Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
Report 2021–2025

Chair: Angela Andrade

Introduction

Message from the Chair

The main achievements of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) for the 2021–2025 period align with the mandate outlined in the One Programme Charter. This mandate focuses on developing and sharing expert guidance on ecosystem-based approaches for managing and utilising natural and modified ecosystems. These approaches aim to achieve biodiversity conservation, address the impacts of climate change, contribute to human well-being, and promote sustainable development.

CEM has focused its efforts on advancing a future of productive and resilient ecosystems that benefit both people and nature. It does so by prioritising the adoption and application of ecosystem-based approaches in the management of landscapes and seascapes, while also enhancing or transforming ecosystems in response to global changes.

The Commission operates through a network of over 2,200 volunteer scientists, experts and managers who provide scientific and authoritative advice to the IUCN Programme in key areas, including Ecosystem Risk Assessment, Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem Restoration, Health and ecosystem management, cultural practices and ecosystem management, ecosystem governance, socio-ecological systems and transformation, among others.

CEM also delivers science-based guidance and tools to support policymakers and authorities, from local to global levels, in making informed decisions related to ecosystem management and sustainable use.

In this report, we outline the key achievements during this period to present the variety of activities the Commission carries out in its work to promote the application of Ecosystem-based approaches to achieve biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable development, made possible by the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers and members and their ongoing dedication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Commission members for their valuable contributions and ongoing commitment throughout this period, as well as to the CEM Steering Committee, the Technical Group Leaders and Regional Chairs, our colleagues from the Secretariat and the Commission Support Unit, who have played a key role in supporting the Commission and its members.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report about the Commission’s extensive work during this intersessional period.

Sincerely,

Angela Andrade
IUCN CEM Chair

CEM in numbers
Total number of members: 2,123

By gender
Female: 766
Gender non-conforming: 2
Male: 1,338
Prefer not to disclose: 17

By age
18-35: 492
36-50: 939
51-65: 501
65+: 191

Results in numbers

- 100+ international events with IUCN CEM contributions
- 35+ webinars promoted by CEM
- 26 workshops organised by CEM
- 17 Commission newsletters
- 100+ publications in scientific journals
- 15+ IUCN publications
- 25+ CEM Dialogues
- 100+ participation in high-level events

Steering Committee
The Steering Committee (SC) provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of CEM's work. It also works to facilitate the establishment of CEM's Thematic and Specialist Groups and Task Forces, identify and initiate fundraising opportunities, strengthen partnerships and promote membership.

During this period, the CEM SC gathered twice a year in person to discuss the most recent advancements and priorities. The first two SC meetings were held virtually, due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic. Since 2021, the CEM SC hosted six meetings in different regions.

The 54th Steering Committee was held in July 2021, in Kigali, Rwanda, along with the African Protected Area Congress (APAC). The meeting was composed of the SC members, as well as several African-based members and colleagues from IUCN Africa who shared their experiences on ecosystem-based approaches being led in Africa and their involvement in the region. Members also presented sessions at the APAC, including a panel on the Red List of Ecosystems and a training session on the Ecosystem-based Approach, among others.

In March 2023, CEM hosted its 55th Steering Committee meeting in Thrissur, Kerala, India. Along with three days of meetings, the Commission also held a workshop titled "Asia Consultative Seminar on Ecosystems, RLE and Nature-based Solutions" in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Research Institute. The workshop was an opportunity for CEM to showcase their work in the region, as well as for the Young Professional Network of Asia to share case studies in the region, and allowed for a space for networking and potential collaborations for reaching CEM's goals.

In September 2023, the 56th Steering Committee meeting was held in Sydney, Australia, attended by CEM members, along with several group leaders, Regional Chairs, IUCN Secretariat staff, as well as members from Australian organisations. As part of the meeting, the team was invited to visit the Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences, where they were introduced to the installations, labs and current projects being developed at the Institute. These included NbS case studies, seagrass restoration and seahorse conservation initiatives, as well as several engagement and citizen science projects aimed at addressing the impacts of coastal and marine degradation and mitigating the effects of growing industries and developments in the country.

In April 2024, the 57th Steering Committee was held at IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. Progress primarily focused on the implementation of the Red List of Ecosystems, the Global Ecosystem Typology, and Nature-based Solutions. The 3-day meeting provided an excellent opportunity for several group leaders and regional chairs to interact with staff from the IUCN Secretariat, allowing them to learn and update the IUCN CEM team on the progress of the Marseille Resolutions, publications, policy and knowledge strategies, as well as planning for the 2025 World Conservation Congress.

In October, CEM held its 58th Steering Committee at the headquarters of the Colombian Science Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR), in Santa Marta, Colombia. As part of the meeting, members had the opportunity to visit the INVEMAR headquarters and learn from the ongoing projects on marine conservation in Colombia. Likewise, the team had the chance to visit the Katanzama Arhuaco Indigenous reserve, where they are leading a restoration initiative bridging science and traditional knowledge, as well as visit the Tayrona National Park, an emblematic area on the coast of Colombia where INVEMAR has been developing their on-ground work.

The 59th and last Steering Committee meeting of this period was held in Auckland, New Zealand. This was an opportunity to learn from conservation initiatives in collaboration with local communities. In a productive session, members from New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, IUCN Secretariat and New Zealand Government staff, as well as members from the Oceania Regional Office, discussed projects and priorities in the region, as well as potential collaborations with CEM.

High-level Policy Events

During this period, the Commission increasingly made its presence felt in high-level international arenas, including multilateral conventions, major congresses, the IUCN Regional Conservation fora and key decision-making spaces. These engagements have highlighted the value of our main knowledge products, including the *Red List of Ecosystems*, the *Global Ecosystem Typology*, the *IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™* version 1.0, the *Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration: A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* as well as other relevant knowledge products. Our work highlighted the synergies between climate change, biodiversity and land degradation, and the connections with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on an ecosystem approach.

In particular, there was active participation in the Climate Change Conferences, UNFCCC COP26, COP27, COP28 and COP29, held in Glasgow, Sharm El Sheikh, Dubai, and Baku, respectively. These meetings provided key platforms to promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the *IUCN Global Standard for NbS™* in high-level panels, to showcase the applications across a range of areas, including private sector engagement, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation, carbon markets, and human health, among others. Various technical briefs have also supported IUCN's position papers during these events and a number of important sessions on NbS were also presented at high-level discussions including the Climate Change COP27, COP28 and COP29, the CBD COP15 and COP16, where, at the IUCN Pavilion, events such as "Nature-based Solutions to Achieve Net-Zero Targets: From Supply Chains to Carbon Markets" served as spaces where experts discussed how the NbS-GS can improve carbon market approaches and accounting. Likewise, a panel took place on the Ecosystem-based Approach and the role of NbS in addressing the global ecosystem crisis, as well as a discussion on "Nature-based Solutions for Health" in collaboration with WWF, emphasising a One Health approach.

CEM also played a significant role in CBD COP15 and COP16, held in Montreal and Cali respectively, where the Red List of Ecosystems status was included as a main indicator for Target A of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Together with the Global Ecosystem Typology (GET), these tools now serve as essential indicators for assessing the status and trends of ecosystems at a global scale. The GET offers a standardised classification of ecosystems based on functional criteria, enabling consistent analysis. It has also been recognised as a global reference for mapping and classifying ecosystems, providing crucial information on their extent, condition and risks – all vital for identifying priority areas for conservation and ecosystem management.

Furthermore, CEM participated in complementary international events alongside the IUCN Secretariat, highlighting the role of NbS in achieving both the goals of the KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From contributing to UNEA6, where the Commission prepared a document demonstrating how NbS can serve as a framework for implementing UNEA Resolution 5/5 to the revision process of the *IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™*, CEM reinforced its leadership in shaping NbS policy and practice globally. During 2024 and 2025, CEM was involved in the IUCN Regional Conservation Fora, where members presented the main achievements of the regions, engaged with policy and academic experts, and fostered potential collaborations for the Commission in the regions. During these fora, members delivered numerous trainings on the Red List of Ecosystems (South America RCF and West Asia RCF), the Urban Nature Index (Asia RCF), sessions on the work of the CEM Young Professional Network (Central America RCF), among others.

One of the most significant achievements has been the growing recognition of ecosystem restoration — a priority area for CEM — within these global processes. Restoration is a central component of NbS and serves as a bridge linking the actions of the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD). In collaboration with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and FAO, CEM helped develop the *Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration*, a comprehensive guide covering all phases of restoration initiatives. These standards are applicable to various ecosystems and types of projects, from community-led efforts to large-scale national programmes. This contribution forms part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in which CEM has been actively engaged as a member of the Science and Best Practices Task Forces, and played an active role in the pre-conference fora of SER Conferences, such as Darwin, 2023.

Likewise, several CEM members actively participated in the development of IPBES products, most notably those presented at IPBES-11: *The Nexus Assessment: Interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health*, and *The Transformative Change Assessment: Underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity*. Throughout 2025, CEM has had broad visibility in various international fora, including major congresses such as the International Congress for Conservation Biology, the UN High level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Tajikistan, the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP15), the Society of Ecological Restoration Conference, as well as several other high-level international events, including ambitious, high-level technical events at regional and national levels.

Main Achievements

Ecosystem Risk Assessment

As one of the priority areas of CEM, Ecosystem Risk Assessment, the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) has served as the Commission's flagship commitment to assess and classify the status and risks of collapse of the world's ecosystems, by supporting national and regional assessments, and to continue to develop a Global Ecosystem Typology, in order to facilitate communications and understanding of the status of ecosystems. The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems has become the primary global tool to understand the dynamics and processes of ecosystems, identify which ecosystems are healthy and which are at risk of collapsing, and find possible ways to mitigate or eliminate their threats, as well as monitoring the impacts of conservation measures in order to identify the most effective and efficient approaches.

In 2024, and after several years of work, the Commission released the updated version of the Guidelines for the application of the *IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Categories and Criteria 2.0*. This update enables a large number of local, national and global assessments worldwide, including the first global RLE assessment for topical glaciers, coral reef ecosystems and the RLE mangroves. The Red List of Ecosystems has seen a rapid growth over the last five years, with assessments for over 60 countries and regions, including Italy, Abu Dhabi and over 5,000 biomes including coral reefs, European oyster reef ecosystems, template grasslands and savannas in North America, inland temperate rainforest of British Columbia, template rainforests of Mexico, the Congo basin in Central Africa, and was adopted as a headline indicator for Goal A and Target 1 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also supporting Targets 2, 3 and 7.

Over 20 research papers were published, along with a number of key documents, training and workshops worldwide, contributing to the UN Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators to help operationalise the monitoring framework for the KMGBF.

The Global Ecosystem Typology website was launched in 2020 and has become a fundamental tool which allows categorisation of the global ecosystems allowing policy makers to identify ecosystems which are most critical for biodiversity conservation, research, sustainability, management and human well-being, and is now available in two of the official IUCN languages, with the third to be added later in 2025. The Commission also played an important leadership role in the development of the Global Ecosystem Atlas, an international partnership led by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to map the world's ecosystems. The UN Statistics Commission recommended the Typology for inclusion in the UN family of statistical classifications and by the CBD for national reporting on progress toward the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. At the beginning of 2025, the first meeting of the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) Partnership was held in Bangkok, where key priorities for the coming years were identified. These include global assessments of coral reefs, glacier ecosystems and wetlands. Additionally, participating countries agreed on a collaborative work plan to accelerate ecosystem risk evaluations and strengthen regional cooperation.

Nature-based Solutions
Nature-based Solutions (NbS), defined by IUCN in 2016, are "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits". Since then, CEM has been leading IUCN's work on NbS by developing and improving the knowledge base on NbS, while helping to upscale and better integrate NbS into planning and policy at different levels and in various regions. During the last five years, CEM has focused on developing practical tools to be implemented on the ground, promoting good NbS practices and raising awareness, in particular while supporting the further development of the Global Standard for NbS, to address global societal challenges, and actively supporting the International Standard Committee. A book entitled *Applying the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™* that presents 21 compelling case studies of NbS from around the world was also published in 2025. These case studies exemplify how communities, governments and organisations have successfully implemented NbS to tackle specific societal challenges while achieving co-benefits for biodiversity conservation and human well-being. This analysis demonstrates the versatility and transformative potential of NbS across diverse social, ecological and geographic contexts worldwide.

CEM has made significant contributions to advancing these goals through both science and policy-driven actions. Publications, such as *Examining ecosystem governance in rural and urban linkages*, and numerous scientific papers, have been published in science journals and magazines over the last few years. The *IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™* (1st edition) was also translated into 11 languages, and several videos have been produced to promote an understanding of the use and importance of NbS both locally and globally. CEM has also played a pivotal role in shaping policy frameworks with *Proposing the IUCN Global Standard for NbS as the Main Operational Framework to Implement UNEA Resolution 5/5 on NbS for Supporting Sustainable Development*, presented at UNEA6. Beyond research, there have been strong capacity-building efforts, leading International Labor Organization (ILO) training courses on NbS in French and Portuguese and the Global Standard for NbS at the ILO International Training Centre, as well as high participation at several international events and conferences and a number of online webinars, including two CEM Dialogues on Agroecology and Nature-based Solutions in Biosphere Reserves in Spain, Ecuador, Brazil and Norway, in collaboration with UNESCO's MAB Programme.

Ecosystem Restoration
During the last decades, there has been a growing realisation that we will not be able to conserve the Earth's biological diversity through the protection of critical areas alone. When applicable, ecosystem restoration should be an integral component of conservation and sustainable development programmes, ensuring that the livelihoods of people dependent on these degraded ecosystems can be sustained. CEM has supported these efforts, particularly in relation to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as restoration goals advanced through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (through contributions made by the Science and Best Practices Task Forces), including the CBD, other UN conventions and the Bonn Challenge. Through facilitating communication, capacity building and knowledge sharing, as well as providing guidance and technical

support on the design, implementation and monitoring of restoration projects and policies, ecosystem restoration has gained a strong foothold on global agendas during the last years.

As part of these efforts, and one of the most relevant achievements in the last period, was the publication of *Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to Guide the United Nations Decade2021–2030* in 2021 and *Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration - A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030*, a collaboration between CEM, SER and FAO. These documents establish a shared vision and common lexicon for ecosystem restoration, and are being utilised by the UN Decade to promote standards-based restoration and to assess the quality of restoration projects, particularly in the context of UN Decade Flagship nominations. The Principles and Standards for the UN Decade have also provided technical expertise to the IUCN Secretariat and Commission programmes, including serving on advisory groups for the Restoration Initiative, the Green Status of Ecosystems Task Force, and the Rewilding Thematic Group. These Principles and Standards have been promoted at major international events, including the CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16, FAO's 2022 World Forestry Congress, the 2025 annual meeting of the 20x20 initiative, the 4th Global Forum on Ecosystem Restoration, the VI Ibero-American and Caribbean Congress of Ecological Restoration in Colombia, among others. The Commission also participated in the 5th Global Forum on Ecological Restoration, where, in collaboration with the Society for Ecological Restoration, hosted an event on Cultural and Social Approaches for Assessing Restoration Impact. The Forum launch was held as a side event at the Society for Ecological Restoration's 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Darwin, Australia in 2023.

In 2025, during the Society on Ecological Restoration conference in Denver, members participated in the UN Decade's "Restoration Day", launched a beta version of the Standards of Practice Decision support tool, and hosted a side event at the Global Forum on landscape restoration.

Moreover, the Commission hosted a webinar series on Restoration, comprising over 30 episodes and garnering more than 3,000 views.

Cultural Practices and Ecosystem Management
Modern ecosystem management has often been based on a scientific approach, which has frequently led to conflicts between culture and conservation. However, more recently, there has been strong recognition that effective ecosystem management can only be achieved through a better understanding and integration of the relationships between communities and nature. The reality is that most societies view and manage ecosystems through a perspective dictated by long-held cultural beliefs that have sustained their society, sometimes for millennia. The challenge for ecosystem management is that in a changing global environment some of these long-held practices can lead to degradation of the ecosystem, while others can play a crucial role in promoting biodiversity conservation and helping societies address the impacts of climate change. In addition, "cultural systems of meaning shape the way that people interpret climate change and provide a historical and sociocultural context within which impacts are experienced, and responses are generated". Over the last years, CEM has supported these efforts by developing the first edition of the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Ecosystem Services*. This publication represents a significant advance in understanding cultural values in biodiversity conservation. Additionally, participating in the inaugural IUCN Scientific Colloquium on "IUCN standards for measuring biodiversity and conservation for sustainable development," provided guidance on how to incorporate cultural perspectives into biodiversity conservation measurement.

Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Practice
During the last four years, CEM has placed a special focus on fostering stronger emphasis on the connections between climate change and biodiversity, through a scientific basis, providing expert knowledge and guidance in various critical areas, and formulating innovative research agendas across multiple scales, responding promptly to contemporary environmental, economic, social and policy challenges. Additionally, CEM has worked to identify best practices for integrating NbS into policies and practices, specifically focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation for diverse social-ecological systems. Moreover, the Commission has played a crucial role in providing recommendations to policy documents proposed by prominent international conventions such as UNFCCC, CBD and IPBES, among others. This commitment arises from the increasing concern about large corporations enticing Indigenous communities with inadequate compensation for their lands, often resulting in unsustainable practices over the long term.

Specifically, during the last period, the group has made significant contributions to advancing research and policy integration for climate change and biodiversity, including several publications and technical briefs, as well as a high level of participation in major high-level forums. Another important milestone was the release of the *Climate Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation* publication in 2024, which provides a global overview of climate mitigation initiatives on biodiversity in various contexts, their impacts, and the potential contributions of natural ecosystems to NbS in reducing carbon emissions.

Additional publications on this topic developed by CEM include *Supporting climate change adaptation of social-ecological systems at risk of collapse through the use of Nature-based Solutions* and *Nature-based Solutions for corporate climate targets*, among others.

Human Health
Human health is intimately interconnected with biodiversity and the health of our ecosystems, and is a compelling example of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems to promote their broader value. However, human activity is rapidly transforming most of Earth's natural systems. For this reason, CEM has been working to explore the relationships between human and ecosystem health, well-being and biodiversity in their most complex forms.

With this goal in mind, and in response to the need to communicate the implications of the relationship between nature and human health, several products were developed and released during this period. An educational game, highlighting the importance of the Amazon Forest for human health, was produced, engaging audiences in understanding its significance for ecosystem health. Likewise, three impactful videos (translated into 10 languages) on the relationship between environmental degradation and human health further increased awareness of pressing ecological issues, as did a webinar series on Nature & Mental Health. CEM has also begun developing a human health indicator, with the goal of potentially integrating it into the Red List of Ecosystems. Global visibility on human health was also addressed at major international events such as the CBD COP16, in a side event co-hosted with WWF, which highlighted NbS as essential for both health and climate action. These collective achievements position the need to integrate human health considerations into ecosystem management and conservation policy.

Ecosystem Governance
Equitable governance of the world's ecosystems is essential if we are to meet the challenges of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and the CBD Kunming-Montral Global Biodiversity Framework. In order to address these goals, CEM has been working on developing principles for ecosystem governance that enhance resilience and transformational change of social ecological systems, developing good practices through case studies that can provide advice and guidance to policy makers and implementing bodies on how to achieve equitable governance of socio-ecological systems, and providing guidance on governance requirements to sustainably use nature's contributions that are necessary to meet human needs. This guidance has been demonstrated in a recent publication on Ecosystem Governance case studies, entitled *Examining ecosystem governance in rural and urban linkages*, as well as in a webinar series on Ecosystem Governance, which included sessions on case studies, a review of IUCN's Ecosystem Governance principles, and examples of ecosystem governance trends on a local level. Likewise, an official newsletter with the latest events, publications and news related to ecosystem governance was released in 2024.

Rewilding
The concept of rewilding is relatively new, and whilst it offers great potential for reinvigorating conservation, it is currently defined and approached in several different ways. For this reason, CEM is working on developing a conceptual and methodological framework for rewilding, within a framework of other ecosystem management concepts, including Cultural Practices, NbS, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Ecosystem Governance, Ecosystem Resilience and Protected Areas Management. In order to synthesise and streamline the theory and practice of rewilding through a sharing of experience within the wider (and growing) rewilding community, CEM is seeking to develop a more unified and cohesive rewilding approach that is both science-based and community-focused, through exploring ecological restoration in terms of a wildness continuum approach with an outcome of

becoming increasingly ‘nature-led’ with self-sustaining ecosystems and minimal human intervention. This approach goes beyond a simple biodiversity approach to ecosystems and instead recognises the dynamic nature of trophic processes that express themselves on every continent across the globe.

During 2021–2025, the *Guiding Principles for Rewilding* and the *Rewilding Routledge Handbook* were released, marking significant milestones in positioning rewilding in both local and global scenarios. Likewise, the *Rewilding Guidelines* (released in 2025) is also a significant tool for practitioners and decision-makers in the field.

In 2024, a workshop at the International Association for Society & Natural Resources conference was led in Cairns, Australia, along with additional workshops in 2025, a Rewilding webinar series was released with a session on “Framing the Wild and Rewilding”, and a webinar on “Free Evolution” in collaboration with the IUCN French Committee.

Recent publications on Rewilding have highlighted the need for a transformative shift in rewilding philosophy – emphasising a shift from a traditional, human-led restoration model to a nature-led, human-enabled approach. This paradigm emphasises granting ecosystems the autonomy to self-regulate, with human intervention serving as a facilitator rather than a director of ecological processes. A central theme in their work is the nuanced balance between ecological autonomy and necessary human involvement. While rewilding aspires to reduce human control, it acknowledges that initial interventions – such as species reintroductions or habitat modifications – may be essential to set ecosystems on a trajectory toward self-sustainability. This approach is encapsulated in the concept of “nature-led, human-enabled” rewilding, distinguishing it from traditional ecological restoration. Rewilding is not a one-size-fits-all solution; its success hinges on tailoring practices to local ecological, cultural and socio-economic conditions. This perspective is evident in their development of a Theory of Change framework, which guides practitioners in designing adaptive, place-based rewilding initiatives.

Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction
Well-managed ecosystems, such as wetlands, forests and coastal systems, act as natural infrastructure, reducing physical exposure to many hazards and increasing the socio-economic resilience of people and communities by sustaining local livelihoods and providing essential natural resources, including food, water and building materials. Ecosystem management not only offers an opportunity to strengthen natural infrastructure and human resilience against hazard impacts, but also generates a range of other social, economic and environmental benefits for multiple stakeholders, which in turn feed back into reduced risk.

To address and mitigate risks, the Commission has actively sought ways to integrate this matter into policy and decision-making scenarios, for example, with participation in the 5th Science and Policy Workshop *Nature as a connector between disaster risk reduction, climate, land and biodiversity*, organised by the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bonn, Germany. Additionally, in academic terms, contributions were made to developing a special issue of the journal *Nature-Based Solutions*, which resulted in six published manuscripts with more currently under revision, as well as contributions in linking Eco-DRR with land restoration efforts through the G20 Global Land Initiative; members also co-authored an important report titled *Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation*, published in April, 2024 in collaboration with UNDRR and UNU. Contributions were also made to the PEDRR policy brief *Ecosystem-based approaches for integrating disaster risk reduction, climate, land and biodiversity goals*, which has been distributed at major international conferences including the CBD COP16, UNFCCC COP29 and UNCCD COP16, and it continues to be disseminated.

Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation
The impacts of modern development on ecosystems pose a substantial risk to biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, and this risk is increasing. Many governments and corporate entities, across both developed and developing economies, are increasingly mandating protocols for managing these risks, framed by the unifying concept of the mitigation hierarchy. However, despite best-practice guidance existing, challenges and suboptimal implementation of the mitigation hierarchy have meant that the approach often falls short and often fails to consider local populations and cultural values. Furthermore, even best-practice offsetting tends to lead to biodiversity reduction,

because many policies allow for the protection of existing biodiversity to be traded for residual losses from the project. As such, ecological compensation approaches, such as offsetting, remain controversial, and their relationship with national or global biodiversity goals lacks clarity.

For this reason, substantial contributions to impact mitigation are being addressed through positioning these nature-positive approaches and ecological compensation best practices in the global agenda. Some examples of this are the publication of *Nature Positive for Business*, released in 2023, which has been translated into Spanish, French, Japanese and Chinese, significantly increasing its global accessibility and utility, and serving as a vital resource to establish key principles for corporate biodiversity action; a widely-read article in *The Conversation* challenging superficial interpretations of "nature positive"; and a paper in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, emphasising the importance of properly implementing the mitigation hierarchy. A webinar series, with sessions ranging from spatial analysis for mitigation planning to habitat banking perspectives from South America, was also released during this period. Likewise, there was a strong presence at prominent conferences, including the International Congress for Conservation Biology and the International Association for Impact Assessment conference, as well as contributions made to drafting a motion for the 2025 World Conservation Congress focused on mobilising high-integrity nature-positive actions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These achievements demonstrate strong leadership in translating mitigation hierarchy principles into practical guidance, while challenging greenwashing and promoting scientifically grounded approaches to achieving nature-positive outcomes.

Sustainable Use and Ecosystem Management
Sustainable Use and Ecosystem Management involve balancing human needs with the health and resilience of ecosystems, ensuring long-term sustainability for both people and nature. This approach emphasises the importance of understanding and managing ecosystems in their entirety, considering all their interacting parts and the services they provide. The Commission has worked towards Identifying how sustainable use of renewable natural resources can contribute to management and restoration of ecosystems, as well as identifying and documenting the role ecosystem management plays in sustaining the use of renewable natural resources, and ultimately facilitate research and knowledge sharing that explores how sustainable use of renewable natural resources can foster more resilient ecosystems.

Concrete conservation outputs on sustainable use were highlighted and discussed at the Cape Town Conference in June, 2023 which established the Renosterveld ecosystem and its flagship species the Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*) as conservation priorities proceeding to engagement with CMS Raptors MoU and work on a Single Species Conservation Action Plan; the Oxford Human-Wildlife Conflict Conference in 2023; and the IAF/SUME Joint Conference in Abu Dhabi (September 2023) addressing raptor conservation strategies. Technical tools were also further developed, such as the multilingual sakernet.org portal, which became a hub+satellites network for range-state surveys on saker falcon conservation and use. In terms of policy-driven actions, European partnerships were strengthened through involvement in the ESUG's "Horizon ProCoast" project on socio-environmental transition for communities, which links to the SUME naturalliance.org global network, and in support of the EU Nature Restoration Legislation together with IAF viaperdixnet.org. At global level, the Commission informed the publishing of CITES Non-Detriment Findings guidance for migratory species, participated in a conference at the Saudi Falconry Exhibition and made review contributions to the IPBES assessments on Sustainable Use (2022), Transformational Change (2024) and the Nexus between biodiversity, food, water, health and climate (2024).

Ecosystem Services
The Commission continued to make significant progress in integrating ecosystem services into climate adaptation and natural capital frameworks. Marking a critical step in incorporating traditional knowledge into climate adaptation strategies and valuing ecosystem services from Indigenous perspectives is the project "Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change for Indigenous Women's Groups in coastal Indonesia and Australia". The work has commenced on reviewing ecosystem condition metrics and indicators to underpin ecosystem accounts using the SEEA framework. As part of positioning ecosystem services into the global agenda, the topic of ecosystem services was discussed in regional fora, including the IUCN Asia Regional Forum in Bangkok, the Oceania Regional Forum in Suva, the Europe and North and Central Asia Regional Forum in Bruges, with presentations on inclusivity and implementation principles that could underpin a future IUCN Policy on

Natural Capital. Incorporating ecosystem services into protected area prioritisation and management was also discussed and presentations made at the A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES) Conference in Texas, USA, and follow-on workshops on this topic are planned at this year's Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) World Conference in Darwin, Australia.

Social-Ecological Resilience & Transformation
The term "resilience" is fully consistent with the twelve principles of the Ecosystem Approach for equitable, inclusive and holistic management, as agreed upon by the CBD. Resilience emphasises social learning as an essential process for responding to disturbances and facilitating system transformations. Transformability refers to the capacity to fundamentally alter a system and transition into a new development trajectory when ecological, economic or social structures render the existing system untenable. Among other things, this includes reflecting on and changing conservation practice itself. Conservation has many historical connections with colonialism as well as with development as an international post-World War II project. Acknowledging these linkages creates opportunities for combining social with natural sciences, and for taking new and different approaches to resolving today's interlinked global crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and extreme inequality.

As part of showcasing the importance of resilience in ecosystem conservation, a series of webinars on social-ecological resilience and transformation began in 2021 with webinars in Spanish and English. Likewise, a workshop on developing interdisciplinary adaptation/transition pathways for a climate-resilient future was hosted at Utrecht University in 2024 to further disseminate the importance and usage of resilience and transformation in ecosystem conservation. Finally, a publication on social-ecological assessment and transformation case studies from various countries and ecosystems will be launched in 2025.

Coastal and Marine Ecosystems
Marine and coastal conservation efforts have played a significant role in CEM's work over the last years. In collaboration with the World Coastal Forum, the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Oceania Regional Office, CEM contributed to a forthcoming review of the State of the World's Coastal Ecosystems, anticipated for release ahead of the World Conservation Congress. This work integrates input from the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and Nature-based Solutions Thematic Groups, as well as the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). CEM has also led an extensive collaborative project to develop long-term fisheries management programmes in Sumatra and Australia. Additionally, a coastal NbS case study was presented at the 2024 UN General Assembly Science Summit, highlighting innovative approaches to sustainable coastal development. These initiatives, including contributions to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Scientific Task Force, reflect CEM's ongoing commitment to advancing science-based solutions for the protection and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Forest Ecosystems
In terms of forest conservation, key accomplishments during the 2021–2025 period included an international workshop in Goa, India, on the role of forestry and land restoration in achieving net-zero emissions, as well as contributions to India's UNFCCC reports and Goa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Research on forests was also highlighted through participation in the IUFRO 2024 conference, including a presentation on mangrove stress under climate change, as well as key publications on ecosystem health, mangrove carbon dynamics, and agroforestry-based land restoration. Additional milestones included organising the International Consultative Workshop on Net Zero in Asia, a Pheno CAMs workshop in Karnataka, and participation in global fora such as CITES in Geneva and the Climate Action Now series at IIT Gandhinagar. Regional engagements included working ahead on IUCN Resolution 7.006 *Declaration of priority for the conservation of tropical dry forests in South America* (Marseille, 2020) through workshops in Ecuador, Peru, Tanzania and Kenya on forest planning and climate resilience, alongside FLARE sessions on sustainable livelihoods, and the Halesworth Climate Conference. Research outputs included studies on glacier water loss, forest ecosystem modelling, and mangrove carbon dynamics, reinforcing a commitment to science-driven forest management, biodiversity conservation and inclusive climate action across continents.

Holarctic Steppes
Holarctic steppe conservation and research were also part of CEM's work, with a focus on Mongolia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. In 2024, major initiatives included organising the forum on 'Restoration and Sustainable Management of the Steppes on the Mongolian Plateau' and co-

organising the Eurasian Grassland Conference in Bolzano, Italy. Field-based workshops addressed critical issues, such as mobility in Mongolian steppe ecosystems and degradation assessment in the Tuul River floodplain. Contributions to international policy processes were addressed, including the CMS COP-14 in Uzbekistan, which focused on migratory species conservation, and BirdLife International's regional meeting in Kazakhstan, where the Altyn Dala restoration initiative was showcased. Research advancements included vegetation mapping in Mongolia's Gobi-Altai region and several high-impact publications analysing steppe biodiversity patterns, grazing impacts and fire regime dynamics. In 2023, the Eurasian Grassland Conference in Spain was organised, as well as participation in the IAVS conference in Australia, and produced11 scientific publications. Ukrainian members documented war-related impacts on protected steppe habitats, while ongoing projects expanded across China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. These collective efforts – spanning ecological research, policy engagement, and on-the-ground conservation – have strengthened understanding and protection of these vital grassland ecosystems amid climate change and land-use pressures.

Mountain Ecosystems
Significant progress was made in mountain ecosystem conservation, with a strong emphasis on Indigenous knowledge and the dynamics between humans and their environment. The official IUCN publications, *Critical approaches to gender in mountain ecosystems* released in 2021 and *What Can Communities Teach Us? Indigenous and Local Knowledge for Mountain Ecosystem*s launched in 2023, provide two examples of how mountain ecosystem conservation is vital not only for biodiversity, but also for the preservation of cultures and traditional knowledge. The first one was shared at the "Women Move Mountains in Adapting to Climate Change" (Inter-Parliamentary Union for Democracy in Europe and Adaptation at Altitude) and insights from both the gender and Indigenous knowledge reports were shared last year at Cambridge University in the Exploring Critical Perspectives on Climate Security event; the work on gender gaps in rural mountain regions was presented at the Status of Women Forum organised by the United Nations NGO Committee in New York. Contributions were also made to the CEESP report *Planet on the Move: Reimagining Conservation at the Intersection of Migration, Environmental Change, and Conflict*, disseminating Indigenous knowledge frameworks to broader audiences and bridging local practices with global conservation strategies.

Peatland Ecosystems
Major advancements in peatland conservation included an active participation in high-level policy fora including the UN Innovation Lab on climate solutions and an EU Commission expert workshop on carbon farming, where peatland restoration was positioned as a key NbS. At the international carbon markets summit, critical discussions advanced financing mechanisms for peatland conservation. The launching of a virtual peatland pavilion, featured at UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, provided an innovative platform for global knowledge on peatlands. Important scientific developments included the contributions to the world's first-ever *Global Peatlands Assessment: The State of the World's Peatlands* and the *Peatland Code*. Likewise, a short film titled 'The Most Important Plant in the World' and a series of technical webinars linking peatland biodiversity to ecosystem resilience were also showcased at international events and fora. These efforts, spanning science, policy and public outreach, served to elevate the importance of peatlands and conservation initiatives in the global climate and biodiversity agendas.

Wetland Ecosystems
In 2022, the publication *Wetlands and People at Risk* was launched at Ramsar COP14, highlighting the importance of human-wetland relations in wetland ecosystem conservation. Additionally, in collaboration with the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the Commission's Wetland Ecosystems Specialist Group was a partner in the 2024 World Wetlands Survey. It is also one of the partner organisations in the upcoming 2026 World Wetlands Survey.

Commission members presented the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, and contributed to the State of the 2024 Participatory Survey Report, scheduled for launch in 2025. The Commission also supported the development of the draft motion "Implementing an 'Aquascape' Approach to the Conservation of Fresh and Saline Water Ecosystems" for the 2025 World Conservation Congress, and contributed to the Climate-Smart Wetlands and Greenhouse Gas Feedback Management Working Group, led by the Environmental Defense. This work led to the preparation of the manuscript *Climate-Smart Wetlands: Disrupting the Methane Feedback Loop—Maintaining the Climate Value of Wetlands in a Warming World*, which will be published in 2025.

Wetlands was also positioned in the international agenda by CEM members, including the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy development meeting in Amsterdam and the Society of Wetland Scientists 2024 Annual Meeting in Taiwan, as well as the *Simposio Mesoamericano para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Ecosistemas de Agua Dulce* in Guatemala and the *XI Congreso Argentino de Limnología* in Argentina in 2025

Deep-Sea Mining
Significant progress was made in advocating for a moratorium on deep-sea mining as indicated by Resolution 122. As part of this work, the Commission had an active participation in International Seabed Authority (ISA) negotiations and ISA's test-mining workshop in Bremen organised by the Governments of Germany and Belgium. This workshop was part of the ongoing discussions and intersessional work of the Council of the International Seabed Authority to develop a proposal on test-mining to be discussed at the March 2025 ISA Council meeting, where members were also present. There was also a deepening in collaborations with the IUCN Secretariat and Oceans team to continue highlighting the risks of deep-sea mining, by co-hosting a session at the Marine Regions Forum in Tanzania (November 2024), and organising several expert webinars and discussions upholding the moratorium. These efforts strengthened global awareness and policy dialogue on the environmental risks of deep-sea mining.

Urban Ecosystems
In urban ecosystems, the Commission played a crucial role in the IUCN Urban Alliance, including the "Urban Nature Indexes" (UNI) training at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum in Thailand and the development of regional Cities & Nature Briefings across six global regions through the Urban Biodiversity Hub partnership.

Ecosystem-based Aquaculture
Progress in ecosystem-based aquaculture included the publication *Towards a regenerative Blue Economy: Mapping the Blue Economy*, an important first step in mapping the evolution of Blue Economy concepts, proposing a definition and founding principles for all Blue Economy-related work, and the report *Understanding and Adapting Ocean Decade Action* in Anthropocene Science. A CEM Dialogue also convened experts to explore adoption strategies for ecosystem approaches in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as participation in the Regional Capacity Building Workshop on BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction), thereby strengthening governance linkages between aquaculture and high-seas conservation.

Fisheries Expert Group
Between 2021 and 2025, CEM made significant contributions to advancing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management and conservation globally, often leading initiatives in close collaboration with CBD and FAO staff, academic experts, and fisheries and conservation practitioners. During this timeframe, seven publications were co-produced, with three of them appearing in peer-reviewed journals. In 2021, contributions were made to a commentary on the balanced harvest approach, as well as a review of area-based management in blue water fisheries. That same year, they released a report on identifying, using and assessing OECMs in marine capture fisheries. 2023 saw two major publications: an in-depth analysis of area-based management tools in marine fisheries and a timely report on the role of fisheries in meeting the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework targets. The Commission also actively engaged in international fora to promote sustainable fisheries and marine resource conservation, such as the ICES/IUCN-CEM-FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS), evaluating six North Atlantic case studies to assess the applicability of fisheries measures as OECMs under national and regional jurisdictions, and in key global events, including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, the BBNJ negotiations, the 2022 and 2024 FAO COFI meetings, and the CBD COP15 and COP16, contributing expert insights on the convergence of fisheries management and biodiversity conservation through several side-events.

Green Status of Ecosystems
Significant advancements were made in developing the Green Status of Ecosystems (GSE), in collaboration with the Species Survival Commission. During the 2021–2025 period, a framework was developed, including a series of 10 expert workshops held in 2023 – 2025, which focused on assessing ecosystem recovery potential and conservation impact. Preliminary results on case studies across diverse ecosystems were also presented at international fora including the Society for Ecological Restoration conference in Darwin in 2023, the co-led symposium 'From risk to recovery:

measuring the status of ecosystems' at the Ecological Society of Australia conference in 2024, at a science seminar at James Cook University, and at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Brisbane in 2025 during a forum and symposium.

Oil Crops
Another topic addressed by CEM are vegetable oil crops. Crops like oil palm are considered a threat to over 300 species listed as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered, but all oil crops threaten species where they displace natural ecosystems. At the same time, some crops, especially the perennial crops like oil palm, coconut and olive, can provide habitat to some species. Improved practices are needed for all crops, while their different yields require land that is optimally allocated to oil production to meet growing demand. To address these challenges, CEM, along with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC), have focused on conducting scientific research to inform the debate about the sustainability of vegetable oil crops. The Commissions have worked together to address IUCN Resolution 6.061 *Mitigating the impacts of oil palm expansion and operations on biodiversity* (Hawai'i, 2016) which initially called for a deeper scientific understanding of palm oil, and was later expanded to ensure a more balanced consideration of both the direct biodiversity impacts of vegetable oil production and its broader social, economic and environmental implications. As part of this response, the publication *Exploring the future of vegetable oils* was released in 2024 and translated into Indonesian and French.

Natural Capital
CEM and CEESP collaborated together to address IUCN Resolution 7.120 *Towards a Policy on Natural Capita*l (Marseille, 2020), which calls for a policy on natural capital. For this, they have worked to clarify perspectives on natural capital, accounting, and biodiversity accounting, and on advancing the development of an IUCN policy on natural capital by identifying areas of consensus and divergence within IUCN.

Ecological Integrity
Additional intercommissional efforts include a partnership with WCPA in addressing Ecological Integrity, which refers to the ability of an ecosystem to maintain its natural composition, structure and function, as well as its capacity to recover from disturbances. By focusing on its relationship with other concepts such as resilience, degradation and ecosystem condition, the Commissions have provided evidence on how ecosystems with high ecological integrity are more resilient, provide more ecosystem services, and are more likely to support biodiversity, ultimately showing how ecosystems can continue to provide essential benefits to humanity and the environment.

Young Professional Network
The CEM Young Professional Network (YPN) is a group of young professionals associated with ecosystem management. The goal of the network is to empower emerging leaders by fostering innovation, collaboration and youth engagement in the work of the Commission. During the 2021–2025 period, the YPN achieved significant milestones. The first regional CEM Dialogue in Latin America, titled "Success Stories of Young Professionals from Central America and the Caribbean", organised by the Mexico, Central America and Caribbean region was hosted. Additionally, the South Asia YPN collaborated with the Kerala Forest Research Institute in India to host a workshop highlighting regional case studies, challenges and solutions; this was followed by the CEM Steering Committee meeting in 2023. The YPN in South America participated in co-organising the 3rd Local Youth Conference on Climate Change (LCOYCO3) in Bogota, Colombia, contributing to discussions and workshops on innovative climate action and policy. The YPN also expanded its impact by contributing to the development of the IUCN Youth Strategy and the IUCN Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) workplan, engaging in YAC dialogues to strengthen intergenerational partnerships, and organising regional activities such as webinars, podcasts and meetings. The network also took part in international events like the Regional Conservation Fora, strengthening its role in advancing youth leadership within global conservation efforts.

Regions
From 2021 to 2025, CEM strived to reach global engagement through local, regional and national efforts. Across six continents, members delivered workshops, webinars, assessments, discussions and policy advocacy worldwide. Through addressing global frameworks with regional and local

approaches, the Commission strengthened ecosystem resilience, promoted NbS, and empowered stakeholders to address environmental challenges. The Commission facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue and action, ensuring that ecosystem management remained grounded in both scientific and practical fields across diverse contexts.

North America
In North America, the Commission focused on engaging with professional groups, such as the American Society of Landscape Architects and the IUCN National Committee, while strengthening internal collaboration among regional chairs and thematic leaders to enhance peer-to-peer learning, particularly in ecosystem restoration and NbS. Active participation was held in key fora, including the IUCN US and Canada Regional Conservation Fora, to assess conservation efforts, refine regional priorities, and align strategies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the next two decades.

Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
In Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, CEM was active in conducting webinars and trainings, including a course in Guatemala on the IUCN NbS Global Standard and a webinar on ecosystem typology in collaboration with ORMACC, and presenting on ecological restoration at Costa Rica's national conference. The regional Young Professionals Network (YPN) held several CEM Dialogues, showcasing youth contributions and involvement in conservation and climate action. Members from the region also completed a self-assessment of the NbS Standard for the Resilient Altiplano project in Guatemala and participated in the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum, which included sessions and workshops. The YPN actively contributed through various sessions and exhibits. Additionally, the regional YPN took part in the Latin American and Caribbean Protected and Conserved Areas event, collaborating with Indigenous peoples and park rangers to highlight inclusive conservation efforts.

Western Europe
In Western Europe, the Commission members collaborated with the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) at their Europe Conference in Berlin to promote IUCN and explore partnerships and held the region's first-ever webinar on rewilding in 2023. Additionally, the region actively participated in the Europe Regional Conservation Forum in Bruges, showcasing CEM's contributions to conservation efforts.

South Asia
In South Asia, CEM focused its efforts on localising climate action by raising awareness among local governments on NbS for resilient cities. Several workshops were held on Red List Ecosystems and NbS, as well as the role of protected areas in biodiversity conservation, and mountain ecosystems. Meanwhile, the network's blog and magazine, Harnessing Nature, highlighted member contributions. Regular webinars showcased regional conservation efforts, and members published over 30 research articles. Additionally, the IUCN NbS Global Standard was translated into seven regional languages.

Significant progress was also made in Red List of Ecosystems assessments in the region, covering mangroves, Myristica swamps (India), and temperate oak-pine forests (India), and a roadmap paper was published to guide ecosystem health assessments in India, aligning with the Global Biodiversity Framework. The region also engaged in the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum, emphasising the role of the Commission in climate solutions. The regional YPN hosted a workshop in Kerala in 2022 and co-hosted a conference event in New Delhi, India, fostering cross-regional collaboration.

Central Asia
In Central Asia, the Commission focused on advancing NbS by translating the IUCN Global Standard on NbS into Persian. The region actively participated in national meetings and webinars on ecosystem restoration and organised training courses to build capacity in this field, as well as developing a proposal for an upcoming workshop on protected areas and biodiversity conservation from a geospatial perspective.

Northeast Asia
In Northeast Asia, the Commission worked on strengthening regional capacity through an Integrated Ecosystem Services Assessment training in Taiwan and contributed to high-level discussions on sustainable development at the International Forum on Sustainable Development of Ecology and

Environment in Xinjiang, China, followed by participation in the International Conference on Resilience of Grassland Social-Ecological Systems in Beijing, which included a book launch.

Additionally, the National Assessments of the Red List of Ecosystems in China was launched, and collaborative research with The Nature Conservancy assessed carbon sequestration potential in restored grassland ecosystems. Regional members also engaged in UNCCD COP16, co-organising a side event on "Restoring Degraded Grasslands to Combat Desertification in Dry Areas," highlighting practical solutions for land degradation challenges.

The work of the Commission in Southeast Asia focused on engaging communities and promoting sustainable tourism, organising a workshop on hospitality and ecotourism for the Jerai Geopark Community in Malaysia. The region also launched "Greening Malaysia: Love Our Forest I and II", a series of community-driven activities aimed at enhancing forest conservation and environmental awareness.

West Asia
In West Asia, CEM was actively engaged in regional conservation planning and capacity-building, through participating in the IUCN ROWA Regional Conservation Forum in Riyadh, and contributing to strategic discussions on environmental priorities. A key planning meeting was organised between the CEM Chair and the West Asia leadership team in order to align conservation efforts with the region's needs, and they delivered a Red List of Ecosystems training for staff of Saudi Arabia's King Salman Royal Nature Reserve. The region also supported the translation of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions and the RLE application guidelines into Arabic.

West and Central Africa
In West and Central Africa, CEM demonstrated strong regional leadership in forest governance and capacity-building through a high-level forum on forests in Yaoundé, Cameroon, organised jointly by COMIFAC, IUCN and UNEP. Collaborative efforts also included a conference on environmental management systems in Congo Brazzaville, co-organised with NGO TUNGA, and capacity-building sessions on ecosystem restoration, led by SER and CEM, while contributing expertise at the FLARE forum in Nairobi, where a panel discussion on resilient forest-based livelihoods was held in partnership with ICRAF.

North Africa
North Africa has made significant contributions to ecosystem conservation through knowledge sharing and research, as evidenced by the publication of a collaborative study on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and its applications for protected area management in Africa. This study reinforces the scientific foundation for conservation decisions. Active participation in global forums included organising and presenting at the RLE symposium during the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2023) in Kigali, Rwanda, as well as presenting RLE methodologies at the FLARE 2023 conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

The region also participated in the IUCN Africa Regional Conservation Forum, highlighting the role of CEM and the Red List of Ecosystems in African conservation strategies, and the article "IUCN Red List of Ecosystems: Mangroves of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden" provided critical data on vulnerable coastal ecosystems.

Oceania
The Commission’s work in Oceania focused on strengthening its regional conservation network by partnering with the IUCN Australian Committee, WCPA and the IUCN Regional Office in Fiji to develop an Ecosystem Restoration workshop, specifically targeting Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2, in Canberra, Australia. Collaborative efforts also included supporting the IUCN Regional Office in Fiji to advance the Nature-based Solutions Pacific Guidance project, ensuring tailored approaches for island ecosystems, and co-designing a Young Professionals side event with the IUCN WCPA Young Professionals Network for the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Fiji, where regional Members actively participated.