

## Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) Report 2021–2025

**Chair: Sean Southey / Deputy Chair: Margaret Otieno**

### 1. **MISSION** (from the [CEC Mandate for 2021–2025](#))

To strengthen the work of the Union through creative, innovative, participatory, responsive and effective communication and education, as tools to effect positive social and behavioural change for the well-being of people and planet.

### 2. **VISION** (from the CEC Mandate for 2021–2025)

A world committed to protecting nature now and into the future.

### 3. **GOAL** (from the CEC Mandate for 2021–2025)

The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) recognises that knowledge is only useful in influencing conservation policies and actions if people are engaged in constructive dialogue and motivated to action by its findings.

### 4. **OBJECTIVES** (from the CEC Mandate for 2021–2025)

The Commission undertakes its mission through engaging its members' expertise, research and actions, including Indigenous and traditional knowledge, to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IUCN Programme, the Kunmin-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other emerging needs and priorities of IUCN. Specific objectives include:

- Supporting the *Nature 2030* IUCN Programme with a focus on communications, advocacy, education, and social and behavioural change communications (SBCC);
- Creating a global culture of conservation and care by sharing strategies and building capacity;
- Strengthening nature education for sustainability across formal, non-formal and informal settings;
- Expanding the use of behavioural change methodologies to improve conservation outcomes.
- Strengthening intergenerational partnerships for knowledge transfer across diverse demographics;
- Engaging youth and young professionals to promote an inclusive, youth-led movement for nature;
- Leveraging the Union to inspire diverse audiences to connect with nature and act for biodiversity conservation;
- Celebrating CEC members' success through an award system; and
- Keeping members informed of Union opportunities for engagement and collaboration.

### 5. **PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Priority 1: Reimagine Conservation – Communication, social and behavioural change communications, and public awareness**

**Objective:** Support the *Nature 2030* IUCN Programme's commitment to Reimagine Conservation by building initiatives that connect people with the planet.

**Achievements:**

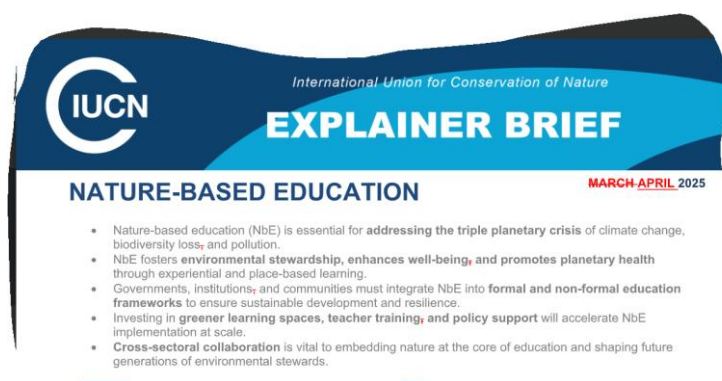
- Tool Development: Developed and shared tools such as the 10-Step Guide to Creating an Effective Environmental Communications Strategy, piloted in Mongolia, Central America (Voices

Programme), and with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). By 2025, four campaigns were implemented.

- Public Campaigns: Led public-facing campaigns, including the [Green Film Festival \(GFN\)](#), with awards ceremonies planned for the World Conservation Congress 2025.
- Thematic Strategies: Addressed health-environment intersections and wildlife crime through publications like the Communications Guide. Over 10 publications were produced (8–10 in progress by 2025), with five slated for IUCN ISBN status.
- Knowledge Products: Developed additional 10 step guides to be published and shared with the IUCN community and beyond covering Nature-based Education, Greening School Grounds, Building Youth Engagement and Creating a Love Fest.
- Research: Developed a research paper on the approach and potential impact of a Nature Connectedness Index.
- Issue Briefs and Explainer Briefs: proposed a series of Issue Briefs and Explainer Briefs on subjects of importance to the IUCN community (Nature-based Education, Greening School Yards).
- Launched the Citizen Science Task Force and held its first formal meeting on 6 May 2025, laying the groundwork for integrating citizen science into conservation education.

### Creating Effective Environmental Communication Strategies

A Ten Step Guide for Practitioners



### Cross-Commission Initiatives

- Formed the [IUCN SSC–CEC Behaviour Change Task Force](#), chaired by Dr Diogo Veríssimo, producing guidelines, open-access publications and training modules to bridge behavioural science with biodiversity conservation.

## **Priority 2: #NatureForAll**

Since its inception in 2016, [#NatureForAll](#) has grown to become a global initiative inspiring love of and action for nature.

Co-led by the IUCN CEC and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), #NatureForAll now has more than 620 organisational partners worldwide. It has received invaluable support from Parks Canada, which has provided staff and funds to coordinate the initiative since 2016. In addition, the Alana Institute, the Children & Nature Network and Sustainable Forestry Initiative have stepped in as Core Partners, providing financial and in-kind support over the last four years.

### **Inspiring love and action for nature**

#NatureForAll partners work to connect people of all ages and cultures to foster love of nature and encourage actions to conserve and care for it.

The movement celebrates intergenerational and cross-cultural experiences locally, regionally and internationally that meaningfully connect people with nature as a key condition for successfully addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

Since 2023, #NatureForAll has organised an [annual Love Fest](#) – providing opportunities to celebrate and highlight the many efforts and activities partners are spearheading around the world. Combined, these Love Fests have showcased almost 70 events and activities. More than 100 individuals shared their #LoveNature stories and moments during these Love Fests, resulting in a repertoire of more than 460 [inspiring stories and nature solutions](#).

### **Fostering enabling environments**

The #NatureForAll network has also been a catalyst to facilitate and encourage the development of projects and programmes that lead to greater connection to nature and foster conservation action worldwide. It enhances partnership efforts that promote peoples' access to nature in ways that respect and facilitate the conservation of nature.

By leveraging the #NatureForAll movement, and through seed funding from the CEC, Wildroots-India has implemented a successful [climate change fellowship programme](#). What started with just 10 students has now grown to a yearly effort inspiring a deeper connection with nature and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among the youth.

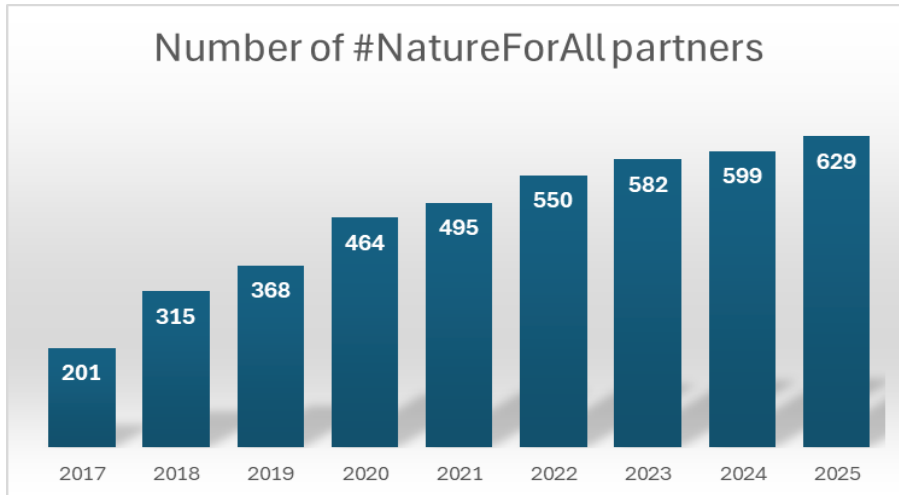
### **Weaving communities**

As part of the #NatureForAll network, partners have been able to connect to facilitate global love and actions for nature.

For example, when the UN Development Programme in Bhutan wanted support in creating a space accessible to people with disabilities, they reached out to the #NatureForAll Coordinator. By connecting with Natagora-Nature Pour Tous, an organisation in Belgium whose mission is just that, UNDP learned how best to approach and manage their efforts. Less than a year after connecting through #NatureForAll, a [Nature For All Accessible Garden](#) was created at the Royal Botanical Garden of Serbithang in Thimphu.

### **#NatureForAll partner organisations**

#NatureForAll as a movement has grown steadily since its founding and now includes nearly 630 organisational members from 71 countries. Organisations range from local NGOs to large INGOs and multilateral institutions, including Conservation International, National Geographic Society, Pew Charitable Trusts, Rainforest Trust, World Wildlife Fund, Re:wild, the Global Environment Facility, and The Nature Conservancy.



### **#NatureForAll Resources**

[Discovery Zone](#) – More than 600 educational resources from 25+ countries

[Sounds of Your Park](#) – Nearly 200 recordings from 20+ countries

[Publications](#) – Including *Home to Us All – How Connecting with Nature Helps Us Care for Ourselves and the Earth* and five comic books

[Dialogues and Webinars](#) – 12 online dialogues focused on themes and priorities that align with #NatureForAll's core belief

5 [Toolkits](#) – including the [Nature Storybook Toolkit](#), which provides support for people wanting to create a video of their #LoveNature story

Videos – A [YouTube channel](#) with 339 videos, including a three-part series – Imagining, Living, Loving – translated into 22, 28 and 42 languages respectively

Social Media – 11,000 followers across [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

### **Attendance at events**

Event	Date	Location
Asia Parks Congress	May 2022	Malaysia
Africa Protected Areas Conference	July 2022	Rwanda
Bhutan CMS VATAVARAN Film Festival & Forum on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action	November 2022	Bhutan
CBD COP15	December 2022	Canada
Outdoor Learning Conference	May 2023	Canada
IMPAC5	January 2023	Canada
#NatureForAll Love Fest	February 2023	Global
GOA CMS VATAVARAN Film Festival & Forum on LIFE	March 2023	India
Nature Everywhere Conference	May 2023	USA
Breath of Fresh Air Summit	Sept. 2023	Canada
Nepal Festival and Forum on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action	December 2023	Nepal
World Environmental Education Congress	January 2024	United Arab Emirates
Wildlife Clubs of Kenya #NatureForAll Love Fest	February 2024	Kenya
Chiapas Birding Photo Festival	February 2024	Mexico
Mexico, Central America, Caribbean RCF	April 2024	Mexico
Chiapas Birding and Photo Festival	April 2024	Mexico
Nature Everywhere Conference	May 2024	USA

Nature-based Education Summit	May 2024	USA
National Competition Champions Boot Camp	August 2024	Kenya
World Wilderness Congress (WILD12)	August 2024	USA
Europe, North and Central Asia RCF	September 2024	Belgium
World Trails Conference	October 2024	Canada
12th CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival and Forum	October 2024	India
Canada RCF	October 2024	Canada
CBD COP16	October 2024	Colombia
Centre for Environment Education Educating for Sustainability Action Conference	January 2025	India
EAZA Education Conference	March 2025	UK
Nature Everywhere Conference	May 2025	USA
Outdoor Learning Conference	May 2025	Canada

### Priority 3: Nature Education for Sustainability

**Objective:** Consolidate global work on education, integrating nature into all educational approaches to foster environmental stewardship, enhance well-being and promote planetary health.

The imperative to address the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution has underscored the critical role of education. In response, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) has prioritised Nature Education for Sustainability, championing approaches that connect learners with nature to build knowledge, skills, values and agency for a sustainable future. A cornerstone of this commitment is the IUCN Nature-based Education (NbE) Task Force, launched in July 2024.

#### Mobilising a Global Force for Nature Education

Since its inception, the NbE Task Force has rapidly evolved into a dynamic global collaboration. By early 2025, it had grown to encompass over 160 members from more than 55 organisations across diverse countries, demonstrating a significant global commitment to advancing NbE. The Task Force is structured around 10 dedicated working groups, each tackling specific facets of NbE, from research and policy to formal education and greening schoolyards.

The Task Force's efforts are guided by a comprehensive Nature-based Education Framework and Initiative, designed to mobilise a thriving new ecosystem of partners and resources. This Initiative, with a strategic vision extending over the next 20 years, aims to mainstream NbE across formal, non-formal and informal education settings worldwide, validating education's essential function in contemporary nature conservation.

#### Laying the Groundwork: Knowledge, Tools, and Insights

A key focus of the NbE Task Force has been to develop and disseminate foundational knowledge and practical tools to support the global uptake of NbE:

- Foundational Resources: Seminal publications, including the [10-Step Guide to Nature-based Education](#) and a Technical Brief on [Nature-based Education](#), were developed and shared widely at international fora such as UNFCCC COP28 in November 2023, the [World Environmental Education Congress \(WEEC\)](#) in January 2024 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 in October 2024. An IUCN Explainer Brief on Nature-based Education further articulates the importance and scope of NbE. Building on this, a pipeline of additional key resources is being advanced through the IUCN publication process. As of late April 2025, these include:
  - A Guide to Nature-based Leadership: An Ecological Approach (officially accepted)
  - We Are Nature: Nature-based Education for Planetary Health (submitted to IUCN publications staff for Editorial Board review)



- Ten Steps to Greening School Grounds (nearing submission to IUCN staff)
- Creating Effective Communications Strategies Seedbox (undergoing peer review)

These IUCN-processed publications, alongside others planned for direct CEC dissemination, will significantly enrich the available tools and knowledge for practitioners and policymakers globally.

- **Advancing Research:** The Research Synthesis Working Group is diligently updating the influential 2018 publication, [Home to Us All](#), which compiles the growing global body of evidence that people's relationship with nature profoundly influences their behaviours toward the Earth. This revised edition will incorporate the latest research findings and the crucial role of indigenous knowledge in NbE, with a planned launch at the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) in 2025.
- **Gathering Global Perspectives:** [The 2025 Global Survey on Biodiversity Education](#) was launched to gather critical data from an anticipated 500+ respondents across 150 countries. The insights from this survey will inform policy development and practical NbE implementation globally, with preliminary findings already contributing to guidance documents for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

### **Driving Global Action and Influencing Policy**

The NbE Task Force is actively working to translate knowledge into tangible action and policy change on a global scale:

- **Global Plan of Action for Education on Biodiversity:** The working group is playing an instrumental role in shaping a model Global Plan of Action for Education on Biodiversity, which was mandated following a [decision at CBD COP16 in Colombia](#). A briefing note has been circulated, and a zero draft is under development.
- **High-Level Engagement and Advocacy:** The CEC, through its NbE Task Force, co-hosted a successful ["Education Day" at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia](#), bringing together over 300 participants and 40 distinguished speakers to strategize the operationalisation of the Global Plan of Action, focusing on four key pillars: Policy, People, Place and Pedagogy.
- **Policy Integration:** Efforts are underway to advocate for and support the integration of NbE principles and practices into national policy instruments, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This work is informed by [ongoing analyses](#) of education's inclusion in existing national strategies.
- **Flagship Events at the World Conservation Congress 2025:** The culmination of the Task Force's initial phase of work will be showcased at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi. Plans include hosting a prominent [Nature-based Education Pavilion](#) and a dedicated Nature-based Education Summit, which will serve as platforms to launch the broader, long-term NbE Initiative and foster global partnerships.

### **Strengthening Collaboration and Building Capacity**

The success of the NbE agenda hinges on robust partnerships and a sustained commitment to capacity building:

- **Strategic Alliances:** The Task Force has cultivated strong collaborations with key international organisations, including UNESCO (particularly the Greening Education Partnership and transforming education), WWF (on developing guidance for education's role in the KMGBF), the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE Global) (supporting Global Action Days), Salzburg Global Seminar, and EARTHDAY.ORG.
- **Diverse Working Groups:** The Task Force's ten working groups are actively pursuing targeted objectives. For example, the Green Schoolyards Working Group is conceptualising a monitoring and citizen science tool, while the Formal Education Working Group is identifying actionable strategies for systemic change. A new working group on Creative Climate Communication has also been proposed to explore innovative engagement methods like podcasts and theatre.
- **Resource Mobilisation and Future Vision:** Recognising the need for sustained investment, the Task Force has initiated fundraising efforts for the NbE Initiative, including for the 2025 Congress Pavilion. The long-term vision includes the establishment of a significant Fund for Nature-based Education (with an aspirational target of US\$ 100 million) and a comprehensive online NbE Resource and Knowledge Hub. These platforms will aim to scale up NbE implementation

globally, support a network of pilot grantees, assemble global expertise, and provide open access to curated resources and research.

The Nature Education for Sustainability priority, spearheaded by the dedicated NbE Task Force, is thus laying a robust foundation to empower individuals and communities worldwide to learn, care for, and act for nature, contributing significantly to IUCN's mission and the global sustainability agenda.

#### **Priority 4: Youth Mobilisation and Intergenerational Partnerships**

**Objective:** Mobilise diverse youth to advocate and act for nature conservation and empower young professionals to influence conservation policy via mentorship programs.

##### **Achievements:**

- Youth Summit: Built on the [2021 One Nature - One Future Global Youth Summit](#), hosting hybrid events in 2023 and 2025, with over 15,000 participants
- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC): Launched in 2024, driving youth engagement at Regional Conservation Fora (RCF) and the 2025 Congress in Abu Dhabi, with 17 members including West Asia representation
- Resources: Published the 10-Step Guide to Youth Dialogue Spaces, piloted at RCFs in Europe and Asia, empowering youth networks and the “Guide to Building a Youth Oasis” for events and congresses
- Mentorship: Fostered capacity-building through initiatives like the Youth Pavilion at the 2025 Congress, funded partly by Canadian diplomatic missions
- Supported creation of #NatureForAll Youth Oasis model to enhance youth presence and programming at IUCN events

In the 2021–2025 quadrennial CEC has succeeded in building on the Commission's achievements of the Global Youth Summit 2021 leading to the establishment of the IUCN Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), an important outcome of the IUCN Youth Strategy 2030. The YAC is chaired by CEC representative, Diana Garlytska who also serves as CEC Regional Vice Chair for West Europe and Co-Chair on Youth and Intergenerational Partnerships. Diana's leadership and approach to YAC mission implementation are deeply rooted in the CEC vision for youth leadership empowerment with great emphasis on capacity-building, knowledge transfer and intergenerational collaboration.

#### **Regional Achievements**

##### **East Asia**

Guided by the CEC mandate, East Asia has focused mainly on two areas during 2021–2025:

- Building connection among members: Six IUCN CEC East Asia Members' Sharing Sessions were held online during 2022–2025, together with #NatureforAll, with the participation of 500+ CEC members and non-members. The sessions greatly enhanced networking and collaboration among members.
- Promoting Youth Engagement and Intergenerational dialogue: An international webinar with the topic Youth Voices on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was organised in collaboration with UNEP in 2021, CEC mobilised youth to participate in the Asia RCF in 2024, and CEC produced a video of Children's Voices for Biodiversity Conservation, which was well received at the UN CBD COP 15 in Montreal in 2022.

##### **Southeast and South Asia**

The South and Southeast Asia region advanced the Commission's mission through high-profile events and targeted initiatives, effectively utilising communication and education to drive conservation awareness and action. A cornerstone achievement was the hosting of the [12th CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival and Forum](#) in New Delhi. Focused on "Wetlands for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)", this major festival convened policymakers, conservationists, filmmakers and youth, showcasing over 800 films from 68 countries and engaging over 2,000 students through its Green Film Fete. The festival served as a vital platform for policy discussions, recognising impactful

environmental storytelling and fostering youth engagement in critical conservation themes like wetland preservation.

Beyond this flagship event, the region saw a diverse range of activities contributing to conservation goals. Initiatives such as efforts focused on [Chinese Pangolin Conservation](#), the International Photo Competition, and awareness campaigns like [Pollinator Week 2024](#) mobilised stakeholders and highlighted key biodiversity challenges. Educational programmes like Pre-MCOP and Tales of Kanha further extended the reach of conservation messaging, demonstrating a multifaceted approach to environmental communication and education across the South and Southeast Asia region by our members.

### North America

The North America region advanced the Commission's mission through events, targeted initiatives and communications with its members:

- In October 2024, CEC supported the [Canada IUCN Regional Forum in Ottawa](#) which brought members and new members together to discuss priorities and key objectives to bring to the upcoming congress. In that context, we hosted a #NatureForAll Trivia Night and [CEC Award ceremony](#).
- CEC supported the [IUCN RCF in the United States](#).
- From 2021 to 2025, we actively participated in the Canadian Committee for IUCN (CCIUCN), through activities and events like AGM and Board meetings to advance the CEC mandate, engage with partners, and liaise with the CCIUCN Board President by creating awareness of CEC's work.
- With shared resources and support between CEC and the North America Regional Office (NARO), the past years have been marked by strengthening the relationship and creating opportunities to work with US and Canada members and partners.
- Onboarding of new members with individual calls.

### South America

- South America is now home to 136 CEC members.
- The Region hosted CEC webinars and gatherings, and members gathered at the IUCN RCF for South America in Santa Marta.
- Collaborations included a Community Ecological Restoration Course in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute ([Reforestación - Instituto Jane Goodall Argentina](#)).

### Oceania

- Regional membership grew to 58 CEC members.
- CEC supported the [2024 Ecosystem Restoration Workshop: Building a Roadmap for Ecosystem Restoration in Australia](#) and the [Global Nature Positive Summit Webinar](#) with experts from the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance.
- IUCN CEC welcomed a new Regional Vice Chair for Oceania, Jason Pitman, allowing the Commission to strengthen its presence in the Region as well as collaborate closely with the [World Environmental Education Congress](#).

### Meso America

Meso America is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. Ten countries make up this region, and each of them contributes initiatives and projects to preserve a just world that values and conserves nature.

CEC members are very active. During this period, we participated in several initiatives that contribute to the objectives of IUCN and the CEC:

- Virtual meetings were held with CEC members to develop communication strategies to position its work.
- A video in Spanish, English, and French was produced to invite experts to the [seven IUCN Commissions](#).
- A video was produced to recognise CEC's excellence in the [Asia region](#).



- A video was produced to recognise excellence in the CEC for the [North American region](#).
- A video was produced to recognise excellence in the CEC for the [Mesoamerican region](#).
- Support was provided for the communication strategy of the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.
- We participated effectively in the [IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean \(Photos\)](#).
- Costa Rica implemented its communication strategy led by Heidi Jiménez, a leading figure in communication in the region.
- Communication was established with the Vice-President of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy for the region of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to establish joint collaborations.
- [Active participation of Mexican members in the 2nd Mexican IUCN Forum and collaboration with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy](#).
- Participation of CEC members in World Rainforest Day with the theme Youth in Protected Areas, [Agents of Change in Nature Conservation](#).
- Work has been done to support young people in the region with initiatives that promote communication strategies to raise awareness of their work.
- Collaboration with the IUCN Red List for the [Mesoamerican species campaign](#).
- Collaboration with the World Commission on [Protected Areas to hold a webinar](#) on the importance of protected areas in our daily lives.
- At the [COP in Cali, Colombia](#), the challenges and experiences of environmental education in the Mesoamerican region were shared in a high-level dialogue.
- Environmental influencer [Sofia Probert](#) was involved in the CEC and currently supports us with communication.
- Support has been provided to young people from Indigenous communities, including [Eduardo Chankin](#), and communication products and spaces for dialogue have been created.

### **Eastern and Southern Africa**

The 24 countries of eastern and southern Africa host a vast variety and abundance of the world's biological and natural resources, including seven of the world's biodiversity hotspots. IUCN CEC (Eastern and Southern Africa Region) continued implementing diverse communication and education activities to strengthen the Union's work.

Organised under the theme African Solutions for People and Nature, the 2024 African Conservation Forum was an opportunity for CEC leadership to play a key role in the pre-forum events such as the youth forum and also give a presentation on the work of the Commission. The Commission Chair and the Regional Vice Chair hosted the award ceremony where the winner of the IUCN Regional award was feted.

Throughout the year, CEC was engaged in many other conservation education and awareness activities and initiatives supporting IUCN's core objective and CEC's mandate including the following:

- A successful 2-day capacity-building session attended by over 50 members on behaviour change, community conservation and harnessing youth innovative solutions for environmental conservation and land restoration
- Production and distribution of resource materials for conservation education
- Connecting children to nature in South Africa (Rondevelei Nature Reserve), Uganda (Kibale National Park, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre), Kenya (Giraffe Centre, Nairobi National Park and the elephant orphanage), Malawi (Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary)
- 12 Communicating Conservation and ESD Teachers Workshops conducted in the region
- Awareness, advocacy, school greening activities, climate change and ocean literacy outreaches in schools and adult learning centres
- Commemoration of key environmental days such as World Environment Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, International Environmental Education Day, World Wetlands day, etc. to create awareness

### **West and Central Africa**

The underlying focus of the engagements among the CEC members during the past four years has been to heighten awareness about the **urgency of the need for climate action**, and for

**reconnecting with Nature**; and that communicators like us can help governments deliver on **protecting soils for food production** and **conserving forests**, enabled by a well-informed and highly motivated population.

The members agreed to explore one practical action with the potential to be replicated across the region.

This initiative required the mobilisation of resources to support or contribute to supporting the creation of a best practice example of **greening school grounds and outdoor learning facilities** in at least one school in all of the countries where there are CEC members. The idea was founded on the premise that the members become the main sponsors of this initiative with technical assistance and mentorship from the Salzburg Fellows.

Inspired by the introduction of this initiative, a number of CEC members have been exploring partnership opportunities with the well-resourced child-focused organisations – UNICEF, Save the Children, Child Fund – to explore supporting climate-resilient livelihoods and promoting climate change education. With so many rural schools that already have green outdoors, it seems like the ideal time to engage with these humanitarian giants, to support environmental education and learning outdoors.

### **West Europe**

The West Europe region focused on several key areas during 2021–2025:

- Enhancing CEC members' engagement through both regional member meetings and member-led webinars: Regional Vice-Chair for West Europe, Diana Garlytska, sees a great impact in enabling knowledge sharing and networking among members in her entrusted region. Thus, regular regional member meetings were dedicated mainly to discussing CEC and IUCN work priorities, news and opportunities, etc. At the same time, the topics of member-led webinars ranged from communication for nature conservation to interdisciplinary work on science-conservation-art, land restoration education and others. The latter spotlighted the work of CEC members in the region and empowered collaboration among them.
- Building capacity through events: Seven events were conducted in 2024 alone. This included Commission partnership with film festivals like Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (Austria) and CinemAmbiente Film Festival (Italy) that showcased environmental storytelling to wider audiences.
- Strengthening regional networking: The CEC stand at the Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia (RCF ENCA) created visibility and fostered collaboration. The region hosted a significant session on Nature-based Education: empowering children and youth for a prosperous future.

Furthermore, Diana Garlytska contributed greatly to the design and implementation of the youth engagement strategy for RCF ENCA. As a result, IUCN and CEC best practices like Youth Oasis methodology, morning intergenerational breakfast sessions and others were embedded as central pieces of the RCF. An outstanding youth outreach support to promote Forum attendance among the young professionals was made by Diana Garlytska and her colleagues from the Youth Advisory Committee.

- Knowledge sharing through multimedia: The region expanded outreach through diverse formats, including a podcast exploring interlinkages between nature and sustainability, and a targeted webinar on IUCN and CEC work to the Ukrainian Zoos Association that engaged approximately 20 specialised stakeholders during a challenging period for conservation in the region.

### **West Asia**

Membership from West Asia continued growing in numbers and level of involvement in IUCN events, with members adopting its mission and the CEC mandate in their own organisations and initiatives. Among prominent examples of this involvement is “Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth”, an initiative presenting an Islamic outlook to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, where a CEC

member from West Asia is a member in the Covenant's Scholars Team and Core Team. Al-Mizan was presented in the IUCN RCF for West Asia (2024) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

CEC has started an alliance with ArabWAYS (the Arab World Association of Young Scientists), an online scientific community with 20,000 members from West Asia and North Africa. This alliance will help in disseminating CEC's discourse among ArabWAYS members, and in recommending areas for research among the members. Several board members of ArabWAYS have joined the IUCN CEC Task Force on Nature-based Education.

With their conservation experience, educational orientation and keenness on knowledge transfer, several CEC members from West Asia served as consultants in knowledge products either as authors, editors or translators. These contributions extended to include different fields of conservation such as heritage conservation as exemplified by the Arabic translation by a CEC member from West Asia of *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0: Assessing Management Effectiveness of World Heritage Properties and other Heritage Places*.

### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

The Eastern Europe and Central Asia region demonstrated strong commitment to advancing education and communication for conservation during 2021–2025:

- Expanding educational capacity: Seven Commission-led events conducted in 2024 reached an impressive 3,262 participants. This included a major training session for participants at the All-Russian biology teachers' forum, engaging 400 educators in person and 2,000 online, significantly multiplying CEC's reach throughout teacher networks.
- Strengthening local educational systems: The region organised targeted capacity-building with multiple teacher-focused initiatives, including roundtables about CEC and IUCN work (57 participants across Eastern Europe and Central Asia), training sessions for local teachers (60 participants) and a specialised seminar for leaders of regional centres of additional education (120 participants).
- Creating innovative educational environments: A significant session on environmental education and awareness at the "Ecosystma" environmental education centre, combined with sessions on environmental games in collaboration with Ecocenter Zapovedniki, engaged 600 participants with practical conservation communication tools and approaches.

### **Additional Achievements**

- [Honoured six exceptional CEC members with Regional Awards at RCFs.](#)
- Sent 10-member CEC delegation to the [12th World Environmental Education Congress \(WEEC\)](#) in Abu Dhabi and supported the Abu Dhabi Roadmap for Environmental Education.
- Hosted the [1st Nature-based Education Summit in Los Angeles with UCLA](#), Alana Foundation, and EARTHDAY.ORG.
- Supported three international environmental film festivals, including the [‘Oscars’ of nature cinema](#).
- Supported eight of nine RCFs with sessions, facilitation and youth engagement.
- Organised task forces on Citizen Science and Nature-based Education. A Citizen Science Task Force has been established and is making progress, addressing citizen science proposals and their integration into IUCN's work.
- Published four major reports with ISBNs focusing on biodiversity education and green schoolyards.
- Strengthened collaboration with UNESCO for pavilion fundraising initiatives and is building strategic alliances with organisations like UNESCO, Parks Canada and others, exploring funding and partnership opportunities.
- Developing and finalising publications, including issue briefs and guidelines, updating communication tools and strategies, and producing newsletters to update members and stakeholders.
- In 2024, over 100 CEC members from 25 countries contributed to peer review of major knowledge products via IUCN Engage.

- CEC had 806 active users on IUCN Engage (47% engagement rate). Members contributed to translation, content creation, and dissemination globally.

## 6. STRUCTURE/GOVERNANCE

### CEC Steering Committee

The CEC Steering Committee (SC), under the guidance of the Chair and Deputy Chair, is made up of Regional Vice Chairs and CEC experts.

SC members during the 2021–2025 mandate:

1. Mr Sean Southey, CEC Chair, [sean.southey@iucn.org](mailto:sean.southey@iucn.org)
2. Ms Katalin CZIPPAN, Strategic Advisor & Nature Education for Sustainability Co-Chair, [czippank@gmail.com](mailto:czippank@gmail.com)
3. Dr Cheryl CHARLES, #NatureForAll Co-Chair, [cheryl@childrenandnature.org](mailto:cheryl@childrenandnature.org)
4. Mrs Kenza KHALLAFI, Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Co-Chair & North Africa Regional Vice Chair [k.khallafi@fm6e.org](mailto:k.khallafi@fm6e.org)
5. Dr Vasanti RAO, Nature Education for Sustainability Co-Chair & South and Southeastern Asia Regional Vice Chair, [pnvasanti@cmsindia.org](mailto:pnvasanti@cmsindia.org)
6. Mr Firas ABD-ALHADI, Nature Education for Sustainability Co-Chair & West Asia Regional Vice Chair, [uwriteiedit@yahoo.com](mailto:uwriteiedit@yahoo.com)
7. Ms Diana GARLYTSKA, Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Co-Chair & West Europe Regional Vice Chair, [diana\\_garlytska@hotmail.com](mailto:diana_garlytska@hotmail.com)
8. Ms Ana Valerie MANDRI ROHEN, Reimagine Nature Communication Co-Chair, [anamandri@gmail.com](mailto:anamandri@gmail.com)
9. Mr Carlos del Ángel ESTRADA MARCOS, Mesoamerica Regional Vice Chair, [comunicacion@fondoeltriunfo.org](mailto:comunicacion@fondoeltriunfo.org), [cestradamc@gmail.com](mailto:cestradamc@gmail.com)
10. Ms Marie-Philippe OUELLET, Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Partnerships Co-Chair & North America Regional Vice Chair, [marie-philippe.ouellet@canada.ca](mailto:marie-philippe.ouellet@canada.ca)
11. Dr Alexey ZAVARZIN, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Chair, [zavarzin1972@gmail.com](mailto:zavarzin1972@gmail.com)
12. Dr Bernard COMBES, UNESCO Focal Point, [b.combes@unesco.org](mailto:b.combes@unesco.org)
13. Mr Yose CORMIER, #NatureForAll Coordinator with Parks Canada, [yose.cormier@pc.gc.ca](mailto:yose.cormier@pc.gc.ca)
14. Mr Luis Alberto CAMARGO, Nature Education for Sustainability Co-Chair & South America Regional Vice Chair, [luis@opepa.org](mailto:luis@opepa.org)
15. Dr Margareth Otieno, CEC Deputy Chair, [megooko90@yahoo.com](mailto:megooko90@yahoo.com)
16. Ms Hanying LI, East Asia Regional Vice Chair, [lihanying@yahoo.com](mailto:lihanying@yahoo.com)
17. Dr David AINSWORTH, CBD Focal Point, [david.ainsworth@un.org](mailto:david.ainsworth@un.org)
18. Mr Tommy Stephen GARNETT, West and Central Africa Regional Vice Chair, [tommy.garnett@gmail.com](mailto:tommy.garnett@gmail.com)
19. Ms Margareth (Meg) BECKEL, Reimagine Nature Communication Co-Chair, [beckelmeg@gmail.com](mailto:beckelmeg@gmail.com)
20. Ms Karen KEENLEYSIDE, Nature for All Co-Chair, [karen.natureforall@gmail.com](mailto:karen.natureforall@gmail.com)
21. Mr Jason PITTMAN, Oceania Regional Vice Chair, [jason.j.pitman@gmail.com](mailto:jason.j.pitman@gmail.com)

SC meetings were held virtually over 20 times (2021–2025), with in-person meetings in Goa (2023), Colombia (2024) and Abu Dhabi (2025). New SC members were added in 2023–2025, notably the addition of a Regional Vice Chair for Oceania. Annual work plans are aligned with the IUCN Programme, emphasising transparency and regional approaches. Key updates during this period include membership growth with increased diversity and active engagement of regional vice chairs in annual reporting processes.





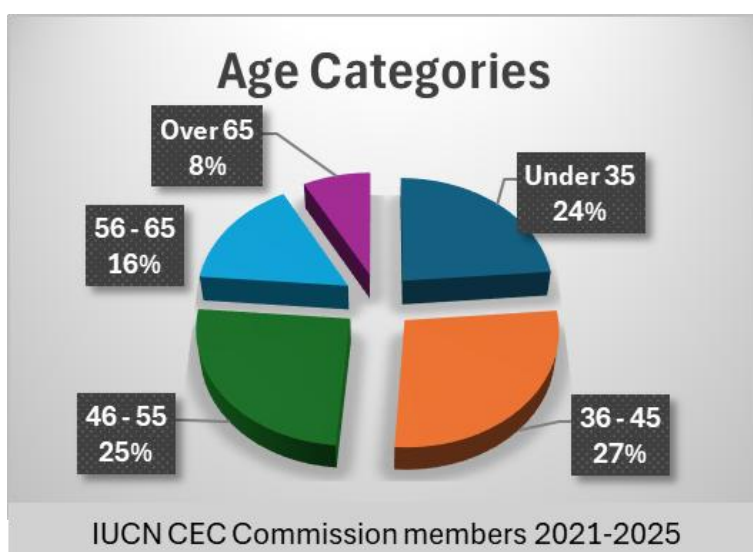
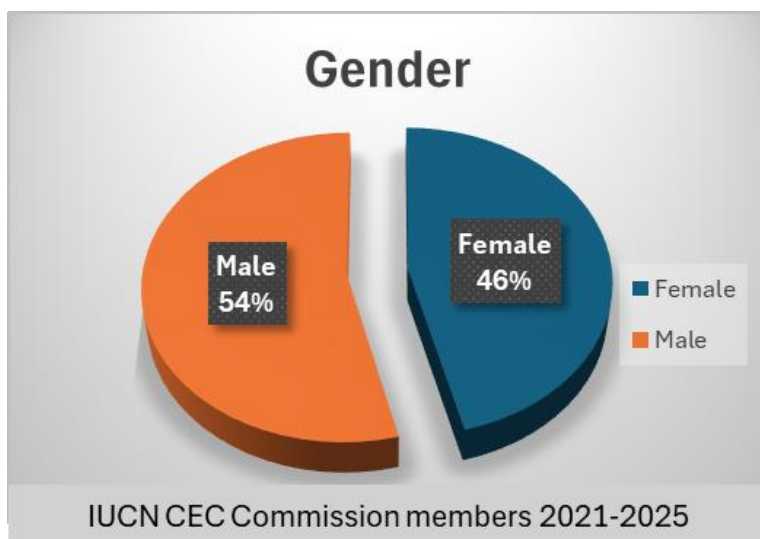
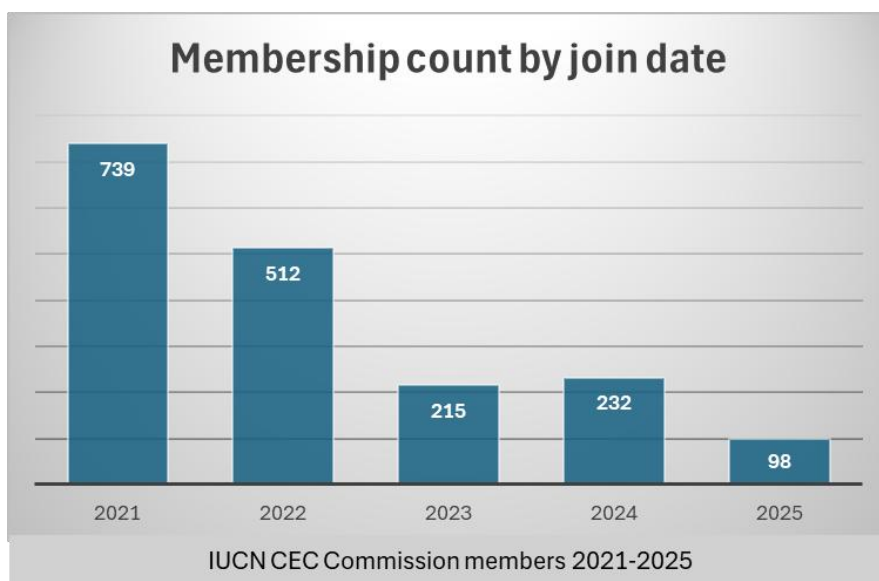
*The CEC leadership meets in Villa de Leyva, Colombia for their Annual Steering Committee Meeting ahead of their leadership at COP16 in Cali.  
Photo credit: Sean Southey*

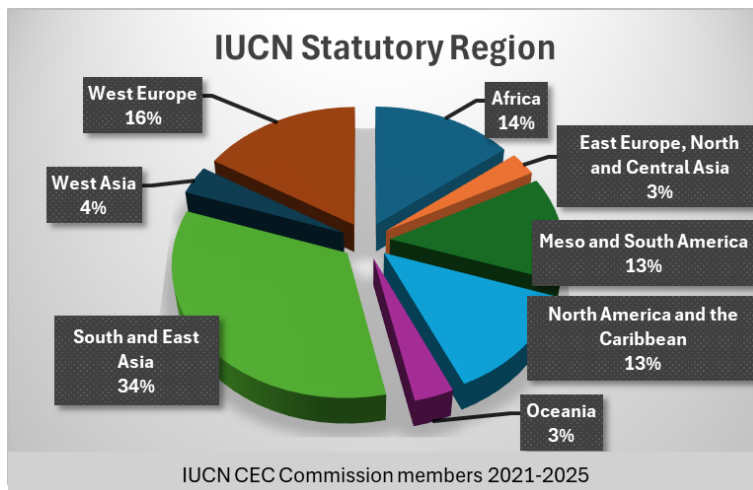
## **7. FINANCES**

CEC maintained financial sustainability through strategic partnerships and fundraising efforts.



## ANNEXES





*During Canada-Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)*  
*Photo credit: Sean Southey*



*From left to right, CEC Chair Sean Southey presents Maulidi Mwinyikai with the CEC Regional Award at the Africa RCF, along with CEC Deputy Chair Dr Margaret Otieno.  
Photo credit: CEC*



*Youth panel members at the Education Day during CBD COP 16 (Cali, Columbia 2024)  
Photo credit: Diana Garlytska*





*From left to right: French National Committee and CEC member, Manon Bourhis and CEC Regional Vice Chair for West Europe, Diana Garlytska at the RCF Europe, North and Central Asia (Bruges, Belgium 2024)*

*Photo credit: Diana Garlytska*



*From left to right: CEC Regional Vice Chair Diana Garlytska and CEC Regional Member Award winner and Festival Director, Johannes Kostenzer at the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (2024)*

*Photo credit: Johannes Kostenzer*



*CEC Leaders host youth space and CEC spaces at the RCF in Bruges.*

*Photo credit: Wim De Wulf*

**Experience-Sharing of Youth Engagement in Conservation**

April 26, 2025 19:00 Beijing/20:00 Tokyo and Seoul  
Noon London/07:00 New York



**Adam Gao**

- Dedicated to wildlife protection
- Participated in the North China Leopard Initiative (2016–present)
- UN COP15/COP29 delegate
- ACEF Environmental guardian
- Integrated field data into national habitat corridor frameworks and publicize to the world
- Award-contending documentary on carnivore ecology
- WeChat environmental education campaign reaching 12M+ users
- Research featured in China Daily and China Nature



**Daniel Wang**

- New animal species discoverer
- Representative of China youth to 2024 IUCN RCF ASIA
- Beijing Foreign Language Academy
- Insect club founder
- TEDx Speaker
- 2025 British Biology Olympiad Gold medalist
- Author of Multiple Research Papers
- Personal channel has surpassed 1 Million views
- Senior Wildlife Biodiversity Survey Specialist
- Photography Enthusiast



**Special Guest**  
Jason Pitman, CEC Regional Vice Chair for Oceania and co-chair of the 2026 World Environment Education Congress

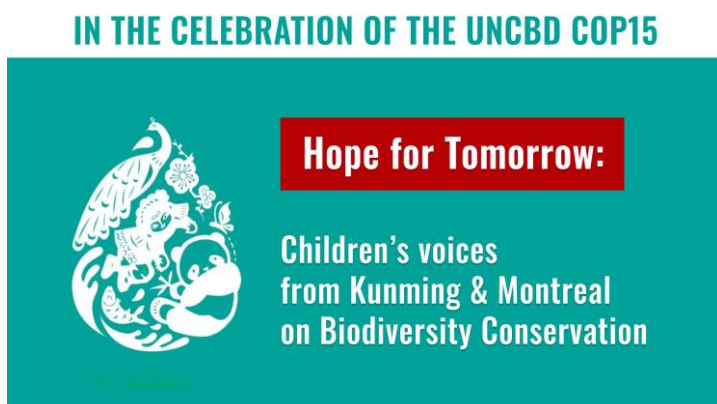


<https://takingitglobal.zoom.us/meeting/register/9ojzoWNmSCWr8-9nBF1lyg>

Poster - the 6th E. Asia Members Sharing Session held online in April 2025  
Photo credit: Yose Cormier



Youth panel at Asia RCF 2024  
Photo credit: Jingyi Xu



Screenshot of the video - Hope for Tomorrow for CBD COP15 held in 2022  
Photo credit: Hanying Li





*12th CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival and Forum on Wetlands Conservation in New Delhi*

*Photo credit: CMS VATAVARAN*



*Sean Southey, Chair and Katalin Czippán, Strategic Advisor & Nature Education for Sustainability Co-Chair with the Comité français de l'UICN during their Paris visit*

*Photo credit: Dalia Dahmani*



*CEC team with the Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour l'Environnement (JAE) in Paris.  
Photo credit: Dalia Dahmani*



*Miembros de la CEC en el Foro Regional de México, Mesoamérica y el Caribe - Fotografía: Sean Southey*



Heidi Jiménez presentando el proceso de comunicación de la CEC en Costa Rica  
Fotografía: Sean Southey



Maulidi Hamisi Mwinyikai receives the Africa Award for Communication, Education and Public Awareness in recognition of his outstanding contributions to conservation outreach.  
Photo credit: Margaret Otieno





*Firas Abd-Alhadi, CEC Regional Vice-Chair for West Asia (right) and Aishah Abdallah, CEC member (left) are panelists in the West Asia RCF in Saudi Arabia.  
Photo credit: Sean Southey*



*Plenary panel on environmental education and awareness at the "Ecosystma" environmental education centre  
Photo credit: Ecosystma Centre*



*Dr Alexey ZAVARZIN, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Chair building the eco-path  
Photo credit: Alexey Zavarzin*