

Name of the Union

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Activities' Report - Year 2016

Delegate/Author Name

Loretta Gratani

1. Introduction

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. The IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental Organization, with almost 1300 government and NGO Members and more than 15000 volunteer experts in 185 countries. IUCN's work is supported by almost 1000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2016 relevant for Italy and for CNR

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 “*Planet at the crossroads*”. Hawaii 1-10 settembre 2016

Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest conservation forum.

In 2016, the IUCN Congress took place in Hawaii from the 1st to the 10th September. The theme of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 was ‘**Planet at the Crossroads**’ to reflect the serious choices and actions the world needs to make to reverse environmental declines and secure a healthy, livable planet. It outlines opportunities to address some of the greatest challenges facing nature conservation and calls for a commitment to implement them. It encapsulates the collective commitment by all who attended the Congress to undertake profound transformations in how human societies live on Earth, with particular attention to making our patterns of production and consumption more sustainable.

The IUCN Members' Assembly adopted 85 Motions, inclusive of over 100 resolutions and recommendations, including to create a membership category for indigenous peoples' organizations.

The Congress concluded with the adoption of IUCN Global Program 2017-2020 and with the presentation of the Hawai'i Commitments. This document, titled “**Navigating Island Earth**”, was shaped by debates and deliberations over 10 days, and opened for comment to some 10000 participants from 192 countries.

Key decisions included **closure of domestic markets for elephant ivory**, the urgency of **protecting the high seas**, the need to **protect primary forests, no-go areas for industrial activities** within protected areas and an official IUCN policy on **biodiversity offsets**. The IUCN Congress put new issues on the global sustainability agenda, including the importance of linking spirituality, religion, culture and conservation, and the need to implement nature-based solutions – actions that protect and manage ecosystems, while effectively addressing societal challenges, such as food and water security, climate change, disaster risk reduction, human health and economic well-being.

IUCN Members have also approved a new program for the next four years and elected new IUCN leadership. **CNR has supported Masahiko Horie as Councilor for Southern and Eastern Asia.**

U.S. President Obama's announcement to expand the “*Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument*”, now the largest protected area in the world. Other announcements included the commitment from Governor Ige of Hawai'i to protect 30% of Hawai'i's highest priority watershed forests by 2030, effectively manage 30% of Hawai nearshore waters by 2030, double local food production and achieve 100% renewable energy

in the electricity sector by 2045. The IUCN Congress also saw new commitments to the “*Bonn Challenge*” initiative to restore 150 million hectares of degraded land by 2050. The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place in 2020.

Key resolutions and recommendations adopted by the IUCN Congress

Illegal wildlife trade

IUCN Members have urged all governments to close domestic markets of elephant ivory, seen as creating opportunities for laundering illegal ivory. Combatting illegal wildlife trade was at the heart of an IUCN decision on the alarming increase in the poaching of vicuña for its fibre. IUCN Members have called for measures to be put in place to promote the sustainable use of the species, and eliminate the illegal trade, including greater traceability of vicuña fibre and cross-border collaboration.

Hunting for captive-bred lions

IUCN members have called for legislation to ban – by 2020, and particularly in South Africa – the breeding of lions in captivity for the purpose of 'canned shooting', regarded by hunters as ‘an ethically repugnant embarrassment’.

The high seas

Members have identified the need for internationally binding legislation to preserve the high seas, and have set an ambitious target of 30% of marine areas to be protected by 2030. Nearly two-thirds of the world’s ocean lies beyond the jurisdiction of countries.

Indigenous peoples

IUCN Members have agreed to create a new category of IUCN membership for Indigenous peoples’ organizations, boosting support for Indigenous peoples’ rights on the international scene. A large number of resolutions adopted by IUCN Members have also contributed to strengthening Indigenous peoples’ rights.

Protection of primary forests

IUCN Members have expressed support for the conservation of primary forests, including intact forest landscapes. These are seen to play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity, and are vital for the protection of indigenous cultures, and livelihoods of poor, marginalized communities.

No-go areas

Another decision by IUCN Members has put all land and seascapes classified under any of IUCN’s categories of protected areas off limits for damaging industrial activities – such as mining, oil and gas, agriculture – and infrastructure developments – such as dams, roads and pipelines. To date, only World Heritage sites have been formally recognized as no-go areas.

Oil palm industry

In another decision, IUCN Members stressed the crucial need to identify intact forests and critical ecosystems to be avoided by the fast-growing oil palm industry. The rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected and taken into consideration, according to the decision. Activities of the oil palm industry can have negative impacts on the environment, such as the loss of habitat for great apes and other primates, as well as on community livelihoods.

Biodiversity offsets

IUCN Members have also agreed on a policy on biodiversity offsets, emphasising that priority must be given to avoid biodiversity loss.

Natural capital

IUCN Members have also agreed to develop a policy defining natural capital, taking into account ecological, ethical and social justice issues. Members have noted emerging standards which aim to integrate the value of nature in the decision-making of business and financial institutions, and the need for an improved understanding of natural capital. IUCN Members rejected a motion to include regional governments in the structure of the Union.

Scientific announcements

Major scientific announcements were released at the Congress, including the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species which declared the eastern gorilla – the largest living primate – as Critically Endangered (CR) due to illegal hunting, while announcing the improvement in status of the giant panda.

IUCN also launched the most comprehensive review of the scale and impact of ocean warming on nature and people available to date.

CoP17 - Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September-04 October 2016

The IUCN has prepared a draft amendment of CITES appendices for the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), which took place from 23 September to 5 October 2016 in Johannesburg. These changes are based on the objective evaluation of biological and trade criteria that determine the placement of species in Appendices I, II or III. Through its Species Survival Commission (SSC), plays a key role.

3. Activities carried on by the Italian CNR Delegate (Loretta Gratani) within the Union during 2016 and impact on the Italian scientific community.

During the World Conservation Congress, Loretta Gratani have sustained as the CNR Delegate:

- Masahiko Horie as Councilor of the Southern and Eastern Asia
- the motion presented by Piero Genovesi (Higher Institute for Environmental Research and Protection) "*Toward an IUCN standard classification of the impact of invasive alien species*"
- the Delegation of the electronic vote to Leonardo Tunesi (Higher Institute for Environmental Research and Protection) as the representative of Italy.

Loretta Gratani participated in an investigation organized by IUCN HQ to evaluate the way of access to scientific literature by the IUCN Members. The answers are used to better organize the service.

Loretta Gratani participated in work group of the Italian Committee IUCN.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

The IUCN Congress highlights the necessity to implement solutions based on Nature, conservation and management of ecosystems. It is important to consider the social challenges connected to food, water, safety, which are affected by climate change, invasive species and risk of catastrophes, all of which have an effect on human health and economic benefits. Based on such considerations, I believe that the role of CNR inside the IUCN, which is one of the most important International Organizations for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources, is actually important due to the fact that it gives the right to vote on conservation strategies of ecosystems, species and the sustenance of populations from fragile countries. Taking into account that participation to an International Scientific Organization such as IUCN also has a monetary commitment, I believe that the cost/benefits for participating is in favor to CNR in such a way as to have a primary role at an international level on such important themes.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

It is important to collect information that is useful for National collaboration among the Italian Members of Commissions and consequently at an international level.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs

PIERO GENOVESI, Member of the Steering Committee - IUCN Species Survival Commission.

7. Short summary about the 2016 IUCN Italian Committee activities

During the meeting of the Italian IUCN Committee of 13 December 2016, we analyzed the role of the Italian IUCN Committee at a national and international level, about the results and European prospects for the World Conservation Congress and future programs.

Concerning the Italian Committee programs for the next year, they include:

- the involvement of Members in the final intensions of the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii
- the availability to coordinate at least one of the six IUCN Commissions. Federparchi will make available names and contact information for the Italian Members.
- a calendar of various activities for Italian Members in the IUCN
- a program of communication/information of the IUCN activities (national, European and international level) to spread out among the contacts of each IUCN Member

8. Conclusions

The activities undertaken by IUCN, in particular during the Congress, highlight the fundamental role at an international level for the conservation of Nature in all its aspects and the necessity of strategic changes at a financial, technological, industrial, governmental and different levels of our society, also inspiring the youngs to develop their abilities and networks. It is important to collaborate to ensure the sustainability of indigenous populations.

Today the IUCN is a reference point in the world. In such context the role of CNR in the IUCN is very important for the participation to create strategies of conservation of ecosystems, species and for the sustainability of populations in the fragile Countries in contrast to those of the more developed Countries.

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Place and date

Roma, 03.05. 2017