



**IUCN's 60th anniversary presentation
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- En 1948, el mundo estaba aún tratando de recuperarse de los estragos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.
- Ese mismo año la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas adoptó la Declaración Universal de los Derechos. La apertura del Observatorio Palomar con su telescopio gigante abrió nuestros ojos a un universo vasto.
- En ese ambiente de turbulencias, avances científicos y de esperanza por un mundo diferente, un dedicado grupo de hombres y mujeres se reunieron para asegurar que la naturaleza no quedara relegada.
- Le 5 octobre 1948, à Fontainebleau en France, l'extraordinaire organisation qui nous réunit ici est née. Je tiens à remercier le gouvernement français qui pour marquer cet anniversaire nous offre 60 hectares de la Forêt de Fontainebleau.
- Ce soir, nous posons la question : « Quel monde voulons-nous ? ». Sans vouloir répondre à la place des fondateurs de l'IUCN, ceux-ci nous ont laissé des indices au sujet du monde qu'eux-mêmes envisageaient il y a exactement 60 ans.
- Manifestement, ils voulaient un monde où la nature était appréciée, valorisée et surtout, protégée.
- The preamble of IUCN's 1948 Constitution highlights *"the preservation of ... [the] natural environment, which includes the Earth's renewable natural resources ... on which rests the foundation of human civilization."*
- They were already having debates on "protection" versus "conservation". They were discussing legislation to protect nature; scientific management of species; protected areas; international conventions and legislation.
- In the 1950's, when a post-war boom was fuelling consumption in the West, IUCN was setting up a Survival Service, to promote the protection of species threatened with extinction.
- The 50's were also an era when post-colonial history was being written, very often in blood. IUCN knew that this change had to be embraced rather than resisted and efforts to enlarge IUCN's base were slowly started. Holding its Third General Assembly in Caracas, in 1952 demonstrated IUCN's ties to developing countries.
- The Africa Special project may best define the early IUCN successes – and the type of approach that would be refined over time.

- This early 60's initiative combined science, on-the-ground experience, government involvement, and a first attempt to do things "with" rather than "for" Africans.
- The first international parks conference was also held around the same time in Seattle. People from all over the world came to realize that they were facing similar problems and could share similar solutions.
- The Species Survival Commission also published the first Red Data Book in the sixties, giving the world the most accurate picture possible of the state of species.
- In the 1970s IUCN began in partnership with UNESCO in drafting the World Heritage Convention.
- Around that time, IUCN's environmental law experts were instrumental in bringing key international conventions such as CITES, Ramsar and Migratory Species into force.
- In the late 70's and early 80's, our experts on protected areas developed a categories system that is now widely used.
- The 80's began with one of IUCN's greatest achievements, the **World Conservation Strategy**, prepared with WWF and UNEP.
- For the first time, conservationists and development experts came to a common understanding. *The World Conservation Strategy* did more than coin the term "sustainable development". It made everyone realize that conservation and development were inextricably linked and mutually dependent.
- In the 90's, IUCN launched **Caring for the Earth**, again with WWF and UNEP, and the **Global Biodiversity Strategy**, with the World Resources Institute. These helped to create momentum for the '92 Rio Earth Summit.
- Toward the end of the 90's we were granted official UN Observer status.
- Today, we are working together with many partners on major initiatives like Mangroves for the Future, the Water and Nature Initiative or Livelihoods and Landscape.
- Queridos amigos, es imposible celebrar en pocos minutos todo lo que se ha hecho en 60 años. Cualquier resumen no sería suficiente.
- Si los miembros fundadores de la UICN estuviesen con nosotros aquí esta noche, sin lugar a dudas estarían impresionados por el hecho de que prácticamente todos los gobiernos tienen ahora Ministros de Medio Ambiente; las empresas están integrando las cuestiones ambientales en su planificación; y muchas universidades cuentan con cursos dedicados a la ecología y a las ciencias ambientales.
- Les fondateurs de l'UICN seraient impressionnés par les progrès de la connaissance; par la quantité et la qualité des législations nationales et internationales; par l'augmentation des territoires désormais protégés
- Ils se réjouiraient aussi de voir que le mouvement qu'ils ont aidé à mettre sur pied n'est plus perçu comme le domaine de quelques visionnaires, mais bien comme une force qu'on ne peut ignorer.
- But they would also be shocked by how the pace of overall degradation has accelerated; by the scope and dramatic impacts of pollution and overexploitation.

- If we have traveled a long way in 60 years, the road ahead is steep and perilous. Because even if the levels of popular awareness are greater today than at any time before, we are running out of time fast.
- Our basic premise is that healthy ecosystems are the only hope to feed the world, adapt to impacts of global warming, and leave the next generations with a less hostile and violent world.
- To change the path we are on we need to turn ourselves into a true mass movement in favor of Nature. The alternative is to dwell on our divisions, to limit the scope of the dialogue and therefore let a tremendous opportunity slip through our fingers.
- I am convinced that the people who founded this organization six decades ago would want us to seize the opportunity to unite for the greatest cause of all, that of life itself.