



September 3 – 11, 2021  
Marseille, France and online

Press Kit



## The IUCN World Conservation Congress

*The first hybrid in-person and virtual environmental event since the pandemic began, the IUCN Congress will drive action on nature-based recovery, climate change and biodiversity.*

By bringing experts, government and non-government voices together from over 160 countries, the Congress carries a powerful mandate. As a key milestone before pivotal UN conferences on biodiversity and climate in Kunming and Glasgow, the IUCN Congress will inform new global targets and action towards a sustainable, healthy future for people and nature.

### The IUCN Congress in Marseille by the numbers

#### Why should I attend?

- At IUCN Congress, more than 1,400 State and non-state organisations will take decisions that are expected to influence global conservation policy for the coming decade.
- Covering the event gives you access to high-level participants – government, science, business and civil society leaders
- New studies, reports and policy announcements are expected at Congress, including an update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

8 days

+100 confirmed Exhibitors

1300+ interactive sessions

160+ countries represented

100+ motions

4 high-level dialogues

30+ press conferences

### IUCN Congress – a critical event in a crucial moment

The IUCN Congress in Marseille, France takes place **3-11 September 2021**, a month before the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15, where governments will set **biodiversity** targets for the coming decades.

The outcomes of the Congress will frame the debate going into that important event, and will show countries how conserving nature can play a vital role in building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic.



The President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and IUCN see the Congress as a decisive step in how the world rewrites its relationship with nature for decades to come. No prior Host Country has given the Congress such a prominent role in its international agenda.

### IUCN Congress themes

- Managing landscapes for nature and people
- Conserving freshwater to sustain life
- Restoring ocean health
- Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Advancing knowledge, learning, innovation and technology
- Upholding rights, ensuring effective and equitable governance

## Key Congress dates:

The [Forum](#), a marketplace of new conservation ideas, research and policy: **4-7 September 2021**

- major announcements from IUCN and its Members, including an update to the IUCN Red List
- High-level speakers from governments, science, civil society

IUCN [Members' Assembly](#) – the world's largest democratic environmental decision-making platform bringing together IUCN members: **8-10 September 2021**

The [Exhibition](#) – stands and events to showcase research and innovations: **4-9 September 2021**

Espaces Generations Nature – engaging the general public in conservation: **4-11 September 2021**

Independent Summits ahead of Congress opening: **3 September**

- CEO Summit
- Indigenous Peoples' Summit
- Local Action Summit
- Global Youth Summit: Looking to the Future



## Programme Highlights

For a day-by-day overview of the programme and to see which sessions will be available online for virtual participants, please consult the [IUCN Congress website](#).

*Confirmed and tentative [speakers](#)* who may be available for interviews include:

- President of France Emmanuel Macron
- H. S. H. Prince Albert II of Monaco
- Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
- Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank
- Ministers, CEOs, heads of International agencies and NGOs, youth leaders, scientists

*Congress Forum (September 4 – 9):* High-level dialogues, panel discussions and in-depth expert conversations on topics including the [post-2020 biodiversity framework](#), [COVID-19 recovery](#), the [climate crisis](#), [conservation finance](#), or [land health and agriculture](#).

*IUCN Members' Assembly (September 8 – 10):* IUCN members to debate and vote on 18 motions, including the post-2020 biodiversity framework, ocean governance, mining on land and the sea floor and the rights of indigenous peoples in conservation.



## Congress policy implications

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the democratic forum for the global conservation community to express its views. It is a platform for decision makers to announce their intentions and for leading experts to provide guidance on how to turn these intentions into concrete policies on today's most pressing environmental and sustainability challenges, including the biodiversity and climate crises and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The need to transform the global financial system and direct more investments away from environmentally destructive activities and into nature-positive projects is another key topic to be discussed in Marseille.

### Post-2020 global biodiversity framework journey

At the Convention on Biological Diversity meeting in China (CBD COP15) in October 2021, governments will adopt a new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to address the 'nature emergency' and the action needed to secure the planet's life support systems. This new Framework will be a truly global framework for all sectors of society.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress comes just one month before CBD adopts this framework. As the largest marketplace of conservation expertise and the only international forum on biodiversity with outcomes decided by governments, civil society and indigenous peoples' together, the IUCN Congress is a unique opportunity to shape the ambition and galvanize the necessary action at levels commensurate with the challenge we all face.



## About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. 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.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



## About the host country, France

France is proud to welcome the IUCN World Conservation Congress, an unifying and essential momentum to tackle the issues related to the ecosystems' protection, which are at the core of the general reflection about the "post Covid-19" era.

Ahead of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), that should be held in 2022 in Kunming, China, the Congress is a crucial step forward in order to put nature at the heart of international priorities, at the same level of climate change issues. COP 15 should be the moment when we will define a common international framework in order to put a end on biodiversity's erosion.

For France, it is a unique opportunity to mobilize the international community around its ambitions and its vision of a green diplomacy, grounded on multilateralism.

This Congress will also be a strong moment to mobilize nature conservation's key actors and to highlight engagements through different events and summits organised along the Congress.

## About Marseille

By declaring a state of climate emergency, the City of Marseille affirmed in December 2020 its willingness to respond to the challenges of climate change and the decline in biodiversity.

Faced with the threat of a major environmental crisis, Marseille, a greener and more resilient city, is adapting to improve the well-being of its inhabitants.

By placing ecology at the heart of its municipal project, it offers solutions to build the city of tomorrow: bringing nature back to the city to capture CO<sub>2</sub>, removing waterproofing from concrete spaces, particularly in schoolyards, and creating islands of freshness, accelerating the thermal renovation of municipal buildings, promoting urban agriculture, reducing pollution by encouraging soft mobility and opening up spaces for discussion – these are all concrete and innovative projects in favor of sustainable development and a peaceful living environment for the people of Marseilles and its region.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, the largest international event on biodiversity, should bring strong collective decisions that will guide the environmental agenda for the next decade (2021-2030).

By hosting this major meeting and offering a rich programme "outside the walls" of the Congress, the City of Marseille is positioning itself as a fundamental player in the ecological transition, alongside citizens and local actors who will animate this exceptional week throughout the city.