



News Update

- from the National Committees of Europe, North and Central Asia

This newsletter is produced by the Working Group for National Committee Development (WGNCD) in Europe, North and Central Asia

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS



1st global meeting of IUCN National and Regional Committees

The 1st global meeting of National and Regional Committees was held at the World Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawai'i on 1st September 2016. It was supported by the IUCN President and was attended by 150 people representing national and regional committees from every IUCN region.

Resolution for National Committee Development

Motion 002, 'Developing a Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development,' was approved during the electronic voting process. A high degree of support from all 10 IUCN regions and 26 countries, notably 100% support from State Members.

IUCN – Be More Whale!

Both the outcomes of the global meeting and the motion process were presented to the WCC Member's Assembly at its 5th Sitting. The video of the 5th Sitting of the Members' Assembly can be viewed here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPQ8Xlwc_8. Chris Mahon's presentation starts at approx. 1:07:00 and explains the outcomes of the global meeting of National and Regional Committees, as well as the Resolution to form a Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development. The President's message "Members are the backbone of IUCN" was reinforced. As the world's largest network of environment experts, IUCN was encouraged to liken itself to the world's largest mammal and be more like a blue whale's backbone – strong, connected and flexible!

EUPAG meeting



The European Union (EU) Policy Advisory Group met at the Congress and again online in December. Most recent discussions were on the EU Biodiversity Policy & Agriculture, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Land use, Land-use change and forestry, the Paris Agreement and marine plastic litter.

The membership of the Advisory Group is also being revised to optimise the output from the group.

Project Postcard

Thanks to a good response from Members demonstrating their projects which help deliver the IUCN Global Programme, it was possible to create a dual-purpose desk calendar with usable postcards.

A calendar was presented to the IUCN President at a special lunch meeting he hosted for all the IUCN regional representatives. President Zhang is a strong advocate for National and Regional Committees and spoke supportively of them at the Congress.



New Head at Netherlands NC



Coenraad Krijger is the new Executive Director of the National Committee for the Netherlands. "I look forward to join strengths with the other National Committees in strengthening IUCN membership as well as collaboration within the IUCN Union", says Krijger.

Meeting up in Stockholm



In addition to its monthly online meetings, the Working Group for National Committee Development Europe, North and Central Asia will next meet in person on 15th/16th March 2017 at the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting will also be open to IUCN Member organisations, particularly from countries without National Committee representation.

IUCN Global Programmes - Regional Work Programmes

The IUCN Global Programme is now adopted and consultation on the regional implementation plans for Europe, North and Central Asia completed. It is time to get on with the implementation and delivery! As IUCN Members, these are your programmes too, and both the WGNCD and the IUCN offices in Brussels and Belgrade are interested in what you might be doing in the next 4 years to contribute to achieving the outcomes.

Polish National Committee

Good to hear that the National Committee for Poland is reforming, led by Andrzej Kepel, and that national Focal Points in Portugal (Paula Silva) and Slovakia (Tereza Thompson) are also confirmed. If you have news from your NC, do inform Ann-Katrine at akg@zoo.dk.

Member Consultation on the establishment of an IUCN European Regional Committee

Now that National Committees have demonstrated that they can work together as a working group, the issue of whether this could evolve into a Pan-European Regional Committee has arisen. There are currently 7 IUCN Regional Committees around the world. If you have any views on this do send a message to akg@zoo.dk

Farewell to Sebastià

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Sebastià Semene Guitart who is leaving the IUCN Secretariat after 14 years of service.

Sebastià was instrumental in the establishment of the Working Group and has been a great supporter of its work as well as a believer in the potential that National Committees have for IUCN programme delivery. We wish him well but shall miss him greatly.

