



WCEL

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
COMMISSION MONDIALE DE DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
COMISIÓN MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

Campaign message

I had the profound honour of serving as chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) since my election by IUCN members at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille in 2021. I am now standing as candidate for re-election at the IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2025.

I have with great enthusiasm and commitment led the Commission over the last 4 years and am proud that, through the work of the Commission's Specialist Groups and Task Forces, and the guidance of the Commission's Steering Committee, the voice and authority of the Union in matters of environmental law has been amplified and strengthened.

Under my leadership, the Commission has served in the development and strengthening of environmental law on many fronts and in many fora – both international, regional, national and local. WCEL has stood at the center of historic moments in international environmental law, whether in international negotiations or before the world's courts. We also organized over 35 webinars in the last four years, and two World Environmental Law Congresses, one in 2022 in Oslo and recently, in 2025 in Rabat, Morocco. The Congresses attracted almost 3000 participants, and involved about 500 speakers.

Today, our global member network of more than 1.500 experts on environmental law provides knowledge, advice and capacity-building to governments, institutions and communities worldwide.

Looking ahead, if re-elected, I will continue to advance the mission of WCEL: to strengthen the environmental rule of law in the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature and our global environment, including the climate system, in a culture of peace, fairness and solidarity.

This means further developing the environmental rule of law and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and strengthening its implementation across governance systems at all levels, with the meaningful involvement of indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, children and youth, women, academia and businesses, based on equity and environmental ethics.

This work will be guided by the WCEL mandate – to be adopted by the IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi, by IUCN resolutions, the new IUCN Programme 2025–2029, and the “IUCN 20-Year Strategic Vision”. In close cooperation with IUCN Members, the IUCN secretariat, national and regional committees, our sister Commissions and other components of the Union, I am committed to continuing this work in the next quadrennium.

I will focus on:

- Promoting and strengthening environmental law and its implementation through IUCN,
- Advancing environmental rights and human rights with respect to the environment,
- Protecting environmental defenders,
- Promoting knowledge development, education and research and undertaking widespread capacity-building to enable governments and stakeholders to participate in effective environmental governance at all levels,
- Providing a world forum for environmental law experts, and
- Forging and promoting partnerships to support the environmental rule of law and extending expert networks, including the judiciary and judicial institutions.

With your help, support and trust, I look forward to further integrating environmental law with IUCN’s scientific and policy expertise, for another 4 years.

Ultimately, law is only one of many tools. In the voice of the World Court “a lasting and satisfactory solution requires human will and wisdom — at the

individual, social and political levels — to change our habits, comforts and current way of life in order to secure a future for ourselves and those who are yet to come”.

My hope is that IUCN, through World Commission of Environmental Law, will continue and deepen to use law to inform and guide the social and political transformations needed for a world in harmony with nature.

I would like to use this opportunity to fullheartedly thank the IUCN President, Razan Al Mubarak and the IUCN Secretariat and its Director General, Dr. Grethel Aguilar for their support and confidence in the work of WCEL over the last 4 years.

I also want to express my deep gratitude and respect for the work carried out by the WCEL Deputy Chair, Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, the members of the WCEL Steering Committee, the leadership of the Specialist Groups and Task Forces, and all their members, and the WCEL Executive Officer, Mr. Roberto Coll. I thank all of them for their unwavering support to the Commission. WCEL's progress would not have been possible without your dedication and tremendous support.

Thank you!