



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Report 2017–2021

Chair: Kristen Walker Painemilla

MISSION

To contribute to the IUCN mission by generating and disseminating knowledge, mobilising influence, and promoting actions to harmonise the conservation of nature with the critical social, cultural, environmental, and economic justice concerns of human societies.¹

VISION

A world where sustainability, social justice and equity are valued in nature conservation² and in development.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) undertakes its mission through engaging its members' research, expertise and actions to:

Identify, analyse and learn from policies and practices at the interface between the conservation of nature and the socioeconomic justice, environmental, cultural, and spiritual concerns of human communities.

Promote a holistic approach to nature conservation and environmentally sustainable development across IUCN, recognising complexities and promoting dialogue and collaborative learning based on respect for diverse values, knowledge and experience.

Conduct innovative and open research in all appropriate communities and thus provide timely responses to current environmental, economic and social policy issues identified by IUCN Members, Secretariat, Council and Commissions, by relevant international agreements, declarations and processes, and by human societies.

Provide advice on the policies and practices of public, private and civil society institutions and organisations regarding the conservation of nature, the promotion of biocultural diversity and the sustainable and equitable use of nature and natural resources.

Contribute to the implementation of the IUCN Programme and enhance the capacity of IUCN by promoting the participation of diverse cultures and constituencies and the inclusion of different forms of knowledge, experience and skills.

¹ "Human societies" is specifically recognised to include indigenous peoples, local non-indigenous communities and faith-based communities as well as concern for gender and intergenerational equality.

² Conservation is defined here as the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. [IUCN et al. (1980). *World Conservation Strategy*.]

Support the participation and empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities and intergenerational leaders in all levels of conservation and development policy and practice.

PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CEESP contributes to the IUCN mission and global Programme and works on additional issues within the technical sphere of CEESP's mandate. For the purpose of this report, CEESP's achievements for the period 2017–2020 are grouped into two parts. The first is under the One Programme Approach and represents priorities as listed in the CEESP mandate (sections 1-6). The second part includes communications, governance, membership, and finances (sections 7-11). Acronyms of CEESP themes and specialist groups are explained in [Annex A of this report](#).

1. Programme Area: Valuing and conserving nature enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both tangible and intangible values of nature.

Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation and Climate Justice (ReSpECC). The ReSpECC Specialist Group aims to promote inter-religious cooperation and understanding, intercultural cooperation and caring for our planet. It has supported coordination amongst faith-based organisations in multilateral environmental agreements, notably the UNFCCC and UNCBD, as well as within IUCN events. ReSpECC members engaged in a series of multilateral environmental agreements and supported the planning of the Parliament of the World Religions meeting in 2018 in Toronto, Canada, helping to connect different interfaith ecological initiatives around the planet. ReSpECC is also leading preparations for another high-level dialogue of spiritual leaders at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 (in 2021).

Theme on Culture, Spirituality and Conservation (CSC): CEESP joined forces with the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Religion and Conservation Working Group to produce a short film, entitled [Culture, Spirituality, and Conservation](#) about some of the places where culture, spirituality and conservation meet, and why working together could make all the difference in meeting the greatest environmental challenges of our time.

#BuildBackBetter Dialogue Series: In 2020, CEESP launched the [#BuildBackBetter Dialogue](#) series to generate dialogue and recommendations for the post-pandemic era. To date, CEESP has held [six dialogues](#) ranging in topics from spirituality to environmental change. We expect to hold at least six more prior to the IUCN World Conservation Congress to help create a road map over the next quadrennium that supports our CEESP response and the IUCN Nature 2030 agenda. CEESP will continue to push for transformative change, equitable recovery, and social justice and to address the climate crisis over the next four years.

Continuing the Nature-Culture Journey: CEESP in conjunction with the IUCN Secretariat has continued the Nature-Culture Journey and is actively working to create a broader strategy to mainstream culture and spirituality as part of conservation regionally and globally. Activities to foster this include connecting regions of CEESP with work being done by the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Pacific Theological College, through the *Reweaving the Ecological Mat* project, and influencing regional conservation policy to be more inclusive and aware of faith-based approaches. CEESP continues to engage with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and participated in the 19th General Assembly ICOMOS (New Delhi, India). CEESP is on the Scientific Committee for the 20th General Assembly (scheduled for 2023).

CEESP engagement in Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) community of practice. Created at the Kampala NCA Forum (November 2019), the community of practice is led, coordinated, and supported by the World Bank WAVES project, with support from the CEESP Regional Vice Chair for Africa and CEESP Chair on the Theme on Economics. The monthly webinar series engages 100–200 people. CEESP supported the NCA process and participates in working groups: Oceans Accounting Working Group; Natural Capital in Investment Decision-Making; Policy Working Group; and Natural Capital Mainstreaming in the Private Sector.

2. Programme Area: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.

The Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF): NRGF is an IUCN knowledge resource created to provide a robust, inclusive and credible approach to assessing and improving natural resource governance, at multiple levels and in diverse contexts. The NRGF initiative is co-convened by CEESP and the IUCN Global Programme on Governance and Rights (GPGR). The initiative **consolidated an overarching framework for natural resource governance**, comprised of values, principles and criteria important for the realisation and maintenance of effective and equitable governance. The NRGF is informed by an in-depth and widely consultative development process. The initiative is **developing, testing and supporting the application of guidance and tools to assess and improve governance**. The NRGF initiative has facilitated NRGF-based assessments with multiple Secretariat programmes and their partners, including two assessments in Tanzania working with the IUCN SUSTAIN programme. NRGF is also **strengthening and building increased coherence across IUCN's work on governance**. CEESP analysed the correspondence between the NRGF and ten other IUCN governance-related tools and approaches and discussed results with Secretariat programme representatives at IUCN Headquarters (2018). CEESP and GPGR, with the Forest Conservation Programme (FCP), also conducted NRGF-based analysis and developed recommendations to enhance integration of governance considerations in landscape restoration opportunities assessments. **CEESP and GPGR are promoting wider use of and learning in relation to the NRGF**, including through co-convening a participatory workshop with Secretariat staff and members in Eastern and Southern Africa (2018) as well as sharing presentations at five Regional Conservation Forums (2019), co-developing webinars and other communications, analysing lessons from NRGF use (ongoing), and forming a wider NRGF Community of Practice (ongoing).

Development of governance learning network, portal and platform: The CEESP Theme on Governance, Equity and Rights (TGER) is engaging with some initial partners to develop an online network, portal (website) and platform (technology) focused on facilitating and enhancing social learning for global environmental governance. The portal and platform will connect and support multiple networks and organisations working on creating and implementing governance frameworks. It will feature governance stories (and other forms of media) on governance frameworks and place-based governance outcomes. Particular attention will be focused on ways of enhancing equity among governance actors within and beyond the network. Initial research on social learning is now complete and several partners have been engaged. TGER with the NRGF as the main partner, are currently exploring different partnerships and funding opportunities to support the long-term development of the portal and platform.

The role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in effective and equitable conservation: In 2018/19, the Theme on Human Well-being and Sustainable Livelihoods (HWSL) set up a working group to conduct an evidence synthesis in response to a key debate: Does conservation governance that respects or is led by IPLCs lead to better or worse conservation results relative other forms; And how or through what pathways do those outcomes arise? The study, forthcoming in the journal *Ecology and Society*, reveals that: a) locally-controlled conservation efforts produce positive social and ecological outcomes far more frequently than externally-controlled interventions; and b) local control represents the primary pathway to effective long-term conservation because the empowerment and support of local institutions, particularly when upheld in wider law and policy, can galvanise and mobilise communities to provide environmental stewardship. To further validate and illustrate these findings, the group has assembled a diverse set of case studies of innovative conservation governance, where the well-being of IPLCs has become a central motivation. A journal special issue has been proposed and the case studies are being drafted for publication in 2021. The review and case studies will be publicised on release and combined to produce guidance about best practices and challenges in establishing or transitioning to equitable and effective governance.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the complexity of nature-human dynamic: For the first time CEESP collaborated with the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) at their Biennial International Conference (Peru, 2019). TGER worked with the six panellists on a multi-stakeholder dialogue. based on their experience on the complexity of nature-human dynamic interactions in conservation. The multi-stakeholder dialogue further strengthened TGER's outlook that multi-stakeholder dialogue is key to conservation in Indigenous territories.

Situation analysis of IUCN's work in relation to peace and conflict: The *Theme on Environment and Peace* (TEP) conducted an analysis of the IUCN's work and how it intersects with environmental peacebuilding, conflict and security. Preliminary results highlight IUCN's significant convening role in bringing experts, science and social policy to help shape and transform conflict narratives and conflict resolution. The report aims to support IUCN to better position itself with respect to peacebuilding in or through the conservation sector, by making strategic alliances and defining programmes of work with existing environmental peace and other peace-focused organisations.

Migration and environmental change: TEP convened a multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary group (e.g., IUCN entities, UN organs, Environmental Peacebuilding Association, Wilson Centre, universities, etc.) to critically assess existing information and highlight urgent issues around forced migration of humans and other species and conservation at the interface of environmental change and armed conflict to support practitioners and decision-makers in Nature-based Solutions to environmental change, forced migration and conflict. The report – which will be launched at the Congress – focuses on the unique issues of peri-urban migration, intersecting migrations between humans and other species, and interventions to the challenges that conservation, development and humanitarian interests will face.

Environmental Defenders: CEESP has been actively engaged in work related to Environmental Defenders through dialogues with the UN Human Rights Council and the Defending the Defenders Coalition. As part of the work on Environmental Defenders, CEESP is also collaborating on a series of [high-level dialogues](#) and webinars on the topic (fall 2020). A special edition of *CEESP Policy Matters* on Environmental Defenders will be launched at the Congress. In conjunction with Motion 61, [Regional agreement on access to information, public](#)

participation, and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, CEESP launched the **First forum for dialogue on this issue from the IUCN community** in the region – aimed at both Member organisations and experts of the Commissions and other organisations and relevant actors – to assess, develop guidance and develop policy on the issues of access to **information, public participation** and access to **justice in environmental matters**

Gender-equality in conservation: CEESP’s Specialist Group on Gender (SGG) aims to strengthen the full achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment in conservation and sustainable development policy and practice. The SGG established a membership base of key individuals with specific expertise on issues of gender and has actively engaged with the IUCN Global Gender. SGG has collaborated on the following publications: [gender in fisheries](#), recommendations for a gender-responsive post-2020, a review on [gender-based violence \(GBV\) and environmental linkages](#). SGG organised an event on “Strengthening Knowledge for Actions: Tools to deliver a gender-responsive IUCN 2021–2024 Programme” with the IUCN Secretariat, IUCN Regional Offices, and IUCN programmes to emphasize the critical importance of gender analysis to systematically mainstream a gender perspective in natural resource conservation management.

3. Programme Area: Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges expands IUCN’s work on nature’s contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.

People in Nature: People in Nature (PiN) is an IUCN Knowledge Basket on the interrelationships between people and nature. PiN provides a systematic approach to working with communities and others to document the benefits and values of the material and cultural uses of biodiversity, identify where biodiversity benefits (and costs) are in the landscape, and how these benefits are realised and distributed. The purpose of PiN assessments is to help identify opportunities for – and constraints to – change, and to provide information to help key decision-makers think through the implications of any proposed decisions, positively influencing conservation and development planning.

PiN is currently working on the development of guidance to the PiN mixed methodology – to enable Secretariat and Members to implement the PiN methodology. The current focus is production of the scoping document for the guidance materials, and of draft guidance for Phase I of the PiN workflow. [PiN published a short brief](#) in April 2021 outlining the relevance of PiN to the design and development of COVID-19 responses.

Communities and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT): Since 2014, the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) has been working with partners to elevate the voices of local communities in international policy discussions on illegal wildlife trade. In this quadrennium we started implementing a new programme of work ([Communities – First Line of Defence against Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)) in partnership with IUCN ESARO and the International Institute for Environment and Development ([IIED](#)). We developed a “theory of change” approach to understanding and assessing illegal wildlife trade projects and the extent to which they effectively engage communities. SULi also organised a “Community Voices” event (prior to IWT in 2018) – providing an opportunity for communities from around the world to meet each other, share experiences and have their voices heard by the governments and other high-level participants at the Conference. SULi also launched the online portal

www.peoplenotpoaching.org and have documented over 100 case studies of community engagement to tackle IWT.

Human wildlife conflict: CEESP is actively working on issues on human wildlife conflict and coexistence. As a member of the Task Force on Human Wildlife Conflict, CEESP is providing critical socio-cultural advice to the IUCN network, conservation practitioners and international organisations with guidance and information on best practice in the field. In collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), CEESP helped to convene a conference on [Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence \(postponed to 2020\)](#). CEESP is currently collaborating on Best Practice Guidelines for Human Wildlife Conflict.

Community, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference: In May 2018, CEEP co-hosted a conference on [“Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods”](#) with the Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN). It brought together more than 400 indigenous peoples, community and policy practitioners, government representatives and academics, and produced lessons of relevance from the local to the global. The Conference was a unique opportunity to build partnerships and shape future work. IUCN indigenous peoples’ organisations (IPOs) – with support from CEESP – organised a series of dialogues and panel sessions on issues related to territories, rights and traditional knowledge, and innovative partnerships, funding and solutions.

Study on indigenous peoples’ role and contributions for climate change resilience: The Indigenous Peoples, Customary & Environmental Laws & Human Rights Specialist Group (SPICEH) has helped to build awareness on the concept and values of indigenous peoples and contributions of indigenous peoples’ customary institutions and governance systems for sustainable management of natural resources, climate change resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. SPICEH is working on a report to highlight how indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge system and cultural values have contributed to maintaining a healthy environment and also legal and policy challenges faced by indigenous peoples’ communities.

4. New specialist groups

People and the Ocean Specialist Group: In 2018, CEESP formed a new specialist group to address the need to understand and integrate the voices, visions, rights, and livelihood needs of coastal peoples and island nations into policies and practices related to the conservation and management of the oceans. Indigenous people, coastal communities, small-scale fishers and island nations are intimately connected to, depend on and claim resources and territories in much of the world’s oceans and coastal environment. The aim of the People and the Ocean Specialist Group is to bring a marine focus to the work of IUCN CEESP. In particular, this marine-focused specialist group cuts across the themes of CEESP.

Local Economies, Communities and Nature Specialist Group (LECN). In 2017, CEESP established this SG with interests and expertise in agricultural economics and marketing, economic and social geography, anthropology, rural and community development, wildlife economies, and related themes. The SG identified key areas of interest for the economic theme, including values and valuing, natural capital issues, ecosystem services and indigenous economies.

Green Criminology Specialist Group: In 2019, CEESP assembled an international network of researchers, scholars and activists concerned with the political, social and economic relationships in society that breed ecological damage considering different thematic grouping

and the physical location of harm within particular geographic contexts, in order to identify impacts of a negative nature that affect the environment as a result of human activity and to provide insightful analysis to these challenges. As part of the SG's work, they developed a course on "Green Criminology" with the aim of providing a richer and wider perspective to the set of knowledge acquired during a student's professional training in criminology, to train students who can contribute professionally to society in the study and prevention of environmental harms and crimes and encourage its implementation in other universities in Mexico and Latin America.

5. Contributions to international processes

Commission members have been active participants in a wide range of international processes relevant to IUCN and CEESP's mandate. In some cases, Commission members have participated as part of the IUCN delegation; in other cases, they participated as experts, invited speakers, or as part of government or NGO delegations.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): CEESP has been engaged with the post-2020 framework through the development of a CEESP Post-2020 Task Force that is engaging in CBD forums and through the IUCN process, providing inputs to IUCN positions on CEESP-related issues. CEESP has also supported the development of the Nature-Culture elements of work in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. CEESP has also been actively participating in the post-2020 process specifically on issues related to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), human rights, FPIC, targets and indicators. CEESP's Chair actively participates in CBD meetings and supports the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and IPO members.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): The SULi SG is active in CITIES and a significant area of SULi's work is building awareness and understanding of the role of sustainable use of wildlife in supporting conservation and local livelihoods. Over the last quadrennium, SULi has supported the CITES Secretariat in its work on livelihood impacts of trade in CITES-listed species. SULi worked with the Secretariat and with CITES Parties to develop a series of case studies in time for the Conference of Parties in 2019. The case studies can be found on the CITES website under [livelihoods](#).

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII): CEESP participates in UNPFII to expand CEESP's outreach to indigenous partners, support IUCN activities and track critical issues important to indigenous peoples. CEESP engaged in the 16th, 17th and 18th sessions. In particular, CEESP supported dialogues on indigenous peoples, collective rights to land and territories at the 17th session. SPICEH Co-Chair, Yeshing Upun delivered [the IUCN statement](#) to the UNPFII (17th session). This was the first time that an indigenous member delivered a statement on behalf of IUCN.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Former CEESP Chair, Aroha Mead, participated as part of the IUCN delegation in IPBES. IPBES is directly relevant to CEESP including in recognising the importance of indigenous and local knowledge in ecosystem assessments. In the IPBES conceptual framework there is also explicit recognition of multiple values of nature and of valuing nature and in utilising a multidisciplinary approach to all aspects of its work.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The CEESP Chair has been an active member of the IUCN delegation to the UNFCCC along with IUCN IPO Members in support of the development and approval of the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#) over this quadrennium. CEESP has provided both technical support as well as engaged with governments and donors on the importance of non-state actors in climate solutions and in particular indigenous peoples and local communities. [Pasang Dolma Sherpa](#) (SPICEH) is currently Co-Chair of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Facilitative Working Group.

6. Working with IUCN Members, Regional and National Committees

CEESP Steering Committee members work with IUCN Member organisations as much as possible in all aspects of their work. About 50% of the CEESP Chairs and Steering Committee members are from IUCN Member organisations. Mobilising efforts at the national level is an area that could be improved both regarding National Committees inviting CEESP participation as well as regarding CEESP being able to provide a representative to each of the National Committees. Highlighted below are some areas of CEESP's work that have had a particularly strong interaction and collaboration with IUCN Members.

Including Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs) in the structure of the Union: CEESP has actively contributed and supported IPO Members in the new IPO membership category with technical advice, governance support, secretarial assistance and strategic guidance. CEESP helped co-convene the first IUCN IPO Member meeting in Costa Rica in 2018 where IPO members developed a self-determined strategy identifying joint priorities for advancing indigenous rights and issues in conservation and within IUCN. These priorities focused particularly on leveraging IUCN's convening power, knowledge generation, standard setting and policy engagement in regard to indigenous issues. CEESP has been working with IPO members to advance the strategy, specifically those points related to IP participation in IUCN's governance, IP's engagement in global policy, and rights in relation to lands, territories, and natural and cultural resources. In 2019, CEESP helped co-convene an expert exchange on "Sharing Knowledge: Peer-learning for Enhancing Capacities" with IPO members and other key partners and organisations. 45 representatives from both IPO and partner organisations attended the exchange. After the exchange, CEESP supported an IPO-members meeting to discuss and prepare for the IUCN Congress. CEESP has actively supported IP Councillor Ramiro Batzin on issues related to representation and dues.

Asia Region (ARO): There are 164 CEESP members in 17 countries in Asia. The Regional Vice Chair for Asia represents CEESP at the Asia Regional Members Committee (ARMC) meetings, at the Asia Regional Conservation Forums (RCFs), and on the Pakistan National Committee (PNC). At the RCF in Pakistan in November 2019, the Asia Regional Vice Chair and CEESP Chair organised several events around gender, rights and governance.

West Asia Region (ROWA): The Regional Vice Chair for West Asia has expanded CEESP membership in the region, engaged in several dialogues, collaborated with the Jordan national committee meetings, and facilitated communication and exchange. The Regional Vice Chair published an article titled 'Evaluation of Human Rights and the Environment in Jordan' for the book *Human Rights and the Environment: Legality, Indivisibility, Dignity and Geography* by James R. May and Erin Daly (editors).

Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO): The Regional Vice Chair for Eastern and Southern Africa has actively been working to expand membership in Africa, and also working to develop broad collaborations such as working with members, government and the IUCN economics programme on issues of Natural Capital Accounting in Africa; issues transboundary rivers equitable and sustainable use around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and, now with COVID-19, evaluating the impacts on wildlife and tourism. The Regional Vice Chair actively participated in the ESARO Regional Conservation Forum.

Meso and South America Region (ORMACC and Sur): The Regional Vice Chair for Meso and South America has actively worked to expand membership in the region and has contributed to the NRGF Working Group. CEESP was also engaged in both the Mesoamerican and South American Region through national and regional committee meetings (Foro Mexicano de UICN, 2018). CEESP also participated in both IUCN ORMACC's Regional Conservation Forum in May 2019 as well as IUCN Sur's Regional Conservation Forum in August 2019 in Paraguay, where CEESP hosted a side event on NRGF. CEESP also played an active role in the Latin America's Parks Congress, supporting CEESP members and IUCN IPO Members, collaborating on the IUCN booth and hosting a plenary session on social actors in conservation, as well as several other side events.

Oceania Region (ORO): CEESP Oceania has focused on expanding membership to ensure a stronger Pacific Islands voice within the Oceania region and increasing engagement with the IUCN Regional Oceania Office. The Regional Vice Chair has engaged CEESP members in the Pacific Island Roundtable on Nature Conservation, a body that monitors the advancement of conservation in the region; has been actively informing and advising ORO about CEESP areas of work such as NRGF and faith-based approaches to conservation and provision of expertise by CEESP members in ORO projects/programs and in the review and development of the 2020–2025 Framework on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands. CEESP organised a side event at the RCF on the issues of social development, governance, and well-being in natural resource management.

North American Region: With the establishment of the US National Committee in Hawai'i in 2016, the CEESP Chair actively supported the development and strategy of the US Committee, in particular how to bring more US organisations to the Committee. CEESP offered support in several workshops and meetings, as well as side events. At the Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference, CEESP partnered with the Canada national community to have a celebration in honour of IUCN's 70th anniversary. CEESP actively participated in the North America Regional Conservation Forum in June 2019.

European Region: While CEESP did not have a designated Regional Vice Chair for Europe during this period, the CEESP engaged with the IUCN European Regional Office and IUCN NL to explore membership and policy work to be developed. CEESP held its Steering Committee meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, in June 2019, engaging with IUCN Members in Georgia through a public event, and partnering with CENN on several CEESP Steering Committee activities.

Working with IUCN Commissions – CEESP shares two specialist groups with other Commissions, namely the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) SG with SSC, and the SG on Indigenous Peoples, Customary & Environmental Laws & Human Rights (SPICEH) with WCEL. SULi has proven to be the most effective and active joint Commission initiative. CEESP has also collaborated on multiple joint task forces related to palm oil and intact forest, among others.

7. Youth Engagement

InterGens

The Chair of TGER (as coordinator) along with colleagues from other IUCN commissions (named: InterGens) completed the review for youth engagement and intergenerational partnership for IUCN. The review included research on existing models for youth engagement and intergenerational partnership, research with key stakeholders, and a broad survey based on the Collective Leadership Institute Compass survey. The review includes recommendations for short and long-term implementation. The IUCN Secretariat, Commissions, and several Member organisations will provide a response to the review at the IUCN Congress in September 2021.

IUCN *One Nature, One Future* virtual Global Youth Summit

The first-ever fully virtual [IUCN Global Youth Summit](#) took place online April 5-16, 2021 in advance of the IUCN World Conservation Congress set to take place September 3-11, 2021 in Marseille, France and online. Led by the six IUCN Commissions, Secretariat staff, and dozens of Member organisations, it was the largest virtual gathering convened by IUCN to date, allowing over 15,000 people from around the world to register for a 2-week youth-led event, free of charge. Youth-led organisations and networks went through a rigorous competitive process to host interactive capacity-building workshops during the Summit. Over [60 thematic workshops](#) were offered under the themes of People and Nature, Climate Change, Marine and Freshwater, Rights and Governance, and Technology and Innovation

8. Communications, social media, guidelines, and publications

CEESP newsletter

The [CEESP newsletter](#) is a valuable platform for active interactions amongst CEESP members, enabling members of the Commission to share their news, research, publications, awards, on-the-ground experiences, analysis of international conferences and processes, and much more. It is published on average three times a year. As of May 2021, twelve editions have been published in the 2016–2020 quadrennium, with another one expected before the Congress in September 2021. Approximately 240 articles have been submitted by about 150 Commission members, including articles by a number of Chairs of CEESP themes and groups. The articles are posted on the [CEESP website](#) so as to remain findable and searchable, with [an introduction to the articles](#) included in newsletters.

Social media: CEESP uses a range of social media for interacting with members and the wider public to varying degrees of success. The [CEESP Facebook page](#) has been the most successful social presence with 1800 members. The *Specialist Group on Indigenous People Customary and Environmental and Human Rights* Facebook page has 400 members, the *Theme on Culture, Spirituality and Conservation* has 200 members, and 3,500 people follow the CEESP SSC Specialist Group on Sustainable Use and Livelihoods. The members of the CEESP Facebook groups are not necessarily Commission members, thus indicating that using social media can bring broader public involvement. Likewise, we are also using our Facebook presence to attract expertise to the commission. CEESP launched a Twitter account with 400 followers and, in 2020, launched a [CEESP YouTube site](#) to house virtual sessions and social media material.

Guidelines and publications

- **Article in Ecology and Society (in press) on “The role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in effective and equitable conservation”**

IUCN CEESP in collaboration with Indigenous and other scholars conducted a systematic review and narrative synthesis of 169 publications investigating how different forms of governance influence conservation outcomes, paying particular attention to the role played by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The authors found that equitable conservation, which empowers and supports the environmental stewardship of Indigenous peoples and local communities represents the primary pathway to effective long-term conservation of biodiversity, particularly when upheld in wider law and policy. The article provides policy recommendations on how to enact progressive governance transitions in the context of current negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- **IUCN publication – Traditional fishers’ knowledge in policy**

IUCN CEESP in partnership with the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Group; IUCN Snapper, Seabream and Grunts Specialist Group; the World Forum of Fisher Peoples and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has developed an international guideline entitled [IUCN Guidelines for gathering of fishers’ knowledge for policy development and applied use](#). These Guidelines give practical and theoretical guidance on how fishers’ knowledge (indigenous, traditional and experience-based) can be gathered for fisheries policy development and resource management.

- **Recognising and respecting ICCA's overlapped by protected areas – WCPA Guidelines Series**

CEESP is collaborating on WCPA Guidelines to address some of the obstacles ICCA's face in obtaining recognition and respect. [The report](#) provides background information about ICCAs and their recognition in current international law and policy. The core of the volume shares insights and examples from diverse countries and ICCA-protected area overlap situations that provide guidance on how ICCAs can be appropriately recognised, respected, and supported within protected areas of all IUCN protected area management categories and governance types.

- **Communities, conservation and livelihood publications, and resources**

CEESP has continued to actively engage and support work around communities, conservation and sustainable livelihoods. This year CEESP has helped to compile information presented and shared at the [Communities, Conservation and Livelihood Conference into Conference Proceedings and a Resource Center](#). The proceedings feature articles, presentations and videos from the Conference.

In addition, [Communities, Conservation, and Livelihoods – co-published by CEESP and Community Conservation Research Network \(CCRN\)](#) – was launched in February of 2021 with a public launch event in March 2021. More than 500 people attended the public book launch. The book addresses key challenges that communities worldwide are facing. It examines the motivations for communities to conserve, and what can be achieved, both for biodiversity and for livelihoods. It looks at who makes decisions, how power is handled, and the great importance of Indigenous realities, around the globe. Emphasizing a ‘systems’ view, it recognises that human society and nature are interrelated.

- **Policy Matters issue on Environmental Defenders**

CEESP is currently working on a special issue of *Policy Matters* (#22) on environmental defenders. This Special Issue will weave together poetry, art, academic journals, box stories and testimonials to bring to light the plight of Environmental Defenders. CEESP has been working on supporting multiple ways of sharing knowledge and a key part of the publication will be a series of videos on the topic. The Special Issue will be made available through the [website](#) and the videos are being designed for distribution through social media, with the aim of reaching communities and their defenders.

9. Structure and governance

Structure: The Commission is led by the Commission Chair, elected by the IUCN membership, and a Deputy Chair who is appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee (SC) of CEESP is appointed according to the IUCN Statutes and Regulations and assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in guiding and coordinating the activities of the Commission. How the Commission is organised to deliver results in the programme areas is at the discretion of the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and Steering Committee, as appropriate. The Chair also participates as a full voting member of the IUCN Council.

The work of the Commission is organised into regions, themes, and specialist groups or task forces linked to the themes. All members of the Commission can join up to three themes/groups. The regions, themes and specialist groups of the Commission, and their respective Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Regional Vice Chairs for the 2017–2020 term, are listed and acknowledged with gratitude in [Annex A of this report](#). CEESP is supported by focal points in the IUCN Secretariat. The Secretariat team is composed of Stewart Maginnis (Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group), Jenny Springer (Director, Global Programme on Governance and Rights) and Seline Meijer (Programme Officer, Global Programme on Governance and Rights). CEESP is also supported by regional focal points in five of the regional offices (Asia, West Asia, Oceania, ORMACC, ESARO, Sur and Europe).

Governance: The Steering Committee of CEESP is comprised of 25 persons: Regional Vice Chairs, Chairs and Co-Chairs of most specialist groups and themes, as well as the CEESP Chair, Deputy Chair, Financial Officer and Executive Officer. (Refer to [Annex A](#) for a list of names and roles). 64% of the SC are women, and 20% are indigenous. Meetings have been crucial spaces to gain better understanding of the breadth and interrelatedness of the issues we are asked to work on and how they intersect.

A smaller executive team works with the Chair on the day-to-day running of the Commission, but all policy and strategic issues are made by the full Steering Committee, which is guided by the Commission Bylaws in all its dealing. The Bylaws were reviewed, updated and approved by the SC in June 2019.

Three in-person meetings of the CEESP Steering Committee were held during 2017–2020. An executive committee meeting was held in Airlie, Virginia in January 2017 that established an initial programme of work and identified additional SC members. The in-person meetings of the SC were as follows: 1) in September 2017, in Mbale, Uganda – to validate the work programme with the full SC as well as seek further elements, a timeline to deliver, plus agreement on engagement on the upcoming Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference; 2) in May, 2018, in Halifax, Canada, in connection with the Communities, Conservation and

Livelihoods Conference and focused on checking in on progress to work among the various Commission groups; 3) in June, 2019, in Tbilisi, Georgia, to review the work of CEESP, to draft the new 2021–2024 mandate, and to prepare for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress. A virtual meeting was held in April 2020 and another virtual meeting was scheduled for September 2020.

CEESP has held two virtual meetings in 2021, including a strategic planning meeting to discuss and design the next 4-year plan. During this meeting, CEESP invited key collaborators and partners from outside of the IUCN system to enrich discussion and enhance collaboration. A final steering committee meeting will be held virtually in conjunction with the Congress to evaluate and close out this term of work. Minutes of all of these meetings are on the CEESP Members Portal. All other work of the SC is conducted through email or via virtual meetings.

10. Membership

As of June 2021, there are 1,300 CEESP members distributed across the six thematic groups, seven specialist groups (including two inter-commission groups), and the two Knowledge Baskets that make up the Commission. Communication for each of these groups is supported by access to the IUCN Members' Portal and the communication tools therein. Some groups also communicate via social media, such as Facebook groups.

Improved communication tools are urgently needed, as logging in and navigating the Portal remains too high a technological or time barrier for most Group Chairs to surmount, and communication with the members of the various groups suffer as a result.

Since 2017, CEESP improved analysis of our membership by recording indigenous affiliation and gender, thus identifying at least 15% indigenous members and a 42% female to 58% male gender distribution.

Membership by theme and group – (Please refer to [CEESP Report 2017-2020, Annex A and B](#), for an explanation of acronyms and additional membership details). Commission membership is largest in the two Knowledge Baskets (NRGF and PiN), closely followed by membership in TGER (30%), HWSL (28%), and the inter-commission group SULi (28%). The remaining groups and themes occupy between 3-18% each of the membership. Applications were suspended for about five months in 2019 during the IUCN IT upgrades to databases and systems, and the application process since then is vastly more efficient and secure.

Growth across regions has been relatively consistent, with West Europe, South and East Asia, Meso and South America, North America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Africa now making up 86% of the CEESP membership. The West Asia and the East Europe, North and Central Asia regions each occupy only 2% of the CEESP membership.

11. Finances

CEESP has been actively directing funding under the leadership of the Chair since 2017. Priorities of the Commission Operating Funds (COF) included expanding and promoting policies as well as action-oriented projects in line with CEESP's mandate.

CEESP developed a grant application for CEESP members to apply for funding to support their work. Proposals were reviewed by the Chair and Deputy Chair and approved based on their

relevance to CEESP's mission, and their potential impact, effectiveness and a set of selection criteria. Each theme and specialist group within CEESP received financial support in a variety of ways, however, the majority of funds were disbursed as implementation agreements (consultant contracts), grants, and travel support.

The COF was also applied to strategic engagements of the Chair in support of CEESP's mission and mandate through travel, annual Steering Committee meetings, communication support, and other direct administrative costs.

Match funding has been an important part of CEESP achievements over the last 4 years. All SC members have actively worked to leverage funds from their organisations as well as external partner organisations. Although reporting on the exact amount of match funding and cost-sharing accrued by theme Chairs and CEESP members varied, the overall impact of this funding was certainly a key to the Commission's success. Conservation International has also provided for the Chairs office, in-kind contributions to the Chair's salary and travel as well as for staff time. [Please refer to CEESP Report 2017-2020, Annex C, for additional financial details.](#)

[Revised Annex A \(as of June 1, 2021\)](#)

Report 2017–2021, Annex A, B & C

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Chair: Kristen Walker Painemilla

Annex A: CEESP Chairs, Co-chairs & Officers, 2016–2021

As of June 1, 2021

Acronym	Area/group	Name	Number of members
Executive	Chair	Kristen Walker Painemilla	
Executive	Deputy Chair	Amejali Ramos	
Executive	Executive Officer	Iben Caroline Munck	
Executive	Financial Officer	Jonathan Scheller	
NRGF	Natural Resource Governance Framework (Knowledge Basket)	Jessica Campese (USA)	624 members
PiN	People in Nature (Knowledge Basket)	Helen Suich (Australia)	419 members
CSC	Theme on Culture, Spirituality and Conservation	Kevin Chang (USA-Hawaii) Ashley Massey Marks (USA) Vatosoa RAKOTONDRAZAFY (Madagascar)	195 members
ECON	Theme on Economics	Nicholas CONNER (Australia)	111 members
TGER	Theme on Governance, Equity & Rights	Melanie ZURBA (Canada)	391 members
HWSL	Theme on Human Wellbeing and Sustainable Livelihoods	DAWSON Neil (United Kingdom)	330 members
TEP	Theme on Environment and Peace	SAINTZ Galeo (South Africa) HSIAO Elaine (USA)	167 members
BBPA	Theme on Business, Best Practice, and Accountability	MADZWAMUSE Masego (South Africa)	116 members
ReSpECC	Specialist Group on Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation and Climate Justice	ZOGIB Liza (Switzerland)	140 members
SPICEH – CEESP with WCEL	Specialist Group on Indigenous Peoples, Customary & Environmental Law, Human Rights	SENA Paul Kanyinke (Kenya) SHERPA Pasang Dolma (Nepal) UPUN YOS Yeshing Juliana (Guatemala)	213 members
SULi – CEESP with SSC	Specialist Group on Sustainable Use and Livelihoods	ROE Dilys (United Kingdom)	328 members

SGG	Specialist Group on Gender	NOSHIRWANI Meher (Pakistan)	85 members
LECN	Specialist Group: Local Economies, Communities, and Nature	Nicholas CONNER (Australia)	145 members
SGGC	Specialist Group: Green Criminology	Ines ARROYO–QUIROZ (Mexico)	46 members
PATO	Specialist Group: People and the Ocean	Nathan BENNETT (Canada)	34 members
Asia	Regional Vice Chair	NOSHIRWANI Meher (Pakistan)	345 members
Africa	Regional Vice Chair	Mersie Ejigu (Ethiopia & USA)	413 members
Oceania	Regional Vice Chair	Elise Huffer (Fiji)	136 members
Meso & So America	Regional Vice Chair	MUNGUIA Osvaldo (Honduras)	112 members
West Asia	Regional Vice Chair	HAMMADEEN Aisa (Jordan)	40 members

Executive team
CEESP Knowledge Basket Chairs
CEESP Theme Chairs
CEESP Specialist Group Chairs
CEESP Regional Vice Presidents

Chairs of Themes or Groups during 2016–2020, no longer serving

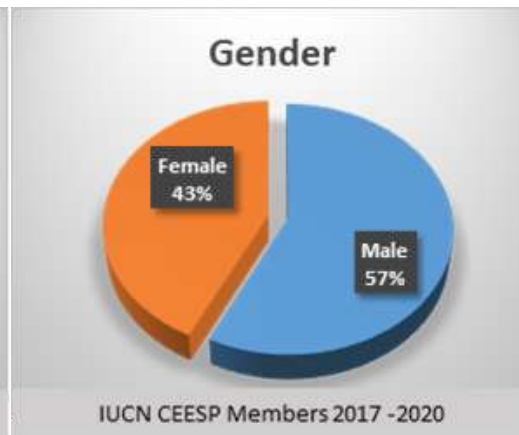
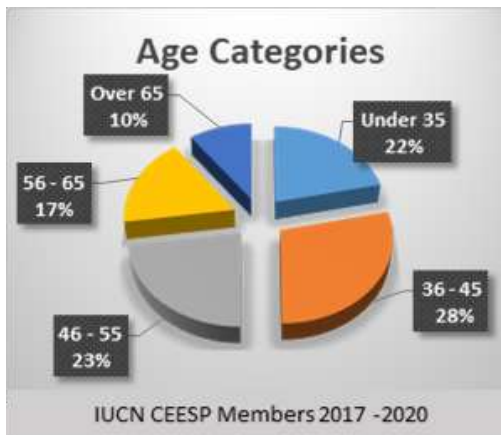
- Jenny Springer (US, TGER)
- Nigel Crawhall (South Africa, ReSpECC)
- Rosie Cooney (Australia, SULi)
- Francisco Rosado-May (Mexico, HWSL)

** Individuals stepped down due to personal or professional reasons*

Annex B: Additional Membership Information

As of June 1, 2021

CEESP Membership by IUCN Statutory Region	2017	June 1 of 2021	Percentage of total members in 2020	Number Increase since 2017	Percentage Increase since 2017
West Asia	13	23	2%	10	77%
East Europe, North & Central Asia	21	24	2%	3	14%
Meso & South America	60	131	10%	71	118%
Oceania	79	104	8%	25	32%
South & East Asia	128	265	20%	137	107%
Africa	133	201	15%	68	51%
N America & Caribbean	154	257	20%	103	67%
West Europe	218	295	23%	77	35%
	806	1300		494	61%



Annex C: Additional Financial Information
As of July 31, 2020

*The details below include approximate values to gauge the value of volunteerism. These figures were captured through various means including cost share of salary time contributed to Chair Support, match funding for COF supported events/activities, as well as approximation of contributions made by the CEESP membership.

CEESP Expenditure by Year	
Year	Total Expenditure (USD)
2017	\$ 180,521.62
2018	\$ 189,923.04
2019	\$ 181,623.97
2020 through July 31	\$ 43,981.48

CEESP Expenditures by Expense Type				
Expense Type	2017 (USD)	2018 (USD)	2019 (USD)	2020 (USD)
Yearly Budget	(199,159.17)	(213,341.86)	(210,295.86)	(106,670.93)
Consultants	56,736.77	49,820.73	48,829.99	32,680.00
Grants to partners	-	10,107.28	13,525.90	-
Travel	111,855.58	124,265.47	114,437.83	8,583.75
Workshops and conferences	2,264.77	339.51	2,785.64	156.02
Publications and printing costs	2,080.33	2,852.64	883.63	269.20
Office and general administrative costs	6,164.43	1,195.67	324.22	2,266.84
Vehicles & equipment - costs & maintenance	-	362.64	-	-
Financial charges	-	589.10	368.47	98.93
Net gains/(losses) on foreign exchange	1,419.75	390.00	468.28	(73.25)
Balance Remaining	(18,637.54)	(23,418.82)	(28,671.90)	(62,689.45)

Approximate Funding Toward per Area of Engagement

CEESP Areas of Engagement	2016 CEESP Expenses	2017 CEESP Expenses	2018 CEESP Expenses	2019 CEESP Expenses	2020 CEESP Expenses	Match To Date	Total Contribution
Theme on Culture		10,598.00	12,127.88	11,674.00	3,689.10	14,500.00	52,588.98
Theme on Human Well-Being		13,781.00	5,600.00	6,000.00	7,200.00	250,000.00	282,581.00
Theme on Environment and Peace	5,250.00	20,000.00	4,365.35	6,203.74		175,000.00	210,819.09
Theme on Gender			2,282.35	3,381.75			5,664.10
Theme on Business, Best Practice, and Accountability			537.15	-			537.15
Theme on Economics				3,185.79			
Theme on Governance, Equity & Rights				3,290.97	2,507.50		
Environmental Defenders				2,730.00	2,730.00		
Knowledge Baskets (NRGF, PIN, etc)	2,000.00	33,600.00	9,844.93	-		152,500.00	197,944.93
Regional Engagement		500.00	1,856.31	3,279.17	1,759.18	4,000.00	11,394.66
SPICEH: Indigenous Protection Areas		8,596.00	900.00	18,187.42	4,500.00	1,000.00	33,183.42
Engagement Across Commissions	1,000.00	3,000.00	20,355.92	3,000.00		3,300.00	30,655.92
Policy Engagement (CBD, UNFCCC, Chair Travel)	12,161.00	6,101.00	17,843.88	7,921.82		67,000.00	111,027.70
CEESP Steering Committee	5,519.00	30,214.00	68,023.75	71,502.07		15,000.00	190,258.82
Commission Support	3,885.00	38,237.00	41,033.38	38,636.58	18,250.00	260,739.00	400,780.96
Translation Services & Consultants		8,554.00	340.32	518.56		1,000.00	10,412.88
Other Direct Costs	1,971.00	7,340.62	4,811.82	2,112.10	3,345.70	500.00	20,081.24
Halifax Conference Meeting						500,000.00	500,000.00
Value of Volunteerism of CEESP*						6,156,250.00	6,156,250.00
Total:	\$ 31,786.00	\$ 180,521.62	\$189,923.04	\$181,623.97	\$43,981.48	\$ 7,600,789.00	\$8,228,625.11

*The details below include approximate values to gauge the value of volunteerism. These figures were captured through various means including cost share of salary time contributed to Chair Support, match funding for COF supported events/activities, as well as approximation of contributions made by the CEESP membership.