



Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN)

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021



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International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN is a union comprised of over 1,400 States and government agencies, NGOs large and small, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, scientific and academic institutions and business associations, 6 Commissions of volunteer experts, and a Secretariat which work together "in a combined effort to conserve nature and accelerate the transition to sustainable development".

Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN)

The Australian Committee for (ACIUCN) was founded over 40 years ago to advance IUCN's global mission and programme in Australia. ACIUCN provides a convening role to bring together IUCN Members, Commissions, Regional Councillors and the Secretariat under the IUCN One Programme approach to further the vision and mission of IUCN in Australia. ACIUCN brings diverse interest groups together to pursue common conservation outcomes, develop policy advice, share knowledge, build capacity and work towards IUCN's Vision of 'a just world that values and conserves nature'.

ACIUCN is an incorporated association and registered charity. We are regulated by NSW Fair Trading, the ATO and the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission (ACNC).

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

ACIUCN acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work and play. We recognise and celebrate their continuing connection to the land, waters and seas. We pay respect to Elders – past and present – and acknowledge the rich contribution of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

Committee Report

The ACIUCN is pleased to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report. Despite the inevitable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our planned activities for the year and a turnover of Directors, ACIUCN has made some significant gains.

Never to let a good opportunity pass us by, the pandemic provided ACIUCN Executive Committee with the chance to turn our gaze inwards and take the time to review important governance documents including:

- Development of the [ACIUCN Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#)
- Review and proposed changes to the ACIUCN Constitution

The proposed Constitutional changes will ensure our governing legislation is aligned with Association and Charity laws and regulations both in NSW and nationally and importantly for continuity in leadership, allows for two-year terms for Executive (Board) members. While the new Strategic Plan draws on ACIUCN strengths and will help guide our efforts over the coming five years.

In June 2020, ACIUCN facilitated a webinar with IUCN Director General Bruno Oberle to discuss the future strategic direction of the IUCN. And in the lead up to the World Conservation Congress we arranged meetings for ACIUCN members with 2 of the 3 IUCN Presidential candidates to hear their vision for the IUCN

ACIUCN's Director is a member of Australia's [Key Biodiversity Areas National Coordination Group](#). The Group is one of the first such groups in the world and together they coordinate the identification of KBAs in Australia and promote KBA conservation, management and protection. Key Biodiversity Areas are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

In early 2021, ACIUCN formally partnered with the Pollination Group in a webinar series '*Nature Capital and Nature Risk*' looking at how the recently formed global Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) is highlighting the dependency of the global economy on natural capital.

World Conservation Congress (WCC)

The pandemic continued to play havoc in 2021 for all global events and the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) was no exception with the final event taking place both virtually and in situ for those lucky enough to be able to attend. While strictly falling outside of the 'FY 2021 Annual report' the Congress, despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic played an important role globally in setting the future conservation agenda and the stage for the upcoming 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Key outcomes from the Congress include (among others) a proposal to establish an interim IUCN Climate Change Commission; a moratorium on seabed mining; principles and process to inform the development of an IUCN policy on natural capital; guidelines and process to inform development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology; agreement to a new category of IUCN members – subnational governments; and agreement to the development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision, Financial Strategy, and Strategic Plan for the IUCN.

Other motions that were considered by the Congress cover issues such as the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework, world heritage, migratory species, marine planning, marine noise, climate change, mining, deforestation, pandemics (One Health), among others. Outcomes from the Congress can be found online here at <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/event/members-assembly/vote-results>.

IUCN Oceania Regional Office (ORO)

The [IUCN Oceania Regional Office](#) continues to play an important role in support of ACIUCN and our work. Both in terms of their Secretariat role in the lead up to the World Conservation Congress but also importantly to help remind us all of the connection and conservation challenges faced by our Pacific neighbours. ACIUCN would like to formally thank the Oceania team for their ongoing support and acknowledge their commitment to the people and biodiversity of the Pacific.

New Zealand National Committee for IUCN (NZIUCN)

ACIUCN would like to acknowledge the work of our sister committee in New Zealand (NZIUCN). While the FY21 has not brought us close together we are working towards a more cooperative program in the years ahead.

In June, Madelon Willemsen left ACIUCN and we began recruitment for a new Director. We wish to formally thank Madelon for her excellent work as ACIUCN's Director. I also want to thank the Executive Committee for their outstanding commitment in managing the organisation through these changing and uncertain times. We will be working hard to ensure that ACIUCN will continue to deliver value for all its members and associates working towards creating positive conservation outcomes.

Cass Kennedy

Cass Kennedy

On behalf of ACIUCN Executive Committee

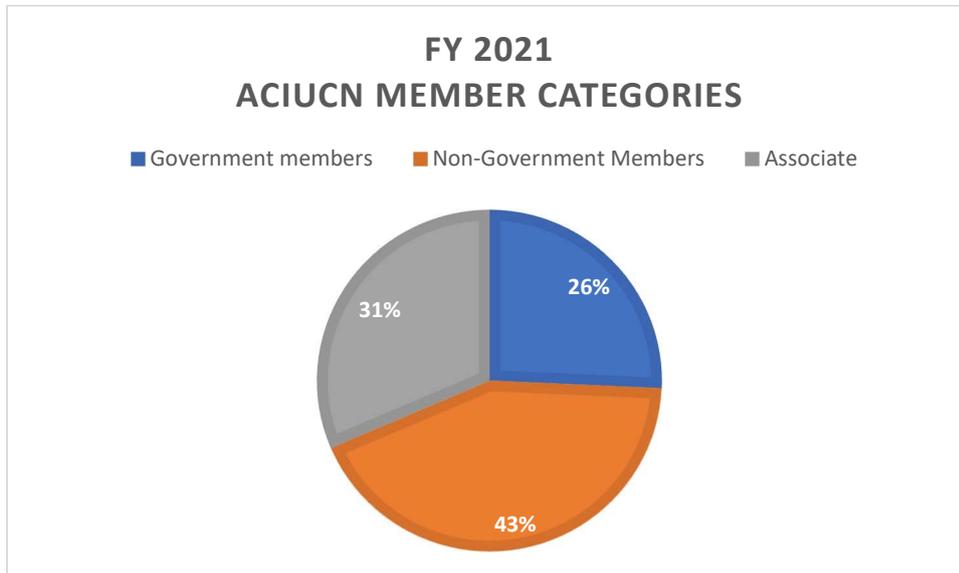
The Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee members terms run per calendar year and the new executive committee starts working after the AGM. Rachel Walmsley was the ACIUCN's Public Officer for 2019 and 2020.

Name	Role	Organisations
Emma Campbell replaced by Cassandra Kennedy	Chair – government representative	Department of the Environment and Energy
Jo Hopkins	Government representative	Parks Victoria
Rosalie Chapple	NGO representative	Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute
James Tresize replaced by Basha Stasak in June 2021	NGO representative	Australian Conservation Foundation
Peter Cochrane	IUCN Councillor	IUCN Council
Blathnaid Byrne	Treasurer	Commonwealth Bank of Australia

ACIUCN's Network

As of June 30 2021 ACIUCN membership comprises of a total of 35 organisations and individuals, with 24 Full Members and 11 Associates. See our [website](#) for more information on the membership categories.



In 2021, we welcomed the following organisations to our ACIUCN network:

New Associate:

[Queensland Conservation Council](#)

[National Parks Association of NSW](#)

[People and Parks](#)