

**UN**  
environment



WCMC

UN Environment  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre

# REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2016

KNOWLEDGE THAT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE





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# ABOUT UN ENVIRONMENT WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE

The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a world leader in biodiversity knowledge. We work with a global network of scientists and policymakers to place biodiversity and natural capital at the heart of environment and development decision-making. By improving access to high-quality information and analyses, we empower global leaders to make enlightened choices for people and the planet.

Our team comprises experts in biodiversity and ecosystem services for marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments, together with social scientists, ecological modellers, economists, lawyers, geographic information system specialists, policy analysts, data managers and software programmers.

We have unrivalled understanding of the institutional landscape surrounding biodiversity policy and ecosystem management, built on strong connections with government, intergovernmental platforms, private sector organisations and civil society bodies. Together with our visiting fellows we offer an internationally diverse team - many are recognized leaders in their field - with a worldwide reach.

Based in Cambridge UK, UNEP-WCMC is a unique collaboration between UN Environment and the UK registered non-profit, WCMC. Established over 35 years ago, the Centre has built a worldwide reputation for reliable and effective ways to apply our knowledge and expertise to address the needs of our clients and partners, providing knowledge that makes a world of difference.

## WCMC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND HONORARY MEMBERS

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“The Centre remains a valuable source of expertise and experience to the wider efforts led by UN Environment. This report includes success stories of how our partnership expanded our collective reach and supported decision makers in government ministries and the private sector to take biodiversity considerations into account.”

Erik Solheim



**ERIK SOLHEIM**  
UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL AND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN ENVIRONMENT

We all rely on the air, water, food, medicine, shelter and the beauty that extraordinary systems of animals, plants, insects, and other living organisms provide. The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre is passionate about making the case for biodiversity and the benefits it provides to the global community, cities, households and individuals.

This Report on Achievements illustrates that, in many ways, decision makers are responding to the pressures exerted on biodiversity. It highlights that 58% of the area currently protected has been created since the year 2000. And that there are over 18 million square kilometres of marine protected areas within national jurisdiction.

But, however big the surface area, you can’t just draw a line around something natural and say it is safe. Protected areas are an inseparable part of much wider and more complex issues. Often the challenges lie outside the environment sector with decisions taken at local, national and international levels. These changes may result in profound social, economic and environmental gains or pressures. Equipping the people making those decisions with the latest information is the absolute priority of the Centre.

It curates, analyses and assesses global, regional and national datasets to provide new insights into biodiversity, natural capital and ecosystem services.

By engaging stakeholders and cultivating trust, the Centre demonstrates the benefits of using biodiversity knowledge in decision-making for sustainable development. The Centre has carried out detailed analyses of wildlife trade in the Amazon and other regions that demonstrate the economic value – and the staggering complexity – of ensuring that trade decisions are compatible with conservation objectives. For example, Monipher Musasa, Principal Environment Officer of the Government of Malawi, refers to the factual evidence the Centre provided on how biodiversity contributes to national development. This was at the heart of a 30% increase in the current budget allocation to the Ministry of Environment.

With the clock ticking down for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this report is a timely reminder of some of the resources available to help meet those goals. I look forward to our continued collaboration to advocate for and inform sound decision-making on the management and use of biodiversity. There is no shortage of passion and, if we act now, there should be no shortage of opportunity.

<b>MARINE PROTECTION ON THE RISE</b>  Between April and December 2016, an unprecedented 3.6 million km <sup>2</sup> of ocean was added to the coverage of marine protected areas (MPAs) globally. This contributed to an increase in the coverage of MPAs within national jurisdiction from 10% to over 12% in just over two years.  Source: Protected Planet	<b>OCEAN COVERAGE: DECEMBER 2016</b>
	<b>18,500,000 KM<sup>2</sup></b>
	<b>OCEAN COVERAGE: APRIL 2016</b>
	<b>14,900,000 KM<sup>2</sup></b>
	<b>OCEAN COVERAGE: DECEMBER 2010</b>
	<b>9,500,000 KM<sup>2</sup></b>





## ROBIN BIDWELL

### CHAIR, WCMC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As the incoming Chair of WCMC, I would like to extend the Board's thanks and my own to my predecessor Robert Napier and for the important contribution he made to the success of the Centre.

In the few months since I became Chair, I have been enormously impressed by the professionalism and motivation of the staff and by the breadth and quality of the work they undertake – ranging as it does from providing the databases and online services for the CITES Convention through to assessing ways to reduce the amount of plastics entering our oceans. In addition to the team's considerable analytical skills, there is a strong focus on the organisation and presentation of data in a form that is accessible to the large number of potential users – public and private sector decision makers as well as the wider biodiversity community.

I was fortunate to arrive at a time when a new strategy was under development. As this report makes clear, this is designed to ensure that the Centre remains relevant at a time of considerable change. It is clear that in the digital age, the way that data will be managed and accessed will continue to evolve rapidly; that our stakeholders are likely to have changing priorities in response to political and scientific

challenges; and that we, at the Centre, need to make sure that we are responsive to emerging opportunities around the globe – where possible by forging new partnerships to boost our global presence.

The continued success of our collaboration with UN Environment and the opportunities to work with the UN family remains a strategic priority. During the year we have welcomed the arrival of UN Environment's Neville Ash and Corli Pretorius, as Director and Deputy Director to the Centre's senior management team. I co-chair the Centre's Steering Committee with the new UN Environment Executive Director, Erik Solheim and we are grateful for his guidance and support.

I would like to thank the Centre's team for their excellent work over the past year and I look forward to the coming year with optimism and confidence.

**“In the few months since I became Chair, I have been enormously impressed by the professionalism and motivation of the staff and by the breadth and quality of the work they undertake.”**



## NEVILLE ASH

### DIRECTOR, UNEP-WCMC

Taking up the position as Director of the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre in 2016 was a great privilege and responsibility. For almost 40 years UNEP-WCMC has been at the forefront of biodiversity data management, analysis, and international policy support. I want to maintain these strong capacities, and our new 2017-2021 strategy builds on the established role of the Centre, to continue our journey “beyond data”.

The Centre fulfils this role in collaboration with many partners across the world. We are grateful to be able to collaborate with government ministries and national biodiversity centres of excellence, sharing knowledge and learning new ways to manage biodiversity and ecosystems. We work closely with the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements in support of key global commitments and goals.

We are proud of our collaboration with individual companies and industry associations to strengthen the positive impacts arising from the use of biodiversity knowledge in decision making. And we continued to support UN Environment – and the wider UN system – in responding to regional and country priorities. Going forward, we are keen to reach out to new partners and funders who, like us, strive to deliver solutions with real impact to tackle the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

Delivering on our strategy requires continued innovation, creativity and new solutions to the growing conservation challenge. We are fortunate to work with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, and farther afield, to draw on the tremendous capacity and dedication of many international fellows and research associates to deliver on these ambitions. These relationships are so central to our work.

I intend to build on the successes from 2016 as we work towards 2020, when the world will decide on a future strategy for biodiversity in the context of sustainable development. We have a strong foundation – our shared vision, partners and networks, knowledge and our expertise – to live up to the high expectations of our stakeholders.

Our financial partners enable the reach and impact of our collective effort, and I am extremely grateful for their trust and commitment to UNEP-WCMC. In addition to providing us with financial support our funders and philanthropic supporters inspire and energise us to meet our targets, achieve our shared ambitions and help us to implement our strategy towards a sustainable world for biodiversity and people.

**“Our new 2017-2021 strategy builds on the established role of the Centre, to continue our journey beyond data.”**



# PUTTING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AT THE HEART OF DECISION-MAKING

## KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT WITH A GLOBAL REACH

The environment faces severe challenges, many of which are exceptionally complex and require in-depth knowledge across multiple sectors to truly understand the dynamics at play.

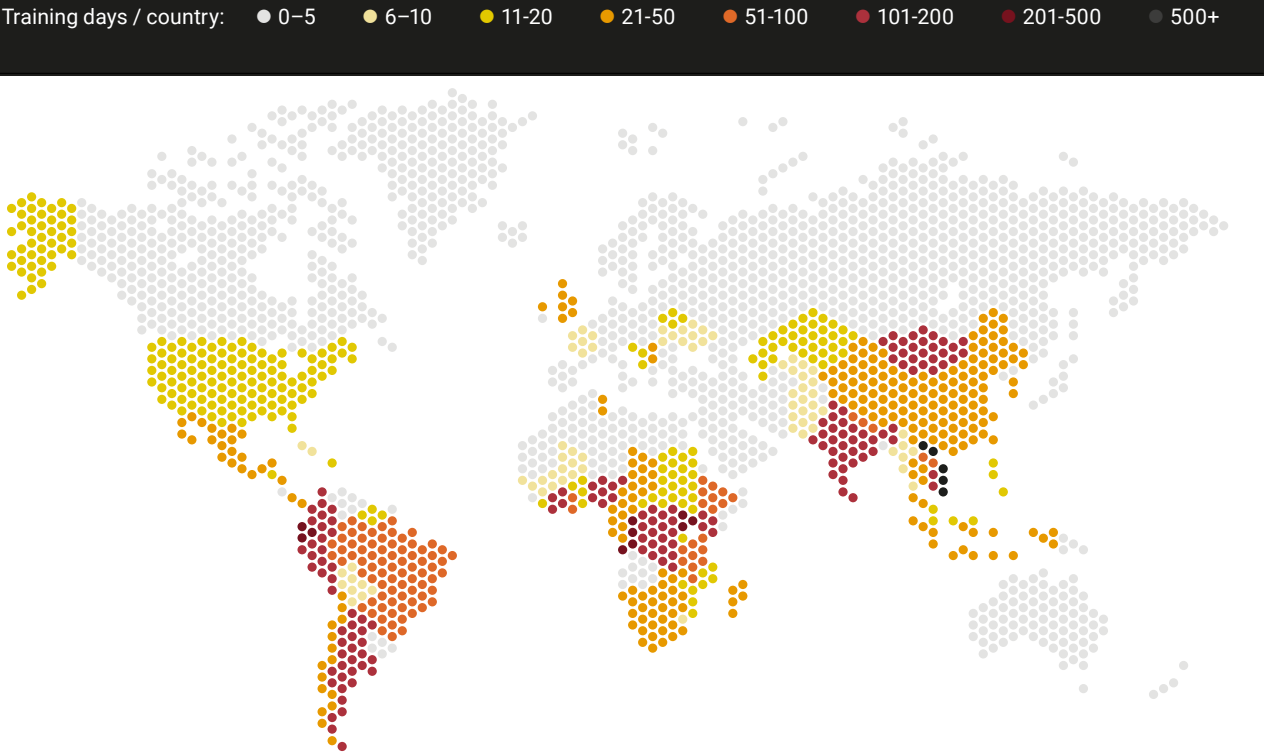
With nearly four decades’ experience, UNEP-WCMC is uniquely placed to support the biodiversity and ecosystem services needs of decision makers across the globe. We bring together scientific expertise, data custodianship and expert analyses to inform environmental and conservation decision-making around the world.

In 2016, we worked with decision makers at a national, sub-national and local levels across fields including the environment, climate change, agriculture, oil, gas, mining, finance, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. In both the public and private sectors, we are recognised as the partner of choice because of our unique capability to:

- Collate and disseminate knowledge**  
We curate and analyse global, regional and national datasets. By combining this core expertise with our extensive abilities in informatics, we provide decision makers with new insights into biodiversity, natural capital and ecosystem services.
- Develop capacity to make use of relevant and valuable knowledge**  
By drawing on our technical expertise and direct support, our partners make better use of critical data, information and knowledge. In this way, we strengthen the value of biodiversity, natural capital and ecosystem services across a broad range of sectors globally.
- Generate impact for sustainable development**  
We strengthen political recognition and will by making the case for biodiversity and the benefits it provides. Our high-quality information and value-added insights make decision-making for sustainable development clearer, more effective and more accessible.

## DEVELOPING THE TOOLS FOR CHANGE

UNEP-WCMC helps countries develop their capacity to achieve conservation and Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, we delivered workshops, webinars and e-learning modules to 650 participants representing 81 countries. They awarded our training an evaluation score of 8 out of 10.





WORKING WITH UNEP-WCMC:  
100% SATISFACTION

In 2016, every respondent to our customer survey said they would recommend UNEP-WCMC, giving us an average 'net-promoter' score of 9 out of 10. Furthermore, 100% of respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way in which we delivered the projects and that the project met its objectives.



Publications

In 2016 we published

55

peer-reviewed papers

"We are extremely pleased with the final product, with the training that was organised late last year, and with our collaboration over the past months. It has been a pleasure working with the team. Hopefully there will be further opportunities in the future."

Lowri Rees, UN Environment Africa Office following our project to produce a Natural Capital Assessment guide

"The workshop yesterday between NGOs, businesses and academia was a huge success, some great discussions and real energy to do more. This would not have been possible without the support of UNEP-WCMC."

Dr. Mark Johnston, Group Ecologist and Technical Advisor for BP

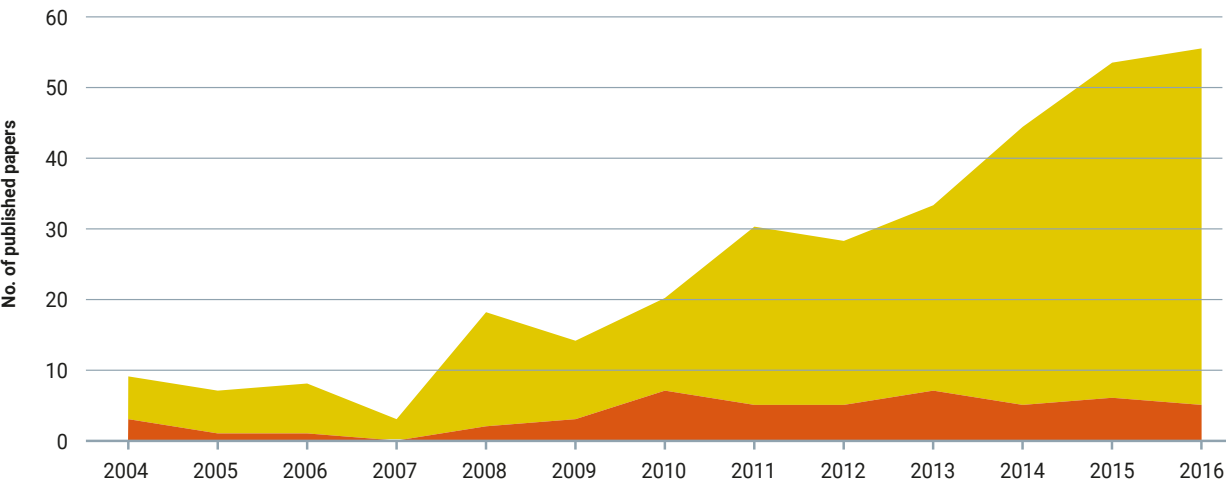
100%

of respondents to our customer survey were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way in which we delivered the projects and that the project met its objectives

SCIENCE THAT GETS NOTICED

We published a record 55 peer-reviewed papers (see page 32), 20 of which were published in highly ranked international journals. As our publication capacity continues to grow, we cover themes such as food security, changing land use threats to biodiversity and marine biodiversity. We have also led various papers on the use of indicators to track change and monitor global biodiversity targets, as well as the impacts of climate change on endemic species and marine fisheries in different parts of the world.

● Peer-reviewed papers    ● Highest ranking (Nature, Science, TREE, PNAS, PLOS Biology)





# MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are anchored in Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15. They also underpin many of the other cross-cutting social and economic goals and targets, especially those related to ending poverty, ensuring healthy lives, and reducing inequality.

UNEP-WCMC has developed a suite of tools, methodologies and measures to help decision makers to take positive action towards achieving these global targets.

Through our partnerships, national governments are recognising and responding to the importance of addressing biodiversity issues in pursuit of these goals. We support countries in planning their national approaches and in monitoring their progress.

“Through the African Leadership Group, we have learnt to build business cases for biodiversity and provide factual evidence on how biodiversity contributes to national development. I can proudly say that since Malawi joined the initiative in 2015, the national budget allocation to the Ministry of Environment has increased by 30 percent in the current financial year.”

Monipher Musasa, Principal Environment Officer and Head of the Biodiversity Division in the Department of Environmental Affairs in Malawi

## INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES INTO NATIONAL PLANNING

We work to place biodiversity into the mainstream of national development priorities. This is a vital step in recognising the value of biodiversity and natural capital in sustaining the societies and economies that support us. Creating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is the first stage in this process.

In 2016, we supported 83 countries in revising their plans through technical review and guidance. 52 of these submitted their strategies and action plans to the Convention on Biological Diversity’s secretariat. Through the NBSAP Forum, we assisted an additional 47 countries, focusing on improving targets and indicators and the use of spatial information.

With our technical support, eight African countries have used their strategies and action plans to integrate biodiversity considerations into national and sectoral planning processes, including sustainable development plans. As a result of our partnerships, key progress was made in 2016. For example, Uganda’s final National Development Plan now includes an associated budget for biodiversity action.

We also facilitate annual workshops with the African Leadership Group, sharing experiences of integrating biodiversity and development decisions across participating countries and creating a number of mainstreaming tools and resources.

Building on its success, we are scaling up the African Leadership Group and replicating the model in other regions to support national responses to the Sustainable Development Goals.

## INNOVATIVE ONLINE RESOURCES

*Options for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Coastal Environments – A Guide for Environmental Managers and Planners*

- The resource describes ten different options for coastal ecosystem-based adaptation for Small Island Developing States.
- These encompass the conservation and management of important coastal

ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass meadows and coral reefs), as well as approaches using area-based management frameworks (such as marine protected areas and diversification of environmental livelihoods).

- The project’s website and decision-support tool provide a platform for learning about the principles and practice of ecosystem-based adaptation.

National planning

In 2016 we supported **83 COUNTRIES** in revising their national biodiversity action plans.







## HELPING SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE USING ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES

We worked as part of a UN Environment-led project focusing on helping Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean and Africa adapt to climate change. We developed and provided training on the use of valuable resources for adopting coastal ecosystem-based adaptation as part of wider adaptation to climate change strategies.

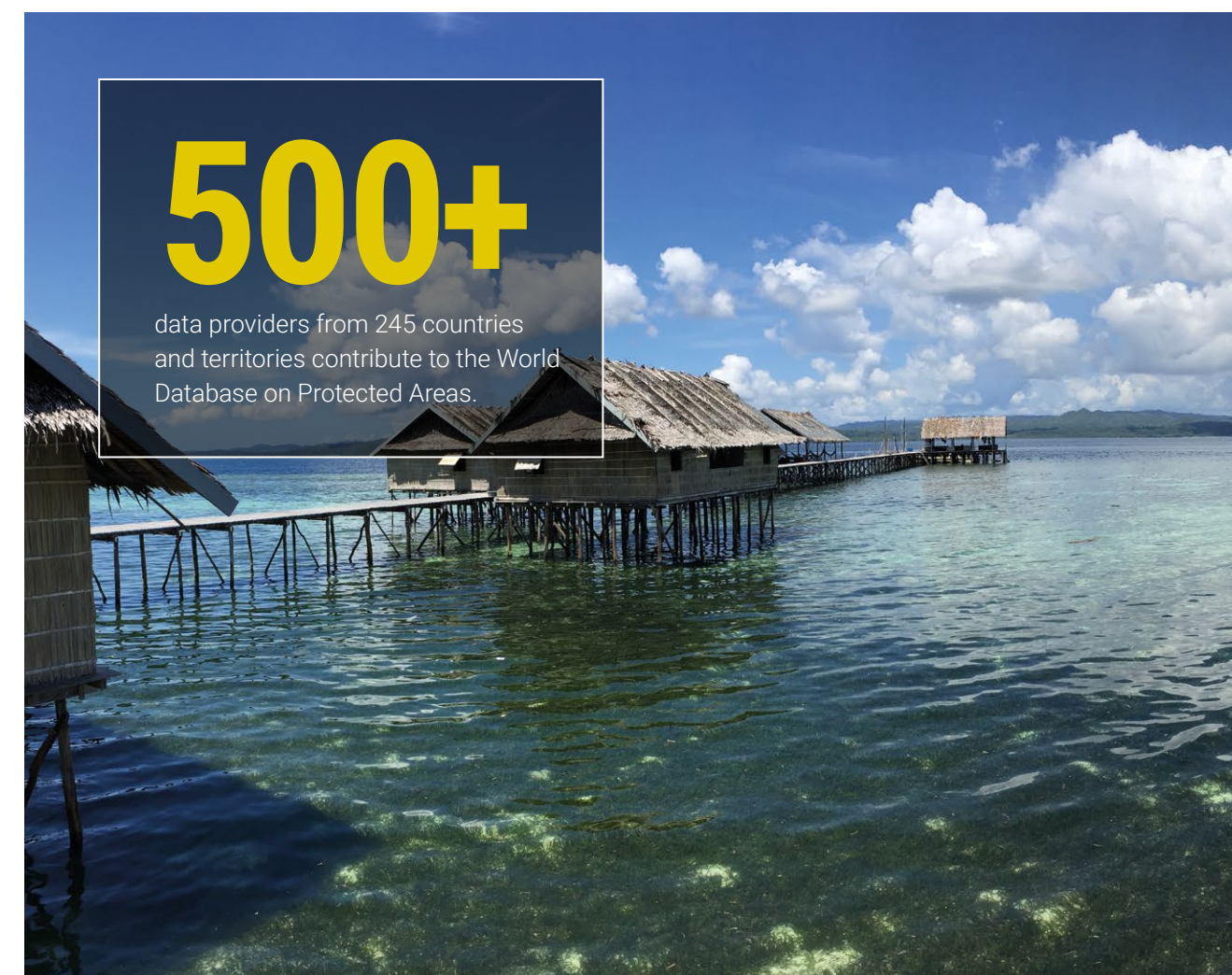
We developed an online resource called *Options for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Coastal Environments – A Guide for Environmental Managers and Planners* (see box on previous page for more details). These resources were launched at workshops in Grenada and the Seychelles, attended by governments of 16 island nations and ongoing support is being provided.

## SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT OF LANDSCAPES

We continue to support decision makers in the ecosystem management of landscapes. We developed a series of technical reviews and a Capacity Development Assessment Tool which provide decision makers with the information and tools they need to balance food security, livelihoods and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. The reviews were produced with the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and UN Environment, promoting an ecosystem-based approach to agricultural development policy and land use planning.

## SHARING EXPERTISE WITH GLOBAL AUDIENCES

Our scientists presented the opening seminar in an eight-week online course entitled *The current status of protected areas globally*. Attracting 239 participants from across the globe, we shared the insight gained from working with over 500 data providers from 245 countries and territories. The seminar also covered our work in tracking progress towards achieving global diversity targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.



## SUPPORTING UN ENVIRONMENT'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

Our large-scale collaborative projects help regions to integrate and embed biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge into the decision-making infrastructure. Across diverse locations, we work with UN Environment regional and country offices and UN country teams to address government issues and support private sector initiatives.

We draw on a wide range of region-specific experts and resources to deliver key initiatives in China. This guides our support for the country's transition towards a greener economy through the integration of biodiversity and natural capital into its domestic

and international development agendas. To further support this, we are building a ten-project portfolio covering key issues such as climate-resilient cities, poverty alleviation, private sector engagement, and investment and foreign aid decision-making.

We also completed a project for the Foreign Economics and Cooperation Office (under China's Ministry of Environmental Protection). This provided the Ministry with structural and financial recommendations to develop a national platform for engaging with businesses and local governments. In addition, we established partnerships and began new dialogues with China's environment, economics and development ministries, as well as major think tanks and industry associations.



## STRENGTHENING NATURAL CAPITAL IN PRIVATE SECTOR DECISION-MAKING

Across the private sector, we make the business case for integrating biodiversity and natural capital into the decision-making process stronger and clearer, leading to greater accountability.

UNEP-WCMC supports government and corporate decision makers with tools, standards, methodologies and metrics, and provides technical advice on integrating biodiversity and natural capital into business models and decision-making.

For the private sector, we offer a range of services including:

- horizon scanning and scenario modelling
- threat and opportunity analysis and accounting approaches
- corporate biodiversity and natural capital impact, risk and opportunity assessments.

### SOUND INVESTMENT: NATURE AS A CAPITAL STOCK

Through our work, we aim to position biodiversity at the heart of decision-making processes in the private sector. As a member of the Natural Capital Coalition, we supported the launch of the Natural Capital Protocol for business. This framework encourages businesses to examine and improve their understanding of their interactions with nature through the generation of trusted, credible, and actionable information.

Framing nature as a capital stock that, like other capitals must be invested in and maintained, can help businesses incorporate it more effectively into their decision-making processes. It can transform biodiversity from being a peripheral issue to a core concern, where risks to the natural capital stock on which businesses and their supply chains rely are considered alongside all other risks.

### MEASURING IMPACT: THE PROTEUS PARTNERSHIP

We work across a range of industry sectors to inform and empower key influencers. The Proteus Partnership, for example, is a collaboration with 11 mining and oil and gas companies to deliver the key global biodiversity data sets into development decisions. This year, we surveyed the impact of the partnership for the first time; our data is clearly being used to shape better development decisions for biodiversity.

### SCALING UP PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT ON BIODIVERSITY

Because of its complexity, the value of biodiversity can be difficult to quantify and to communicate effectively. As a result, it is often overlooked or poorly prioritised, despite its fundamental role in many environmental issues faced by the private sector.

Responding to this key challenge is central to our work. In partnership with BP, Oxford University and Fauna & Flora International we convened a meeting of leading business and biodiversity practitioners to explore how private sector engagement on biodiversity can be scaled up. This highlighted the need for a stronger business case for companies to engage on biodiversity. Key recommendations included greater engagement with governments and the finance community to incentivise changes to corporate behaviour, and the development of indicators to enable better understanding of impacts and how successfully companies are managing them.

### FIVE-YEAR PLAN: A MORE FOCUSED APPROACH FOR ASSESSMENT TOOL

Access to relevant and credible information is the foundation for any sound decision-making process. It's the principle behind our Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), which is used across the private sector to provide targeted biodiversity information which can be

used to guide strategy and planning. We launched a review of the tool as part of a new five-year business plan that will see IBAT become more user focused, targeted and better able to shape development decisions.





## CASE STUDY: BUILDING BIODIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY IN UGANDA

In Uganda, we have developed a pioneering approach which makes it easier to integrate natural capital into national accounting processes. Together with the National Planning Authority and the National Environment Management Authority, we developed a multi-purpose statistical framework assessing biodiversity and ecosystem variables such as land cover, ecosystem extent, forest products and flagship mammal species such as chimpanzees and elephants.

Using this approach, the integrated accounts revealed substantial reductions in the extent of natural ecosystems, particularly in forest ecosystems, but showed that 87% of the remaining fully-suitable chimpanzee habitat is currently protected. The findings will assist planners to identify where investments in Uganda's natural capital can help to realise opportunities, identify broader trends, and support assessment of progress towards Uganda's National Development and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

## PLANNING FOR PLACES: SUPPORTING AREA-BASED PLANNING AND INTEGRATED DECISION-MAKING

UNEP-WCMC promotes area-based conservation approaches aimed at protecting biodiversity, enhancing environmental performance and building resilience to climate change. We champion the wider use of spatial decision support tools to meet multiple environmental policy objectives, commitments and safeguards.

UNEP-WCMC facilitates participatory planning processes to help governments, communities and the private sector anticipate the consequences of their decisions for people and the planet.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, this five-year project focused on the development of innovative science-based tools to assess the vulnerability of protected areas to climate change. We designed adaptation strategies and built capacity in the region to use and implement these resources. The study also identified potential links between important protected areas, with a special focus on transboundary protected areas.

### ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Communities play a key role in protecting biodiversity and responding to environmental challenges. As part of the Climate-Resilient Communities and Protected Areas project, funded by the MAVA Foundation, we created a manual outlining approaches to community-based resilience and adaptation to climate change planning. The manual offers step-by-step guidance on initiating the planning process, engaging the local community and implementing action plans. This is an invaluable resource for organisations working with communities in and around protected areas.

### MAPPING BIODIVERSITY PRIORITIES

In partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute we developed and launched new guidance 'Mapping Biodiversity Priorities', which sets out a practical, science-based approach to spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritising conservation action. The guidance can be applied in any country but is particularly useful for those that are biodiversity-rich but resource-constrained. It shows that even the most data-poor countries can conduct effective national assessments of biodiversity in a short space of time and with minimal resources.

### INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We are working with our partners to promote resilience to climate change in some of the world's most vulnerable regions. For example, we collaborated with the International Union for Conservation of Nature to deliver the Protected Areas Resilient to Climate Change (PARCC) West Africa project.

### A NEW APPROACH FOR ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS

We convened a meeting of global multidisciplinary experts, including in economics, ecology and statistics. This pioneering gathering made progress towards understanding how information on species and their status such as abundance, occurrence and diversity can be organised using a natural capital accounting framework. This groundbreaking work resulted in a step-by-step approach enabling specialist agencies and research institutes to develop spatial accounts of species status, a vital component of natural capital accounting.



# SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR WILDLIFE

UNEP-WCMC works to ensure that use and trade of plants and animals is sustainable and does not negatively impact species and habitats. We support a range of global and regional initiatives focused on achieving this aim.

As part of our work with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), we help signatories to effectively implement the relevant conventions through scientific, policy and technical advice and tools. We also curate the CITES Trade Database – over 17 million records – on behalf of the CITES Secretariat.

UNEP-WCMC works with partners in the UN system and beyond to build the case for wildlife as a viable choice in the use of land, and to support countries with land-use decision-making, including protected areas management and connectivity.

## SHAPING THE DEBATE: UNEP-WCMC AT GLOBAL CITES MEETING

UNEP-WCMC provided specialist input to discussions at a global gathering of influencers and decision makers at the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES.

We presented on a range of issues at the Conference, including ape seizures, electronic permitting and regional science-based decision-making. We also worked with the European Union to prepare six proposals for amendments of the CITES Appendices. Of these, five proposals were adopted by the Parties and the sixth formed the basis for decisions relating to improved management of the Banggai cardinalfish, an endangered endemic species. We also presented an analysis of global patterns in the legal international trade in wildlife to the Ministerial segment of the Conference.

## SUPPORTING EUROPEAN UNION DECISION-MAKING ON WILDLIFE TRADE

We produced twenty assessments of the sustainable use of species within international trade and presented them to the European Union (EU) Scientific Review Group. This included reviews of numerous species of fauna and flora, an analysis of EU wildlife trade and the assessment of any emerging issues. Approximately 2,000 individual EU decisions were directly informed by these assessments.



## SHARING NOVEL REGIONAL INSIGHTS INTO WILDLIFE TRADE

We work with partners across regions to develop new understanding and disseminate key findings. For example, we collaborated with the Southern African Development Community to produce an analysis on Southern Africa’s wildlife trade. In the Amazonian region, we worked with the German development agency, GIZ, and with country members of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organisation to undertake the first comprehensive analysis of CITES trade for the region, recognised for its rich biodiversity.

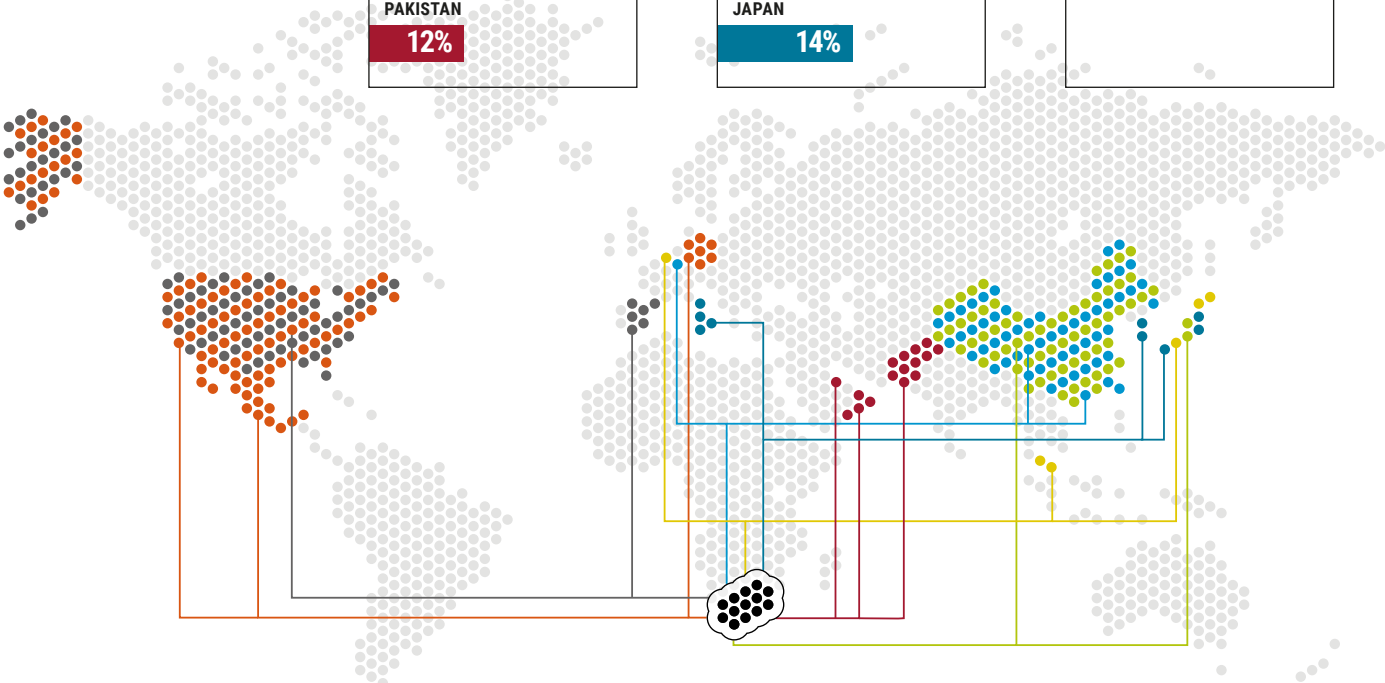
### Main destination countries of key animal commodities exported by South Africa 2005-2014

Excludes confiscated or seized specimens.  
Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC.

Live birds	
1,138,037 TOTAL	
OMAN	18%
BAHRAIN	13%
PAKISTAN	12%

Nile crocodile skin	
519,934 TOTAL	
ITALY	17%
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	17%
JAPAN	14%

Mammal trophies	
50,534 TOTAL	
UNITED STATES	56%
SPAIN	7%



Nile crocodile meat (kg)	
863,182 TOTAL	
HONG KONG	49%
BELGIUM	19%
CHINA	17%

Nile crocodile skin pieces	
293,886 TOTAL	
SINGAPORE	32%
JAPAN	24%
BELGIUM	14%

African elephant tusks (kg)	
50,768 TOTAL	
CHINA	65%
JAPAN	35%

Nile crocodile trophies	
19,237 TOTAL	
UNITED STATES	15%
MEXICO	13%
GERMANY	13%



TACKLING THE ILLEGAL  
TRAFFICKING OF GREAT APES

The illegal trafficking of great apes – chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos – has often gone undetected or unreported and is a sustained threat to their survival. In collaboration with the Great Apes Survival Partnership we pioneered a new digital initiative which is providing up-to-date regional information on ape seizures to inform responses to this threat. The Apes Seizure Database was launched at the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES and has become the home for records of great apes seized around the world.

This resource was developed in response to a recommendation in the 2013 UN Environment report Stolen Apes, the first study to assess the global traffic in great apes. It will be used to support monitoring and law enforcement efforts against wildlife trafficking, a US\$23 billion industry that also threatens elephants, rhinoceroses, pangolins, trees and other endangered species.

Knowledge

OVER 1  
MILLION

people from  
187 countries  
accessed our  
online products  
in 2016



DIGITAL INNOVATION:  
SHARING OUR INSIGHTS

The Apes Seizure Database is just one example of our informatics expertise. In 2016, our various web products were accessed over a million times and our digital outputs were accessed from 187 countries and by over six thousand organisations. Our most popular digital product - the Protected Planet Report saw a 32% increase in website visits.





# SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY OCEAN

Finding and sharing effective ways to manage the ocean and the growing demand for marine resources is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today. We support the delivery of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals by curating data, developing tools, providing evidence-based advice and through direct and tailored support to specific regional seas conventions.

UNEP-WCMC improves access and usability of ocean-related biodiversity and ecosystems data and demonstrates workable approaches to the integration of social and economic considerations to deliver a healthy ocean for healthy people.

## SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE OCEAN GOVERNANCE

UNEP-WCMC is at the forefront of identifying and sharing marine area-based planning practices to achieve the sustainable conservation and use of the world’s marine resources. We undertook the world’s most detailed review of marine planning activities, including the analysis of over 70 marine spatial planning processes. This analysis directly led to evidence-based global advice on effective marine spatial planning practices and underpinned an examination of effective cross-border planning approaches in Europe. It also provided the guiding principles which were integrated into a training course for marine area-based planning practitioners working across the world.

## MEASURING THE VALUE OF BLUE CARBON

The sequestering and storing of carbon by coastal and marine ecosystems (known as ‘blue carbon’) is a vital ecosystem service. As part of the Global Environment Facility Blue Forests Project, we are developing the Blue Carbon Toolkit: a digital platform to assess and validate coastal blue carbon habitats and obtain statistics on habitat extent, condition and quantity of carbon stored in the vegetation and soil. Both governments and the private sector will be able to use these tools to assess the impact development will have on the blue carbon stock of coastal marine habitats, helping them to make informed decisions on future development.

## MAPPING GLOBAL SEAGRASSES

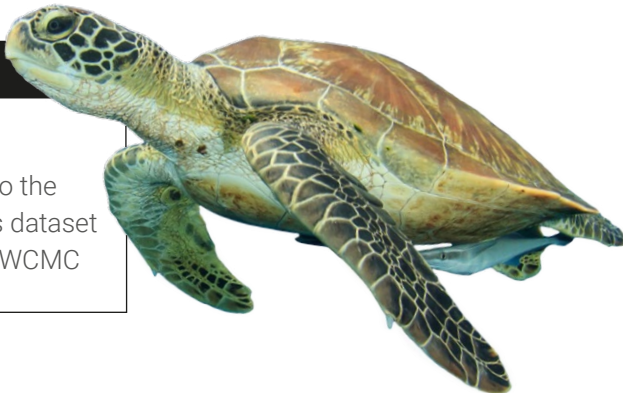
Seagrasses play an important role in marine ecosystems, providing nurseries for commercially-important species, helping to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration and functioning as useful indicators of ecosystem condition.

UNEP-WCMC led a collaboration to update the Global Distribution of Seagrasses dataset with spatial information on the location and extent of seagrasses around the world. The dataset includes an additional 12,970 square kilometres of seagrass occurrences and 8,887 new data points, with representation improved in the Mediterranean, the Northeast Atlantic and the Northeast Pacific. Understanding the locations of this vital habitat is essential to ensure that they are effectively managed and protected, and their capacity to deliver crucial ecosystem services is sustained.

Data

8,887

new data points were added to the Global Distribution of Seagrasses dataset by a collaboration led by UNEP-WCMC



## MAKING WAVES: FROM KNOWLEDGE TO REAL WORLD IMPACT

“I joined UNEP-WCMC as a post-doctoral fellow on a two-year contract on the NEREUS Program, an interdisciplinary initiative aimed at promoting and aiding the development of sustainable fisheries. I arrived at the Centre after completing my PhD with relatively little experience of project management, budgets or policy application. I soon learned these and I was increasingly trusted with more responsibilities and actively encouraged to broaden my skill set and think more about the real world application of my research. Following on from my post-doc, I was offered a permanent

position at the Centre and made project manager of our work on NEREUS, where I now supervise PhD and post-doctoral students.

Since I joined UNEP-WCMC, I’ve really learned to broaden my skill set and recognise the importance of teamwork. The support and opportunities offered here have helped me to understand better what to do, but also to develop a clear focus on why I’m doing it.”

Chris McOwen, Programme Officer





# SUPPORTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

UNEP-WCMC supports countries in implementing national obligations effectively to meet key international agreements on biodiversity and ecosystem services. We provide technical support to the secretariats, governance and advisory bodies of individual conventions as well as to the intergovernmental processes.

UNEP-WCMC is well placed to convene, compile, synthesise and communicate lessons learned and implications for developing and addressing biodiversity-related targets, as a contribution to achieving the Aichi targets, and the development of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda.

## SUPPORTING THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

We took part in the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cancun, Mexico alongside more than 4,000 delegates from 170 countries. Decisions adopted here highlighted our engagement in and contribution to supporting implementation of the Convention. This included the crucial role played by initiatives such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the World Database on Protected Areas and the Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness, as well as our work on mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning processes.

Key areas in which recognition of our work was specifically emphasised included protected areas, global indicators, synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and capacity building. Side events and other meetings in the margins of the Conference also provided us with the opportunity to showcase a broad range of work to governments and other organisations.



## UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

As part of its focus on the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2016 the UN Environment Assembly deliberated on two resolutions of direct relevance to UNEP-WCMC: cooperation, collaboration and synergies amongst biodiversity-related conventions; and the illegal wildlife trade. Our work was presented at the preceding science-policy forum which directly influenced the ocean and seas resolution. We also launched two important analyses on International Day for Biodiversity: The State of Biodiversity – a mid-term review of progress towards the Strategic Plan, produced for Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia.

## WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS

Our experts compile, manage and publish the official and most comprehensive global database on marine and terrestrial protected areas: the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The WDPA is a government-validated dataset used to track progress towards internationally agreed goals and targets and informs current and future policy decisions.

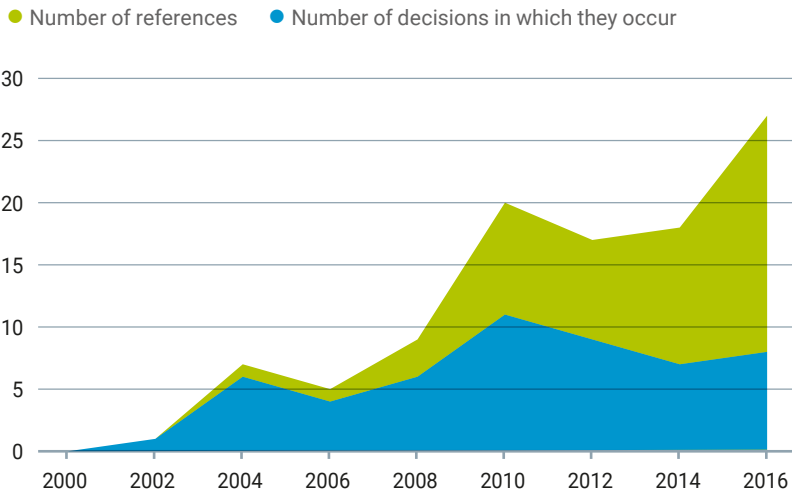
Accessed through Protected Planet, which is visited by more than 20,000 people per month, the database plays a central role in informing biodiversity indicators and assessments, as well as guiding conservation decisions and actions. Protected Planet provides the key statistics that underpin discussions and decisions in intergovernmental conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the Sustainable Development Goals and also in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

The WDPA also informs decision-making by institutions in the private sector, including companies such as Shell and Rio Tinto who use the database to avoid and manage operational impacts on protected areas. Similarly, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank Group recommends the use of the WDPA for the identification of Critical Habitats, which is a condition to be able to access financing. Without the WDPA, the assessment of risk related to natural resources would be less effective, efficient, and transparent.

## SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD

27 references to UNEP-WCMC led activities were cited in the decisions of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This year, the work of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership facilitated by UNEP-WCMC was particularly recognised.

References to UNEP-WCMC and Centre-led activities in the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity



Online resources

**OVER 20,000**

people visit Protected Planet per month



## WORKING WITH UN-REDD IN PARAGUAY

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) supports nationally-led REDD+ processes as agreed by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We continued building on over five years of collaboration with Paraguay's UN-REDD National Programme. We worked with partners to ensure that key decision makers had the technical tools and insight to support the design and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy that can achieve multiple objectives.

As part of this process, we developed tailored analyses on the benefits of REDD+ beyond carbon, as well as on its potential social and environmental risks. These analyses formed an integral part of the design process for Paraguay's REDD+ policies and measures and contributed to the development of its national safeguards approach. This work is also helping Paraguay to meet objectives in its 2030 National Development Plan, together with climate change mitigation and adaptation goals defined in the country's Nationally Determined Contribution and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions.

## SUPPORTING CONVENTIONS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Our Online Reporting System is used globally to support informed decision-making and the development of biodiversity knowledge. In 2016, we updated the system and deployed it to two new conventions and treaties: the Ramsar Convention and the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Both are successfully using the software to facilitate reporting from national Parties. All but one of the major biodiversity conventions now use the Online Reporting System.

This sophisticated web application streamlines the environmental reporting process and is designed to build capacity and assist countries in meeting their reporting obligations. By facilitating reporting, information is more accurate and up-to-date; this allows decision makers to identify trends more quickly and make more informed choices that account for biodiversity. The move towards online reporting also provides future opportunities for interoperability as well as improved efficiencies between convention secretariats and reporting Parties.

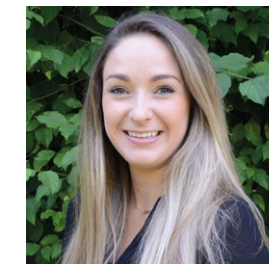
## WORKING AT UNEP-WCMC TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

Our team is made up of more than 100 staff with the skills, expertise and passion that make UNEP-WCMC a world leader in biodiversity knowledge. Everyone makes a difference here, from interns and early-career scientists to our experts who are recognised leaders in their field.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PEOPLE

Bringing together a varied mix of skills, knowledge and backgrounds, our international team of experts includes 21 nationalities from five continents. Our annual staff survey helps us to gather their feedback, identify key issues and learn how we can work more effectively.

- 94% of our staff feel they are exposed to interesting people and new ideas at the Centre
- Our staff identified doing work that interests them and feeling that their skills and experience are used well as the most important part of their job.



“Motivation and engagement of our employees is essential to the success of our organisation. Following on from

the development of a People Strategy in 2015, senior members of staff have benefited from leadership training. We've also learned from and shared our experiences with partners in countries across the world. The opportunity to build relationships with the international science community for mutual benefit is a strong driver here.”

Sophie Lloyd, a member of our People team on what makes UNEP-WCMC a great place to work

### MANAGING OUR OWN IMPACTS

As an international organisation, we strive to make a global impact. However, we want to make a difference close to home as well. Our active workplace Environment Committee is instrumental in ensuring that our impact on the environment remains a positive one.

### LISTENING TO OUR CLIENTS

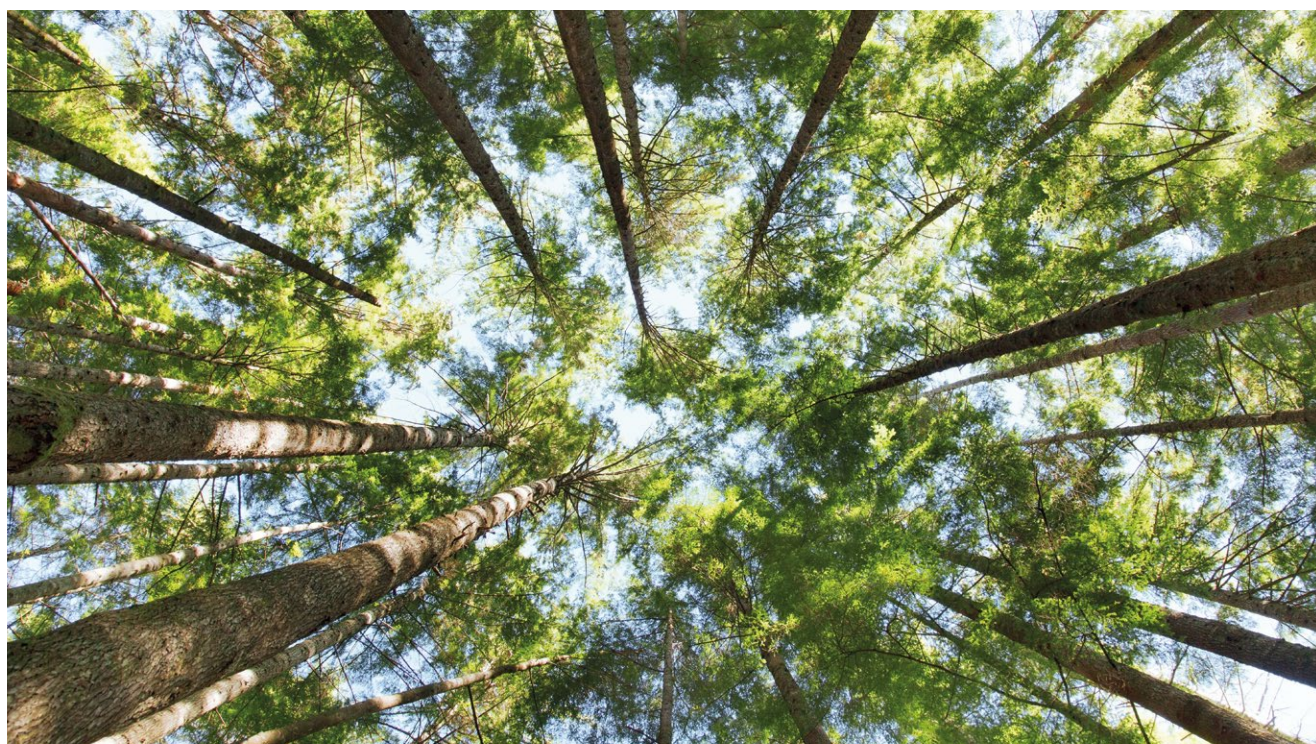
Our 2016 client survey provided valuable feedback on our work. As part of the survey, we asked clients to outline what we do well. In response, Valerie Hickey, Practice Manager of the World Bank's Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice described UNEP-WCMC as an “excellent technical training ground” and commented on our ability to “produce the finest young applied scientists with excellent senior applied biodiversity scientists too”.



“We've taken some additional steps towards greening our operations this year – the Centre reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 21.4% to 348 tonnes.

This was mainly attributable to a reduction in travel emissions, which are our largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We compensate for our climate impacts by investing in both local and international projects which deliver benefits for biodiversity whilst reducing carbon emissions.”

James Vause, Lead Economist and Deputy Chair of UNEP-WCMC Environment Committee





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF WCMC

This summary financial statement is a summary of information derived from the charity’s statutory financial statements and does not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of WCMC. A full copy of the trustees’ annual report and financial statements is available at WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK

The auditor has issued an unqualified report on the full annual financial statements and on the consistency of the trustees’ report with those financial statements.

Our team

Our international team of experts includes

21

nationalities from five continents



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 has been a year of consolidation to ensure stability within the Centre. We remained committed to building our expertise and continuing with investment decisions, level with the previous year.

Total income reported for the year was £8.9 million (US\$11 million) a decrease of 1 per cent compared to the previous year.

During 2016, total expenditure levels decreased by 3 per cent. Fixed overhead costs also reduced during the year, with decreases in staff costs, and operational savings.

The Centre’s balance sheet has improved, with reserves of £4.1 million (US\$5.1 million)

TOTAL INCOME 2016	£8.9 MILLION
TOTAL INCOME 2015	£9.0 MILLION
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2016	£8.7 MILLION
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2015	£9.0 MILLION

INCOME	2016		2015	
	£000's	US\$000's*	£000's	US\$000's**
Project income	8,454	10,425	8,377	12,368
Other in-kind contributions	425	524	604	892
Investment and rental income	62	77	70	103
Total income	8,941	11,026	9,051	13,363

EXPENDITURE	£000's	US\$000's*	£000's	US\$000's**
Project activities	8,699	10,728	8,998	13,284
Net movement in funds	242	298	53	79

BALANCE SHEET	2016		2015	
	£000's	US\$000's*	£000's	US\$000's**
Fixed assets	1,085	1,338	1,170	1,727
Current assets	5,883	7,254	5,941	8,771
Less: current liabilities	2,844	3,507	3,228	4,766
Net current assets	3,039	3,747	2,713	4,005
Total assets less liabilities	4,124	5,085	3,883	5,732
Representing: income and expenditure account				
Opening balance	3,882	4,787	3,829	5,652
Surplus for period	242	298	53	79
	4,124	5,085	3,882	5,731

\*US\$ exchange rate = 1.23321 as at 31 December 2016.  
\*\*US\$ = 1.4763 as at 31 December 2015



# UNEP-WCMC PUBLICATIONS 2016

UNEP-WCMC publishes high-quality scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals, as well as a wide range of other publications and outputs. This section lists the 55 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles published during 2016.

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