

WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
9–15 October 2025, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

IUCN Medals and Honorary Membership

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress is requested to:

1. CONFER Honorary Membership on the nominees recommended by Council;
2. TAKE NOTE that the Laureates for the John C. Phillips and Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medals have been chosen by, respectively, the IUCN Council and the Awards Jury, and will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 14 October 2025.

Background

1. In accordance with Articles 41 and 43 of the IUCN Regulations, IUCN presents three major conservation awards on the occasion of the World Conservation Congress:
2. [Honorary Membership](#): recognising outstanding services to the conservation of nature and natural resources. This award dates from the founding of IUCN in 1948.

[John C. Phillips Memorial Medal](#): recognising outstanding service in international conservation and commemorating the life and work of Dr John C. Phillips, a pioneer of the conservation movement.

[Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal](#): is awarded to a conservation professional who has made outstanding contributions to the conservation of nature and natural resources. The medal commemorates the life and work of Harold Jefferson Coolidge, one of the Founders of IUCN, a former President of the Union, and its principal fundraiser from 1948 through to the 1980s.

3. The Governance and Constituency Committee of the IUCN Council, as provided for in its mandate, constitutes the Jury for these three awards. In April 2024, the Governance and Constituency Committee appointed five of its members to form the core Jury for the Awards, and in May 2025, three eminent conservationists were added to the Jury for the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal, as required by the terms of reference for the Medal.
3. IUCN Members and Commission members were invited by electronic mail in February 2025 to submit nominations for these awards and a dedicated Awards section was added to the IUCN website. While only IUCN Members and Commission members may submit nominations for the John C. Phillips Medal and Honorary Membership, nominations for the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal are open to the general public.
4. Council at its 113th Meeting in May 2025, on the recommendation of the Awards Jury, extended the nominations process for all Awards to 30 June 2025.
5. Recommendations of names for the conferral of Honorary Membership will be announced at a later date. The citations for the nominees and their pictures will be posted on the IUCN website when they are available.
6. The Jury will recommend a Laureate for the John C. Phillips Medal to Council for endorsement and will inform the Council of its decision on the Laureate for the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal. Following past practice, these names will be announced at the Awards ceremony during the World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

7. All Awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held during the 7th Sitting of the Members' Assembly in Abu Dhabi, on 14 October 2025.