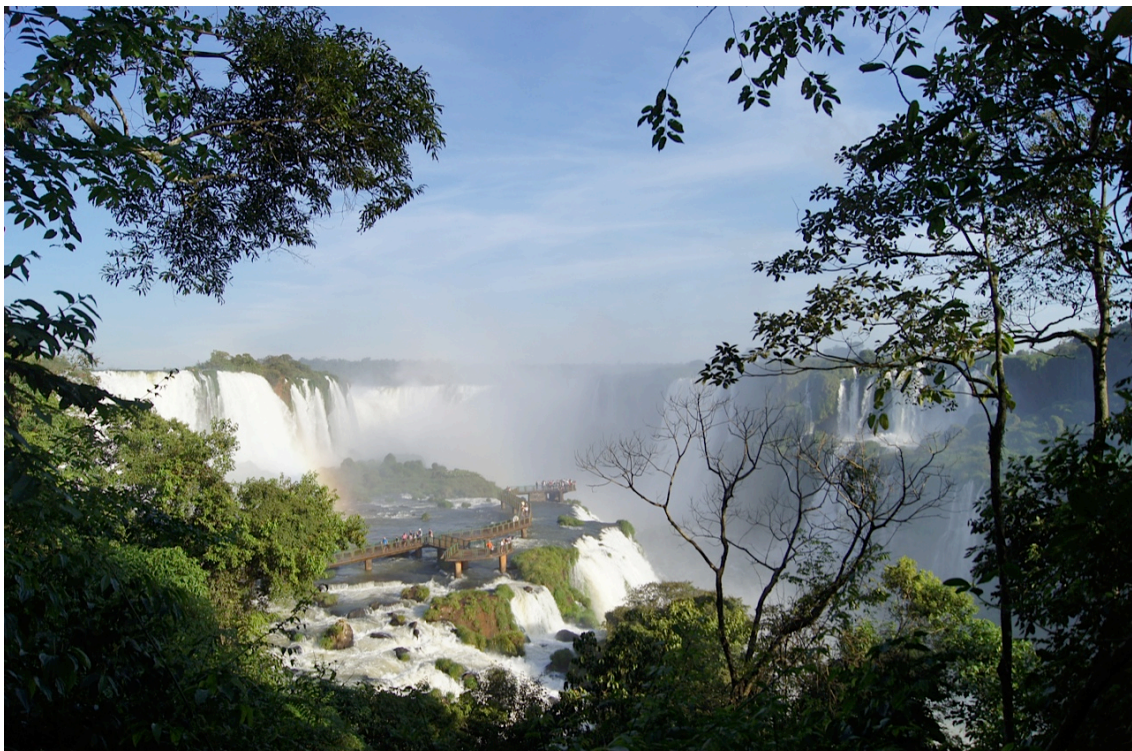


World Commission on Environmental Law

Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Draft of June 26 2013



This is a draft of the WCEL Strategic Plan 2013-2016. It is subject to amendment when further inputs are received.

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Introduction

This Strategic Plan aims to set bold new directions for the recently renamed World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL). It takes as its starting point the Mandate¹ given to WCEL by the World Conservation Congress at Jeju, Korea in September 2012. The intention is that the Strategic Plan will conform to the letter and spirit of the WCEL Mandate and to the IUCN *One Programme* approach.² The plan has been built on and will continue to draw on ideas from previous Chairs of the Commission, input from members of the Commission, endeavours of previous Steering Committees, reports of Specialist Groups from the past few years, planning documents of other IUCN Commissions and the work of IUCN National Committees and IUCN regional offices. The Plan should be regarded as a living document, which will be fine-tuned as further inputs and ideas are worked through and absorbed.

Functions of the Strategic Plan

*Strategic planning is a disciplined process leading to an agreement on the raison d'être of an organization, its activities and the reason it undertakes such activities with a focus on the future.*³

The Commission's membership is drawn from all of the world's regions and comprises judges, practising environmental lawyers, government departmental lawyers, environmental public prosecutors, environmental law professors, parliamentarians, diplomats and others. A significant number of the members regularly work in a voluntary capacity for WCEL's Specialist Groups and Task Forces to advance the IUCN mission. The Strategic Plan provides an overarching framework to more effectively harness a wider range of Commission members, both through the Specialist Groups and Task Forces, as well as in a variety of other ways to meet the challenges of enhancing the functions of environmental law, both in its formulation and in its implementation within the public sector, the private sector and the broader community.

Given the limitations on time and the constraints of budgets, the large variety and complexity of environmental law issues and differing needs in all of the world's regions, WCEL's work over the next four years must be prioritized so as to focus on specific tasks, with measurable targets set as far as possible, both internationally and nationally. As with the other IUCN Commissions, WCEL must work collaboratively and collectively within its own ranks, within the Union, and with its external partners, in order to ensure that environmental legal mechanisms are enhanced and maximized. This Strategic Plan is intended to assist in that process.

The functions of WCEL's Strategic Plan include:

- Identifying WCEL's role in and prioritizing the major global environmental law challenges and the promotion and implementation of Environmental Law to meet those challenges

¹ The full mandate is included in the Appendix.

² *Working as a Union to Deliver IUCN's One Programme, Summary Statement*

³ World Commission on Protected Areas *Strategic Plan 2005-2012*, at 7.

<http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/strategicplan0512.pdf>

- Identifying WCEL's role within the IUCN Programme, including the Secretariat, the regional offices national committees and the other IUCN Commissions
- Specifying the role of WCEL with its external partners
- Providing a framework for WCEL's Specialist Groups and the efforts of its individual members to fulfil the mission, vision and goal of the Commission
- Identifying the globally significant environmental law principles and ethical concepts which WCEL should promote
- Identifying WCEL's role in the further conceptual development of environmental law at both international and national levels
- Promoting WCEL's role in enhancing the drafting, implementation, compliance with and enforcement of environmental law
- Prioritizing WCEL's role in environmental law capacity building
- Providing a framework for monitoring and reporting of all elements of WCEL's work, including with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, WCEL's Specialist Groups, its work within the IUCN Global Programme and with its external partners.

WCEL's Mission, Vision and Goal

WCEL's Mission, Vision and Goal, from its Mandate as approved by the World Conservation Congress are:

Mission

The mission of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is to assure the integrity and conserve the diversity of Nature through the promotion of ethical, legal and institutional concepts and instruments that advance environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability (hereafter "sustainability") and to strengthen the capacity of governments, the judiciary, prosecutors, and other stakeholders as they develop and implement environmental law.

Vision

WCEL's vision is to ensure that environmental law contributes universally to enabling a just society that values and conserves Nature, affirming the rule of law, and to providing vital environmental stewardship systems for all levels of governance, including communities, as they work toward ecological sustainability.

Goal

WCEL's goal is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to employ environmental law for restoring, conserving and sustaining Nature, and ensuring that uses of natural resources are equitable and ecologically sustainable, through:

- a) Advancing national, regional and international legal and administrative instruments that are grounded in environmental ethics and furthering ecological sustainability;
- b) Conducting research to strengthen environmental law and undertaking capacity building to enable governments and stakeholders to actively participate in the international governance debate;

- c) Cooperating on the implementation of coordinated laws through institutions that respect the rule of law, to ensure effective compliance and enforcement; and
- d) Providing a central world forum for integration of environmental law into all aspects of governance, and for extending professional and expert networks dedicated to the legal foundations of ecological sustainability.

On any measure, the mission, vision and goal represent major challenges for the drafting, reform and implementation of environmental law in all of the world's jurisdictions in both developed and developing nations. While recognizing the enormous achievements of the Commission and its members over the past decades, the aims set out above require a series of philosophical and practical transformations in the way in which the Commission has operated until now. They demand more creative ways of thinking and doing, and a greater integration of the work of the Commission with the work of the Environmental Law Centre, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, and with the other five Commissions of the Union.

Further, they demand major efforts for outreach to the global environmental law community: to private practitioners, government lawyers, law professors and the judiciary, as well as to the relevant international and national organizations concerned to promote the enhancement of environmental law. WCEL must also forge stronger links with the secretariats of each of the multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the World Bank and regional development banks. At the national level, engagement with legislators must be encouraged on a regular basis.

WCEL members

Renewed and expanded activity of WCEL, as envisaged by the WCEL Mandate 2013-2016, and the One Programme approach, together with the activities set out in this Strategic Plan, will require a greater commitment and effort on the part of Commission members. As a result, the talents and enthusiasm of Commission members working around the world in a voluntary capacity should be more vigorously harnessed. This should be the responsibility of both the Steering Committee and the Director and lawyers of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre. This must be done taking into account budgetary constraints of both WCEL and ELC and the consequent need to significantly boost their finances in order to fulfil their joint mission. Membership criteria and responsibilities of members as set out in the WCEL By-Laws are currently being revised to reflect the new WCEL Mandate and the expansion of WCEL's activities.

Action: The Steering Committee and the ELC will more collaborate closely to ensure that the expertise of WCEL members is adequately and efficiently utilised in fulfilment of the WCEL Mandate 2012-2016 and the One Programme approach.

More specific actions still to be specified

Review of WCEL's By-Laws

WCEL has operated under a set of By-Laws for many years, which have been revised from time to time.⁴ The By-Laws include the objectives of the Commission, rules on membership and composition, and responsibilities of members. They also set out how WCEL transacts its business, WCEL's officers,

⁴ The current By-Laws are found in the Appendix.

the composition and functions of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee, as well as the establishment of other committees. There are also provisions on cooperation with other bodies, reporting, newsletters and prizes. Given the changes in the way in which WCEL operates, particularly with regard to Specialist Groups, as well as the need to conform to the 2013-2016 Mandate, the new Steering Committee should cause the by-laws to be thoroughly reviewed and revised.

Action: Steering Committee to establish an ad hoc committee to review and revise the By-Laws, with terms of reference to specifically review the membership criteria, together with the geographical range and expertise of WCEL members to ensure that the WCEL Mandate and this Strategic Plan is able to be implemented; the ad hoc committee is expected to report to the Steering Committee by November of 2013.

WCEL's global role

In order for WCEL to live up to its new name, broader, deeper and longer-range perspectives need to be developed for all of its endeavours from the Polar Regions to the equator in both hemispheres. From the depths of the earth to its upper atmosphere, we need to rethink the regulatory role and influence of environmental law.

Action: WCEL to initiate a project to systematically analyse the shortcomings and challenges of environmental law regimes on an international and national basis, and to begin to devise solutions based on that analysis.

International outreach

At the international level, a more holistic and integrative approach needs to be taken in relation to the operation of Convention Secretariats and to the implementation of each of the major MEAs. To promote this, WCEL, in collaboration with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre should be represented at the regular Conferences of the Parties of the MEAs as far as possible, and to conduct activities such as seminars, book launches and meetings on specific issues, in order to promote a deeper understanding of the issues and needs as well as to maintain and enhance WCEL's profile, and thus to further its influence in major policy debates concerning MEAs.

Equally, WCEL Steering Committee members and other WCEL leaders should engage at the highest levels with United Nations organisations, including both UNEP and UNDP, as well as with other intergovernmental agencies to promote the role of environmental law. This should be done both through formal meetings, and where appropriate, informally.

Action: The Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Director and legal staff of the ELC, should attempt to send a representative to all major international meetings relevant to, environmental policy, including to Conferences of the Parties of all MEAs.

Regional outreach

At the regional level, in all of IUCN's regions, we must ensure that IUCN Regional offices are familiar with WCEL's work, and that WCEL members know what the issues are by encouraging close contact with staff at those offices. Where IUCN Regional Offices do not exist, other means must be found to bring regional issues to the attention of the WCEL Steering Committee and relevant Specialist Groups and Taskforces, and to utilise the expertise of WCEL members in those regions.

The relevant regional programmes are in East Africa, West Asia, West and Central Africa, Meso-America and Oceania.

WCEL will promote the idea of at least one staff lawyer being employed in each IUCN Regional Office. In addition to normal duties concerning environment law research and advice, regionally based lawyers should also see it as part of their role to interact with and where necessary coordinate meetings between WCEL members in the relevant region.

Further, WCEL needs to prioritise particular regions in which to vigorously promote the role of environmental law. Over the next four years, specific nations of the African region are intended to be targeted. This should involve the establishment of a WCEL Committee, which would work closely with regional IUCN offices (where applicable) and universities, especially those that are members of the IUCN Academy, to ensure a coherent and consistent approach. A focal point would be named by the WCEL Chair from within the Steering Committee for monitoring and reporting purposes. The Director of the ELC would also be asked to name a staff lawyer as a focal point.

Action: WCEL to work with the ELC and IUCN Headquarters to ensure that at least one staff lawyer is employed in each IUCN Regional Office.

Action: A sub-committee with specific terms of reference to be nominated to promote the enhancement of environmental law in the Africa region, with focal points to be named by the WCEL Chair and the ELC Director.

National outreach

At the national level, WCEL should work more closely with executive members of national environmental law organisations and litigation-based environmental law centres. In collaboration with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, WCEL should be in regular contact with academic teaching and research bodies in order to promote its work on law reform and capacity building. Where possible and appropriate, WCEL should endorse, co-sponsor and help to coordinate conferences, seminars, research projects, essay writing competitions and the like. WCEL should also engage with leading members of the judiciary, as well as government Ministers and officials on environmental law-related matters, preferably through and in close consultation with the national environmental law organisations, where they exist.

Action: WCEL members to be encouraged to reach out to national environmental law organisations, litigation-based environmental law centres and academic teaching and research bodies in order to promote its work on law reform and capacity building.

WCEL's role within the IUCN

WCEL's goal within the Union is clearly set out in the initial paragraph of the objectives of the WCC Mandate:

4. Objectives

WCEL will pursue its objectives in concert with the integrated programme of activities adopted by the World Conservation Congress in the Union's Programme 2013–2016, and in cooperation with the Members and components of the Union, through the Commission members, Specialist Groups, partnerships with other expert environmental law

organizations, relevant international entities, law schools, associations of judges and environmental prosecutors, and judicial institutes....

The following sections are intended to address these objectives.

WCEL and the Environmental Law Centre (ELC)

WCEL is unique compared with the other IUCN Commissions in that it is supported by a part of the Secretariat, namely the Environmental Law Centre (ELC), that is not based in Gland. In order for WCEL to fulfil its expanded mission, objectives and goals, it will need to work more closely with the Centre, its lawyers and its other professional and administrative staff on the basis of the IUCN *One Programme* approach, and in a similar manner to that of several other Commissions whose Secretariat unit is based in Gland. To this end, WCEL and ELC signed a Note for the Record in April 2013 which is intended to facilitate the work of WCEL and the ELC in developing synergy between the two entities by adopting, to the maximum extent possible, a unified *One Programme* approach with respect to environmental law.

Action: Foster closer collaboration and cooperation in all aspects between WCEL and the ELC consistent with the IUCN One Programme approach and in pursuance of the WCEL-ELC joint annual work plan.

WCEL and the other Commissions

As one of six Commissions of the IUCN, WCEL has common responsibilities to address the IUCN's mission, in accordance with the *One Programme* philosophy. In keeping with this, WCEL, in collaboration with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, should be a legal service provider to the other five Commissions. To date, such a role has been carried out largely on an *ad hoc* basis.

A priority of WCEL is thus to promote greater integration of its work with that of the other five Commissions and all relevant elements of the IUCN Secretariat and in particular the ELC, both in terms of its function are as WCEL's Secretariat as well as more generally.

Based on the discussions initiated in 2013 at its Steering Committee meeting, the Commission will endeavour in the next four years, to ensure that it more substantially fulfils this role.

Action: WCEL to establish a sub-committee with the following functions:

- 1. To systematically survey each of the five Commissions to identify legal needs and priorities, working where possible with lawyers who are already members of the other Commissions*
- 2. To communicate the legal needs of the other five Commissions to the WCEL Steering Committee, the relevant Specialist Groups, to WCEL members and to the ELC.*
- 3. To enlist WCEL members, with the approval of the WCEL chair, to work on specific legal issues with the other five Commissions, and, as appropriate, initiate projects, including cross-cutting projects between the WCEL and the other Commissions, in collaboration with the ELC in its function as WCEL's Secretariat.*
- 4. Where appropriate, support the establishment or continuation of joint Specialist Groups between the WCEL and other Commissions to focus on issues of shared expertise and concern.*

WCEL and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law

The IUCN Academy was established by WCEL in the early 2000s after a gestation period of several years, having grown out of the WCEL initiative of organising the first Training the Teachers programmes for environmental law professors in the Asian and Pacific region at the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law within the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. Training the Teachers programmes have now been initiated in China, to be followed by other regions over the next few years. The Academy was launched as a separate IUCN entity in 2003 at its first Colloquium at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and now has some 170 universities and research institutes as members in 53 countries, covering 10 of the world's regions. The year 2013 marks the eleventh Colloquium, held at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, with the 2014 event to be held in Tarragona, Spain.

The Chairs or other representatives of WCEL and the Academy have regularly attended the respective WCEL Steering Committee and Academy Governing Board meetings. WCEL intends to work more closely with the Academy, including its Chair, Governing Board, its member institutions and the University of Ottawa-based Secretariat. To this end, WCEL will engage in the setting up of joint projects, academic capacity building programmes, seminars and conferences during the next four years.

Action: WCEL Steering Committee to nominate a WCEL member or sub-committee to assist in promoting interaction and joint work with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law over the next four years.

WCEL and external partners

WCEL must expand its links and work more closely with a range of external partners. These include the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, UNITAR, the Organization of American States, the World Bank and the regional development banks, the Secretariats of all relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), and national environmental law centres and institutes. To this end, WCEL members with relevant interests, contacts and expertise should be designated as focal points to interact with these external partners.

The various regional development banks should be engaged with, both in terms of environmental law capacity building programmes and as well as projects concerned with the drafting and reform of environmental law in the regions where those banks are based.

Action: Nominate WCEL members to act as focal points for external partners

WCEL Specialist Groups

The current Specialist Groups and chairs are:

1. Access and Benefit-sharing (Chair: Tomme Young)
2. Armed Conflict and the Environment (Chairs: Carl Bruch and Michael Bothe)
3. Energy Law and Climate Change (Chairs: Richard Ottinger and Wang Xi)
4. Enforcement and Compliance (Chair: Kenneth Markowitz)
5. Ethics (Chair: Klaus Bosselmann)

6. Indigenous Peoples, Customary & Environmental Laws and Human Rights (SPICEH) (Chairs: Rodrigo de la Cruz and Kristen Walker)
7. Oceans, Coastal and Coral Reefs (Chairs: David VanderZwaag and Nilufer Oral)
8. Protected Areas Law and Policy: (WCEL/WCPA Joint SG) New conveners to be appointed
9. Sustainable Use of Soil and Desertification (Chair: Ian Hannam)
10. Water and Wetlands: Owen McIntyre
11. Financial Institutions and Environmental Law (established in April 2013; convener to be appointed):

The chairs (or representatives) of Specialist Groups should meet with the WCEL Steering Committee and the designated ELC focal points for Specialist Groups on an annual basis to review their status in terms of reference, activities, outputs and operation. In their initial meeting, the review of the terms of reference of each group is particularly important, given the newly formulated mission, objectives and goal of WCEL in its 2013-2016 Mandate.

Prior to such meetings, the chair of each specialist group should be requested to complete a standardized reporting form, so that the goals, activities, operation and output of the specialist groups can be systematically compared and discussed. A suggested template Technical Report Form is included in the Appendix.

In light of the WCEL Mandate and the concerns set out in this Strategic Plan, the Steering Committee should consider the need for new or reconstituted Specialist Groups. It is desirable in particular to identify gaps in the coverage of the current Specialist Groups, and for the Steering Committee to discuss how such gaps might be addressed. The new Financial Institutions Specialist Group was established in recognition of such a gap.

It may be desirable to investigate whether there should be more focus on particular biomes, such as mountains, or specific regions such as the Polar Regions, or on globally significant issues such as air pollution, or on specific processes, such as integrated watershed management. Equally, it may be desirable to focus more on legal doctrine, such as civil liability, criminal responsibility, corporate social responsibility, access and benefit sharing, or intellectual property issues in relation to biodiversity. Foundational legal issues such as the rule of law in environmental matters, the ethics of environmental law and policy, religiously based principles such as the Islamic principles of environmental law, the support and capacity of the environmental judiciary, and issues of compliance and enforcement are other categories worthy of investigation.

Clearly, while some of these issues are already the focus of the current Specialist Groups, it is not necessarily desirable to establish further groups, both because of the subject matter as well as because of budgetary limitations. However, selected issues not currently covered by the Specialist Groups could be focused on by WCEL sub-committees with specific and tightly drawn terms of reference, or individual WCEL members might be requested to investigate and report on particular matters.

Action: Each Specialist Group to complete an Annual Technical Report Form for submission to the WCEL Chair and to the Director of the ELC.

Action: The Steering Committee should review the terms of reference of each Specialist Group to ensure consistency with the WCEL mandate 2013-2016.

Action: The Steering Committee should establish a sub-committee of WCEL members to canvass new and emerging issues, as well as to report on issues of high environmental law concern not presently covered by the Specialist Groups.

Enhancing drafting and implementation, compliance and enforcement mechanisms

WCEL should work more systematically with its membership, with the ELC and with its internal and external partners to enhance the drafting of environmental law and promote more effective implementation of environmental law. It should also promote compliance and enforcement mechanisms consistent with accepted and emerging environmental law principles, in order to meet the need to reform environmental management frameworks at the national level, especially in developing nations and countries with economies in transition.

Action: WCEL to establish a sub-committee to promote drafting and implementation, compliance and enforcement mechanisms

Capacity Building and Awareness-raising

WCEL's functions concerning capacity building and awareness-raising in the realm of environmental law should be reviewed in collaboration with the ELC and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. An integrated and systematic approach to these functions should be formulated and put into action in selected regions over the next four years.

Action: Establish Capacity Building Sub-Committee comprising interested WCEL members in the next year, with a specific set of terms of reference formulated in consultation with the WCEL Chair, the Director of the ELC, the Chair of the Governing Board of the Academy and the Directors of the Academy.

Collaboration with the Judiciary

WCEL

WCEL, along with other partners, intends to launch a Judicial Institute for the Environment by the end of 2013. More details on this initiative will be available shortly.

Environmental Law Principles

WCEL should promote the further analysis of both accepted and newly emerging environmental principles formulated by various specialists, or generated and applied by members of the judiciary in their judgments. Some of these principles include, for example:

- The principle of sustainability, especially in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promoted by *The Future We Want* (2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development)
- The principle of non-regression
- The principle of *in dubio pro natura*
- The principle of resilience

WCEL should work in collaboration with institutions and individuals that are already investigating such principles. For example, the CRIDEAU⁵ at the University of Limoges has established a global research project to record and analyse the principle of non-regression. Given the endorsement of the principle by the WCC in Resolution 164 in September 2012, WCEL should establish a liaison group with CRIDEAU to ensure the widest possible input to that project.

Action: The Steering Committee should consider the establishment of a sub-committee of WCEL members to investigate accepted and newly emerging environmental principles, with a view to reporting on meaning, application and promotion of such principles.

Communications

Web-based communications

WCEL should utilize all available electronic media to facilitate communications within its membership, its internal partners and its external partners. In addition, when possible, social media communications should be used as an educational instrument to ensure that knowledge about environmental law and its implementation is as widely disseminated as possible. This applies both to the environmental law community as well as civil society in general.

WCEL should also encourage the use of Skype and similar electronic platforms as a means of communication by Steering Committee members and Specialist Group members, with a view to ensuring more regular communications as well as reducing pressure on travel budgets and the environmental and health effects of long-distance travel.

Action: The Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Director of the ELC, should draft a policy on web-based communications for use by WCEL and the ELC.

Website

The website of WCEL within the Environmental Law Programme website⁶ should be updated regularly with more input from WCEL members and from other sources within and external to the IUCN relating to environmental law. This should include all significant activities by WCEL and its members, including projects and other collaborative activity with the ELC, the listing of conferences and other events, lists of new publications by WCEL members as well as recording of important activities of individual WCEL members. Input in relation to inter-Commission activity should be particularly encouraged.

Action: The WCEL Chair and the Director of the ELC should review present arrangements concerning the WCEL and ELC website to ensure that all significant WCEL activities are reported on regularly, and in particular that joint WCEL – ELC and WCEL and inter-Commission work is adequately reported.

Steering Committee communications

In order to encourage greater interaction between WCEL members, use of the WCEL email “Listserv”, moderated in collaboration with the ELC, should be promoted, in addition to the regular WCEL email

⁵ Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires en Droit de l’Environnement, de l’Aménagement et de l’Urbanisme.

⁶ <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/cel/>

communications. Use of other social media such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn should also be investigated for adoption.

Action: WCEL should establish a small sub-committee of interested members to coordinate the "listserv" and other social media in collaboration with the ELC.

Newsletter

A joint newsletter entitled "IUCN Environmental Law" will be published approximately 3 times per year with regular input on specific topics from both WCEL and the ELC. The newsletter will feature current developments and projects and may include invited contributions from WCEL members. The product is intended to keep WCEL members informed regarding the IUCN Environmental Programme's Work, rather than serving as a journal-type publication. The newsletter will be published electronically through the ELC Publications Unit, with a small number of paper copies to be distributed for each edition.

Action: The WCEL Chair to designate a WCEL member or members to collaborate with ELC on the production of the newsletter.

Planning for conferences 2014 and 2015

WCEL intends conduct a major conference of environmental law centres in 2014, in collaboration with various WCEL partners, to create a forum for sharing ideas and experiences and provide an avenue for IUCN to support such centres' work.

In 2015, the Commission proposes to convene a Global Congress of WCEL members. Further details will be announced in due course.

WCEL finances

WCEL and the other five IUCN Commissions have had their budgets progressively reduced over the past few years. In 2013, the budget figures reflect a 10% cut from the 2012 budget. In order for WCEL to address its Mandate and the broad vision set out in this Strategic Plan, including the conferences mentioned above, it will be necessary to generate further funds from sources outside the IUCN. This will take significant effort on the part of the Steering Committee, the Specialist Groups and individual WCEL members who wish to pursue specific aspects of the Mandate and this Strategic Plan. In relation to joint projects and other joint activities between WCEL and the ELC, as well as in relation to WCEL financial needs more generally, it will also require close coordination and collaboration between the WCEL Chair and Steering Committee and the Director and staff of the ELC.

Action: The Steering Committee to establish a Finance Sub-Committee of WCEL members to investigate sources of additional funds required to fulfil the WCEL Mandate. The Finance Sub-Committee will work closely with the ELC Director and Staff as appropriate to pursue grant funds and project funds.

Implementation and review of the Strategic Plan

Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of this Strategic Plan lies primarily with the WCEL Steering Committee. However, in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, it is expected that the Director and lawyers of the Environmental Law Centre, together with its other professional staff, will work closely with the Steering Committee, the Specialist Groups and the sub-committees

established by WCEL, as well as individual WCEL members in order to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The Steering Committee and the Director of the ELC will review the contents of this Strategic Plan on an annual basis and make necessary adjustments from time to time, with all substantive changes to be published on the Environmental Law Program website and in the *IUCN Environmental Law* newsletter.

Action: The Steering Committee and the Director of the ELC will review the contents of this Strategic Plan annually.

Appendices

Mandate of the World Commission on Environmental Law 2012-2016

1. Mission

The mission of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is to assure the integrity and conserve the diversity of Nature through the promotion of ethical, legal and institutional concepts and instruments that advance environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability (hereafter “sustainability”) and to strengthen the capacity of governments, the judiciary, prosecutors, and other stakeholders as they develop and implement environmental law.

2. Vision

WCEL’s vision is to ensure that environmental law contributes universally to enabling a just society that values and conserves Nature, affirming the rule of law, and to providing vital environmental stewardship systems for all levels of governance, including communities, as they work toward ecological sustainability.

3. Goal

WCEL’s goal is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to employ environmental law for restoring, conserving and sustaining Nature, and assuring that uses of natural resources are equitable and ecologically sustainable, through:

- a) Advancing national, regional and international legal and administrative instruments that are grounded in environmental ethics and further ecological sustainability;
- b) Conducting research to strengthen environmental law and undertaking capacity building to enable governments and stakeholders to actively participate in the international governance debate;
- c) Cooperating for the implementation of coordinated laws through institutions that respect the rule of law, and to ensure effective compliance and enforcement; and
- d) Providing a central world forum for integration of environmental law into all aspects of governance, and for extending professional and expert networks dedicated to the legal foundations of ecological sustainability.

4. Objectives

WCEL will pursue its objectives in concert with the integrated programme of activities adopted by the World Conservation Congress in the Union’s Programme 2013–2016, and in cooperation with the Members and components of the Union, through the Commission members, Specialist Groups, partnerships with other expert environmental law organizations, relevant international entities, law schools, associations of judges and environmental prosecutors, and judicial institutes, in order to:

- a) Promote ethical and innovative legal concepts, legislation, and other legal instruments that conserve Nature and natural resources to achieve sustainability;
- b) Build knowledge and apply scientific, technical and other capacity in all regions to enable governments to draft, enact and enforce environmental law in an effective manner;
- c) Work closely with the Secretariats of all Conventions that protect and conserve the environment;
- d) Educate governmental officials, including judges and public prosecutors, and stakeholders at all levels on applying law and policy, improving access to information and justice, and facilitating public participation in environmental decision making to ensure that natural resources are managed equitably and sustainably;
- e) Engage members and partners to create robust knowledge networks; and

- f) Collaborate with other components of the Union, especially the Environmental Law Centre (ELC), the Academy of Environmental Law, Commissions and Members, and partner institutions, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) and UNITAR, to provide education, information and knowledge on law and governance necessary to achieve ecological sustainability.

5. Priorities

WCEL will implement its Objectives through programme priorities that further the “three global results” of IUCN’s Programme 2013–2016.⁷ WCEL’s Objectives will be implemented in an integrated way through its membership, its network of collaborating centres of environmental law, the Environmental Law Centre (ELC), the Academy of Environmental Law, the Union’s Regional and National Committees and Offices, and other professional partnerships, through bi-annual work plans. WCEL will address the following priorities, contingent on the availability of financial resources and through the voluntary contributions of expertise by its members, in order to:

- a) *Strengthen WCEL Specialist Groups* – WCEL will enhance the effectiveness of its Specialist Groups with particular emphasis (a) on priority legal thematic areas, including biodiversity loss; climate change, energy and biofuels; coastal and marine degradation; desertification and natural resource management; ecosystem protection; soil degradation; freshwater and wetlands; mining; and on cross-cutting themes such as environmental ethics, indigenous peoples, protected areas, Arctic and Antarctic polar governance, compliance and enforcement of environmental laws, the judiciary, and national and international financial institutions, and to respond to requests made by the World Conservation Congress;
- b) *Promote the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law* – WCEL will promote the Academy as the world’s leading network of academic institutions, universities and professors engaged in the research and teaching of environmental law;
- c) *Collaborate with Centres of Environmental Law* – WCEL will continue to recognize, promote and collaborate with Centres, Institutes of Environmental Law and other partners in building coordinated information, research, learning and capacity-building programmes on the legal aspects of biodiversity;
- d) *Knowledge and technical assistance* – WCEL will collaborate with all components of the Union, especially its Members, Regional Offices, the Environmental Law Centre, the Academy of Environmental Law, and other partners, including UNEP, Convention Secretariats and INECE, to develop international agreements and national legislation, and implementation programmes, particularly in less-developed countries and regions affected by armed conflicts;
- e) *Promote ‘good governance’ and the rule of law* – WCEL will work with Union Members, UN institutions, governments and other stakeholders to encourage and promote ‘good governance’ and institutions to respect the rule of law, including through making effective use of the Union’s UN observer status;
- f) *Support the Judiciary* – WCEL will continue to work with the judiciary and relevant institutions, both international and national, to build their capacity to provide access to justice, to effectively adjudicate environmental issues, and to apply and enforce environmental law, through cooperation with judicial institutes and associations of judges and the use of information databanks, including ECOLEX, the Judicial Environmental Portal and INFORMEA, and the study of the environmental jurisprudence;
- g) *Promote programmatic synergies among MEAs* – WCEL will work with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of more coherent implementation, especially at the national level, governments and stakeholders, and with other conventions, agreements and processes to identify and promote synergies among them and the Union’s Mission and Programme;

⁷ 1 “(a) Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to better policy and action on the ground; 9b) Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management strengthen rights and deliver equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits; c) Healthy and restored ecosystems make cost-effective contributions to meeting global challenges of climate change, food security and social and economic development”.

- h) *Strengthen the legal foundations of Conventions* – WCEL will study means to most effectively enhance the implementation and elaboration of the biodiversity-related agreements, and strengthening of their national focal points and national implementation laws; and
- i) *Study and advance the conceptual development of Environmental Law* – WCEL will research the application of new or emerging international and national legal and governance instruments and principles, including the Draft Covenant on Environment and Development, the Earth Charter, the principle of non-regression and the principle of resilience.

6. Expected Results

WCEL's Mission, Objectives and Priorities will contribute to achieving the Union's 2013–2016 Programme, especially in respect to its "three global results". WCEL expects that by 2016, it will have measurably contributed to:

- a) The integration of environmental law knowledge with the scientific and policy expertise of the other Commissions;
- b) Enhanced collaboration with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of strengthened implementation;
- c) The development and dissemination of environmental law expertise and networks worldwide;
- d) The development of knowledge and expertise of environmental courts and tribunals;
- e) The annual colloquia of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law; and
- f) Mainstreaming the Union's effective use of environmental law in its Programme.

Draft revision: IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law By-laws of 2013

I. NAME

The Commission shall be called the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL).

II. DEFINITIONS

In these Bylaws, unless the context or the subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Chair" shall mean the Chair of the Commission.
2. "Commission" shall mean the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.
3. "Council" shall mean the IUCN Council.
4. "Deputy Chair" shall mean the Deputy Chair of the Commission appointed as per Bylaw VII.1(1)(b).
5. "Director General" shall mean the Director General of IUCN.
6. "IUCN" or "Union" shall mean the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - .
7. "Legal Adviser" shall mean the Legal Adviser to IUCN.
8. "Member" shall mean a Member of the Commission. Any member under 35 years old and with at least three years of law practice upon termination of Law School shall be a "young professional member".
9. "Region" shall mean the Region as per the Statutes.
10. "Regulation" shall mean the Regulations of IUCN, as amended from time to time.
11. "Statutes" shall mean the Statutes of IUCN, as amended from time to time.
12. "Steering Committee" shall mean the Steering Committee of the Commission appointed as per Bylaw VII.2.
13. "Steering-Committee Member" shall mean a Steering Committee member appointed as per Bylaw VI. 1 (1) (c).
14. "World Congress" shall mean the IUCN World Conservation Congress as defined in the Statutes.
15. Words importing masculine gender include the feminine gender.
16. Words importing singular number include the plural number and *vice versa*.

III. OBJECTIVES OF COMMISSION

1. The Commission shall assemble and provide specialized services in all aspects of environmental law in accordance with its mandate and terms of reference as approved, from time to time, by the World Congress.
2. Subject to the foregoing clause, the objectives of the Commission shall be:
 - (1) to assist in laying the strongest possible legal foundation for environmental conservation and sustainable development, thereby supporting international, regional and national efforts in this field;
 - (2) to identify areas where improved legal and administrative instruments and mechanisms would contribute significantly to the process of conservation;
 - (3) to promote the development, compliance and enforcement of environmental law at international, regional and national levels by advocating adequate and innovative actions;
 - (4) to strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions and stakeholders, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to enhance and implement environmental law and policy, and improve access to information, facilitate public participation, and ensure access to justice in environmental decision-making; and

- (5) to assist and advise all components of the IUCN, including its Commissions and Members, and other governmental and non-governmental institutions on the elaboration of international or national legal instruments, as appropriate.
3. In order to give effect to its objectives, the Commission shall undertake necessary and appropriate measures in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations and, in particular, may:
- (1) initiate, promote and support legal research consistent with the objectives of IUCN and its Environmental Law Programme;
 - (2) collaborate with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC) in all aspects of its work, as agreed in writing from time to time, and on the following in particular:
 - a. publishing a joint newsletter on activities and events related to the IUCN Environmental Law Programme;
 - b. maintaining ECOLEX and the Environmental Law Information System (ELIS), and monitoring developments, both of international and national law including treaties, legislation, custom and jurisprudence;
 - c. proposing and, where appropriate, assisting in drafting legal instruments at the national, regional or global level;
 - d. promoting and assisting in the development of soft law instruments;
 - e. advising on the legal implications and aspects of initiatives taken, and issues addressed, by IUCN components and programmes; and
 - f. carrying out environmental law capacity-building programmes.
 - (3) collaborate with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law in all aspects of teaching, capacity-building and research, as agreed in writing from time to time;
 - (4) coordinate activities with additional IUCN components and programmes, in order to maintain integration and interdisciplinary cooperation in carrying out the overall programme of the Union;
 - (5) follow the initiatives of other institutions in the field of environmental law, in particular those of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and provide input from an IUCN perspective, as appropriate; and
 - (6) maintain, with a strong basis in each region, an international network of independent volunteer experts in the various legal disciplines, selected for their expertise and willingness to contribute to IUCN's mission in this area, and to provide a forum for the exchange of views and information in this field. This shall compose the Commission membership.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Members of the Commission serve as an international network of independent volunteer experts charged with advancing the mission and objectives of WCEL in their respective countries and regions. In particular, Members have the following responsibilities:

- (1) monitor national and regional legislation and feed information into the IUCN Environmental Law Centre/UNEP/FAO ECOLEX database;
- (2) monitor emerging environmental legal issues in members' own countries and coordinate with IUCN regional and country offices where they live on recommendations for issues on which IUCN position should be developed;
- (3) provide information on legal developments in their countries as may, from time to time, be requested by WCEL.
- (4) respond to calls to participate in the implementation of specific national and/or international projects undertaken by WCEL or other components of IUCN;

- (5) assist the Commission to promote and strengthen environmental law and policies in their countries;
- (6) attend meetings and conferences and deliver presentations as requested by the Chair.
- (7) provide *pro-bono* assistance in advancing the work of WCEL through, for example: the drafting of *opinio juris*, articles, and publications, or participation in electronic fora on subjects included in WCEL's objectives and Mandate; or responding to requests made by the Environmental Law Centre (ELC).
- (8) behave in a manner free of any inappropriate or unethical professional conduct that might harm the Commission.

2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in WCEL is open to professionals engaged in environmental law in any part of the world. Appointment to the Commission is determined by the Steering Committee in accordance with Bylaw IV.3. In general, however, Commission members should meet the following standards:

- (1) possession of a degree in law or its equivalent;
- (2) a minimum of five years' experience in the practice of environmental law, to include teaching or service in governmental or international institutions (individuals with less than five years' experience may apply for appointment as "Young Professional Members");
- (3) demonstrated contribution to the field of environmental law, whether through publications, advocacy on important environmental issues, participation in development, implementation, or enforcement of environmental laws and policies, or other means.

The Steering Committee shall endeavour to reflect gender and geographical balance in the Membership of the Commission. The WCEL is not limited to particular viewpoints; however, Members should demonstrate commitment to achieving the objectives of the Commission, in accordance with its Mandate as set by the World Conservation Congress.

3. REGULAR MEMBERS

Members of the Commission shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) Candidates for membership may approach the Commission directly or may be nominated by another member. The candidate must obtain the endorsement of at least two existing members. One of the two must be from the candidate's region. The candidate shall submit a copy of her *curriculum vitae* and may also submit copies of authored publications and articles, if any. The application, along with the supporting documents, will be processed by the Chair and/or by a person appointed by the Chair.
- (2) The Chair can invite highly qualified and distinguished lawyers to be Members of the Commission. In such cases, these lawyers will be exempted from submitting the application in subclause (1) of this section.
- (3) Once per quarter, or roughly once per 90 days, the Chair or the Chair's nominee will gather those applications received and circulate the list of candidates that meet the basic requirements in Bylaw IV.2 to all WCEL members via email. Members may review this list for 30 days, during which time any person or institution who wishes to support or object to any candidate may do so by submitting their comments directly to the WCEL Chair or the Chair's nominee.
- (4) The Steering Committee will review the membership applications with due regard to any recommendations and comments made during the 30-day period.

- (5) Within 30 days after the closing of the 30-day period, the Steering Committee will decide over the candidacy for membership by electronic vote.
- (6) The Chair may appoint members on an interim basis, subject to the approval of the Steering Committee within 90 days.
- (7) The Chair may appoint, for the duration of the Chair's term of office, correspondents, advisors and consultants to assist in the work of the Commission by means of their special knowledge and skill.
- (8) The Chair shall review, in consultation with the Steering Committee, the names of Members, correspondents and consultants who have been inactive or unresponsive with the object of recommending the termination of their appointments.
- (9) The term of appointment of Members shall expire 90 days after the close of the ordinary session of the World Congress subsequent to their appointment, unless reappointment is made, as per IUCN Regulations, Section VII. 72.

4. YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

- (1) Individuals who have less than five years' experience in the practice of environmental law and who are less than 35 years old may apply for appointment as Young Professional Members of WCEL. Young Professional Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Commission and are entitled to vote thereat.
- (2) In general, candidates for Young Professional Members should meet the following standards:
 - a. Possession of a degree in law or its equivalent;
 - b. Demonstrated commitment to the field of environmental law and support for achieving the objectives of the Commission.
- (3) The process for appointment of Young Professional Member shall be the same as for general members, except that candidates need only be supported by one WCEL member and should submit a separate application indicating their intention to join the Commission as Young Professional Members.
- (4) Upon meeting the requirements for general membership, Young Professional Members may apply for status as Regular Members.

5. REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

- (1) Within 60 days after the close of an ordinary session of the World Congress, the Chair shall confer with the Steering Committee regarding the reappointment of members.
- (2) Reappointment of current WCEL members is at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair may propose reappointment of the entire body of WCEL members. In this case, the Chair shall notify all current WCEL members, who shall have 90 days to affirm their willingness to renew membership in the Commission. Those that do not wish to be reappointed may so indicate to the Chair or the Chair's nominee.
- (3) If, after making reasonable efforts, the Chair or the Chair's nominee is unable to contact any members regarding reappointment within 90 days, such members' term shall be deemed expired.
- (4) Members whose term has expired may re-apply for membership following the procedures in these Bylaws.

6. EXCLUSION

The Chair, in consultation with the Steering Committee, may decide to exclude any Commission Member who has not complied with the responsibilities described in Bylaw IV.1. Prior to the Chair's reasoned decision on the exclusion, the Member will have the opportunity to justify his or her conduct.

7. HONORARY MEMBERS

The Chair may, with the support of the Steering Committee, nominate to the Council a small number of highly distinguished persons for appointment to a Roll of Honour and Honorary Membership in the Commission on a permanent basis. Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Commission but shall not be entitled to vote thereat.

V. THE COMMISSION

1. TRANSACTION OF COMMISSION BUSINESS

- (1) The Commission shall transact its business by Steering Committee meetings, unless the Chair decides to submit a topic to the entire Commission membership.
- (2) All matters submitted to the entire Commission membership for the agreement of a decision may be decided by email ballot. In the case of an email ballot, the following rules apply:
 - (a) An email ballot will take place only upon request of the Chair.
 - (b) Unless otherwise specified, Commission members shall have 15 days upon receipt of an email ballot to submit a vote by email to the Chair or the Chair's nominee.
 - (c) There shall be three voting options provided on its form: yes, no, abstain.
 - (d) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, decisions shall be taken by simple majority of votes cast.
- (3) If unable to attend either an entire Commission membership or a Steering Committee physical meeting, a Member may empower another Member by written proxy to speak and vote on his or her behalf, complying with the instructions contained in the Mandate. A Member may accept no more than one proxy. A Member holding a proxy shall deposit the latter with the Chair of the meeting at which the proxy may be used.

VI. GOVERNANCE OF THE COMMISSION

1. OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

- (1) The officers of the Commission shall be comprised of the following:
 - (a) the Chair, elected by the World Congress, in accordance with the Statutes;
 - (b) the Deputy Chair, nominated by the Chair and approved by the Council in accordance with the Statutes;
 - (c) the Steering-Committee Members, nominated by the Chair and approved by the Council;
 - (d) other officers elected by the Commission in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations and these Bylaws.
- (2) The Chair shall be elected for a term extending from the close of the ordinary session of the World Congress at which he or she is elected until the close of the next succeeding ordinary session of the World Congress. The Chair shall be the head of the Commission and shall have full powers, in accordance with these Bylaws, to undertake such functions and responsibilities as may be necessary to meet the objectives of the Commission.
- (3) The Deputy Chair shall act in the place of the Chair whenever the Chair is unable to attend a meeting or whenever the Chair specifically designates the Deputy Chair for any purpose.
- (4) The Chair and Deputy Chair serve the entire Commission.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE

- (1) Composition and Functions:

- (a) There shall be a Steering Committee to assist the Chair in conducting the activities of the Commission.
 - (b) The Steering Committee shall consist of the following:
 - (i) the Chair
 - (ii) the Deputy Chair
 - (iii) the Steering Committee Members
 - (iv) the Director of the Environmental Law Centre (on an *ex officio* basis)
 - (v) the Legal Adviser to the IUCN (on an *ex officio* basis)
 - (c) The Steering Committee shall make policy, procedures, rules and determine all programs of the Commission within the bounds of the Mandate and the terms of reference as established by the World Congress.
 - (d) The Steering Committee shall establish an annual work plan. The work plan shall be circulated by email to all Members of the Commission.
 - (e) The Chair may establish standing or temporary Specialist Groups, in consultation with the Steering Committee, in accordance with Bylaw VI.4 below.
 - (f) The Steering Committee shall perform such other functions as may be conferred upon it or its individual Members by the Chair.
- (2) Meetings
- (a) The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year. The Chair may convene a meeting of the Steering Committee whenever deemed necessary.
 - (b) Notice of meetings of the Steering Committee shall be circulated to all the Members of the Steering Committee at least forty (40) days in advance.
 - (c) A majority of the Members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not present at a duly convened meeting of the Steering Committee, draft decisions may be prepared by those present and circulated to all Members of the Steering Committee for decision by email ballot on each item, in accordance with the Bylaw V.2.
 - (d) Summary minutes of each meeting of the Steering Committee shall be presented by the Chair or his representative and submitted to the Members of the Steering Committee as soon as possible after the meeting.
 - (e) Except where the Statutes and Regulations require otherwise, or as specifically provided in these Bylaws, decisions of the Steering Committee shall be made by a simple majority of the votes cast. Each member of the Steering Committee and the Chair shall be entitled to one vote, and, in the case of a draw, the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, the chair of the meeting, may cast the deciding vote. For the purpose of decisions, voting shall mean submitting an affirmative or negative vote. Abstentions shall not count as voting.
 - (f) The Chair will have the right to veto any decision adopted by the Steering Committee.
 - (g) The Steering Committee or the Chair may, from time to time, request other Members of the Commission to attend its meetings as observers. Such observers shall not be entitled to vote thereat.
 - (h) The Chair may, from time to time, invite additional observers to attend a meeting of the Steering Committee or any part thereof, but such observers shall not be entitled to vote thereat.
 - (i) A resolution-in-writing circulated to all the Members of the Steering Committee by airmail, e-mail, or fax, and affirmed by a majority, including the Chair, by return airmail, e-mail or fax, shall be as equally valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Steering Committee duly convened and held.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, and the Director of the Environmental Law Centre on an ex-officio basis. It shall also include one member of the Steering Committee, as elected. The function of the Executive Committee shall be to implement the policies laid down by the Steering Committee and to act on behalf of and under the authority of the Steering Committee between meetings of the Steering Committee. The decisions and acts of the Executive Committee shall be reviewed at the following meeting of the Steering Committee.

4. SPECIALIST GROUPS

The WCEL Chair, in consultation with the Steering Committee, shall establish standing or temporary Specialist Groups of expert WCEL members in particular areas of environmental law.

- (1) The WCEL Chair shall, in consultation with the Steering Committee, appoint a WCEL member to serve as Chair for each Specialist Group. The Specialist Group Chair's term shall run until 90 days after the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress subsequent to the appointment. This term shall be renewable at the discretion of the WCEL Chair, in consultation with the Steering Committee.
- (2) The WCEL Chair shall, in consultation with the Steering Committee, establish written terms of reference for the work of each Specialist Group. Groups shall carry out their work with IUCN policy and these Bylaws.
- (3) Specialist Group Chairs shall work with the WCEL Chair and Deputy Chair to identify Commission members to serve as members of the particular Specialist Group. Specialist Group Chairs may, in consultation with the WCEL Chair and Steering Committee, establish criteria or minimum expectations for participation in a particular Group.
- (4) Each Specialist Groups shall develop an annual work plan and submit it for the approval of the Chair. The Groups shall also provide regular reports to the Chair and the Committee on their work.
- (5) Specialist Groups should endeavour to raise funds to support the work of the Groups, and Specialist Group Chairs shall keep the WCEL Chair and Executive Committee informed regarding such fundraising efforts.
- (6) Where appropriate, the Chair may coordinate with other IUCN Commissions to establish joint Specialist Groups of experts on subjects at the intersection of the WCEL's mandate with that of other Commissions. The Chair shall appoint a WCEL member to represent the Commission and serve as Co-Chair of such joint Specialist Groups.

5. OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair shall, from time to time, establish other committees with such powers and responsibilities as the Chair and the Steering Committee may deem appropriate.

6. FINANCES

- (1) In accordance with the Regulations, the Chair shall be responsible for overseeing the accounting and expenditure of WCEL funds.
- (2) The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall prepare a budget for the WCEL for each calendar year. The budget shall include expenditures from the Commissions Operation Fund as well as other sources, and shall include line items for expenses related to the substantive programmes, governance, and administration of WCEL.
- (3) The Chair shall submit the budget to the Steering Committee, which shall have authority to revise and approve the budget.
- (4) The Chair shall endeavour to work with Specialist Groups in identifying and carrying out fundraising activities to support the work of the Specialist Groups.

VII. GENERAL

1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

The Commission may collaborate with and extend full cooperation to other organizations and bodies promoting objectives similar to those of the Commission. The Chair will have the authority to sign agreements with such organizations and bodies on behalf of the Commission.

2. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

- (1) The Chair shall present a report at each ordinary session of the World Congress. This report shall also be circulated to all the Members.
- (2) The Chair shall present a report each year to the Council. This report shall be submitted to the first meeting of the Council in each calendar year.

3. NEWSLETTERS

The Commission will publish a joint newsletter with the Environmental Law Centre, as agreed from time to time. In addition, the Commission or any of its committees or Specialist Groups may publish periodical newsletters regarding their work, affairs and progress.

4. PRIZES

The Chair may, with the support of the Steering Committee, establish prizes for achievements in the field of environmental law, and award such prizes to deserving persons approved by the Steering Committee.

5. AMENDMENTS

- (1) No change may be made to these Bylaws, this being inconsistent with the Statutes and Regulations.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of sub-clause (1) hereof, these Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Members of the Steering Committee by a special resolution passed by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total voting members, at the Chair's proposal.

Notice of the proposed amendments shall be circulated to all the Members entitled to be present at meetings of the Steering Committee at least forty (40) days in advance, and shall be accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendments.

Template for Annual Technical Report of Specialist Groups

IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

DRAFT ONLY

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE

SPECIALIST GROUP:

CHAIR:

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January - 31 December 2013

OVERVIEW OF 2012 <i>(insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year)</i>
PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS <i>(State goals and comment on progress set for the year- add more if needed)</i>
Goal 1: Attend the Specialist Group Chairs Meeting
•
Goal 2:
•
Goal 3:
•
Goal 4:
•
Goal 5:
•
Goal 6:
•
ORGANIZATION <i>(Comment on implementation of changes to region, theme, membership structure)</i>
•
MEMBERSHIP <i>(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)</i>
•
INTEGRATION WITH IUCN 2009 – 2012 QUADRENNIAL PROGRAMME <i>(Comment on alignment and collaboration with themes and regions)</i>
•
COMMUNICATION <i>(Provide full details of publications released, and note other contributions below)</i>
•
Presentations: <i>(Provide full details of all conference and seminar presentations given by members of the Group)</i>
•
Contributions to media, website, newsletter
•
ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN <i>(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)</i>
•
FUNDS UTILISED IN 2013 <i>(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)</i>
Commission Operating Funds used <i>(Indicate total used in 2013 and use financial report for details)</i>

Funds Raised <i>(Indicate the source and amount of funds raised in pursuit of the activities listed above)</i>
Funding proposals in the pipeline
GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2014
Goal 1:
•
Goal 2:
•
Goal 3:
•
Goal 4:
•
Goal 5:
•
Goal 6:
•
REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2013
•
•
FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT
•
FEEDBACK BY DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE ON REPORT
•

