

**Canadian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature
(CCIUCN)**

**Canadian Regional Conservation Forum
September 10, 2015 - Ottawa
(Facilitator – Key Messages)**

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Canadian members are aware of all plans for, and changes to, the Congress and Programme
- Members have provided comments on plans for the World Congress, the IUCN 2017-2020 Programme of Work, motions of regional and global importance, and proposed governance changes.
- Identification of Canadian priorities for the Congress
- Interested members are prepared to participate in development of draft motions after the Canadian forum, through the World Congress and programme implementation.

A. GETTING STARTED/CONTEXT

Welcome / Purpose of Meeting (*Rick Bates*)

- Rick welcomed all participants and thanked them for their participation
- He encouraged participants to renew their CCIUCN membership and noted the creation of a new membership category for youth (\$15.00) and; a revised fee structure for all members (first increase in 20 years)
- There are many real challenges to conservation in Canada and around the world (habitat and biodiversity loss, climate change, etc.)
- In the context of these challenges it is important that the conservation community (including today in this forum) keeps a spirit of openness and inclusion – to encourage new ideas
- This is a very diverse group which has the real ability to be creative (government, aboriginal peoples, NGOs, academics, youth)
- Rick noted that president IUCN President Zhang Xinsheng passes on his regrets and best wishes to the group
- The focus of the discussion will be shaping IUCN direction and priorities from a Canadian perspective – and through this work have a meaningful impact on conservation on a global scale

Welcome from Canadian Museum of Nature (*Meg Beckel*)

- The Museum of Nature has been engaged in creating and sharing knowledge for 150 years
- 2 Centres of Excellence were highlighted:
 - Arctic Knowledge and Exploration
 - Centre for Species Discovery and Change
- For Canada's 150 anniversary celebration in 2017, the Museum will introduce 12 months of programming to celebrate and in particular focus on Canada's Arctic – culminating in the creation of a modular and permanent Arctic gallery
- The Museum philosophy includes connecting people with nature “on their terms” and includes the exploration of our natural future on the Museum web site
- Meg welcomed participants to the renovated facility and looked forward to the conversation

B. FOCUS ON THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Current Plans for the Congress (*Luc de Wever*)

Luc's full Power Point presentation is available separately. Participants raised the following points in a brief plenary discussion:

- Membership costs and associated discounts for attendance at the Congress need to be clarified, including costs for youth attendance
- The Award process at the Congress itself should be streamlined
- There is a need for a communication strategy around the Congress, which should include a way to focus international media attention, public engagement and local government involvement
- The Congress outcomes should be science-based

Inspiring a New Generation (*Karen Keenleyside*)

Karen's full Power Point presentation is available separately

- Build upon outcomes of World Parks Congress, the recommendations in the Promise of Sydney and other initiatives to launch a new global programme element on Inspiring a New Generation led by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the World commission on Protected Areas that cuts across and is integrated into the three main program areas, with a specific global result and sub-results,
- Key elements include:
- A step change is needed in ambition, urgency, investment and action to achieve conservation and sustainable development goals – there is a need to reach out to, engage and influence new audiences
- ING is an opportunity to transform this situation by addressing a key indirect driver of change – peoples' lack of connection with nature
- ING needs to reach all citizens – not just youth and not just the “converted” – but different areas of society, such as health, industry, technology, local municipalities, urban dwellers and all income levels and ethnicities
- Facilitate engagement with nature on peoples' own terms, creatively and unconditionally
- Empower young people to be conservation leaders
- Ensure young people have an active, powerful and fully integrated voice in conservation
- Embrace technology as a means to connect with nature, rather than see it as a barrier
- Implement regionally/locally as part of a coherent global programme
- Establish how to better measure and evaluate impacts
- Urban parks, museums, zoos, etc can be urban 'gateways' to nature
- Draw on the expertise of sectors such as social marketing, especially related to behaviour change, to reach and influence new audiences
- Use the 2016 IUCN WCC as a launch pad and a catalyst
 - Sessions and events focused on ING solutions for all IUCN Programme outcomes
 - Motions recommend specific programming to activate the 2017-2020 IUCN workplan

C. FOCUS ON THE PROPOSED IUCN PROGRAMME

Draft IUCN Programme – 2017 – 2020 (Spencer Thomas)

Spencer's full Power Point presentation is available separately.

Discussion

1. Is there anything missing from the IUCN Draft Programme of global priorities you feel should be addressed in the 2017-2020 programme?
 - Valuing and conserving nature
 - Nature based solutions
 - Effective and equitable governance of nature's use

2. Is there anything over/under emphasized, or otherwise not adequately represented, in the Programme that you feel should be changed?
 - Promise of Sydney
 - Inspiring a New Generation
 - Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Targets, especially Target 1 and Target 11
 - Climate Change Adaptation
 - Human Dependence on Nature Knowledge
 - Other

Promise of Sydney and Inspiring a New Generation (Mike Wong)

- Integrate Promise of Sydney recommendations into the programmed
- Do more but also do differently to make real progress on reaching Aichi targets e.g. marine issues
- Address indirect as well as direct drivers of change e.g. Inspiring a New Generation
- Ensure constituencies see themselves in the programme results e.g. Indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge
- Target attention, investments and commitments to place greater focus on actions related to these outcomes

Convention on Biodiversity's Aichi targets, especially targets 1 and 11 (Stephen Woodley)

- The first draft IUCN program plan is a good start
- It is important to build on the Promise of Sydney
- The program needs more emphasis on protected areas
- It is good to focus on the Aichi targets but also important to move beyond those targets – to science based targets and results

Climate Change Adaptation (Norman Henderson)

See the prepared notes that Dr. Henderson provided

- The scale and nature of the challenge from climate change needs to be better recognized in the draft Programme
- Assess whether current and proposed IUCN strategies will be adequate to deal with adaptation needs
- A key objective of the IUCN should be to encourage members to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through management of natural systems

Canadian Regional Conservation Forum

- A second key objective should be to help members adapt to unavoidable current and future impacts on natural ecosystems.
- The concept of 'ecosystem restoration,' which is mentioned as desirable several times in the draft Programme, will become very difficult and maybe impossible as the climate and the landscape possibilities change. The historic ecosystem may not be an option. IUCN should be an important contributor in providing international advice on key but radical adaptation strategies such as the emerging debate over different facets of assisted migration.
- Some areas like the UK have a long conservation tradition of habitat manipulation, species translocation and continuous human management and intervention. For countries like the US and Canada, which idealise non-managed 'wilderness' landscapes, this runs against our conservation history and philosophy. But traditional approaches may not be adequate in the face of climate change. The IUCN is well positioned to facilitate improved understanding of different conservation philosophies to assist with adaptation.
- Some specific questions the IUCN Programme should address to more focus programming are:
 - Which major world ecosystems are most threatened by climate change?
 - Which specific conservation sites are most threatened by climate change?
 - What generalised management solutions can we offer?

Human Dependence on Nature Knowledge (Iain Davidson Hunt)

2012 World Conservation Congress passed a programme of work that included the development of the Human Dependence on Nature Knowledge Basket using a one programme approach

-CEESP was named as the lead Commission to develop HDN along with secretariat and members

-Steering group formed that included CEESP representatives from TSL, SULi, SPICEH, TILCEPA and CEM

-Secretariat members identified from Nature-based Solutions group and meetings held with Species Unit to identify knowledge product integration opportunities

-Concept note developed through series of workshops in 2013/14

-Decision made to begin with rural and remote communities with a focus on provisioning and cultural ecosystem services

-Funding was secured for early development and a survey was distributed to regions to identify early application sites leading to an initiative in Costa Rica and Southern Africa

-Writing teams for discussion papers were formed and first draft meeting to be held in Southern Africa October of 2015

-Discussion papers will be circulated late 2015 for commentary and to identify people interested in helping to develop conceptual framing of HDN

-Looking for IUCN members interested in participating in development of HDN and to develop a resolution supporting further HDN development

Participant Feedback

The following are the key messages from my perspective:

1. Definitions

- The 3 global priorities (valuing and conserving nature; nature based solutions; effective and equitable governance of nature's use) need to be clearly defined in the programme. In defining the priorities ensure that they are coherently integrated and aligned.

2. Awareness and Engagement

Canadian Regional Conservation Forum

- This is in fact a cross-cutting priority for all programme areas
 - The focus should be broadened – beyond youth
 - The focus on “inspiring a new generation” is very positive. The effort should include not just “privileged youth” but all youth – including those that are disadvantaged and living in urban areas
 - In addition to youth, we need to be reaching all citizens – not just the “converted” – including different areas of society, such as health, industry, technology, local municipalities, urban dwellers – “beat the drum”
 - Focus communication on positive aspects of conservation and nature – share success stories
 - The ‘voice’ of IUCN needs to be stronger at the international level, with state of the art analysis and reports and challenges that are focused on a more ‘agenda setting’ profile, more purposeful constituency building for policy change and on facilitating program implementation,
 - There is a need for a communication strategy for the Congress, which should include a way to focus international media attention, public engagement and local government involvement
 - Ensure constituencies see themselves in the programme results e.g Indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge
 - “Market” conservation in language that people understand
3. Metrics
- The programme is missing metrics – we need the global priorities aligned with sub-priorities and targets and metrics.
4. Focus on Implementation and Practical Results is very important to demonstrate impact
- There were concerns raised around past targets (which are laudable) and the lack of progress (at least in some cases) in achieving those targets
 - More focus is needed on effective implementation, on how to achieve the results. On the other hand if implementation is too prescriptive, regional or local differences are not taken into account and innovation is stifled. Balance between strategic targets and prescribing reasonable levels of implementation is required
5. Emphasis on Restoration
- The term “restoration” implies a return to some state of “normal” when historical baselines may not be relevant, especially as climate changes
 - There was a suggestion to use the term “resilience” as an alternative with more emphasis on species and ecosystems while still ensuring that social and cultural relationships receive appropriate attention – once again balance is important in the programme
6. Indigenous Perspectives
- The Canadian voice should include much more of the indigenous perspective, including indigenous knowledge
7. The Role of Commissions
- The programme needs more emphasis on evidence and science and clarity on the role that commissions play
8. Finances

- This cannot be an afterthought – the programme needs to consider and be more explicit on how results will be achieved and their costs
- Creative thinking and perhaps new business models will likely need to be considered to achieve our goals

D. FOCUS ON MOTIONS

Overview – Purpose and Process (*Luc de Wever/Brian Roberts/George Greene*)

Luc's full Power Point presentation is available separately. The following points were raised in a plenary discussion.

- There was a request for clarity on how topics of global importance are selected for discussion at the Congress. Luc indicated that while there are no specific criteria per se the decision is made by Committee as the Congress agenda is developed
- The changes to process for development of and voting on motions (including the pre-Congress electronic process) are intended to reduce the volume of motions that are voted on at the Congress and therefore invest more of the face-to-face time in discussion on substantive topics
- The potential value in developing a motion include:
 - Attempting to move a policy position
 - Raising a controversial issue for discussion
- It was noted that Congress motion development is a very time consuming process – and there are other avenues for getting important topics raised and discussed (e.g. workshops)
- If a motion is pursued it must have 1 sponsor and 4 co-sponsors. It was suggested that the co-sponsors include global reach, include government and NGO participation and Aboriginal interests if possible
- In the plenary discussion, several potential motion topics were tabled and generally supported as motion areas:
 - Principles for recreational anglers and threatened species (Carleton University)
 - Reducing accidental entanglement – right whales (Canadian Wildlife Federation)
 - Collecting scientific data from stranded large marine animals (Canadian Wildlife Federation)
- A suggestion regarding over or hyper abundant species was also tabled – advice was that this may better be positioned as a workshop topic
- There was another suggestion around roads and their impact on wildlife
- CCIUCN will play a facilitating role in terms of coordinating participation and advising on motions from Canada for the 2016 Congress

E. FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE

Overview (*George Greene/Luc de Wever*)

The full Power Point presentation is available separately. The following points were noted on the specific proposals tabled:

1. New member category (Indigenous Peoples Organizations)
- Definite support for creating the opportunity for inclusion of Indigenous peoples along with voting rights explicitly recognizing and encouraging indigenous people's organization membership

Canadian Regional Conservation Forum

- There was no clear preference for option 1 versus option 2 – a hybrid of some kind should be considered – aimed at Indigenous inclusion, voting rights but also maintaining the balance of voting rights of government and NGOs members in the current construct
- Some Indigenous Peoples groups in Canada could apply now as governments in Category A membership
- It was noted that a third option was discussed at the Fiji meeting and so a copy of this will be provided to members for review after the Forum (see Appendix A)

- Local and Regional Governments Membership
 - No clear preference for option 1 versus option 2
 - There may be opportunity for some “cross-fertilization” between the proposal to include Aboriginal peoples and Regional Governments – the decisions need to be aligned

- Sole Authority of the Members Assembly over IUCN objectives and membership
 - This proposed amendment was seen largely as a clarification of the existing rules and was supported

- Second round of voting for President
 - In general, support for the proposed changes
 - The changes could be/should be applied to other officer positions

- 2. Open Forum Discussion – Ideas for Strengthening the Union
 - There is a need to motivate members to implement and activate motions that are made
 - There is an opportunity to recruit more government members – but we need to improve and put forth our value proposition
 - Work of the commissions needs to be better integrated
 - Need to ensure adequate funding for both the commissions and other member groups doing important work
 - In terms of reaching new audiences – we need to better “market” the value of conservation – the value proposition to parts of society less engaged, such as health, technology, agriculture, industry through evidence
 - Use mentoring opportunities as a feature to encourage youth membership and engagement
 - The IUCN needs to use its “convening power” north of the equator like it already has in the southern hemisphere – convening conversations and public discourse – in addition to the current programmatic activity. The IUCN has an opportunity to influence the discourse – create a platform for convening important conversations of global significance

F. THE PATH FORWARD & WRAP UP

Closing Comments (Rick Bates)

- Rick thanked all participants for their engagement and excellent input on all agenda topics
- He also thanked those involved in putting on the National Conservation Forum
- He noted that a report from the meeting will be prepared, sent to President Zhang Xinsheng, and posted. CCIUCN Board members will also continue to encourage action on the recommendations over the coming year between now and finalization of the 2017-2020 Programme and the World Conservation Congress in 2016
- He thanked the IUCN, the Fur Institute of Canada, North American Fur Auctions, Carino Processing Ltd., and the Canadian Museum of Nature for their generous support of this event.

Appendix A

Indigenous Peoples Organizations

Option 3 - a new Category C - at the Fiji meeting a third option for a membership category for Indigenous Peoples Organizations was discussed. A new Category C called Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) would have voting rights and the possibility for changes in membership criteria as well as changes in membership fees. This would be a new and discrete membership category and would mean there would be the possibility to alter criteria and fees without impacting on other members in the same category (as option2 would require). Votes for category C would be combined with category B retaining the two chamber system. This option would also mean that the current Category C (affiliates with no voting rights) would become Category D.