

To Whom It May Concern

Basel, 12 September 2025
Bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch

Letter of support to Craig BENNETT as IUCN Councillor (West Europe Region)

Dear IUCN members,

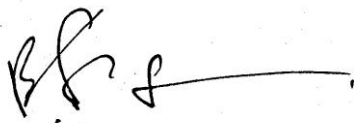
Pro Natura is the leading nature protection organisation in Switzerland and a founding member of the IUCN. As international coordinator of Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland, I've been in contact and working with Craig Bennett for more than a decade, since he became Director of campaigns at Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and then CEO of this organisation. I had many occasions to work closely with him, as representatives of big sister-organisations within the Friends of the Earth network. I have notably been a member of the Executive Committee of Friends of the Earth Europe alongside with Craig and have participated in many international meetings jointly with him.

In all these occasions and capacities, I could observe his incredible skills and strength to bring together different and sometimes opposite views to help build positive attitudes, which could lead to joint positions and ultimately strengthen a network as diverse and sometimes complex as Friends of the Earth. This is to be linked to Craig's leadership talent combined with his strong experience in governance processes, deep knowledge of the topics and capacity for robust argumentation. His strong sense of humour is an additional ingredient to successfully bring people together.

Craig's further achievements in his current position at the Wildlife Trusts have been impressive and brought this organisation to a new dimension and influence, just as it has been the case for Friends of the Earth England a few years before.

His strong engagement in nature conservation, his knowledge of the IUCN and impressive experience and track record in the governance of complex networks make Craig Bennett an ideal candidate for the position of IUCN Councillor. Pro Natura is delighted to recommend him for this election, and we wish him all success in this hopefully future role.

Pro Natura – Friends of the Earth Switzerland



Bertrand Sansonnens
Coordinator, International co-operation