

Minutes of the IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee Meeting

11-12 September 2018
Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China

The Asia Regional Members Committee (ARMC) meeting of IUCN Members in Asmn6.4(N)5.9()0.6(6.4(N)5.9()0.(M)-

IUCN Regional Councillor, Prof. Youngbae Suh made brief remarks and welcomed all the participants to the meeting. He thanked Prof. Ma Keping for organizing the meeting, which was held back-to-back with another successful meeting of the Tripartite Partnership between Members in Japan, Korea (RoK) and China in Beijing.

IUCN Regional Councillor, Prof. Amran Hamzah thanked Prof. Ma for the opportunity to participate in this meeting. He said that he looks forward to discussing how Asia can contribute to the global conservation movement.

IUCN Regional Councillor, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya thanked Prof. Ma for hosting this meeting. He could not attend the previous meeting due to other engagements; however, he was very keen to know how IUCN Members can contribute to the conservation efforts collectively.

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji thanked the host Mr Wenda Wu for the hospitality and for hosting the meeting in this World Heritage Site. She mentioned that this is an important meeting as participants will be looking at what IUCN's achievements have been between Congresses, what we plan to do at the next Congress, and what should be part of the next programme beyond 2020.

Ms Kabraji highlighted some of the challenges faced by Asia and said that Asia has some of the worst environmental issues. For example, Asia is the biggest contributor to plastics in oceans. She pointed out that we need to recognize that China has enormous impact on the economy. She also cited the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as an example, and the impact of which could be both beneficial and worrying. She added that we must recognize that while this initiative brings enormous potential, we must think about how we as IUCN Members, can work with the Chinese Government in ensuring that we bring the best of China's contribution to Asia and to the rest of the world, and also what we can achieve from our particular perspectives in countries.

2. Introduction of participants

Participants of the ARMC meeting introduced themselves. The meeting was attended by Members of the ARMC from 16 countries, including Chairs of the National Committees/ /or their nominated colleagues and representatives of Members from other countries where National Committees do not exist, Regional Councillors from Asia (Prof. Youngbae Suh, Prof. Amran Hamzah and Mr. Mangal Man Shakya), Regional Vice Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and the Secretariat. List of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and adopted.

Adopted agenda of the meeting is attached as **Annex 2**.

4. Presentation on 70 Years of IUCN by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional

The fifth point that Senator (r) Jabbar made was that at the last World Conservation Congress when President Obama could not attend for some reason, he visited Honolulu just a day before the opening of the Congress, and made a historic announcement to acknowledge IUCN's presence in the USA and declared a huge area in the Pacific as the world's largest maritime protected area. Unfortunately, Mr. Donald Trump allowed the construction of a pipeline from Canada to North and South Dakota. The damage is not just confined to the USA; by pulling out of the Paris Agreement and by several other actions, he is encouraging destructive elements that exist in policymaking processes to downgrade the importance of ecology and the environment, and we in civil society and those in the government must use our position to not allow the terrible influence emanating from USA to affect our respective approaches to sustaining and strengthening our commitments.

- b) Prof. Amran Hamzah commented that the relationship between Members, Commissions and the Secretariat has always been a challenge. Councillors must work out ways to engage with Members. The governance structure of IUCN has improved considerably and is getting better. The Secretariat now works closely with the Council to cascade the global programme right down to regional and country levels. In this context, Policy, Governance and Finance Committees of the Council have been formed and are instrumental in working with the Secretariat.

He also mentioned that a task force on the private sector has been constituted. Currently, the task force is looking at issues in Europe and North America. It's about time that private sector involvement in Asia, particularly the BRI, is also integrated into the taskforce role.

Prof. Amran Hamzah further said that he fully agrees with Senator (r) Jabbar's concerns on urban ecology, and informed Members that at the last World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, the 'urban alliance' was set as the new agenda for IUCN, and that Prof. Hamzah is a member of the alliance which will be looking at this aspect. He said that it is not easy to find a position for IUCN because there are other entities involved and finding a space for IUCN to make better contributions is difficult at this stage. However, there is potential to contribute through our best practices. Prof. Hamzah suggested that this should be one of the agenda items at the next Asia Regional Conservation Forum.

- c) Prof. Kheng Lian Koh made a point on the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city. She said that the President of China, Xi Jinping, has made many comments on eco-civilisation with Chinese characteristics; we need to explore this concept of eco-civilisation with Chinese characteristics.

Commenting on the other point on urban ecology, Prof. Koh mentioned that there is a need to emphasise nature-based solutions, particularly of a man-made nature. We should pull all of them together, so that we have one concept. We may also need to understand what eco-civilisation means.

- d) Prof. Ma also made a point that all these comments are very valid, and we should probably think about organising a workshop on these topics.
- e) Mr Teppei Dohke made a comment on Ms Kabraji's presen0 Td ()Tj 0. 5. 0.01 Tc 4vaionon tn0 Td (6(on)a.6(a

- f) Mrs Hasna Moudud asked what the role is of Members in the Secretariat and Council, and how could we improve our interaction. Her second point was on ocean pollution, coral degradation, and Antarctic melting; she said that all these global issues need to be connected, and asked whether there is any update on the progress on these issues since the Conservation Congress, particularly on the resolutions on Oceans.

Mrs Moudud also said that a coal-based power plant is being built inside the Sundarbans which is a Ramsar site. She also said that Bangladesh has not been able to influence dialogue between co-riparian countries and she is therefore uncertain about the availability and quality of water, which will endanger Bangladesh and the connected regions.

- g) Ms Aban Marker Kabraji commented on the points on the BRI. She said that we are going to see a lot of Asian values coming in with the BRI, such as family and harmony, and that with those values will come a much greater respect for nature, leading to resurgence of nature.

On the question on whether IUCN can play a role and whether Members can be partners in the BRI, Ms Kabraji responded that CPEC is a big project in which US \$46 billion have been invested by China. There is very strong involvement of IUCN with the Government of China and the Government of Pakistan in influencing how the road and other infrastructure will be built. There is also a project which is funded by Italians to see the impact of CPEC in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and Gwadar. IUCN is going to have a meeting with the Government to see how to do this in more countries in Asia. She added that IUCN is hoping to work with more Members in other countries in seeing the impact of CPEC in other countries. It is a model that IUCN is trying out in Pakistan, and if it progresses, will be able to adopt it in other countries. In addition to this, Prof.

Dr Singh also presented an analysis on the development context in South Asia, Southeast and Northeast Asia. He further explained how IUCN has been contributing through various projects in Asia to support the three programme areas: 1. Valuing and Conserving Nature; 2. Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources; and 3. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Address Societal Challenges including Climate Change, Food Security, and Economic and Social Development.

Some of the examples that Dr Singh brought to the attention of Members were: Supporting development of NBSAPs and building capacity on the Red List; management of protected areas; conservation of species; enhancing the involvement of private sector in biodiversity conservation; governance of natural resources through hydro-diplomacy work and establishment of GBM Civil Society Organisation Network for Transboundary Water Management, etc.; empowerment of vulnerable groups and providing access and benefits; and Mangroves for the Future.

Dr Singh also highlighted the challenges faced by IUCN in Asia in delivering its programme. These included: staying dynamic and relevant amid rapidly changing socio-political and economic realities in Asia; project implementation across very diverse countries, sectors and actors, and at regional, national and local levels; long-term financial sustainability amid shifting donor priorities; current structure that makes approaching non-traditional donors challenging; rapidly growing IUCN Asia constituency and increasing expectations and demands.

In terms of way forward, Dr Singh mentioned that there is particular scope to engage in large trans-boundary initiatives. IUCN also sees importance in establishing appropriate multi-sectorial governance structures for trans-boundary ecosystem management. IUCN's ability to deliver high-quality results makes it a trusted partner of governments in the region. IUCN also sees the private sector as major driver of economic growth, making it critical to work with Asian companies on achieving net positive impact on biodiversity. There is also a great potential for growth geographically, thematically, and in Membership and Commissions.

b) Presentation on IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

Dr TP Singh made a brief presentation on RCF. He explained that RCF is one of Asia's most important regional conservation events.

Bangladesh National Committee has collectively contributed to the IUCN's three thematic programme areas while focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mrs. Moudud presented details about the projects that are undertaken by Members in Bangladesh supporting the IUCN programme areas. Some of these projects include: turtle conservation; addressing microplastic pollution; flora and fauna inventory; bird conservation; tiger and elephant conservation; marine health protection; educational awareness; plantation and ecosystem restoration; policy research; community-based natural resource management. In term of developing community resilience to climate change, Members are undertaking these projects: promoting alternate livelihood; community-based mangrove agro-aqua silvi. Members are also working towards adapting to climate change and vulnerability and in this regard several projects such as plantations; media campaign; knowledge on technology are being undertaken.

Bangladesh National Committee also organised a symposium to celebrate the World Environment Day in June. The symposium's theme was "Beat Plastic Pollution" and it focussed on reducing the use of plastics. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Forests attended the event as the Chief Guest.

Mrs. Moudud also presented a printed version of a profile of IUCN Members in Bangladesh.

8.2 Presentation from Cambodia by Mr. Sophana Om

Mr. Sophana

Spot. He also talked about how various departments/organizations within the government work together to support the government on various initiatives.

Mr. Ho explained that under the International Cooperation for Wetland Conservation, MoLEP supported biodiversity conservation in West Sea of DPR Korea and also undertook a project of red crowned crane protection of Anbyon county. MoLEP also undertook survey on migratory birds. MoLEP also worked on information sharing and knowledge exchange, and in this regard attended various capacity building workshops.

Mr. Ho also pointed out that there are several challenges that impede the progress, which include: lack of regional and sub-regional cooperation in East Asia – Australasian flyway partnership regionB

and most recently the Permanent Forum. All this has been done in collaboration with Members and

b) Ways National Committees can mobilise Members

Raise funding through voluntary contribution - India National Committee members pay a nominal fee – to be a part of the committee

The Pakistan committee is the most active – share good practices / coordination

Establish good connectivity between members – phone / social media / Skype etc.

Use IUCN facilities to encourage members to participate in meetings

Invite members to participate in the implementation of IUCN programmes

Mobilise Members by sharing meeting minutes, having video conferences, etc.

IUCN providing seed money for National Committees (separate funding source for committee operations)

Mobilise financial support from the governments.

National Committees (NCs) could support members to provide successful story in Asia for inclusion in reports in Asia and at the global level.

National Committees can provide a collective voice on an issue in the country which a single Member may not be able to raise effectively as an individual.

NCs could facilitate common, innovative techniques for conservation, such as new technology and ICT

Opportunities:

- a. Annual meetings in countries

Many actions taken by IUCN Members in Asia in line with IUCN Programme and WCC resolutions, including:

- a. Stopping/changing unsustainable construction projects,
- b. Establishment/expansion of terrestrial and marine PAs,
- c. Empowering and engaging IUCN Members and local communities,
- d. Transboundary projects for ecosystems and species,
- e. Blue Economy - common water resources from mountain sources to the sea should be sustainably utilised and conserved

d) Conservation Strategy and policy toward 2020 and post 2020

Continuing alignment of IUCN Programme with UN 2030 agenda, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)

Activating IUCN private sector task force participation at the regional level

Encouraging private sector participation in implementation of IUCN programmes

Inviting key private sector organisations to IUCN forums

Prohibiting infrastructure development in critical habitats!

Use of technology / should not be counter-productive.

Establishing new conservation areas – where people can be guardians!

Focus on few critically endangered species, such as Great Indian bustard, and work towards preventing their extinction. There should be a programme launched to highlight the plight of such species.

e) How will Asian countries participate in the CBD COP 15

commissions to participate in these kinds of meetings. He also reiterated that Nepal would like to host

contribution; moderators and the two young group leaders; ARO; local organisers Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee; and BC-CAS Ms. Yinan Liu.

Prof. Ma closed the meeting by wishing everyone a wonderful trip to Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area the next day, which is one of the top scenic spots in China.

Annex 1: List of Participants

No.	Title	Name	Position	Institute	Country	Email
1	Ms.	Aban Marker Kabraji	Regional Director, Asia	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	aban.markerkabraji@iucn.org
2	Dato	Abdul Kadir Bin Abu Hashim	Director General	Department of Wildlife and National Park, Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia	kadir@wildlife.gov.my
3	Prof.	Amran Hamzah	IUCN Regional Councillor / Professor	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia	merang@utm.my
4	Ms.	Chaemin LEE	Research Assistant	Seoul National University	Republic of Korea	endemic56@snu.ac.kr
5	Dr.	Chunquan Zhu	Country Representative	IUCN China Office	China	Chunquan.ZHU@iucn.org
6	Ms.	Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud	Chair	Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN / Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association	Bangladesh	cleanwater07@gmail.com
7	Dr.	Hoang Van Thang	Chair	Viet Nam National Committee of IUCN / Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environment Studies	Viet Nam	tvhoang@cres.edu.vn; thangcresvnu@gmail.com
8	Senator (r)	Javed Jabbar	Founding President	Baanhn Beli	Pakistan	javedjabbar.2@gmail.com
9	Mr	Kedar Girish Gore	Director	The Corbett Foundation	India	gore.kedar@gmail.com
10	Prof.	Keping Ma	IUCN ARMC Chair/Secretary General	Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	kpma@ibcas.ac.cn
11	Prof.	Kheng Lian Koh	Professorial Fellow	National University of Singapore	Singapore	lawkohkl@nus.edu.sg
12	Mr.	Kiran Timalisina	Chairperson	Green Governance Nepal	Nepal	kirantimalisina@hotmail.com
13	Mr.	Koralage Ajith Ilex Damasus Silva	Director	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Sri Lanka	

No.	Title	Name	
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Agenda

Supported by

Bureau of International Co-operation, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Mt. Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee (HSAC)

Organizer

Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Co-organizers

IUCN Asia Office
IUCN China Office

Venue

Huangshan International Hotel
31 Huashan Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China

September 10	
Arrival of all participants	
September 11	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:40	Opening - Opening remarks by Mr. Wenda Wu, Executive Director of HSAC; Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, Former Vice President of IUCN; Prof. Youngbae Suh, IUCN Regional Councillor; Prof. Amran Hamzah, IUCN Regional Councillor; Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, IUCN Regional Councillor and Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director, Asia - Round of self-introduction - Agreement on agenda
09:40-10:20	Keynote speech Prof. Xinsheng Zhang, President for IUCN
10:20-10:40	Group photo and Coffee break
10:40-11:10	Contributions of IUCN to nature conservation over the last 70 years in the world and Asia by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director
11:10-12:00	Discussion on the past and future of IUCN
12:00-14:00	Lunch

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14:00-14:25

16:10-16:20	3. Ms. Yinan Liu – China
16:20-16:30	4. Mr. Kedar Girish Gore – India
16:30-16:40	5. Mr. Teppei DOHKE – Japan
16:40-16:50	6. Mr. Myong Hyok Ho – Korea (DPRK)
16:50-17:00	7. Prof.