

## Climate Crisis Commission (CCC) Report 2021–2025

**Chair: Manuel Pulgar Vidal**

### **1. Mission**

The IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (CCC) develops and shares expert guidance on solutions for limiting global warming that are both appropriate and effective, promoting justice and ecosystem integrity, and grounded in the best available science. This includes upholding free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). The IUCN CCC will mobilise and help coordinate the Union's efforts by building and promoting productive and constructive partnerships that foster transformational change.

### **2. Vision**

To work towards a world where global warming is limited to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and society adapts to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are nature positive, and promote just outcomes for all.

### **3. Goal**

Advance science-based approaches that are holistic, integrated and just, in the development and implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation policy and programmes.

### **4. Objective**

To promote action on climate, biodiversity and communities by strengthening pathways to achieve – and go beyond – net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This includes transitioning away from fossil fuels toward clean renewable energy, protecting and restoring the integrity of ecosystems, and supporting the implementation of the IUCN's Strategic Vision and Programme, including relevant climate change Resolutions from IUCN World Conservation Congresses.

### **5. Priorities and achievements**

#### **5.1. Formalising the Climate Crisis Commission**

CCC is the youngest IUCN Commission; approved at the last IUCN Congress in Marseille, France in October 2021. Over the past four years, the Chair and Steering Committee members have focused on establishing the foundational structure necessary for the effective functioning of the Climate Crises Commission. This has included governance tools, strategic planning, communications/visibility and the opening of membership to support inclusive and impactful engagement.

- a. **Terms of reference and mandate.** Developed and adopted (on 19 January 2023), the [Terms of Reference 2022-2025](#) guide the Commission's operations, clarify roles and ensure alignment with IUCN principles and the Union strategy. After these four years, the Commission's leadership, the Steering Committee members and thematic leads have developed the CCC Mandate for the next quadrennial, 2026–2029.
- b. **Work plans.** A first [Work Plan](#) 2023–2024 was developed and approved by the IUCN Council, decision C/VII, 9 March 2023, setting clear priorities, workstreams and actions to advance our strategic objectives. It defined our thematic focus, cross-cutting areas of work, partnerships and communications, as well as CCC's internal organisation and structure. It was updated with a 2025 Work Plan, adopted by the Council.

#### **5.2. Governance**

- c. **Chair, Deputy Chair, Regional Vice Chairs and Steering Committee**

The Commission is currently led by the interim Chair, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, supported by the Vice Chair Cathy Yitong. The Steering Committee, composed of 21 members across all regions, provides leadership and guidance in the development and implementation of CCC's work through its operational structure, comprising regional and thematic groups. The Executive Officer, Vanessa Morales, manages the Commission's operations and contents within the governance structure.

|    | <b>Name</b>           | <b>Nationality</b> |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Andrea Carmen         | USA                |
| 2  | Ana Tiraa             | Cook Islands       |
| 3  | Christopher Dunn      | USA                |
| 4  | Brendan Mackey        | Australia          |
| 5  | Natalie Morata        | France             |
| 6  | Li (Aster) Zhang      | China              |
| 7  | Chiara Oberle         | Swiss, Italian     |
| 8  | Mina Esteghamat       | Iran               |
| 9  | Daniela Ortiz         | Colombia           |
| 10 | Daniel James Jiron    | USA                |
| 11 | Aby Drame             | Senegal            |
| 12 | Scott Fulton          | USA                |
| 13 | Cathy Yitong          | UK                 |
| 14 | Myrna T. Semaan Haber | Lebanon            |
| 15 | David King            | ZA                 |
| 16 | Sunita Chaudhary      | Nepal              |
| 17 | Mark McGuffie         | Hawaii             |
| 18 | Michael Wilson        | Hawaii             |
| 19 | Ravi Prasad           | India              |
| 20 | Ramiro Fernandez      | Argentina          |
| 21 | Virgiia Young         | Australia          |

d. **Regional Vice chairs**

Acting as the key liaison between global Commission leadership and their regions, they have coordinated with local members and stakeholders and driven membership growth as well as guided regional work planning. They continuously seek opportunities to strengthen the Commission and report regional perspectives to the Steering Committee.

Regional Chairs for CCC cover all eight IUCN official regions:

1. North America and the Caribbean: **Andrea Carmen**
2. East Europe, North and Central Asia: **Manuel Pulgar Vidal** (interim)
3. West Europe: **Nathalie Morata**
4. West Asia: **Mirna Semaan**
5. South and East Asia: **Ravi Prasad**
6. Oceania: **Anna Tiraa**

7. Meso & South America: **Ramiro Fernandez**
8. Africa: **Aby Drame**

e. **Thematic leads and groups**

Leads are responsible for developing and advancing Commission activities within their thematic domain. They have shaped programme strategy, produced technical assessments, guided policy contributions, and advocacy. Their work supports integration across regional and programmatic efforts.

1. **Policy and climate justice.** Led by Daniel James. The Commission will build upon the IUCN portfolio of Congress climate-related resolutions and, by engaging with all IUCN membership, will contribute to multilateral and national processes in ways that strengthen and promote just decarbonisation and synergistic climate-biodiversity policies and actions.
2. **Solutions and Innovative Tools.** Led by Brendan Mackay. The CCC will co-design and implement solutions based on the best available science, Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems, local community knowledge, best practices and sustainability drivers in the private sector. We will assess the role of technology in contributing to climate solutions, considering both harmful and positive aspects for people, nature, ecosystems and the economy.
3. **Finance.** Led by Manuel Pulgar Vidal (Interim). The Commission will work on stimulating collaboration to unlock resource mobilisation from all sources and contribute to efforts aimed at transforming the financial system. We will promote the creation of innovative, accessible and participatory financial mechanisms.
4. **Climate and Nature Nexus.** Led by Virginia Young. The Commission realises the inherent possibilities at the convergence of climate and nature, bridging the gap between discourse and action by transforming these opportunities into concrete, high-impact interventions and initiatives. This includes addressing climate impacts on nature by securing the integrity of ecosystems and their services.

**5.3. Membership recruitment and engagement**

With the continuous support of the Commissions Support Unit (CSU), we developed a comprehensive membership system, including clear application steps, selection criteria and eligibility requirements. We also created detailed **Membership Guidelines**, outlining general benefits of becoming an IUCN Commission member, application and approval process, among others. In addition, we launched an open **call for CCC membership**, which has resulted in a global, diverse and growing network. As of today, the **Commission counts 513 members across all eight regions**. We have engaged and informed our activities through the CRM database.

CCC's membership comprises volunteers who are experts in climate and are representative of various professional and geographic areas. The recruitment of young professionals has also been a priority. Members contribute to the Commission's work plan through thematic groups, regions and, as needed, specialist groups and task forces.

**5.4. Collaboration**

f. **Council**

The CCC Chair is a member of the IUCN Council and its Programme and Policy Committee. The CCC reports annually to the Council.

The CCC Chair, Deputy Chair, Executive Officer and Steering Committee have contributed to various activities of the Council, including Steering Council-sponsored motions:

- i. [Harnessing IUCN's power](#): Driving Synergy for Net Zero, Nature Positive, and a Just Energy Transition (CCC Motion 038).
- ii. [Confirming the Status of the Climate Crisis Commission](#) (CCC Motion 121)

- iii. [Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programmes for climate mitigation](#) (CCC's role: Support – Motion 043)

g. **Cross Commission collaboration**

- i. Partnering with the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) on Nature-based Solutions, together we developed a discussion paper for advocacy purposes at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15, on [Getting the message right on nature-based Solutions \(NbS\)](#). The aim was to secure NbS recognition in the adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Objective was achieved.
- ii. Actively contributing, through CCC's Chair, to the International Steering Committee (ISC) for the IUCN Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions, led by CEM.
- iii. Working with SSC and CEM on a joint technical brief on geoengineering, aligned with the position paper for COP28.
- iv. Working with WCPA on policy briefs, CCC contributed to several joint technical notes prepared for UNFCCC COPs 28 & 29 encouraging synergistic climate and biodiversity action.
  - 1. On a joint technical note for COP28: [Connecting the dots: achieving synergistic action for global biodiversity and climate goals](#) utilising the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
  - 2. On a technical brief: Connecting the Dots 2-COP 29: [Calling for a work programme to establish priorities for synergistic climate and biodiversity action](#).
- v. **Resolutions**  
CCC has worked closely with CEM on [resolution WCC-2020-RES-114-EN on Integrated solutions for climate change and biodiversity crises](#).

h. **IUCN Secretariat**

- i. **IUCN Council-secretariat UNFCCC COP Working Group**  
The CCC Chair and Vice Chair have been part of the UNFCCC COP Working Group since its inception in 2023, contributing to IUCN's UNFCCC engagement and position papers at climate COPs; aligned to IUCN policy advocacy strategy.
- ii. **Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team from the Centre for Societal Transformation**  
CCC has developed a joint work plan with the Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team, identifying key opportunities for collaboration – including events, advocacy efforts and joint publications – with a particular emphasis on advancing climate change adaptation.
- iii. **Regional Fora**  
In 2024, CCC actively participated in several RCF events, including the Mexico, Central America & Caribbean Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Mexico City; the South America RCF in Santa Marta, Colombia; and the USA RCF in Washington, D.C.
- iv. **Youth Advisory Committee**  
CCC is represented in the Youth Advisory Committee by Chiara Oberle. The Commission is committed to strengthening the role of youth in the climate change global debate.
- v. **Union's 20-year Strategic Vision**  
CCC has played a key role in advancing the IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision, where climate and nature are strategic pillars.
- vi. **Dams Task Force**  
The Commission contributed substantively to a planned presentation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, focusing on dams within a social-ecological ecosystem approach to freshwater conservation. CCC's input emphasised the protection of native fisheries, aquatic systems and the rights of Indigenous populations to maintain and steward their ecosystems. CCC has contributed from both dam construction and removal efforts.

vii. **Nature-based Education and Arts and Culture Task Force**

CCC is part of the team that will develop lesson plans that integrate arts and culture to strengthen students' connection to nature through creative expression. The materials are on track for completion by September 2025.

viii. **Inter-Commission Ethics Committee**

CCC is collaborating with other Commissions to establish an inter-commission ethics committee aimed at addressing ethics-related issues across the IUCN Commissions. A draft Terms of Reference has been submitted to the IUCN Secretariat, toward formalising the committee in alignment with IUCN protocols.

ix. **World Conservation Congress**

CCC has supported the offsetting of IUCN's upcoming World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi and continues to collaborate closely with the Global Climate Change & Energy Transition Team from the Centre for Societal Transformation, serving as the IUCN Secretariat Focal Point for the Commission.

## 5.5 Visibility

i. **IUCN Pavilion at UNFCCC and CBD Conference of the Parties (COP)**

The CCC has organised several events at the most important meetings for climate discussions, at the Conference of the Parties (COPs) under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which takes place every year and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that happen every two years.

- **UNFCCC**

- **COP27:**

- [IUCN Climate Crisis Commission: Addressing the Nature & Climate Intertwined Crises](#)
    - [Shaping the nature and climate convergence to address the intertwined crises](#)

- **COP28:**

- [Spotlighting Youth Leadership in IUCN - An Interactive Dialogue](#)
    - [Addressing the double challenges of climate crisis and biodiversity loss; integrating high integrity NbS in NAPs and NDCs](#)

- **COP29:**

- Enhancing ambition on nature and inclusion within Mission 1.5. event, organised in collaboration with WWF and Stanford University

- **CBD COP16:**

- CCC joined IUCN's Pavilion 'Home of the Union', which provided a platform for diverse IUCN Members.

i. **Website**

With the support of the Commissions Support Unit, [CCC has a standalone website](#) within the IUCN site to introduce the Commission (vision, mission, leadership and Steering Committee), terms of reference, workplan and link to become a member, as well as information about resources and activities.

j. **Other events (local, regional or global)**

CCC engaged in various meetings and activities of IUCN constituents, such as the South Africa National Committee and United Kingdom National Committee.

## 5.6 Influence

Influence and advocacy actions are ongoing within the Commission. Through the members of the Steering Committee and, in turn, under the leadership of the Chair of the Commission, a set of actions has been developed aimed not only at keeping the climate debate at the highest level of priority but also at ensuring greater accountability and implementation of the obligations undertaken by States and non-state actors. These types of actions have materialised in the following:

1. Participation in key decision-making spaces within the climate debate, particularly – but not exclusively – at the annual summits (COPs), where in most cases the Chair of the Commission has been part of the advisory and/or support group to the Presidency to help achieve the Conference's objectives.
2. Significant progress in the mechanisms for advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through decisions such as those adopted at COP26 in Glasgow with the Mitigation Work Programme, the Global Stocktake at COP28, and the Roadmap from Baku to Belém leading to COP29.
3. Recognition and confirmation of the role of nature in the climate crisis, achieved at COP25 under the presidency of Chile, and confirmed and complemented by a set of decisive actions aimed at strengthening the synergy between climate and nature.
4. Credibility of the Net Zero objective, built through participation in fora that define standards for that purpose, such as SBTi and Gold Standard.
5. Influence in the progress that Nature-based Solutions have been achieving in the multilateral debate, and participation in the dialogue promoted by UNEP for that purpose.
6. Strengthening of the Non-State Actors Agenda through actions aimed at defining ambitious sectoral targets.
7. Participation in debate fora for the strengthening and improvement of multilateral processes, with the objective of generating greater credibility in the climate process.
8. Monitoring of the process to strengthen and increase the ambition of national climate plans (NDCs).

These and many other actions have made it possible to give greater visibility to the Commission and serve as the foundation for its future strengthening.

#### **6. Looking ahead. Priorities to deliver the IUCN Programme 2026–2029**

The Climate Crisis Commission's plans for the next intersessional period are framed around priority areas that align with and will contribute to the IUCN Programme 2026–2029. The main priority areas are:

- a. **Collaborate with IUCN and other partners to promote advice, guidance and consultation on climate change** and the necessity of reducing anthropogenic emissions from all sources. This includes emphasising how climate risks escalate with every increment of global warming and the need to provide communities with the capabilities and resources necessary to adapt and become resilient.
- b. **Support IUCN initiatives at key multilateral fora** such as UNFCCC COP30 and others as needed.
- c. **Provide information and advice on substantial commitments to phase out fossil fuels, along with recommendations to strengthen and prioritise adaptation strategies** that promote justice, uphold ecosystem integrity, and advance ambitious climate and biodiversity commitments.
- d. **Contribute to developing working papers and policy briefs addressing key issues** such as the just energy transition; the synergies between climate and biodiversity, and the harmonisation of multilateral frameworks leveraging IUCN's convening power.
- e. **Promote the creation of innovative, accessible and participatory financial mechanisms** that support the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement.