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## **Elections to IUCN Council**

Dear voters of the IUCN

This letter is to support the election of Craig Bennett to the Council of the IUCN.

I have known Craig Bennett personally for nearly 30 years and have worked closely with him in a variety of important leadership roles, including with a major global NGO network (Friends of the Earth International), in his capacity leading a major business coalition (The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change) and more recently in his capacity as CEO of the UK's federation of Wildlife Trusts.

In these and other capacities I have seen what an outstanding contribution Craig has made toward the gargantuan process of seeking to halt and then reverse the decline of the natural world. He is creative and bold yet works with care and precision to ensure that he has people with him. He devotes real effort toward building common cause among diverse groups of actors and has the rare combination of qualities enabling him to be effective in galvanising disparate organisations into influential movements and coalitions. He has done this to great effect at the Wildlife Trusts, and I worked with him personally in achieving alignment and impact among the seventy-plus members of the Friends of the Earth International federation. This was neither straightforward nor quick, but was effective, for example in presenting the federation as a credible, influential and united voice at key international moments, such as at Rio Plus 10 in South African in 2002.

Craig has many specific achievements to his credit, but during recent times his successful efforts to lever increased ambition and common cause from what is now the most important movement for Nature recovery in the UK (the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts), is making a real difference through uniting national and international advocacy with grassroots delivery. Member organisations of that network retain identity, autonomy and local connection, but now that they are more aligned via Craig's leadership their impact has been considerably elevated.

Considering the combination of leadership qualities, subject knowledge, determination, credibility and track record required to be an effective member of IUCN Council, I can think of no one better qualified than Craig and do hope that he is selected.

With best wishes,

Tony

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Juniper", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Tony Juniper CBE  
Chair, Natural England