

September 2025

Letter of Support for Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts – IUCN Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the application of Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of the [Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts](#), to the Council of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

My team and I have had the privilege of working alongside Craig and witnessing his commitment to environmental stewardship, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development across rural, urban and marine environments.

Craig brings combination of strategic insight, scientific rigor, and collaborative spirit to his work. His leadership of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts have been instrumental in advancing both policy and practice in the field of conservation - including on national biodiversity strategies, climate adaptation and nature-based solutions. He demonstrates a deep understanding of the complex interdependencies between climate, nature, health and well-being, and applies this knowledge to drive impactful change.

Beyond his technical expertise, Craig is a thoughtful and inclusive leader who fosters partnerships across sectors and the regions of the UK, such as Wales. His ability to convene diverse stakeholders around shared goals makes him an asset to any network—qualities that align closely with the values and mission of the IUCN.

If elected, Craig would be able to champion the role of subnational governments and regions like Wales as vital *"engines of on-the-ground delivery"* for the [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and the new [IUCN Strategic Vision](#).

The IUCN is such an important organisation at this critical time, bringing global leadership in conservation, being renowned for its rigorous scientific assessments and evidence-based decision-making, and in shaping international environmental agreements.

I am confident that Craig will make a valuable contribution to the IUCN community, bringing both depth of experience and a forward-looking perspective that will enrich its work. I endorse his application and encourage you to consider him favourably.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Warm regards,



Derek Walker

[Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)