



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

IUCN-US

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LETTER FROM OUR CEO & OUR CHAIR

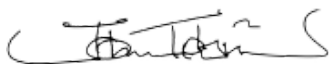
IUCN-US is proud to support the broader sphere and work of the [IUCN Nature 2030 Programme](#). Developed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in 2021, the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme covers a 10-year period – a timeframe that allows us to better shape the world’s conservation goals and objectives in a manner that aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the past year, IUCN-US has funded projects to commence watershed conservation in the Vjosa National Park in Albania, publish about freshwater fish populations as part of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, implement sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices in Eastern Africa, work with Indigenous communities to preserve essential environmental knowledge, educate community and government stakeholders on flood water management of the Mekong River Delta, reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable livelihoods in African small island nations, and much more.

While 2023 proved to be an exciting year for our organization and for IUCN, we look forward to the new initiatives already being implemented in 2024 and the realization of our new Three-Year Strategy. Crucially, we would like to thank our donors for their contributions this past year. Your support continues to inspire us and creates opportunities for lasting, meaningful change in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you as 2024 continues.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Tobin-de la Puente
Chair of the Board



Dr. Tracy Farrell
Chief Executive Officer





OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chair



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OUR MISSION

International Union for Conservation of Nature — United States, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, builds bridges between US donors and IUCN by catalyzing, accelerating, funding and promoting IUCN’s work — conserving nature and natural resources in the United States and throughout the world.

IUCN-US has been supporting IUCN and its network of members and partners for over 25 years. IUCN-US provides financial support for scientific and educational activities, field projects and efforts to develop and implement policy, laws and best practices to advance conservation initiatives around the world. As the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organization, IUCN has an unparalleled leadership position to influence the direction of conservation and sustainable development.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

As we welcome 2024, IUCN-US is happy to highlight the achievements of our regranted projects around the world. Through the support of our donors, IUCN saw the close of a 5 year long project in Thailand.

Tackling Marine Plastics in Thailand, from Community-based Actions to Policy

Since 2018, IUCN Thailand, supported by The Coca-Cola Foundation, have been working to reduce plastic waste and prevent marine plastic pollution by encouraging community-based solid waste management at the local level in Koh Yao Noi, Koh Yao Yai, and Prunai subdistricts, Phang-nga province of Thailand, driving instrumental change in people's behavior towards waste.

Thanks to Koh Yao's unique recycling model, mainly due to strong support of the Muslim community there, the program generated profits by selling recyclable materials – from



Photo Credit: IUCN Thailand

glass bottles, UHT boxes, to fishing gears – to mainland waste collectors in 2019. With an expansion into other pollution-prone subdistricts, the project was able to collect more materials, generating even more economic opportunities for communities from August 2019 to May 2023.

This accounted financial value from the recycled materials was returned for their desired use, mostly for health promotion and entrepreneurial opportunities. During its lifetime, the project saw key successes in stakeholder engagement and policy influencing at the local level, including municipality regulations and ordinances, working groups, and provincial policy all on waste management, and found strong positive behavioral changes toward waste management at the household level.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

IUCN-US strives to recognize and highlight the powerful work rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide through the annual International Ranger Awards — thanks to a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, IUCN-US, WWF, the International Ranger Federation, Re:wild, and Conservation Allies.

2023 Ranger Awards

This year, 10 awardees, 33 rangers total, were recognized for their work on-the-ground across 9 different countries: Mexico, Bhutan, Philippines, Colombia, Brazil, Malaysia, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Ukraine. These awards are intended to improve rangers' capabilities, raise awareness about the critical role they play in conservation efforts, and share rangers' unique stories and perspectives.

The Awards' fourth year allocated \$100,000 to all types of rangers, including those from Indigenous communities, volunteer rangers as well as those employed in protected and conserved areas. All awardees will receive a unique uniform patch, and award funds can be used towards purchasing essential supplies or equipment, providing training, supporting the family of a deceased ranger, or other ranger welfare activities.

Watch the 2023 Awards Ceremony [here](#) and learn more about this year's Rangers [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION



COMMISSION SPOTLIGHT

IUCN-US supports the goals of three IUCN Commissions through award and funding programs, intended to celebrate and showcase the global efforts of individuals, groups, and organizations toward furthering conservation action.

World Commission on Protected Areas

Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in Protected Areas Management

The Kenton R. Miller Award celebrates individuals who are taking bold steps in protecting and conserving national parks and protected areas by recognizing their invaluable and innovative work with a \$5,000 USD grant, international recognition by their peers, and accompanying citation. Learn more and see the winners [here](#).



Species Survival Commission

George Rabb Internship Fund

The Rabb internship grant is a prestigious, competitive award for young professionals seeking a long-term career in conservation. In principle, it is awarded annually from interest on the Endowment to fund at least one intern each year to work on a specific SSC project. This year, the fund supported a Communications Intern at the SSC Chair's office.



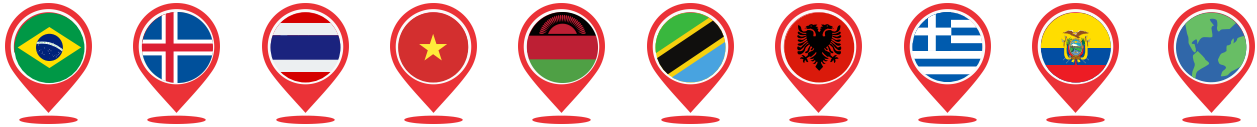
Commission on Education and Communication

#NatureForAll Fund

#NatureForAll is a global movement to inspire, celebrate and restore love of nature. It is not an entity but rather a community of interested organizations and individuals who are inspired to work together to effect positive change. At its core is a very simple idea: the more people connect with, learn about and share their love, the more support and action there will be for its conservation. Visit the site [here](#).



2023 IN REVIEW



IUCN-US supports IUCN projects in **5 different continents** and **9 different countries**. However, most of our projects support conservation efforts at a global scale, from species assessments to Nature-based Solutions assurance, landing them in our “Global” category.

Newly Funded

IUCN-US and IUCN cannot do the work that we do without the engagement of our US-based donors. Their continuous support paved the way for six new conservation projects in 2023.



Sustainability of the Vjosa National Park Feasibility Study: Phase II

IUCN conducts the analyses of Vjosa Wild River National Park’s management objectives, basic biodiversity inventories, socio-economic, land use, cultural heritage and other studies, with the aim to increase the protection of Vjosa to IUCN Category II: National Park.



IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) ((Maximization))

IUCN consolidates an organizational approach to managing all aspects of the NbS Standard and assurance processes that support it, effectively scaling up the impact of the NbS Standard





Credit: Eni Lale



IslandPlas: Advancing Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution in African States

IUCN aims to reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment and ocean in African small island states by promoting sustainable livelihoods of the informal waste sector in the plastics economy and catalyzing capital investments to sector innovation and enterprise development.



Increasing Coastal Resilience in the Mekong Delta through Mangrove Restoration and Hybrid Nature-based Solutions

IUCN tests and scales up a hybrid Nature-based Solution that combines mangrove restoration and the conversion of shrimp production to hyper intensive Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS).



The Leopard Mapping Project: Developing robust mapping methods using Leopards in Africa as a test case*

IUCN's Species Survival Commission group, the Cat Specialist Group, furthers leopard species research and mapping by developing and adapting guidelines to leopard and other cat species work on the ground.

**A special thanks to Mr. Ted Bailey and his daughter for making this project possible.*



From Eyes in the Sky to Boots on the Ground: Applying NASA Earth Observations to Protect Critical Forests

IUCN's Science Team incorporates NASA Earth observations into the IUCN STAR system for conserving protected areas in the Mesoamerican forest region.

Our work is led globally by IUCN Teams, Commissions, and Members all over the world, including but not limited to:

- IUCN Conservation Assurance Management Team
- IUCN-Conservation International Biodiversity Assessment Unit
- IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas Team
- IUCN Centre for Science and Data
- IUCN Oceans Team
- IUCN Species Survival Commission
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

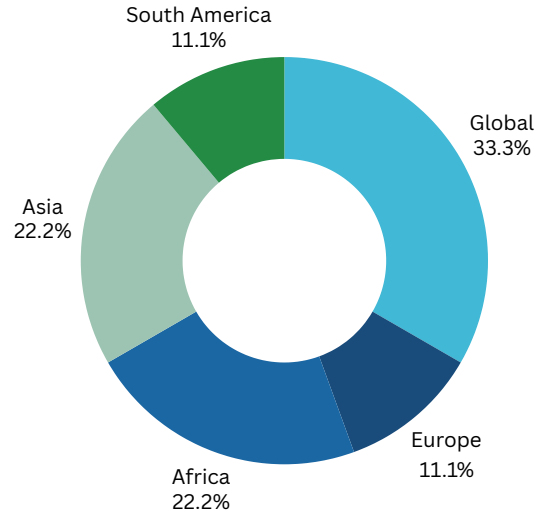


Figure 1: Regional Distribution of IUCN-US funded projects

IUCN-US funded projects are cross-cutting in their approaches, and our main areas of work align with IUCN’s commitment to battling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Varying from less than a year to greater than 3 years, our projects can be categorized by the following thematic categories and target most of the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Figure 3: Number of projects that contribute to specific SDGs

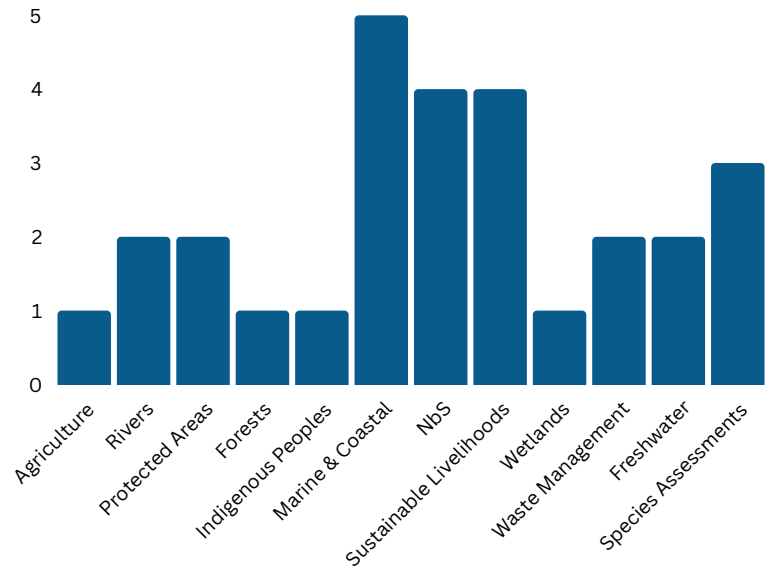
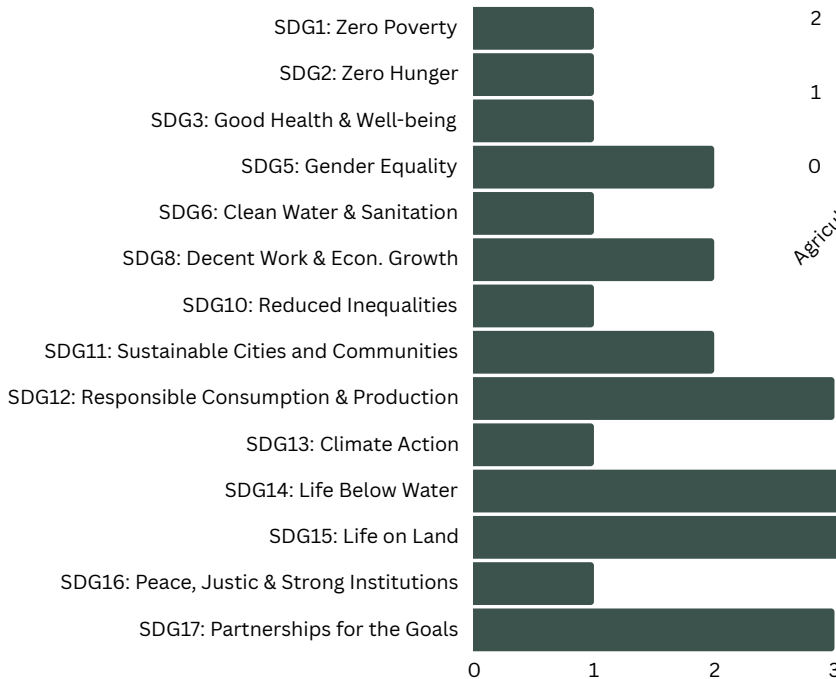
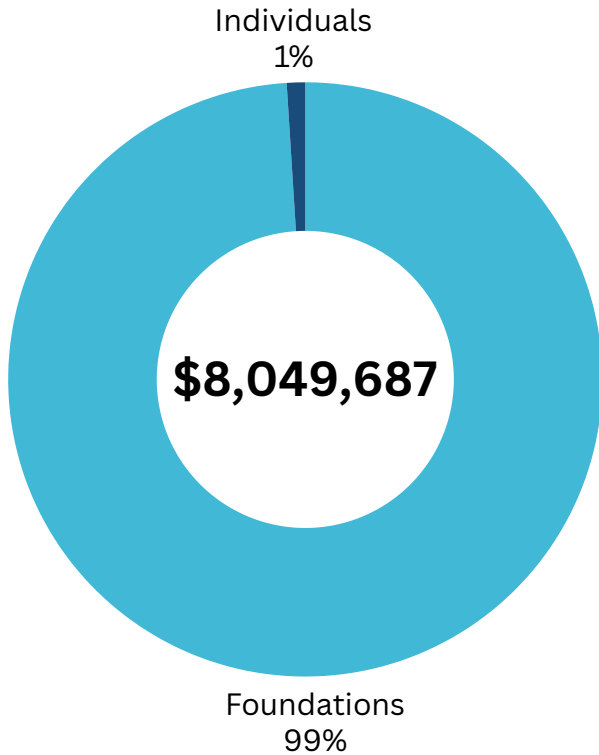


Figure 2: Number of projects focusing on various themes



2023 FINANCIALS



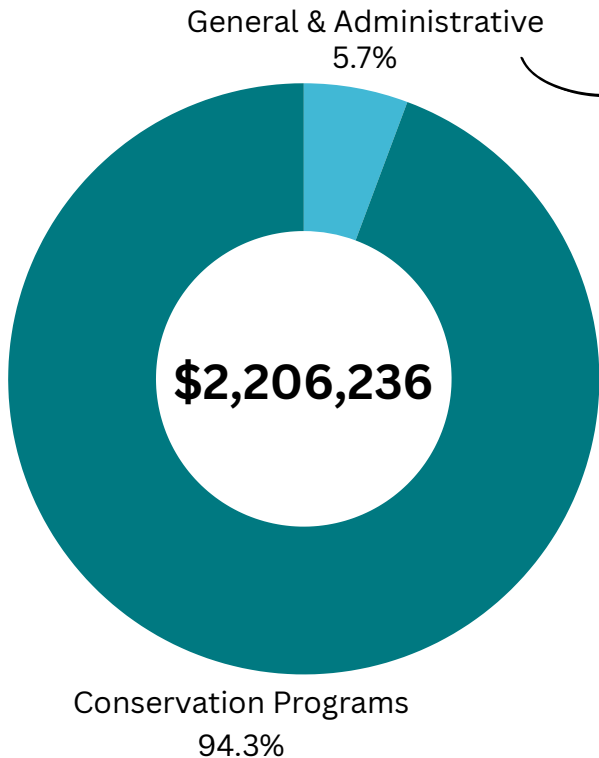
Funds Raised

99% of funds raised originate from US-based foundations.

1% comes from individuals looking to make a difference in the conservation space.

Individual Donations in 2023

- \$7,292 towards Red List of Species support.
- \$65,566 towards IUCN’s work globally.



Funds Allocated

IUCN-US is proud of its low administrative costs, as it allows us to invest more in conservation.

Funds are allocated to support the conservation work and programming for the wider IUCN Union:

- US National Committee support
- IUCN Commission support
 - WCPA - Kenton R. Miller
 - SSC - George Rabb
 - CEC - #NatureForAll





A WAY FORWARD

Our Board of Directors and CEO see the ever increasing threats to nature and our natural resources, requiring us to move faster while also scaling up our work and maximizing our impact.

Therefore, we have developed a **Three-Year Strategy**, benefitting the entirety of the Union. With this new strategy, IUCN-US will:

- Raise funds to increase IUCN's impact;
- Broaden Union support to be more inclusive of Members, Commissions, and the North America Region;
- Raise awareness about what IUCN and IUCN-US acting as its "friends-of in the US" does through branding and communications.

The Three-Year Strategy timeframe, 2024-2027, aligns with the decisions and Resolutions that will be made at the 2025 World Conservation Congress, IUCN's Congress that brings together all parts of society to create good environmental governance.

IUCN-US will respond to the Resolutions and outcomes of the new 2030 Program of Work while continuing to advance the achievement of global biodiversity and climate change targets.



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If you are interested in contributing to IUCN-US, and in turn IUCN, please visit our [Donations page](#). Your support will help IUCN and its network of scientists, members and partner organizations continue to promote conservation and sustainable development around the world. Rest assured that a donation to IUCN-US will be used where IUCN, Members and Partners need it most.

