

Name of the Union

International Union For Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Activities' Report - Year 2017

Delegate/Author Name

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1. Introduction

Created in 1948, IUCN (**International Union For Conservation of Nature**) has evolved into the world's largest environmental networks. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organizations and the input of some 10,000 experts. The IUCN is the global authority on the *status* of the nature and the measures needed to safeguard it. Its experts are organized into six Commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management and education, and communication. The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. An integrated Science and Economic Knowledge team created in 2017 will provide strategic direction and quality control for IUCN's research and analytical work, building the foundation for IUCN's scientific and economic analytical leadership.

2. Main activities carried on by IUCN during 2017 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2017, IUCN continued to assist and guide civil society, governments, companies and scientists as they lead the transition towards sustainable development. In 2017, IUCN continued to stress the importance of integrating nature conservation into global and national strategies and called for concrete action to achieve the global targets, such as the **Paris Agreement on climate change**, the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

The Union also engaged in preparations for a **post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity**. Every action was backed up by rigorous science and the latest findings generated by the Union's world-leading Commissions and the Secretariat's rich portfolio of projects around the world. **Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.**

The IUCN European Work Programme 2017-2020 outlines the areas of work IUCN's European region will focus on over the next four years and is the product of extensive consultation and discussion with IUCN's European Members and experts. It follows the same structure and sub-results as the IUCN Global Programme (2017-2020) that was approved during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, in Hawai'i. The Programme reflects the priorities of IUCN's European Members and partners so as to guide the work of the European Regional office (EURO) and ensure joint implementation. It focuses on EU policy as a major driver in Europe. It also aims to align itself with relevant EU policies and commitments such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and how this is reflected in the other countries in the European region.

Areas of work within the Programme include: Nature-based solutions for EU policies, urban and subnational development, and climate change mitigation; ecosystem-based management; IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessments; development and use of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas; implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (including work on Invasive Alien Species); supporting the achievement of International Commitments; biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories; support for a more sustainable European agriculture; marine conservation; Forest Landscape Restoration (specifically with regards to the Bonn Challenge) and conservation of the Arctic Region.

ASSESSING THE STATE OF NATURE AND CONSERVATION

New and updated assessments for 8,417 species were completed for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Work with IUCN's Species Survival Commission and Red List Partners increased coverage of the IUCN Red List to 91,523 species. These assessments document biodiversity declines, but also conservation successes.

IUCN continued to develop the **Red List of Ecosystems** under the global IUCN standard for assessing the risk to ecosystems. IUCN started developing a global ecosystem classification system and, with national partners, supported ecosystem assessments. **Ecosystem risk assessments have now been completed in 16 countries, with over 550 ecosystem types assessed.**

IUCN expanded and strengthened the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) – sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity - 2017 saw the establishment of the KBA Committee, recruitment for its Secretariat, and guidelines for applying the KBA standard, as well as work to identify KBAs in Canada, Myanmar, the Mediterranean, Madagascar, Lake Victoria and beyond. **IUCN formally adopted the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas standard** to assess site conservation impact and success. Together with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, **IUCN continued to monitor progress towards achieving the Aichi Targets on protected areas.**

PEOPLE IN NATURE

The People in Nature (PiN) initiative aims to provide a systematic way to measure and document how biodiversity contributes to livelihoods and well-being, focusing on material use and cultural values. **In 2017, PiN developed a 'benefits assessment' tool that can be used to document the trade and use of species.** This tool aims to ensure more consistent data collection for species assessments. **The 'benefits assessment' will be used within the IUCN Species Information Service, a central database that stores and manages species data and assessments for publication on The IUCN Red List.**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the most pressing environment and development challenges. Healthy ecosystems such as forests, drylands and mangroves contribute to climate change mitigation by absorbing and storing carbon. They also help vulnerable communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

At the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23, Bonn 9th November 2017), **IUCN launched the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 report, which revealed that the number of natural World Heritage sites threatened by climate change nearly doubled in three years and that climate change today impacts a quarter of all sites.** To respond to the growing threat of climate change to nature, **IUCN released best-practice guidelines on climate change adaptation for protected area managers and planners.** With the support of the European Union, **IUCN also developed the MPAADAPT initiative in the Mediterranean region, aimed at enhancing the resilience of marine protected areas (MPA) to climate impacts.**

3. Activities carried on by (Loretta Gratani) within the Union during 2017 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Loretta Gratani participated in investigations organized by IUCN which answers were used to better organize the service. She participated to discussions of the IUCN Italian Committee.

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

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 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 international level.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

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

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2017 CNR Commission activities

The activities of the IUCN National Committee were mainly conducted with the aim of involving the Italian partners in their national and international activities and at the same time providing support and contributions to the IUCN. These activities concerned in particular:

- A program to highlight the Italian experts in the European and international context
- A National meeting to involve national experts of the IUCN Commissions
- Prosecution and strengthening of the IUCN Green List
- Management of the Italian IUCN Committee website
- The processing of National Red Lists
- The assessment of the state of biodiversity at the national level (application of the Sampled Red list and the Red List Index).

8. Conclusions

The activities undertaken by IUCN 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. Thus, 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



Place and date

Rome, April 13 2018