

ROBINSON, John Gwilym (USA)

Current employment and position/title:

Chief Conservation Officer, and Executive Vice President, Conservation and Science,
Joan L. Tweedy Chair in Conservation Strategy
Wildlife Conservation Society

Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

John Robinson has been active in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services for much of his professional career, and has overseen the programmes of the Wildlife Conservation Society in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa and the Marine realm since 1990.

He represents WCS in international and national forums, and directly supervises a core administrative and managerial staff of 100 people in New York, and programmes in 64 countries.

He is accountable for raising programme funds from individual donors, government agencies, foundations and corporations. With a Ph.D. in Zoology, he joined the Smithsonian Institution, then the University of Florida where he established a graduate programme to train students from tropical countries. In over 200 books, book chapters and journal publications, he has written extensively on the impact of subsistence and commercial hunting, the sustainable use of natural resources, and has explored the relationships among conservation research, practice and policy. In 2003, Dr Robinson was inducted into the Royal Order of the Golden Ark by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, in recognition of lifetime achievement and service to conservation.

Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:

John Robinson has a long history of involvement with IUCN, endorses the mission and understands the opportunities and constraints of IUCN's organizational structure and capabilities.

He has been active in the SSC, originally joining as a member of the Primate Specialist Group in 1985, and serving on the Steering Committee (1991–2000, 2003–2010). He represented IUCN on the TRAFFIC Board (1998–2009).

He chaired the Sustainable Use Advisory Group (1994–1997), a special IUCN task force, and participated in the Sustainable Use Specialist Group (1992–2009) as member of the Executive Committee and Vice Chair. Throughout this period, he has attended IUCN Congresses and worked closely with IUCN delegates at conferences of the CBD and CITES. Through his WCS position, he has worked closely with IUCN Members, both governmental and non-governmental, throughout the world.

In addition, John Robinson has extensive board experience, serving among others with the Christensen Fund (2001–2011, the last year as Chair), Foundations of Success (from 2001 as Chair), the Tropical Forest Foundation (from 2000, now on Executive Committee), the World Parks Endowment (1994–2004). He has served on the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology, and as its President (2005–2007).