



## Expression of interest Chair IUCN Urban Alliance

**Deadline:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### **Background:**

The IUCN Urban Alliance was operationalised on 24 September 2018, in response to Resolution 029 at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress “Incorporating urban dimensions of nature conservation into the work of IUCN” (WCC 2016 Res 029).

A stocktake was carried out in 2023, in view of further informing how the Alliance could continue to serve as a strategically focused and relevant body that advises on and supports IUCN’s growing programme of work on urban. Consequently, the revised mandate for the Alliance consists in providing advice to the IUCN Council, the IUCN Director General and Secretariat on biodiversity issues in urban areas at both national and sub-national levels and support the Union’s critical role in working on urban nature. The structure of the IUCN Urban Alliance comprises a Chair, Secretariat, Commissions and IUCN member representatives.

The **Chair** role is critical in providing leadership that ensures effective functioning of the Alliance as an Advisory Body and, by extension, an influential and impactful body that guides the Union’s work on urban biodiversity.

### **Description of the position**

As Chair of the IUCN Urban Alliance, the incumbent will perform the following tasks:

#### Representation

- Chair meetings of the Urban Alliance twice yearly;
- Represent the IUCN Urban Alliance in scientific, policy and practice operating spaces that would provide visibility and profiling for the Union’s urban work, including in discussions and fora that would generate new opportunities for collaboration or resource mobilisation to expand IUCN’s growing programme of work on urban biodiversity, working in close coordination with the IUCN Secretariat;
- Strengthen relationships with existing networks of collaborators, including the facilitation of strategic partnerships with external cities networks, technical partners, urban biodiversity initiatives as required;
- Promote IUCN’s influencing power and authority amongst actors and networks within the urban sector;
- Periodically update and report back to IUCN Director General and Council, as needed;
- Represent the Alliance on the Urban Taskforce of IUCN Council.

#### Management

- Oversee and guide the operations of the Urban Alliance so that it functions as a collective, effective and influential entity;

- Provide strategic, consistent and dynamic leadership to the Alliance members so that the Alliance is enabled to fulfil its role in serving as an authoritative body for urban biodiversity within the Union and externally;
- Ensure that the inputs and contributions of the Alliance informs the Union’s work and decisions relating to urban biodiversity, in accordance with relevant procedures, processes and timelines, and in coordination with the Secretariat;
- Ensure that the Alliance’s advice and inputs are well informed with the latest science and respected expertise on urban biodiversity;

#### Leadership

- Understand, and where needed, mediate amongst the diverse interests of the representatives of the Alliance, in ways that ensure effective working relations amongst the members;
- Take a proactive approach to managing difference of opinions, resolving conflicts and any other risks that could affect the smooth functioning of the Alliance;
- Maintain professional standards of conduct that enhance the Alliance’s profile, standing, contribution and effectiveness.
- Engagement beyond the members of the Alliance.

The term of this position is four (4) years or until the following IUCN World Conservation Congress, renewable once upon agreement of the Director General, in consultation with the IUCN President.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Experience in chairing well-functioning multi-stakeholder platforms and processes;
- Expertise in enabling cross-sectoral collaborations;
- Senior (c.15 years of work experience minimum) in conservation or sustainable development, ideally working with transdisciplinary approaches;
- Specific interest and demonstrated understanding and engagement in urban biodiversity issues is highly desirable, especially in mainstreaming biodiversity issues.

Knowledge of all three of the Union’s working languages is an advantage.

#### **REMUNERATION**

Serving as Chair of the IUCN Urban Alliance is a voluntary commitment. IUCN covers travel and daily subsistence costs, subject to prior approval of IUCN Secretariat.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

The IUCN Heritage and Culture Team is committed to further enhancing the diversity of its expert base, including an improved regional balance. IUCN also strongly encourages applications from women, young and mid-career experts as well as from local and Indigenous communities.

**To apply, please submit to [loredana.scuto@iucn.org](mailto:loredana.scuto@iucn.org) your updated CV and endorsement letter using “Expression of Interest Chair IUCN Urban Alliance” as subject line.**

## **About IUCN**

*IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.*

*Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.*

*IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.*

*Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.*