

**The River Bld A, unit 5701
110 Charoen Nakorn 13, Charoen Nakorn
Klong Tonsai, Klong San,
Bangkok 10600
Thailand
Mob: +66 892017001
E.mail: aban.marker-kabraji@dokkhem.asia**

02 October 2025

Letter of Support for Sebastian Winkler

IUCN Regional Councillor for West Europe

Dear IUCN Members,

Having led IUCN Asia for over two decades and now advising UNEP, AIIB, and other global institutions on climate and biodiversity, I write to endorse Sebastian Winkler for Regional Councillor. Sebastian possesses that rare combination of strategic vision, diplomatic skill, and operational excellence that distinguishes effective leaders. Above all—he delivers conservation results.

During Sebastian's 13-year tenure at IUCN Secretariat (1997-2010), I witnessed his transformative impact firsthand. As one of IUCN's first Environmental Economists, he pioneered frameworks that made nature economically visible to decision-makers in particular his involvement in supporting the establishment of TEEB. Also, his work on biodiversity offsets, natural capital valuation, and conservation finance laid foundations still used today. The Conservation Finance Alliance he co-founded continues advancing these approaches worldwide.

From my current vantage point—advising UNEP on the triple planetary crisis, guiding AIIB's biodiversity investments, and serving on TRAFFIC's Board—I see how Sebastian's early innovations now underpin global responses. His frameworks for making legal, sustainable trade more profitable than illegal alternatives remain essential.

His ability to translate conservation science into economic language that ministers understand and communities support remains critical. As IUCN navigates complex institutional challenges while addressing unprecedented environmental crises, Sebastian brings invaluable perspective. His experience spans the evolution from traditional conservation to integrated economic approaches now essential for achieving scale.

Sebastian delivers practical solutions grounded in economic reality that achieve lasting conservation outcomes—exactly what IUCN's Council needs.

I strongly endorse his candidacy.

With warm regards,



Aban Marker Kabraji

Former Regional Director, IUCN Asia (2003-2021)

Board Member, TRAFFIC International

Senior Advisor Climate and Environment to UNEP Regional Director Asia Pacific

Senior Advisor Biodiversity, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Member Board of Trustees, TRAFFIC International

Member International Expert Group, Bankers without Boundaries (BWB)