



International Council
for Game and Wildlife Conservation

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Dear IUCN Members,

Re.: Letter of Support for Sebastian Winkler as IUCN Regional Councillor

I write to endorse Sebastian Winkler for IUCN Regional Councillor. Having worked closely with him across multiple institutions, I can attest to his exceptional ability to bridge diverse conservation constituencies and deliver measurable results.

When I transitioned from FAO to IUCN, Sebastian guided me through the Union's complexities, demonstrating how to advance conservation through bottom-up approaches that engage business, local authorities, and marginalized voices. This philosophy has defined his entire career.

The Countdown 2010 initiative transformed IUCN membership by opening it to subnational governments. Working with ICLEI founders Konrad and Monika Zimmermann, he helped twenty cities develop Local Biodiversity Action Plans that complemented CBD NBSAPs. The [Local Action for Biodiversity](#) platform they established remains active today.

His pioneering business engagement work proved equally transformative. Sebastian drafted IUCN's first Private Sector Engagement Guidelines and helped establish the Business and Biodiversity Programme. His work with Forest Trends on biodiversity offset metrics and methodologies created tools still used globally, translating complex ecological concepts into practical business applications.

When Sebastian succeeded me as Director General at CIC—whose founders helped create IUCN, CITES, and Ramsar—he demonstrated exceptional leadership. Within four years, he drafted CIC's first Strategic Plan aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework, established an Indigenous Peoples Working Group, and reformed the policy system to amplify member voices using lessons from his IUCN experience.

Sebastian understands that lasting solutions emerge when traditional knowledge meets modern science and when local action scales to global impact. This approach, cultivated through decades across continents, positions him ideally to be an IUCN Councillor advancing IUCN's global mission.

Sebastian embodies the bridge-building leadership IUCN needs—turning complexity into clarity and vision into measurable results. His track record proves he knows how to realize IUCN's potential. I urge you to support Sebastian Winkler for Regional Councillor.

Sincerely,

CIC Ambassador