



**4th meeting of the Steering Committee of
the Interregional Committee for Europe, North and Central Asia (ICENCA)**
Tuesday 24th May 2022, 10.00 CEST

Participants

Tamás Marghescu (Hungary) - Co-Chair, East Europe, North and Central Asia
Chris Mahon (United Kingdom) - Co-Chair, West Europe
Alex Zavarzin (Russia) - Vice Co-Chair, East Europe, North and Central Asia
Hans de Jongh (The Netherlands) - Vice Co-Chair, West Europe
Ancuta Fedorca (Romania) - Co-Secretary, East Europe, North and Central Asia (referee)
Ann-Katrine Garn (Denmark) – Co-Secretary, West Europe
Tamar Pataridze (Georgia) – Steering Group Member East Europe, North and Central Asia
Roman Jashenko (Republic of Kazakhstan) - Steering Group Member, East Europe, North and Central Asia
Ruben Khachatryan (Armenia) - Steering Group Member, East Europe, North and Central Asia
Thomas Tennhardt (Germany) - Steering Group Member, West Europe
Anna Espadalé Gelis (Spain) - Steering Group Member, West Europe
Nida Al Fulaij (United Kingdom) - Steering Group Member, West Europe
Divija Jata (Belgium) - Steering Group Member, West Europe
Petko Tzvetkov (Bulgaria)
Maud Lelievre (France) - IUCN Councillor, West Europe
Arantxa Cendoya (Spain) – IUCN Mediterranean (on behalf of Antonio Troya)
Alberto Arroyo Schnell (Belgium) – IUCN Brussels (observer)
Boris Erg (Serbia) – IUCN Belgrade (observer)
Constantine/Kostas Makris – IUCN Members Coordination Unit (observer)
Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) - observer
Nino Tabatadze (Georgia) - observer
Merijn Hougee (Netherlands) - presenter

Apologise

Hilde Eggermont (Belgium) – IUCN Councillor West Europe (observer)
Sonia Castañeda Rial (Spain) – IUCN Councillor West Europe (observer)

1. Welcome from the Co-Chairs

- Welcome messages were provided by Co-chair Tamás Marghescu, moderator during this meeting, and by Co-chair Chris Mahon.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters and actions arising from the minutes

- Regional representation on the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development – expressions of interest – [ongoing work](#).
- WGNCD to develop a role description for a Country Focal Point – [ongoing work, follow up in the next meeting](#).
- Update on ICENCA formal recognition by IUCN Council – Maud informed that ICENCA had been [formally recognized at the last meeting of IUCN Council, formal minutes are awaited from the Council, to be followed up at the next meeting](#)
- Update on Commission representation on ICENCA – [ongoing work, a matrix with regional contacts has been circulated and completed by 4 of the Commissions so far, follow up in the next meeting](#)
- Follow up with the Peter Larsen presentation from the previous meeting, making sure to get some updates about the Council awareness on the presented topics - Vilmos to be contacted also on this matter, [follow up in the next meeting](#)
- The number of IUCN Members is decreasing in Central Asia, exploring the reasons which could be finance or any other reasons such as IUCN inactivity in the area. A number of activities were mentioned in this respect including a Membership development plan: applications to be used by Members for actions in IUCN, Membership development in East Europe, North and Central Asia, encouragement of collaborations among Members – joint projects, to encourage expert's participations as Commission members, [follow up in the next meeting](#)
- On the content of the minutes Hans de longh suggests some textual adaptations as sent by his email of 04-04-2022. He also has a query on the reasons of the decline of the number of IYUCN members in Kazakhstan. Boris Erg replies that recently there have been some new potential IUCN members identified in Kazakhstan
- The meeting approves the minutes with small modifications.

4. ICENCA proposal for an IUCN mission to Ukraine

- No response on the previous letter to the IUCN DG although it was noted that the matter would be discussed by Council
- A new letter will be elaborated to stress the need that first steps to set up the missions are needed **Action1: ICENCA Leadership team**
- The subject needs to be discussed before the next Council in November.

5. Getting to know our regions

Excellent presentations were received from the colleagues listed below. It was agreed to circulate their PowerPoint/pdf presentations with their permissions.

Presentation: Merijn Hoogee (WWF Netherlands) *'International cooperation for Living European Rivers'*

Presentation: Nida Al Fulaij (People's Trust for Endangered Species) *Feedback from the International Dormouse Conference in Bulgaria*
(<https://express.adobe.com/page/EnNUycMtQQeiy/>)

Presentation: Ancuta Fedorca, (Fundatia Carpati) *'Species-specific measures to mitigate the impacts of linear transportation infrastructure in Romania'*.

6. ICENCA website – Divija Jata, Belgian Biodiversity Platform

- DJ presented the draft website (<http://sandbox.bebif.be/icenca/>) which has a proper structure and functionality
- A google doc will be circulated for gathering suggestions on how to improve it (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tbTfqXDe9onNY6i3dmgOspqxykBP1LcWjC4sCyFvY1Q/edit>) **Action: ICENCA Leadership team**
- DJ was congratulated for the excellent work on the website design and functionality

7. Update by Regional Offices, including any Member's activities – Brussels, Belgrade, Malaga

- Arantxa Cedonya from the Mediterranean office in Malaga highlighted the 20th Anniversary of the office, the new IUCN local authorities as members and also described the Meeting of the Spanish National Committee
- Alberto Arroya Schnell from the Brussels office stressed the need to contribute with the national pledges the 30 by 30, with the specific target of getting the 30% protected areas in the European countries. Ongoing discussions on the WCPA contribution and implication on achieving the target were mentioned.
- Boris Erg from the Belgrade office pointed out that more government agencies are needed in Central Asia, that the three regional officers are currently talking about coordinating better, and the 30 by 30 needs our contribution.

8. Update from IUCN Council

- Maud Lelievre presented the update from the recent IUCN Council meeting which included two days of introduction to the mandate. There are already 7 IUCN members local authorities who have become members, and this is an added value. There was a question from Tamas if the Application procedure for becoming an IUCN member will be changed and the principles to sustainable use will be removed? The answer from Maud was No. There were suggestions from ICENCA to contribute to the Membership development. Hans de longh mentioned that in the Netherlands several members considered to resign from IUCN, and he asked if globally Members are influenced by the new fees which were recalculated and if there had been more resignations recorded. The discussion was continued by Kostas, who gave some background information. Maud said that only a few members left IUCN, but it is still early to draw conclusions. Internal discussions were also focusing on maybe renewing the application form. It was suggested to ask Kostas to make an analysis and to have the Membership strategic discussion for the region at the next ICENCA SC meeting if ready.

9. Suggestions for the location for future meetings including the 1st ICENCA Members Assembly and/or next Steering Committee meeting

- Chris suggested to take the opportunity of the 20th Anniversary in Malaga which is held from 29th of September till 1st of October and to host the 1st ICENCA Members Assembly and/or next Steering Committee meeting in person there. This idea was received well. **Action: ICENCA Leadership team**

10. Any other business

- Maud suggested that the Updates from the Council could be moved among the first Agenda items for the next meeting

11. Date of next meeting August/September 2022

- provisionally in person/ hybrid, Malaga, 29th of September - 1st of October – tentative dates

Actions agreed

1. A new letter to the IUCN DG will be elaborated to stress the need that first steps to set up the mission are needed. Action: ICENCA Leadership team

2. A google doc will be circulated for gathering suggestions on how to improve it. Action: ICENCA Leadership team

3. Arrangements to be made for the next meeting to be hosted at the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the IUCN Mediterranean office at the end of September. Action: ICENCA Leadership team