor. In its [statement](#), IUCN expressed appreciation to the UAE Presidency and the High-Level Champions for their efforts in advancing the recognition of nature and inclusion at COP28. It also drew attention to some of the concrete initiatives that IUCN had supported in this regard as part of its long-standing engagement with the Marrakesh Partnership.

- [Global Forum on Human Settlements \(GFHS\)](#): IUCN was one of the co-organizers of the 18th Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS) held in Dubai during COP28. Participating in the opening session, IUCN highlighted the need for integrated solutions and the role that Nature-based Solutions could play in building urban resilience within cities.
- **Donor engagement and outreach**
COP28 served as a valuable platform for IUCN to cultivate ongoing engagements, announce and launch new innovative partnerships and broaden outreach to new partners. The *Unite for Nature* pavilion provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of the Union to its key donors (bilateral, multilateral, philanthropic and private sector) many of whom participated as event speakers/panellists in the pavilion. Others visited for bilateral meetings with the Director General and IUCN colleagues. These included representatives of IUCN's Framework Partners (Denmark, Finland, France, Korea, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA) as well as Patrons of Nature. The Director General and IUCN senior staff also met with high-level representatives from AFD, Expertise France, French Ministry of Ecological Transition, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FFEM, GEF, Japan (MoE), Norway (NORAD), Korea (Ministry of Environment), Sweden (Sida), Germany (KfW, BMUV), BNP Paribas, Ant Group, Pernod Ricard, Mirpuri Foundation, Minderoo Foundation, among others (see also list of bilateral meetings in Annex II).
- **Media coverage and communication of IUCN's work during COP28**
Media coverage of IUCN's work at COP28 focused particularly on the Red List Update. This was profiled, in the US, in the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [Miami Herald](#), and [CBS news](#); in the UK [The Guardian](#), [BBC Newsround](#), [ENDSreport](#) and the Daily Mirror; in France, [Liberation](#), [Le Figaro](#), [Actu.fr](#) and [France24](#); in Germany, [Bild Newspaper](#) and [ARD Radio](#); in Spain, EFE and [El Pais](#); across Scandinavia it led on major news channels including [Nyheter24](#), [Sweden](#), [Nos](#) in the Netherlands, and [UpDay](#). The Red List was also covered in Europe by [20Minutes](#) and [Sat1 TV](#), Switzerland, [EuroNews](#) and [RTE Ireland](#). Internationally, there was coverage in [Yahoo New Zealand](#), [CNA Asia](#), [Proceso Magazine](#), [Mexico](#), [Radio Free Asia](#), the [Bangkok Post](#), [Japan Daily News](#); it was also covered by the [Astana Times](#), [Down to Earth](#) and the [Arab Times](#). IUCN also successfully managed to get coverage on newswires including globally through [AP](#), [AFP](#) and [Reuters](#), across the United States via [UPI](#), across Germany through [DPA](#), Europe through [Europa press](#), Spain and South America through EFE. Interviews were organised with the [New York Times](#), [CGTN](#) (Criag Hilton-Taylor) and AP TV among many others.

Additionally, the IUCN Director General and senior staff were also interviewed and cited in various articles that were covering progress made on nature at COP28, which were published by [Reuters](#), [DPA Germany](#), [EFE Verde](#), [The Guardian UK](#) (James Dalton) and [The National UAE](#) (Sandeep Sengupta) – some of which led to wide coverage across the world via other media channels including DW Germany, Infobae Argentina and [Die Welt](#).

The global communications team also promoted IUCN's work on COP28 on corporate social media channels before, during and after the event, focusing primarily on Twitter and LinkedIn, with the following results:

- Total posts: 67
- Total impressions: 429,632
- Total engagements: 12,482
- The top post on the [Red List](#) reached over 81,000.

In terms of web content, the main IUCN landing page for COP28 (www.iucn.org/COP28), which featured the IUCN COP28 position paper (including a short video on its 10 key messages), supporting commission technical briefs, key climate-related publications, as well as links to main events, news and Pavilion events received 4,480 views from 3,152 users, with a 76.61% engagement rate. The dedicated IUCN COP28 pavilion page (www.iucn.org/COP28programme), which featured an interactive calendar solution (Tockify) to present the nearly 80 events hosted, received 4,255 views from 2,250 users with a 76.8% engagement rate. The livestream page (www.iucn.org/COP28live), which hosted the embedded livestreams of the pavilion events, received 3,984 views from 2,011 users with a 62.49% engagement rate (compared to the iucn.org average engagement rate of 57.95%).

3. IUCN events at COP28

IUCN delegation members were directly engaged in a large number of events at COP28, either in the IUCN pavilion, or elsewhere. Below are brief summaries of some of the events that IUCN was involved in during the conference, whether as organizers or speakers, both within and outside of the official venue. These are listed in chronological order. Descriptions of many of these events are also available at: www.iucn.org/cop28

Thursday, 30 November

- **IUCN's key messages for COP28**

As the opening session of the IUCN COP28 pavilion, this event, hosted by the Director General, presented IUCN's position paper and key messages for COP28. This was followed by a panel discussion bringing together the Chairs of 3 IUCN Commissions (WCEL, CCC and CEESP) who shared their respective expertise, insights and expectations on the opportunities available at COP28 to build greater recognition and support for nature, and of the role of Indigenous communities, in the various processes and outcomes of the COP.

Friday, 1 December

- **Urban Settlements in Transformations – Places of Learning, Community and Self-Determination**

The event explored systems innovation in cities and the role of city leaders, citizens, local communities, and businesses in catalysing transformation at scale. CEC Chair Sean Southey shared how nature can be a teacher, an oasis, and a space of learning in urban contexts.

- **Promoting WEF E NEXUS approach in Iraq / marshlands to increase the adaptive capacity of the local communities and contribute to water security**

This session illustrated the Sida-funded program and its implementation by IUCN ROWA. Both partners seek to contribute to the restoration of Iraq's marshlands, which are also one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, and increase the adaptive capacity of the local communities against the impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges. In addition to the representatives of IUCN ROWA and Sida, the session included high-level speakers from the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources and the Iraqi Parliament.

- **Act30 launch**

IUCN and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and IUCN's Indigenous Peoples Organisation (IPO) members partnered to design and deliver an international initiative to support Parties in implementing Target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Other partners include the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC) and ESRI. IUCN organized a high-level

reception at COP 28 to launch Act30 and demonstrate its commitment to co-designing conservation initiatives with IPOs. IUCN ROWA supported and facilitated securing two pledges to IUCN's ACT30 initiative that were announced during the event; one pledge from the Jordanian Ministry of Environment, which pledged to double the national representation target for PAs, and an initial expression of interest of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency to support the ACT30 initiative.

Saturday, 2 December

- **Nature-based Solutions to achieve Net-Zero Targets: from supply chains to carbon markets**

The event focused on the key messages of the two IUCN flagship publications and aimed to critically discuss how NbS offer the corporate sector solutions for addressing this dual crisis while potentially reducing costs (e.g. by adopting practices like agroforestry and biological pest control instead of intensive or commercial agriculture), generating a positive return on investment (e.g. by implementing regenerative agriculture) or identifying new business opportunities.

- **Achieving synergistic climate and biodiversity outcomes through operationalizing Nature-based Solutions.**

This high-level session brought together the Chairs/Vice-Chairs of all of IUCN's 7 Commissions to share unique perspectives on how Nature-based Solutions and the importance of nature can remain front and centre on the global climate agenda. For example, CEC Chair Sean Southey emphasized the importance of cultivating a strong connection to nature, from an early age, through our education systems and learning environments. Cultivating this connection with nature transforms how we vote, shop, the jobs we decide to take, and can transform the mosaics of culture and our relationship to the natural world.

- **Circular Carbon: Towards a Zero Carbon Future**

Organised in collaboration with Tilad Environment, the event presented IUCN ROWA's contributions to reducing CO2 emissions, including by (i) supporting governments to achieve their NDCs through deploying the WEF NEXUS approach and NbS, (ii) by supporting government and local communities achieve adaptive, sustainable, and effective management of protected areas, and (iii) initiating climate change mitigation programmes to reduce CO2 emissions toward Zero Carbon. The event also presented ways to ensure that the shift towards clean energy does not come at the expense of nature and nature-dependent communities.

- **Accelerating Africa's Transformation through the Regenerative Blue Economy**

The side event focused on highlighting important solutions that are being developed and scaled up under the Great Blue Wall initiative to address pressing climate, biodiversity and economic challenges facing countries of the Western Indian Ocean region.

- **How to do Green-Blue: Taking Nature Based Solutions to Scale!**

This panel with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Arup, Wetland International, HSBC and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) focused on the crucial role that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can play in water risk adaptation and climate resilience in West Africa. Examples were given to guide participants on how to integrate NbS in conservation and development initiatives by leveraging the co-benefits that NbS can bring. A question from a member of the South African delegation clarified the difference between the Ecosystem-based Adaptation and the NbS approaches.

- **Sustainable management of biodiversity and coastlines in West Africa: the experience of the ORLOA and OBAPAO regional observatories**

The side event provided an opportunity to present all the observatories currently being set up in the region, such as the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO); the West African Regional Coastal Observatory (ORLOA); the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC) already operational; and many other related tools grafted onto these observatories such as the Coastal and Marine Areas Information System, the Environmental Crime Information System, the semi-automatic Sys4ENCA tool for generating ecosystem accounts of natural capital, the virtual hub, etc. Discussions focused on the importance of these tools, databases feeding with updated data, their sustainability, and the sharing of access links, etc. Some countries also shared their experiences with regard to the utilization of such tools.

- **High Ambition for the High Seas**

Co-organized by IUCN with the High Seas Alliance and governments of Mauritania, Palau and Australia. Recognizing that the ocean is the Earth's most powerful climate regulator, Ministers and government representatives from across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East and Europe urged all countries to accelerate ocean protection by swiftly ratifying the new High Seas Treaty during a high-level event held on 2 December at UNFCCC COP28. On the same day, during his address at COP28, President Macron of France reaffirmed the goal of ratifying the High Seas Treaty by the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, to be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica. During the High Ambition for the High Seas session, Ministers from UAE, France, the Philippines and Nigeria, along with government representatives from Palau, Mauritania and Australia declared their support for the swift ratification and entry into force of the new High Seas Treaty to safeguard the ocean. The event highlighted that through regional cooperation and collaboration, momentum for ratification of this landmark global treaty is growing.

- **IUCN Members Reception**

An IUCN Reception was held on 2nd December for IUCN Members, Commissions, Secretariat and Partners. It attracted a huge audience of around 200 IUCN constituents with 379 registering for the event in advance. It helped to introduce IUCN constituents where the "Home of the Union" IUCN pavilion was early on during COP28. Speakers included the IUCN President, Director General and senior representatives from IUCN Member organisations, including the Secretary General of the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland.

Sunday, 3 December

- **Moving forward on NbS and Ecosystem-based Approaches for Adaptation: lessons learned and promising practices**

This high-level event, with a keynote from the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection of Fiji, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, brought together the experience of implementing NbS and ecosystem-based approaches for climate adaptation and pinpointing critical actions for the way forward. The panel stressed the need for coherent and simultaneous action to achieve the interlinked climate and biodiversity goals and how the topic of integration could be covered in policy, implementation and investment.

- **Spotlighting Youth Leadership in IUCN - An Interactive Dialogue**

Diana Garlytska, CEC's Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Co-Chair & West Europe Regional Vice Chair shared her work promoting youth and young professional engagement throughout IUCN and how IUCN is elevating the youth voice in global climate decision making. She presented her experience organizing the

groundbreaking and first-ever Global Youth Summit, coordinated by IUCN in 2021, that brought together thousands of youth from around the world for high-level discussions on the future of conservation. Awardees from IUCN's Young Changemakers Program spoke to the need for additional support for innovations, and more opportunities to engage. Diana also shared the CEC and WCPA 10-Step Guide to Creating a Youth Dialogue Space at international events, to be published jointly with the WCPA in 2024. Sandeep Sengupta from the IUCN secretariat provided an overview of how youth engagement had been prioritized and implemented within the Union in recent years.

- **Update on Nature-based Solutions**

The conclusions of the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions organized by UNEP in October 2023 were presented, with a focus on the findings of the regional consultations for Africa. The role of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS and the fact that it enables high-quality solutions to be designed and implemented was highlighted. IUCN's readiness to support States in the appropriate application of this tool to ensure that interventions provide benefits for both people and biodiversity was also emphasized. The State of Senegal was highlighted as an example of the efforts already made in terms of ensuring buy-in and application of this Standard.

- **Nature-based Solutions and Green List to support the achievements of biodiversity and climate targets in the Congo Basin**

IUCN PACO co-hosted this side event, which highlighted the strong potential of the Congo Basin to respond via NbS to the interconnected challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, through carbon sequestration and storage, protection against extreme climatic events and, above all, socio-economic benefits linked to non-timber forest products and ecotourism. Examples of NbS adapted to this forest context were given, specifying that for types of NbS focused on the conservation and protection of ecosystems, there is the Green List, which is an IUCN tool that helps to achieve good governance elsewhere. A link was also made between this tool and the IUCN Global Standard for NbS. Finally, the IUCN position paper was presented, in particular its insistence on ensuring greater convergence between the global climate and biodiversity frameworks and agendas.

- **Launch of WCEL Publication on 'Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law through legal indicators and quality analyses'**

At this session, IUCN WCEL launched its latest publication on the above topic in the IUCN Pavilion. Environmental legal indicators, with their corresponding methodological compliance steps, provide the much-needed accuracy to measure the effectiveness of the law. This publication draws together legal ideas presented at the 2nd World Environmental Law Congress European in December 2021, and showcases ongoing work on environmental legal indicators carried out by WCEL and its partners. The publication can be accessed [here](#).

- **Legal Nexus of the Triple Planetary Crisis: convergence of treaty regimes for climate change, biodiversity within and beyond national jurisdiction, and plastic pollution**

This event was co-organized by the IUCN WCEL Steering Committee, WCEL's Climate Change Law Specialist Group, WCEL's Task Force on Plastic Pollution, WCEL's Ocean Law Specialist Group and WCEL's Early Career Specialist Group. It focused on the legal landscape surrounding the triple planetary crisis, as well as on identifying commonalities, and building complementarity amongst the international legal regimes on climate change, biodiversity and plastic pollution, in order to promote enhanced coherence. Highlights included the emerging legal instruments, challenges and opportunities for strengthening capacity-building and technology transfer across

treaties, as well as lessons and best practices offered by implementation and compliance procedures.

Monday, 4 December

- **Launch of the Asia Nature-based Solution Finance Hub**

At this session, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched a Nature-based Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific at COP28 which aims to attract at least \$2 billion into investment programs that incorporate nature-based solutions, particularly focused on capital markets and other sources of private capital. Partners that have expressed interest in supporting the hub through financing or technical expertise and joined the launch include IUCN, as well as some of its Members, such as The Nature Conservancy, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Birdlife International, and Conservation International. ADB and IUCN will organize a workshop before April 2024 to develop the facility further. With support from French Development Agency, IUCN will also deploy technical advisors to the facility who will support its unveiling and further development.

- **Regenerating Nature for a Climate Resilient Blue Economy: The implementation of the Great Blue Wall**

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is particularly affected by the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The Great Blue Wall (GBW) launched at COP26 is a WIO-born, major African-driven initiative to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030 through quantifiable objectives tackling this three-pronged challenge. Its implementation is underpinned by proven approaches, such as Nature-based Solutions, which have gained prominence in the conservation and development sectors due to their holistic approach to these crises. This event showcased how NbS can build the resilience of a regenerative blue economy that directly benefits coastal communities and delivers conservation outcomes.

- **Rising up to advance gender safety in climate action**

The event highlighted AGENT's investments in addressing gender-based violence and environment linkages, and welcomed an additional donor for the first time – NORAD, who committed USD 2.8 million to the RISE grants challenge to address gender-based violence in the fisheries sector. This new funding brings total funds invested in the initiative to over US\$ 16 million, increasing current RISE funding by 20%.

- **The Great Blue Wall Initiative: Regenerating Seascapes for a Climate Resilient Blue Economy**

The side event hosted at the IUCN pavilion brought together key participants from Technoserve, Tanzania Parks Authority, Groots Kenya and the Mihari network, as well as the Union of Comoros in its capacity as Chair of the African Union, and discussed key interventions that are operationalising the Great Blue Wall. The side event also showcased a teaser trailer of the "Rise of the Blue Guardians" video, a visual narrative journey of the Great Blue Wall.

- **Climate-Refugees Nexus Initiative**

The Climate-Refugees Nexus (CRN) Initiative, launched by Jordan as a global initiative at COP27, sheds light on refugees-hosting countries that disproportionately suffer from climate change impacts. This compounded impact results in an increased pressure on natural resources, environment, and infrastructure, and negatively affects these countries' resilience and climate change adaptive capacities. The initiative draws the attention of the international community to these impacts, and calls for international organizations, investors, and climate funds to prioritize refugee-hosting countries in

climate hotspots in terms of creating and/or increasing financial, technical, and capacity building resources. The session was supported by IUCN ROWA.

- **Experiences and resourcefulness of women on the frontlines combatting drought.**
IUCN participated in this event and shared lessons from IUCN ESARO's work with women in dryland regions, and the strategies and approaches used by IUCN ESARO to promote women's participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **Women's contribution to climate action**
IUCN shared its experience on gender-responsive NbS approaches that contribute to build women's resilience to climate impacts.
- **Nature Economies: The Potential of Biodiversity Credits in conversation with IPLCs**
This session emphasised the clear guidelines on the nature of a biodiversity credit asset, especially to cater for biodiversity from an IPLC perspective. The co-chairs asked IUCN for help with this as well as support to an information network on lessons learned and best practices for biodiversity credits, and help to define the relationship of credits to underlying species and ecosystems.

Tuesday, 5 December

- **Launch of the Global Initiative on Nature, Grids and Renewable**
The Global Initiative on Nature Grids and Renewables (GINGR) was launched with speeches from Eamon Michael Ryan, Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment & Communications of Ireland, Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy of Belgium and Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President for the EU Green Deal, Inter-institutional Relations and Foresight. All speakers highlighted the need to ensure that the global transition to renewable energy was not only accelerated but rolled out in a manner that mitigated societal and biodiversity impacts and contributed towards nature positive goals.
- **High-level policy multi-stakeholder discussion on Water Transversality and Climate Risk: Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience**
The discussion focused on how to ensure that water is a lever for transformative and sustainable development as well as ways to ensure water ecosystems and nature can be incentivised to build climate resilience and biodiversity protection. IUCN was invited to present its work, especially in Tanzania, including under the Sustain programme as well as its initiatives on integrated water resources management, including benefit sharing models, payment for ecosystem services & transboundary water initiatives.

Wednesday, 6 December

- **Nature-based Solutions for Planetary Health and Equity**
The session discussed the interconnectedness of human health and the environment and set the stage for the forthcoming WHO-IUCN report on integrating health and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The event promoted health-NbS integration by identifying co-benefits and trade-offs, enhancing social and ecological resilience, and supporting a green recovery from COVID-19. It advocated for including ecosystem health, biodiversity, and climate change in One Health policies and projects whilst integrating health co-benefits into the development and implementation of NbS.
- **Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with wind and solar energy - global case studies**

The event built on the outcomes from phase 1 of the IUCN renewable energy project, especially the development of the *Guidance on mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development*. Renewable energy companies, transmission operators and regulators shared experiences from implementing and assessing mitigation hierarchy actions within renewable energy sites. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss current challenges and opportunities of implementation of biodiversity net gain targets.

- **Natural Capital Accounting**

This session focused on the use of natural capital accounting data and analysis to inform policies for national development, climate change and nature protection. This side event provided recent updates on Zambia's efforts on how natural capital accounting data and related analysis aids mainstreaming of biodiversity and climate change into development planning, policies, and programmes, including what can be done to accelerate the transformation of nature-based solutions. The Zambian minister emphasised communication of the needs for Zambia to build other natural capital accounts, and mainstream this into other reporting processes. For IUCN, this is a great opportunity to explore and expand the partnership with Zambia on the implementation of the Rio Conventions, and other related MEAs.

- **Investing in Blue Guardians: Designing the first Ocean Trust for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)**

Recognising a major gap in IPLC's ability to access funding, the GBW team organised a side event to discuss the first Ocean Trust Fund geared towards empowering IPLCs to participate in the regenerative blue economy, in partnership with Movilizario and the Alliance for IPLCs for Conservation in Africa (AICA), bringing together actors from small scale fisherfolk, IPLCs as well as banks and finance experts. The event highlighted that SSF and IPLCs have upfront costs to formalise their ability to engage with ocean conservation and the blue economy, but are invaluable stakeholders in ensuring the success of conservation initiatives.

- **The Transformative Power of Law to Tackle the Climate Crisis and Advance the Paris Agreement: legal implementation and capacity-building**

The event was co-organized by the IUCN WCEL's Climate Change Law Specialist Group, the International Bar Association (IBA), the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), the Net Zero Lawyers Alliance and the Law Society of England and Wales. It focussed on the crucial role lawyers have to play in the development and enforcement of adequate legal systems enabling the transition to a climate positive development pathway. Discussants presented practical examples of knowledge generation, legal information sharing, capacity-building and legal advice on public and private law matters contributing to the realisation of the Paris Agreement's NDCs.

Thursday, 7 December

- **Development and Climate Days**

Development and Climate Days (D&C Days) provide a crucial informal space for stakeholders attending the annual UN climate COPs to come together to have open, honest conversations about how to tackle climate change and build resilience. The collective slow pace of initiatives and institutions established to advance climate action and effect positive, lasting change means that climate finance is not being accessed by those that need it most, and available funding is fragmented, sectoral and restricted – especially for the most vulnerable countries. One of the sessions in which IUCN participated focused on addressing Africa-Europe partnership in relation to climate change adaptation and climate finance. It was noted that both Africa and Europe must work in collaboration to deliver climate action and finance at local levels. In addition, it

became clear that the Africa-Europe partnership requires re-calibrating on key issues to make the climate partnerships more equitable, scaling up locally-led climate action while ensuring responsiveness to local needs.

- **Islands of Hope Fireside Chat: Islands, Nature and Renewable Energy**

Francesco Sindico, Co-Chair of the WCEL Climate Change Law Specialist Group (CCLSG), represented the WCEL in this side event, held at the Innovation Zone. He discussed the CCLSG project on Islands, Nature and Renewable Energy Law (INRELP), and its policy recommendations produced with the participation of the Government of Vanuatu, with the aim of identifying pathways for climate ambition to be supported by island communities and through renewable energy and environmental protection.

Friday, 8 December

- **What should the Global Stocktake deliver on climate and biodiversity?**

In view of the importance of the Global Stocktake at COP28, this session led by IUCN's global policy lead on climate change convened leading climate policy experts from key IUCN BINGO member organisations, including Conservation International, TNC, WWF and Birdlife International, to share their knowledge, insights and perspectives on the latest state of the global stocktake negotiations, on what would be desirable outcomes/results for nature at COP28, and how this could best be achieved in the final week of the negotiations. The session helped to socialise and mobilise support for the policy priorities of the conservation community across a wider group of state and civil society constituents.

- **Building Climate-Biodiversity-SDG Synergies in Asia-Pacific**

Organised in the Japan Pavilion by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Ministry of Environment of Japan, this session brought together ministers, ambassadors and experts from Brazil, Japan and Fiji as well as from UNDESA, UNFCCC, UNEP and IUCN to discuss how greater synergies could be concretely built across key international policy processes to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution collectively. IUCN, which was represented by its global policy lead on climate change, gave several concrete suggestions in this regard, also highlighting the growing relevance and need to satisfactorily address this topic.

- **The Urgent Need to Invest in Climate Education**

To kick off the education events at the IUCN Pavilion, EARTHDAY.ORG moderated a youth-led panel on the urgent need to invest in climate education. "Young people need not only a seat at the table, they also need a say at the table", said Abhiir Bhalla, a youth environmentalist, recognized by the BBC in 2020 as one of the world's foremost youth environmentalists. Panellists highlighted the need to include education in countries NDCs, and on how much it is critical to reconnect young people to nature.

- **Nature-based Education (NbE): Reimagining Where and How Education Happens**

"Before we teach about climate change, we need to guarantee children have a positive connection with nature", said Laís Fleury of the Alana Foundation. Laís shared the sweeping results a global survey and case studies that illuminate best practices of bringing nature into learning environments around the world. Luis Camarago, CEC Regional Vice Chair for South America, and Founder and Director of OpEPA, presented a new approach to learning, Nature-based Education (NbE). NbE brings nature into the core of learning, and is an ecosystem of educational strategies necessary for planetary health. Sean Southey, CEC Chair, closed the talk reminding

us that this is the first time IUCN has presented a technical brief on education at a COP, which speaks to IUCN's commitment to ensuring education is part of our mandate.

- **Exploring Law as Enabler of Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Action**
Nature-based solutions (NbS) have been increasingly included in policy discussions and instruments addressing these crises. However, the role law can play to accelerate and upscale NbS for climate action is not yet well understood and has remained largely unexplored. This event was co-organised by the IUCN WCEL Climate Change Law Specialist Group and the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL). It focussed on existing NbS initiatives and how legal considerations have been accounted for in them, and set the stage for the NbS project under development within the WCEL CCLSG.
- **IUCN Reception: Celebrating the Power of Education to Tackle the Climate and Biodiversity Crises**
Hosted by IUCN CEC, EARTHDAY.ORG, the Alana Foundation, with energetic opening remarks by Kiara Kaur, an inspirational speaker and world's youngest TEDX speaker. Kiara stressed that education should be an integral part of our climate solutions. Representatives from the governments of Romania and Poland shared remarks about how their countries are integrating environmental education into their school systems, and transforming culture through raising awareness on climate and environmental issues. Agnieszka Skuratowicz, Head of Unit for the International Partnerships Directorate-General of the European Commission, leading education, youth and culture projects, also highlighted the need to build bridges and not to remain in silos, and encouraged Ministers of Environment and Education around the world to collaborate closely together.

Saturday, 9 December

- **Nature Positive Initiative launch**
The event saw IUCN DG Grethel Aguilar affirm IUCN's commitment to the Nature Positive Initiative (NPI) and describe IUCN's Measuring Nature Positive approach, which has been reviewed by the NPI members, and will be issued for consultation to IUCN members later in 2024.
- **The role of spatial planning in promoting a rapid transition to sustainable renewable energy**
This session highlighted multi-stakeholder experiences, including NGOs, regulatory entities, and industry players, to enrich the discussion. It also provided a platform to showcase the latest development of the Renewables project Phase 2. This encompasses the introduction of a spatial planning note intended to elucidate diverse processes, sequencing, roles, and responsibilities, among others, such as a guidance on cumulative impact assessment.
- **Accelerating the ENACT Partnership – The way forward for integrated action on climate change and biodiversity**
The event highlighted the key takeaways of its Roadmap Report on NbS. This inaugural report charts the way forward for an annual series of State of NbS Reports. It emphasizes the need for policy coherence across climate change and biodiversity agendas, including across global fora, bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms, and domestic policy. It initiates an effort to track actual impact of integrated action on climate change and biodiversity loss through geo-specific data and sets out the key course of action across the 10 ENACT Workstreams.

- **Reception: Celebrating Nature for Inclusive Climate Action**
 This reception celebrated achievements in the field of Nature-based Solutions, and ecosystem-approaches for adaptation, with a focus on impact at national, regional, and global levels. Official presentations were followed by informal exchanges among attendees, and provided a space for networking.
- **Restoring critical ecosystems for sustainable economic development**
 The session focused on Rwanda's restoration successes and the path forward to achieve the goals of both the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, the panel provided insights on critical ecosystems and highlighted the benefits of healthy and active ecosystems including in purifying the air, sequestering carbon for climate regulation and improving people's livelihoods. This session built on the existing partnership between the Rwandan government and IUCN, and other key partners contributing to the restoration of ecosystems in Rwanda.
- **Nature-based Solutions: Panacea or Problem?**
 This panel discussion provided various views and insights on what is NbS and how it can be applied. It became clear that there is a need for more technical and science-based evidence to support governments, and local communities. IUCN underlined the benefits of applying Nature-based Solutions to address biodiversity loss, climate change impacts and to deal with loss of socio-economic opportunities. The session also provided a platform to invite researchers and experts to contribute to the IUCN Commissions. This will enable the expansion of knowledge on the ongoing NbS work in Ethiopia, to integrate development, climate and nature into comprehensive interventions that strengthen medium-term resilience of physical and natural capital.
- **Desertification and Restoration: Building Climate Resilience in Drylands**
 This session focused on the importance of drylands, and shed light on the need to restore rangelands and to adopt sustainable land management practices, in order to conserve dryland biodiversity, ecosystem services, and land quality. Climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of droughts in drylands, where species and ecosystems already experience extreme climatic fluctuations. Climate change may exacerbate land degradation in drylands, leading to more desertification. The session was moderated by ROWA and included expert panellists from Tilad and the Royal Commission for AIUla, and had an interactive discussion on technology aspects and tools to monitor desertification.
- **High-Level Panel on Accelerating Finance for Nature-based Solutions: Unlocking Opportunities for Sustainable Development**
 This event aimed at mobilizing financing for NbS and linking the demand and supply of funding. IUCN co-organized this side event to mobilize global community in investing in NbS. With the Asia Infrastructure Investment bank, IUCN will support the capacity-building of AIIB staff on NbS, and will jointly co-develop an additional facility to provide USD 1 billion to support NbS for Infrastructure development.
- **Assessing the Climate and Biodiversity crisis in Mangroves: Insights from IUCN Red List of Ecosystems**
 Discussions included deep-dives into the IUCN Red List Typology, deep-dive into the UAE and Mozambique national assessments and experience and linkages with the Mangrove Breakthrough/ Global Mangrove Alliance, as well as presentation of the preliminary results of IUCN Red List of Ecosystems' first global assessment on mangroves. The event was looking at the other side of the coin, i.e. mangroves not only as a solution we heard in all other event, but this solution being at risk itself, particularly, the mangrove ecosystem collapse risk and what does that mean for the

forward-looking climate strategies. The anticipated sea level rise being the highest risk, coastal planning needs to be considered accordingly. The Red List of Ecosystems' Global Assessment on Mangroves is anticipated to be launched by Spring 2024 which could be an excellent opportunity to segue from COP28 to the CBD SBSTTA meeting. The RLE results will also be integrated as a layer on the Global Mangrove Watch, a key tool for the Mangrove Breakthrough (the global update of which will be supported by the SOMN3 project between Germany/BMZ, IUCN, WWF and Wetlands International).

- **A roadmap for Nature-based Solutions in our ocean: Achieving the Kelp Forest Challenge**

The Kelp Forest Challenge aims to accelerate investment and action for an untapped nature-based solution by promoting the restoration and protection of 4 million hectares of kelp forests globally by 2040. This roadmap – the development of which was supported by IUCN and the foreword provided by our President - was launched at the event and presents a detailed strategy for how businesses, governments, communities, universities, content creators, and anyone else with an interest can help meet the Kelp Forest Challenge. Professor Duarte presented compelling science and arguments on kelp as an emerging blue carbon ecosystem, as well as its key role in supporting the currently actionable and formally recognized blue carbon ecosystems. There is an interest to link the Kelp Forest Challenge to the ocean breakthroughs and an increasing interest to explore what the formal recognition of kelp as potential blue carbon ecosystem route under the UNFCCC process could be. IUCN will continue supporting the Kelp Forest Alliance.

- **Integrating Actions for Climate and Biodiversity: Opportunities and Potential**

Hosted by the UN Resident Coordinator Office for the UAE in the SDG pavilion, the session brought together policy makers and experts from the UAE, academia and international organisations to discuss how greater synergies could be built between climate and biodiversity governance drawing on a new report presented by Oxford University. Speaking on behalf of IUCN, Dr Sandeep Sengupta shared some of his experiences in this regard, also highlighting how the recognition of the need for greater convergence between the biodiversity and climate agendas had grown in recent years, what the key barriers were and how they could be overcome.

- **Climate & Canopy: Amplifying Action for SDGs 13 and 15 through Primary Forest Conservation**

This event was co-organized by IUCN, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) secretariat, FAO and GEF, and had a soft launch of a new GEF-funded project. The organizations – all members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests – are joining forces and collaborating to foster enhanced conservation of primary forests. Key partners are Wild Heritage and Griffiths University who have long been active on this topic. This collaboration will support the UNFF in elevating the importance of primary forests in the global discourse and helping its member countries to provide conditions for strategically channeling investments to good projects and monitoring progress.

Sunday, 10 December

- **Unpacking the biodiversity-climate nexus: Opportunities and challenges**

This was IUCN's official side-event at UNFCCC COP28, which it co-organised together with KfW, Cambridge University and WCS. Moderated by the IUCN Director General, Grethel Aguilar, the session brought together an all-women high-level panel to critically examine how the climate change and biodiversity loss crises could be addressed holistically in order to maximise co-benefits and minimise trade-offs. The Chair of the Elders and former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, gave powerful opening

remarks at the session, which was followed by panel interventions from the other speakers, including Monica Medina from WCS, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim from AFPAT, Christiane Laibach from KfW, and Dorothy Shaver from Unilever. The IUCN DG closed the session by sharing her own perspectives on the topic. The session, which was fully-packed, was also [webcast](#) by the UNFCCC.

- **Advances and Improvements in Early Warning Systems for Severe Weather Systems, Prolonged Droughts, and Flash Floods**

This session focused on providing solutions to reduce the drastic impacts of disasters on people and socioeconomic development. Early Warning Systems (EWS) can play a crucial role in mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss impacts by providing timely and accurate information, enabling communities, governments, and organizations to respond proactively. Owing to the complexities embedded in the field of geospatial intelligence, early warning systems capable of combining and appropriately using the rapidly increasing data sources and the associated computational power are highly needed. They need to be dynamic, scalable, operational, and adaptable to allow further expansion in geospatial, temporal, and computational domains. Such traits in the system allow decision-makers to make informed decisions and accurately plan for communities to be resilient. The session included speakers from IUCN ROWA, NASA, Jordan's Ministry of Water and Irrigation, GEO and Tilad.

- **Enhancing climate and socio-economic resilience of protected areas through the IUCN's Green List and Systematic Conservation Planning**

This event, convened by IUCN ROWA, aimed to highlight the importance of interlinkages between the biodiversity and climate crises and their association with socio-economic resilience of local communities dependent on natural resources, especially around protected areas. The session addressed how better understanding of the IUCN Green List Standard and Systematic Conservation Planning could lead to enhanced resilience of protected areas and local communities living within and around them. The session provided examples from pilot work in the region (AIUla KSA, Jordan and Egypt). It was attended by a wide range of audience from within and outside the region, who participated in an active discussion with the panellists. Speakers had the opportunity to speak in English and in Arabic and simultaneous translation was provided (English-Arabic).

- **Islands Driving Forward Climate Change Law**

The event was co-organised by the IUCN WCEL Climate Change Law Specialist Group (CCLSG), the Scottish Government, the Government of Vanuatu, IRENA and Macquarie University. Discussants highlighted the role that SIDS, especially the Pacific Island Nations, have been playing through a multipronged, innovative and synergistic approach in the fight against climate change. The environmental leadership of the youth, the need to step up finance and capacity-building, and the importance of robust regulatory frameworks, built upon dialogue, transparency and tailored solutions were also featured.

Monday, 11 December

- **Towards a common ground for agriculture and conservation communities**

Globally, the importance of improving the resilience and the long-term viability of farming and food systems in the context of climate change is increasingly recognized. However, in most countries, current public policies continue to support unsustainable agriculture practices focused on maximizing production while overlooking its dependence on the ecosystems and soil health. To address this issue, IUCN led multi-stakeholder "Common Ground" dialogues at national and international levels to build

awareness, address controversies and build trust between the agriculture and conservation communities. This event aimed to conduct such a “Common Ground Dialogue” at the global level and inspire joint policy initiatives. IUCN’s Regional Director in ROWA shared the experience in Jordan regarding Smart Desert project and the progress achieved in the food and security sector, nexus approach and community engagement.

- **Celebrating Commitment to IUCN Green List Standard in the Middle East West Asia Region**

This reception event aimed to celebrate protected and conserved areas (PCAs) in the Middle East West Asia (MEWA) region that have shown commitment to the IUCN Green List Standard. The celebration included the following: an overview of the implementation of the IUCN Green List in the MEWA region and the synergies of the initiative with the CBD and UNFCCC. It also included acknowledgment of the sites that have achieved the IUCN Green List certification in the MEWA region, and the recognition of the sites that have passed the applicant phase, or that have initiated Green List applications. The reception also included the celebrations with ten new regional members as an encouragement for other institutions to join the membership of IUCN in the ROWA region. High level representatives from partner organisations from Jordan, Egypt and KSA participated; including; H.E the Minister of Environment from Egypt, CEO of King Salman Royal Reserve, CEO of King Abdul Aziz Royal Reserve and Vice President, Wildlife & Natural Heritage from the Royal Commission for AIUla.

- **The Transformative Power of Law in Promoting a Just Transition to a Climate Positive World**

This official UNFCCC side event was co-organised by the IUCN WCEL and the Climate Change Law Specialist Group, the University of Oslo, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The event gathered the law and justice communities at COP28 in order to discuss the role of law in enabling legal pathways to catalyse climate action. Key issues discussed include IDLO’s work on [climate justice](#), IUCN’s work on [nature based solutions](#) and its legal aspects framed in the role of law, and [climate litigation](#) to drive transformational [climate action](#), the role of oceans and of the law of the sea in doing the same, and the global youth ICJ AO campaign.

Tuesday, 12 December

- **Converging climate-biodiversity agendas in West Africa: towards an integrated approach to ecological connectivity**

Discussions focused on the foundations for setting up protected and conserved areas, the need to reconnect conservation areas with each other (a network of interconnected and functional PAs), the need to take account of the link between offsetting and connectivity in national planning strategies, feedback on the 1000 landscapes initiative and its implementation in Ghana, feedback on ecological connectivity projects implemented in the WCA region and the place of culture and languages in the success of biodiversity conservation operations.

Annex I - IUCN delegation to UNFCCC COP28

	Name of the delegate	Professional title and unit	Dates of attendance
1	Grethel Aguilar	IUCN Director General (<i>Head of Delegation</i>)	30 November to 12 December
2	Jose Hong	Global Coordination and Liaison Lead, DGO	30 November to 12 December
3	Qiulin Liu	Junior Professional Officer, Programme Coordination Officer, DGO	30 November to 12 December
4	Lucy Deram	Director, Strategic Partnerships Unit	30 November to 5 December 6 to 11 December with Fundacion para la Promocion del Conocimiento Indigena (FPCI)
5	Sandeep Sengupta	Global Policy Lead, Climate Change, International Policy Centre (<i>Delegation Manager</i>)	30 November to 12 December
6	Ali Raza Rizvi	Head, Climate Change Team	30 November to 12 December
7	Delilah Griswold	Programme Officer, Climate Change Team	5 to 12 December
8	Yulia Rubleva	Project Officer, Climate Change Team	30 November to 4 December
9	Rachel Asante	Senior Technical Coordinator, Climate Change Team	30 November to 12 December
10	Ricardo Tejada	Director, Global Communications Unit	30 November to 4 December
11	Goska Bonnaveira	Senior Communications Manager, Global Communications Unit	5 to 12 December
12	Michael Storey	Communications Officer, Global Communications Unit	5 to 12 December
13	Amy Coles	Media and Communications Officer, Global Communications Unit	30 November to 4 December

	Name of the delegate	Professional title and unit	Dates of attendance
14	Jamie Wen-Besson	Senior Gender Programme Manager, Human Rights in Conservation	30 November to 9 December
15	Anita Tzec	Senior Program Manager, Indigenous Peoples and Conservation	30 November to 10 December
16	Iain Stewart	Director, Membership and Commission Support Unit	30 November to 12 December
17	Sarah Over	Senior Membership Engagement Manager, Membership and Commission Support Unit	30 November to 12 December
18	Michelle Kimeu	Manager, Commission Support Unit	30 November to 12 December
19	Charles Karangwa	Head, Nature-based Solutions, Nature-based Solutions Management Hub	30 November to 12 December
20	Minna Epps	Head, Marine and Polar, Ocean Team	30 November to 10 December
21	James Dalton	Head, Water and Land Management	8 to 11 December
22	Susanne Pedersen	Director, Science and Data Centre	5 to 12 December
23	Hany El Shaer	IUCN ROWA Regional Director (<i>COP28 Presidency Liaison</i>)	30 November to 12 December
24	Ola Mallah	Membership & Regional Director Office Manager, ROWA	30 November to 12 December
25	Luther Anukur	IUCN ESARO Regional Director	4 to 10 December
26	Thomas Sberna	Regional Head, Coastal and Ocean Resilience, ESARO	30 November to 10 December
27	Vhalinavho Khavhagali	Country Representative, South Africa	3 to 9 December
28	Craig Hilton-Taylor	Head, Red List Unit, Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge	10 to 11 December

	Name of the delegate	Professional title and unit	Dates of attendance
29	Frank Hawkins	Biodiversity Science and Policy Advisor, Science and Data Centre	3 to 11 December
30	Sean Southey	Chair, IUCN CEC	30 November to 12 December
31	Kristen Walker Painemilla	Chair, IUCN CEESP	30 November to 6 December
32	Madhu Rao	Chair, IUCN WCPA	2 to 9 December
33	Maria Angela Andrade	Chair, IUCN CEM	30 November to 9 December
34	Rima Jabado	Deputy Chair, IUCN SSC	30 November to 3 December
35	Fabiano de Andrade Correa	Co-Chair, Climate Change Law Specialist Group, WCEL	6 to 12 December
36	Vivek Menon	IUCN Councillor	8 to 12 December
37	Hasna Moudud	IUCN Councillor	10 to 12 December
38	Gloria Ujor	IUCN Councillor	10 to 12 December
39	Sabrina Peng	CSO, Ant Group	30 November to 4 December

IUCN staff attending COP28 through other delegations

	Name of the delegation	Delegation	Dates of attendance
1	Ludovic Larbodière (Agriculture Team, HQ)	France	9-12 December
2	Joao Sousa (Ocean Team, HQ)	France	30 November - 12 December

	Name of the delegation	Delegation	Dates of attendance
3	Aissa Traore (Protected Areas Team, HQ)	Bénin	1-10 December
4	Anete Berzina-Rodrigo (Ocean Team, HQ)	Ocean Climate Platform (OCP)	8-11 December
5	Paola Geremicca (SPU, HQ)	Sp. Agency/UNICEF	30 November – 12 December
6	Heidi Weiskel (Ocean Team, HQ)	Ocean Climate Platform (OCP)	30 November – 6 December
7	Camila Perez Gabilondo (Gender, North America Regional Office)	Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena (FPCI)	30 November – 6 December
8	Laura Sabater (Gender, North America Regional Office)	Global Climate Action	30 November – 9 December
9	Natalia Boulad (ROWA)	Jordan	8-12 December
10	Laith ALRahahleh (ROWA)	Jordan	8-11 December
11	Roaa Al Mohaisen (ROWA)	Jordan	8-12 December
12	Hakam Mandouri (ROWA)	Jordan	1-5 December
13	Savinaz Hussein Dawod Baghdadi (ROWA)	Jordan	9-12 December
14	Ali Hayajneh (ROWA)	Jordan	1-10 December
15	Tanya Merceron (PACO)	Cote d'Ivoire	29 November to 12 December
16	Nana Oumou Ture (PACO)	Equatorial Guinea	30 November to 12 December
17	Liliane Assogba Sessou (PACO)	Senegal	29 November to 6 December

	Name of the delegation	Delegation	Dates of attendance
18	Souleymane Tiemtore (PACO)	Burkina Faso	30 November to 12 December
19	Arsène Sanon (PACO)	Burkina Faso	30 November to 12 December
20	Mengue Ebang Gaspar Lutero (PACO)	Equatorial Guinea	2 to 10 December
21	Vinay Vineet Singh (ORO)	Fiji	30 November to 12 December
22	Elinasi Monga (Tanzania)	Tanzania	30 November to 9 December
23	Antony Mhagama (Tanzania)	Tanzania	1-11 December
24	Moses Egaru (Uganda)	Uganda	30 November to 8 December
25	Mauricio Xerinda (Mozambique)	Mozambique	1 to 12 December
26	Isabel Ramos (Mozambique)	Mozambique	1 to 12 December
27	Carla Rombe-Manjate (ESARO)	UN Women	2 to 9 December
28	Denise Nicolau (ESARO)	Mozambique	1 to 9 December
29	Sophy Ajwala (ESARO)	Kenya	4 to 10 December
30	Barkha Mossae (ESARO)	Mauritania	30 November to 10 December
31	Catherine Mungai (ESARO)	Kenya	4 to 8 December
32	Vatsoa Rakotondrazafy (ESARO)	French Pavilion	30 November to 10 December
33	Collins Cheruiyot (ESARO)	Kenya	4 to 10 December

Annex II: Bilateral meetings held during COP28 by IUCN DG and Regional Directors

A number of bilateral meetings were also held by the IUCN Director General and the Regional Directors present (from ROWA, ESARO and PACO) during COP28. Below is a non-exhaustive list, with the lead IUCN representative indicated in brackets:

- Deputy Prime Minister of Spain, H.E. Teresa Ribera (Grethel Aguilar)
- Uzbekistan Environment Minister, H.E. Aziz Abdukhakimov (Grethel Aguilar)
- KfW Group Executive Board member, Christiane Laibach (Grethel Aguilar)
- Chief Sustainability Officer of Ant Group, Sabrina Peng (Grethel Aguilar)
- Qatar Environment Minister, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Faleh Bin Nasser Bin Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani (Grethel Aguilar and Dr Hany El Shaer)
- Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, CGIAR, Juan Lucas Restrepo (Grethel Aguilar)
- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, H.E. Dang Quoc Khanh (Grethel Aguilar)
- CEO of the Saudi National Center for Wildlife, Dr Mohammed Qurban (Grethel Aguilar and Dr Hany El Shaer)
- Aviva Group Director of Sustainability, Claudine Blamey (Grethel Aguilar)
- Signing MoU with Jeju (Grethel Aguilar)
- Signing MoU with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (Grethel Aguilar)
- Minister for Environment, Rwanda (Grethel Aguilar and Luther Anukur)
- Minister of Energy of Uganda (Luther Anukur)
- Minister of Environment of Lesotho (Luther Anukur)
- CEO Ever Greening Alliance, Sally Armitage (Luther Anukur)
- Signing MoU between Citibank and ESARO (Luther Anukur)
- Minister of Finance and Economic Planning for Kenya (Luther Anukur)
- Minister of Environment of Uganda, Hon. Beatrice Anywar Atim (Luther Anukur)
- Director General of the African Union Commission, HE Amb Fathalah Sijilmassi (Luther Anukur)
- Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania, Hon. Mashimba Mashauri Ndaki (Luther Anukur)
- Meeting with the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (Nana Oumou Toure)
- Vice President for West and Central Africa, M. Ousmane Diagana (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition of Cote d'Ivoire, M. Jacques Assahoré Konan (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Director of Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD), Cécile Martin-Phipps (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Minister of Environment, Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, M. Roger Baro (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Sierra Leone, M. Abdulai Jiwoh (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Minister of Environment and Coordinator of the Blue Fund of Congo Basin, Mme Arlette Soudan-Nonault (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Executive Secretary of the Commission Climat pour la Région du Sahel (CCRS), M. Issifi Boureima (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Minister of Forestry Resources of Togo, M. Foli-Bazi Katari (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Ambassador and Co-Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), H.E. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (Nana Oumou Touré)

- Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mauritania, Mme Lalya Aly Kamara (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Commissioner of Environment of the Economic Commission for Central African States, ECCAS, M. Honoré Tabuna (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Senior Strategy and Policy Officer – ESG and Nature Strategy, Policy and Budget Department, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Sáni Ye Zou (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Head of Climate Change Division of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), M. Daouda Ndiaye (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, M. Nabil Ben Khatra (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Executive Secretary of the Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS), Dr Abdoulaye Mohamadou (Nana Oumou Touré)
- UNCCD Green Great Wall Coordinator, Mme Birguy Lamizana-Diallo (Nana Oumou Touré)
- HSE, ESG and Sustainability Manager at Qatar Free Zones Authority, Mr Ahmed Elldrisy (Nana Oumou Touré)
- Chief Climate Office, USAID, Gillian Caldwell, and Deputy Assistant for the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub and the Inclusive Development Hub, USAID, Barma Athreya (Dr. Elizabeth Imti)
- Signing MoU with the World Food Programme Iraq (Dr Hany El Shaer)
- Deputy Director of GCF Division of Portfolio Management, Gareth Zahir-Bill (Hany El Shaer, Luther Anukur, Susanne Pedersen)

Annex III: IUCN COP28 Photo Gallery



IUCN President and UN High-Level Climate Champion speaking at the 'Home of the Union'



7 IUCN Commissions joint session at IUCN Pavilion



Plenary statement to the UNFCCC COP28 High Level Segment by IUCN DG Grethel Aguilar



Hany El Shaer speaking at the launch of Act30



DG and President in IUCN pavilion



Accelerating ENACT partnership event – The way forward for integrated action on climate change and biodiversity through Nature-based Solutions



Sandeep Sengupta delivering IUCN statement at UN Global Climate Action High-Level Event



Celebrating Commitment to Green List Standard with IUCN Members in ROWA



Hany El Shaer signing MOU between WFP Iraq and IUCN ROWA



IUCN President at launch of the 'Call to Action' at the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data



IUCN-supported Gender Focal Points work to build consensus to ensure a process towards a new Gender Action Plan in 2024.



Grethel Aguilar with Sabrina Peng from the Ant Group



Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim with IUCN Councillor & VP Imen Meliane



WCPA Chair, Madhu Rao at the IUCN Pavilion



WCEL Chair, Christina Voigt at the IUCN Pavilion



CEC Chair, Sean Southey at the UNESCO Greening Education Hub event



IUCN team at Red List Update press conference



Anita Tzec with VP Ramiro Batzin and other Indigenous Peoples representatives



IUCN ROWA team at the IUCN Pavilion



CEM Chair, Angela Andrade speaking at "Earth Information Day" session



Luther Anukur with the Minister of State for Environment of Uganda



Minna Epps and Mohammed Salman Alhammadi at High-Ambition for the High-Seas event



Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative launch with IUCN President, DG and VPs Ramiro Batzin and Imen Meliane



IUCN DG with Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development



Ali Hayajneh, Rachel Asante, Hisham Al Askari, Mohammad Al Sarf (Tilad Environment)



Laith Rahaleh and Natalia Boulard at the desertification and restoration side-event



Grethel Aguilar, Nana Toure and the Minister of Environment of DRC



Joao Sousa and Michelle Kimeu



Liliane Assogba as panellist at the Senegal pavilion



Tanya Merceron as a panellist at the Africa Pavilion



IUCN WCA team



Anouard Mouhamadou Fall at the Senegal Pavilion



SSC Vice Chair Rima Jabado with IUCN Councillor Vivek Menon



IUCN CEC Reception on 'Celebrating the Power of Education to tackle Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss



Per Fredrik Pharo from NORAD and Bama Athreya with IUCN DG at RISE grants challenge announcement



Jeju-IUCN MoU signing ceremony



Aissa Traore at the IUCN Pavilion



IUCN Director General at launch of NbS Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific



IUCN Director General at the Papua New Guinea Country Package announcement



IUCN-ECLAC MoU signing ceremony



CBD Acting Executive Secretary, David Cooper at IUCN Red List Update event



IUCN COP28 delegation members outdoors



Grethel Aguilar meeting with youth delegates in the Climate Mobility Youth Programme



Minna Epps at the EPPIC side-event



Women power at the IUCN Pavilion



Grethel Aguilar and Lucy Deram meeting with AFD and Expertise France



Iain Stewart working at IUCN pavilion



Ali Raza Rizvi and Angela Andrade at event on NbS to achieve net-zero targets



Vinay Singh and the Minister for Women of Fiji



Arsene Alain Sanon as panelist at the BOAD pavilion



IUCN's "office" on-site



Christina Voigt and Francesco Sindico with Mary Robinson with others



Craig Hilton-Taylor at IUCN pavilion



Jamie Wen-Besson closing the side event on the Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)



Vhalinavho Khavhagali in the Zambia Pavilion



Grethel Aguilar and Rachel Asante at the GINGR launch event



DG doing a media interview



Nana Toure with Nigerian Environment Minister



Thomas Sberna at 'Great Blue Wall' event



Angela Andrade at event on "Climate Crisis and Biodiversity in Mangroves - the GET and RLE assessment in Mangroves"



IUCN Councillor, Hasna Moudud



Qiulin and Chinese Members at the IUCN Pavilion



IUCN staff on Mozambique delegation



Hakam Mandouri moderating 'WEFE NEXUS approach in Iraq' session



IUCN Commission Chairs - Kristen Walker (CEESP), Manuel Pulgar Vidal (CCC) and Christina Voigt (WCEL)



Jose Hong and Qiulin Liu in IUCN Pavilion



Charles Karangwa speaking at NBS side-event



IUCN VP Imen Meliane and Ricardo Tejada



Sarah Over at the IUCN Pavilion



IUCN Councillor, Gloria Ujor



IUCN Patron of Nature, Andrew Forrest with IUCN staff Lucy Deram and Rachel Asante



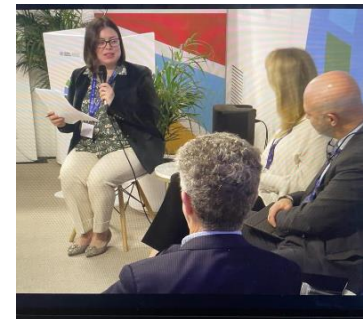
DG at Climate-Refugees Nexus (CRN) Initiative with Prime Minister of Jordan



Ludovic Larbodiere at Agriculture-NbS session



IUCN Climate Crisis Commission Chair, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal speaking at NbS-climate change event



Anete Berzina-Rodrigo speaking at an ocean session



IUCN Commission Chairs and Vice Chairs with DG



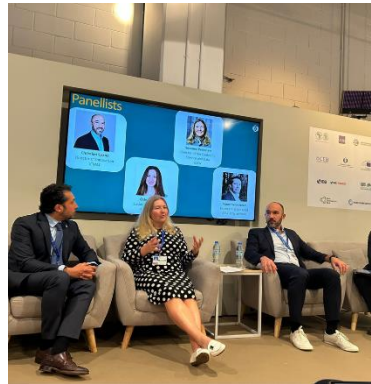
IUCN delegation with Minister of Finance of Kenya



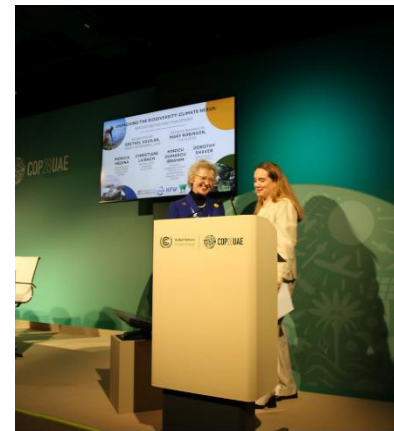
Natalia Boulad moderating IUCN Green List session



DG speaking at Nature-Positive Reception



Susanne Pedersen at COP28 event



DG with Mary Robinson at IUCN's official COP28 side-event



Madhu Rao and Vivek Menon meeting with Bhutan team



IUCN DG presenting 2023 UN Climate Award



The 'all-star' IUCN pavilion team



Fabiano De Andrade from WCEL speaking on legal aspects of NbS



Christina Voigt launching new WCEL publication on 'Measuring the effectiveness of international law'



IUCN COP28 delegation members



Sandeep Sengupta behind IUCN flag at COP28 closing plenary session