

7 September 2025

To whom it may concern

Letter of Recommendation - Craig Bennett

I am writing on behalf of Stop Ecocide International to support the candidacy of Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts, for the role of **IUCN Councillor for the West Europe Region**.

Craig is one of Europe's most respected environmental leaders, with a career spanning senior roles in civil society and academia. An engaging and effective communicator, he is passionate about empowering and enabling local communities and has spent most of his career working for grassroots organisations such as Friends of the Earth and The Wildlife Trusts as well as campaigning alongside local communities. In these roles he has helped to give voice and impact to frontline communities such as Shell's fenceline communities, which he set up and ran, as well as helping indigenous communities seek legal redress in the UK. He has also campaigned with local communities in the UK to stop fracking.

As the responsibility of the IUCN evolves to address the unfolding nature crisis more effectively, Craig's leadership qualities stand out for a number of reasons:

1. Bridging science, law and policy: Craig understands that ecological integrity cannot be safeguarded by conservation practice alone, but also requires robust legal frameworks and systemic change at the international level.
2. Championing transformative solutions: He has consistently advocated for bold, practical measures – from nature recovery networks across the UK to stronger global governance on biodiversity and climate – aligned with the IUCN's mission.
3. Commitment to global solidarity: Craig brings an inclusive and international outlook, recognising the interdependence of regions and the vital importance of supporting those communities most vulnerable to ecological collapse.

In these critical times, the IUCN needs councillors who combine integrity with vision and the ability to connect local realities with global frameworks. Craig Bennett has these qualities and we believe that he will make an outstanding contribution in advancing IUCN's objectives.

For these reasons, Stop Ecocide International is very happy to support his candidacy and respectfully urges members to endorse Craig Bennett for Councillor, West Europe Region.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jojo Mehta', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jojo Mehta

Co-Founder & CEO, Stop Ecocide International