

IUCN

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Activity report - Year 2022

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1. Introduction

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organizations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organizations and the input of more than 17,000 experts. This diversity and vast expertise make IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Founded in 1948, starting in the 1960s The IUCN launched a program aimed at identifying globally threatened taxa and documenting its conservation status. The main objective is to encourage and assist companies around the world to preserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is fair and environmentally sustainable, through effective management and the search for related solutions to combat global problems, including climate change and sustainable development.

The IUCN has established objective criteria to define the conservation status of species at global and local level and based on categories and criteria of the Red List version 3.1 (2001), which provides for the assignment of the species to one of the risk categories.

The activities of the IUCN are carried out by 6 committees of experts:

- IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). The SSC groups together experts in marine and terrestrial animal and plant species, and is structured in many technical groups of specialists on various topics (taxonomic groups, single species, species of specific environments, etc.)
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). The WCPA mainly deals with issues related to protected areas, it is also organized in specialized thematic groups
- IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL). The WCEL includes experts in environmental legislation and environmental law by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal basis of nature conservation and sustainable development through the conceptual advancement of environmental principles, norms and laws and by developing the capacity of communities to benefit from them.
- IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP). Through its members, CEESP promotes practical and informative actions for the harmonization of nature conservation with the main social, cultural, environmental and economic criticalities.

- IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). The CEC brings together experts in Environmental Education and Communication and promotes the definition and application of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN.
- IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management (CEM). The CEM promotes ecosystem-based approaches for the management of terrestrial and marine landscapes and ecosystems, provides assistance and support for ecosystem-based management and promotes resilient socio-ecological systems to address global challenges.

2. Significant activities for Italy and for the CNR carried out in 2022 by the Body of which it is the Representative

IUCN attended CBD COP15 in Montreal, Canada on 19 December 2022. The Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a new strategic plan to transform society's relationship with biodiversity and ensure that by 2050 we live in harmony with the nature. The IUCN particularly applauds the commitment to conserve at least 30% of land, inland water and coastal and marine areas, and in particular areas important for biodiversity, through ecologically representative, well-connected and equally governed systems of protected areas and other effective areas. It is imperative that key biodiversity areas are included in this 30%.

The Italian committee of the IUCN has produced an update of the Red List of Italian vertebrates (the previous version dated back to 2013). The Red List tool is essential for the management and conservation of threatened species in Italy. Furthermore, in 2022 the Italian committee continued its activity to draw up the Green List of protected areas. The main objective of the initiative is to encourage and empower protected areas to measure, improve and maintain their performance through globally consistent criteria.

3. Activities carried out as Representative in 2022 within the Body and indications on the effects on the national scientific community

Participation in the IUCN national meeting (July 2022). During the meeting, the offices of the Italian committee were renewed:

Oliviero Montanaro (MiTE) - Presidente
 Giampiero Sammuri (Federparchi) – Vice Presidente
 Federica Barbera (Legambiente) - Consigliere
 Rita De Stefano (Istituto Pangea) - Consigliere
 Isabella Pratesi (WWF Italia) - Consigliere
 Luigi Boitani (UZI) - Consigliere
 Piero Genovesi (ISPRA) – Consigliere

Participation in the updating of the criteria of the Italian Red List of some species of mammals
 Connection and exchange of information with the Italian IUCN committee, sharing of information with CNR colleagues and other Italian colleagues.

4. Evaluation of participation in the Union in relation to the benefits and costs of membership

The IUCN is the world reference point for the conservation of nature and biodiversity. At the same time, Italy is considered a biodiversity hotspot and as such has a strong interest in interacting with international bodies such as the IUCN in charge of defining strategies for the management and conservation of species and ecosystems. The CNR, through participation in the activities of the IUCN, has the opportunity to enhance the skills present in the institution and at the same time has the opportunity to participate in choices regarding environmental policy which also have a strong impact on the national scene.

The presence of the CNR in the IUCN context remains strategic especially after the launch of the National Center for Biodiversity within the PNRR. Many of the activities within the NBFC are focused on assessing the conservation status of species and ecosystems and their conservation. Then all the information produced will find application in the IUCN initiatives

5. Evaluations on Italian participation with proposals to improve interest and involvement

Italy participates in the IUCN with three governmental institutions (CNR, ISPRA and PNCVD) and 18 non-governmental organizations. The activities of the IUCN are carried out through the participation of the various bodies involved in the initiatives called by the national and international committee of the IUCN and through the participation of individual researchers and experts in the activities of the various commissions. For Italy there are numerous researchers, technologists and experts who are involved in various capacities in the initiatives of the IUCN, both national and international. A strengthening of the Italian presence (and of the CNR) in the six IUCN commissions (SSC, WCPA, WCEL, CEESP, CEC, CEM) is desirable. Within the CNR there is the DSSTTA working group on biodiversity (<https://dta.cnr.it/biodiversity/>) which can play an important role in promoting the participation of CNR Researchers and Technologists in IUCN activities .

6. Italian experts with top positions appointed within the Body or in related Commissions and Programs (of which we are aware)

For Italy, Prof. Luigi Boitani (chair of the IUCN SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe) and Dr. Piero Genovesi (chair of the IUCN SSC ISSG) are members of the SSC Steering Committee (2021-2025) president of the. The teacher. Anna Loy is the chair of the IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group and prof. Luigi Boitani is chair of the Red List Committee

7. Conclusions

The IUCN is a global reference point for the management and protection of biodiversity. The participation of the CNR in the IUCN is important as it allows our institution, in synergy with the other member institutions, to participate in the development of conservation strategies for ecosystems and species.

The participation of the CNR in the IUCN is useful in this phase of definition of the new European strategies for the environment and sustainability. This is particularly relevant

considering the primary role that the CNR will play in the coming years through the coordination of strategic activities such as the National Biodiversity Center.

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