

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

Mandate 2021–&\$&)

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

1. Mission

The mission of the WCEL is to assure through the environmental rule of law, the proper valuation, conservatihrJ (i)2. (hr)4.1.124 (rat)-6.413 (i)25maTj0.01 Tm-5.91 (ent)-rif

- integration and mainstreaming of nature values across issues and across sectors and jurisdictions;
- (3) taking a pro-active, pre-emptive and precautionary approach to regulatory and management institutions and businesses to promote nature-based solutions, monitor their outcomes, and to avoid, mitigate and remedy the deterioration of nature, and the promotion of Nature-based Solutions; and
 - (4) managing for resilient social and ecological systems in the face of uncertainty and complexity to deliver decisions that are environmentally robust in a wide range of scenarios; and
 - (5) develop legal instruments and strategies, such as rights-based approaches, to promote the appropriate recognition of gender equality, women's empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as addressing global inequalities and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.
- b. conducting and promoting education and research to strengthen the environmental rule of law and undertaking capacity building to enable governments and stakeholders to actively participate in effective environmental governance at all levels;
 - c. supporting the effective implementation of environmental laws through institutions that respect the environmental rule of law and ensure effective compliance and enforcement;
 - d. providing a central world forum for the development and integration of environmental law into all aspects and levels of governance; and
 - e. creating and promoting partnerships to support development, implementation and enforcement of environmental rule of law and extending professional and expert networks dedicated to the environmental rule of law.

4. Objectn2-

environmental decision-making to ensure that natural resources are managed equitably and sustainably;

- e. engage with Members, National/Regional Membership Committees, and WCEL members to create expert environmental law networks;
- f. collaborate with all five IUCN Commissions on relevant issue of environmental law; and
- g. collaborate with other components of the Union and Secretariat, especially the IUCN Environmental Law Centre and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, and partner institutions, including UNEP, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment, and UNITAR, to provide education, information and knowledge on law and governance necessary to achieve ecological sustainability.

c. Collaborate with centres of e

Expected results

WCEL's mission, objectives and priorities will contribute to achieving the IUCN Programme 2021– . Some of the results will be of an intangible nature, difficult to measure in quantifiable terms. However, WCEL expects that by 2025, it will have measurably contributed to:

- a. the integration of environmental law knowledge with the scientific and policy expertise of the other Commissions;
- b. enhanced collaboration with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of strengthened implementation of the different and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
- c. the development and dissemination of environmental law expertise and networks worldwide;
- d. the development of knowledge and expertise of environmental courts and tribunals through new and strengthened institutions, including the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment;
- e. the strengthening of national and subnational environmental law capacity in countries and areas that are biodiversity hot spots and/or have high levels of endemic species;
- f. the continued growth of the Early Career Group;
- g. the annual colloquia and other programmes of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law;
- h. the 3rd World Environmental Law Congress;
- i. mainstreaming the Union's effective use of environmental law in its Programme;
- j. increase in diversity and levels of membership, particularly in countries or regions with few or no members; and
- k. the development of a communication and networking strategy, especially designed for and targeted to the legal profession.

Structure

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair, elected by the IUCN membership, and a Deputy Chair, appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee is also appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair in accordance with the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. The Steering Committee assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in setting the strategic direction and providing oversight of the activities of the Commission. The Commission will work on different topics and aspects through its specialist groups. In the composition of its Steering Committee and Specialist Group Chairs, the Commission will ensure regional and country diversity, as well as gender balance and opportunities for engagement of early career members.

8. Membership

Membership of WCEL is a fundamental part of its organisation. WCEL members have a demonstrated commitment to, and strong interest or practice in, environmental law, ethics, and the legal protection of the .125 rg1.2 (i)-nMemberspll