



WCS Briefing

IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC)

3-11 September 2021, Marseille, France



Introduction to WCS

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that has been working across the globe for more than 125 years to save wildlife and wild places. We have conservation programs on the ground in more than 60 countries across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and the Americas that work in partnership with governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, and other stakeholders on science-based conservation efforts.

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact Dr. Susan Lieberman, Vice-President, International Policy (slieberman@wcs.org) and Dr. Elizabeth Bennett, Vice-President, Species Conservation (ebennett@wcs.org).

IUCN World Conservation Congress

This briefing outlines the recommendations from WCS on selected motions to be decided at the Members' Assembly, and it also contains a list of selected Forum sessions and Exhibit events of interest.

Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, conservation and other NGOs, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, and academia, to influence the direction of conservation and global sustainable development for the next four years and to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

As a founding and very active member of IUCN, WCS will be involved in the main three components of the congress: The Members' Assembly, The Forum, and the Exhibition.



Candidates for IUCN Council 2021 - 2025

At the IUCN WCC, IUCN Members will elect a new Council for 2021-25, including for the positions of President, Treasurer, Chairs of Commissions and Regional Councillors.

WCS is pleased to have 3 candidates for the new IUCN Council:

- **IUCN President**

Dr. John Gwilym ROBINSON

Executive Vice President, Conservation and Science, WCS
United States of America

See [Candidate info](#)



- **Chair, World Commission on Protected Areas**

Dr. Madhu RAO

Senior Advisor, WCS Asia
India, United Kingdom

See [Candidate info](#)

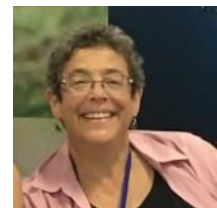


- **Regional Councillor – North America and the Caribbean**

Dr. Susan LIEBERMAN

Vice-President, International Policy, WCS
United States of America

See [Candidate info](#)





WCS recommendations on the 19 motions remitted by the Motions Working Group to Congress for further discussion and vote (1/2)

#	Title	WCS Recommendation
003	<i>[Establishing a Climate Change Commission] [Establishing an Inter-Commissional Cross-Sectoral Task Force on the Climate Crisis] [Establishing an IUCN Climate Task Force]</i>	OPEN POSITION
013	<i>Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects</i>	SUPPORT
021	<i>Planning [of maritime areas] [of the maritime area] and [biodiversity conservation] [conservation of natural diversity]</i>	SUPPORT
024	<i>Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean</i>	SUPPORT
034	<i>[Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises]</i>	SUPPORT
039	<i>Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers</i>	SUPPORT
040	<i>Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework</i>	SUPPORT
044	<i>Actions to strengthen food sovereignty and security of indigenous peoples and peasant communities</i>	LIKELY SUPPORT
045	<i>Recognising and supporting indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights and roles in conservation</i>	SUPPORT
048	<i>Rediscovering the care of Mother Earth from the vision of indigenous peoples</i>	ABSTAIN
062	<i>Towards a Policy on Natural Capital</i>	SUPPORT
067	<i>Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity</i>	LIKELY SUPPORT
069	<i>Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining</i>	SUPPORT



WCS recommendations on the 19 motions remitted by the Motions Working Group to Congress for further discussion and vote (2/2)

#	Title	WCS Recommendation
075	<i>IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation</i>	SUPPORT
084	<i>Taking action to reduce light pollution</i>	SUPPORT
101	<i>Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive</i>	SUPPORT
118	<i>Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation</i>	SUPPORT
125	<i>Strengthening the protection of old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible</i>	LIKELY SUPPORT
126	<i>Advancing conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction</i>	SUPPORT



WCS recommendations on Motions proposing amendments to the IUCN Statutes

#	Motions proposing amendments to the IUCN Statutes	WCS Recommendation
A	<i>Including subnational governments in IUCN's membership</i>	ABSTAIN
B	<i>Election of Regional Councillors resident in dependent territories</i>	SUPPORT
C	<i>Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position</i>	SUPPORT
D	<i>Modification of the term "Regional Councillor"</i>	SUPPORT
E	<i>Improvements to the motions process to protect the intellectual independence of the knowledge-based and evidence-based work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat of IUCN</i>	OPPOSE
F	<i>Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees</i>	SUPPORT
G	<i>Clarification of conditions for readmission of former State Members</i>	SUPPORT
H	<i>Establishment, operating rules and oversight of National, Regional and Interregional Committees</i>	SUPPORT
I	<i>Functions of the IUCN Treasurer</i>	SUPPORT
J	<i>Development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision, inclusive of a Financial Strategy, and Strategic Plan for the Union</i>	SUPPORT
K	<i>Improvements to the motions process to put a cap on the number of abstentions in order for a motion to be adopted</i>	STRONGLY OPPOSE*
L	<i>Improvements to the motions process regarding the majority required to adopt motions</i>	STRONGLY OPPOSE**

* WCS opposes the proposed amendment to Article 32 of the IUCN Statutes, which calls for rejection of any motion if more than 1/3 of votes cast are abstentions in either Category A, or Category B and C combined. WCS also opposes the Amendment to Rule 62quinto of the Rules of Procedure. There are multiple reasons why members abstain on motions, which must be respected. But by definition, to abstain is to formally decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion. Therefore, it is inappropriate and illogical to count the number of abstentions in any way, as that member has formally declined to have an opinion for or against the motion in question.

** WCS opposes amendments to the IUCN Statutes and Rules of Procedure that are proposed in Motion E, which would make it more difficult to adopt motions that may be controversial. WCS opposes the proposed amendment to Article 3bis, which proposes to require a 2/3 majority, rather than a simple majority, to pass a motion.



WCS recommendations on Other Congress Decisions

#	Other Congress Decisions	WCS Recommendation
D01	<i>IUCN Programme 2021-2024</i>	SUPPORT
D02	<i>IUCN Financial Plan 2021-2024</i>	SUPPORT
D03	<i>Proposal for Membership Dues</i>	SUPPORT
D04	<i>Rescission of Members' rights whose dues are in arrears</i>	SUPPORT
D05	<i>Appointment of External Auditors</i>	SUPPORT
D06	<i>Audited Financial Statements for the period 2016-2019</i>	SUPPORT
D07	<i>Proposed Mandate for the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)</i>	SUPPORT
D08	<i>Proposed Mandate for the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)</i>	SUPPORT
D09	<i>Proposed Mandate for the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)</i>	SUPPORT
D10	<i>Proposed Mandate for the Species Survival Commission (SSC)</i>	SUPPORT
D11	<i>Proposed Mandate for the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)</i>	SUPPORT
D12	<i>Proposed Mandate for the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)</i>	SUPPORT



Selected Forum sessions and Exhibit events of interest (1/4)

Saturday 4 September				
Time	Room	Title	Type	Link
10:00 - 11:00	H3 Cons. Finance Online/Onsite	Biodiversity Offset Financing. With Conservation Finance Alliance, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
11:15 - 12:00	H3 Central Stage Onsite only	The Future of Conservation Trust Funds: Innovation from Stability. With Conservation Finance Alliance and AFD	Exhibition Event	Here
14:00 - 15:00	H3 - Ocea. - Hawai'i Online/Onsite	Integrated Ocean Management through MSP / MPA Planning in Oceania. With IUCN, Fiji Department of Environment, EU, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
14:00 - 15:30	H6-D Pyrenées Online/Onsite	Genetic Frontiers for Conservation. With IUCN SSC, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here
15:00 - 16:00	H3 - Protect. Planet Online/Onsite	Why conservation and development are mutually reinforcing in Key Landscapes? With DG INTPA and IUCN	Exhibition Event	Here
16:00 - 18:00	Virtual Channel 5 Online only	Building resilient and innovative conservation leaders for the future. With FFI, BirdLife, WCS , IUCN WCPA, and others	Campus Session	Here



Selected Forum sessions and Exhibit events of interest (2/4)

Sunday 5 September				
Time	Room	Title	Type	Link
09:00 - 10:30	H8 - 4 Martinique Online/Onsite	Advancing policy on mitigation and offsetting impacts on biodiversity: taking stock and looking ahead post-2020. With Biotope, AFD, WCS , IUCN, and others	Thematic Session	Here
09:00 - 10:30	H8 - 7 Cévennes Online/Onsite	Using Innovative Technologies to Improve Conservation Outcomes. With SMART Partnership, WWF Madagascar, WCS , IUCN, and others	Thematic Session	Here
14:00 - 15:30	H1 Plenary - Cala. Online/Onsite	Science-based targets for Ecosystems in the post-2020 framework for Biodiversity. With IUCN, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here
14:00 - 15:30	H8 - 6 Cap Corse Online/Onsite	In the Conflict Zone: Conservation in Troubled Environment. With Australian National University, WCS , WWF, CI, IUCN, and others	Thematic Session	Here
15:00 - 16:00	H3 Cons. Finance Online/Onsite	Launch of the Global Report on Protected Area Finance Capacity Needs. With Conservation Finance Alliance, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
16:00 - 17:30	H8 - 4 Martinique Online/Onsite	IUCN Green List of Species: a new standard to measure species recovery and conservation success. With WCS , Re:wild, and others	Thematic Session	Here
16:00 - 17:30	Virtual Channel 4 Online only	Women and power: enabling environments for gender-responsive conservation and entrepreneurship in a post-2020 era. With IUCN, CBD Secretariat, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here



Selected Forum sessions and Exhibit events of interest (3/4)

Monday 6 September				
Time	Room	Title	Type	Link
09:00 - 10:30	H8 - 4 Martinique Online/Onsite	The Outlook for World Heritage at 50 - crisis or crossroads? With IUCN and others	Thematic Session	Here
10:00 - 12:00	H3 - Oc. and Islands Online/Onsite	High Seas: From Science to Decision. With IUCN, FFEM, French Biodiversity Agency, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
11:00 - 12:30	H8 - 4 Martinique Online/Onsite	Conservation Trust Funds as one way of safeguarding high biodiversity areas – what is innovative about the Legacy Landscapes Fund. With BMZ, LLF, KfW, AFD, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here
14:00 - 15:00	H3 European Uni. Onsite only	Sustainable wildlife management: the food, biodiversity and health nexus. With European Commission, WCS , FAO, CIFOR, CIRAD	Exhibition Event	Here
14:00 - 15:30	Virtual Channel 1 Online only	Collaboration for protecting the Amazon nature and people: the case of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program. With GEF, World Bank, and others	Thematic Session	Here
16:00 - 17:30	H1 Plenary - Cala. Online/Onsite	Key Biodiversity Area conservation in a post-2020 world. With KBA Secretariat, WCS , BirdLife, ANAC, CI, WWF, IUCN, and others	Thematic Session	Here
16:30-17:30	H3 - Oc. and Islands Online/Onsite	The Global Fund for Coral Reefs. With UNDP, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Prince Albert II Monaco Foundation, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
16:30 - 18:00	H9 - B11 – Callel. Online/Onsite	Presenting the International Alliance against Health Risks in the Wildlife Trade. With GIZ, WCS , and others	Press Confer.	Here
20:00 - 21:30	Virtual Channel 2 Online only	Convergence: The Case for Combating Conservation Crimes. With US Department of State, WCS , WRI, TRAFFIC, and others	Thematic Session	Here



Selected Forum sessions and Exhibit events of interest (4/4)

Tuesday 7 September				
Time	Room	Title	Type	Link
09:00 - 10:30	H8 - 7 Cévennes Online/Onsite	The Yellow Sea - A Global Heritage: Towards Transboundary Governance and Management. With IUCN	Thematic Session	Here
11:00 - 13:00	Virtual Channel 6 Online only	Do protected areas actually work? How and why we measure site-level performance. With UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, WCS , and others	Campus Session	Here
14:00 - 15:30	Virtual Channel 4 Online only	Acting now to stop the loss of primary forests: Countering the biodiversity and climate crises. With IUCN, CI, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here
14:00 - 15:30	H6-E Ecrins Online/Onsite	Connecting protected areas and beyond to safeguard mountainous ecosystem services and adapt to climate change. With ALPARC, IUCN CEC, WCS , and others	Thematic Session	Here
14:00 - 15:30	H3 - Busi. & Nature Online/Onsite	Renewable energy and biodiversity: implementation of the mitigation hierarchy. With IUCN, RSBP, FFI, WCS , and others	Exhibition Event	Here
16:00 - 17:30	H8 - 6 Cap Corse Online/Onsite	Closing Plenary: Conservation Knowledge for Conservation Impact. With IUCN, GEF, WCS , Re:wild, and others	Thematic Plenary	Here