

# IUCN at Lincoln University

Ann Brower\*

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is an international organisation dedicated to natural resource conservation. Founded in 1948, its headquarters is located near Geneva. The IUCN brings together 83 states, 108 government agencies, 766 non-governmental organisations and 81 international organisations and about 10,000 experts and scientists from countries around the world. For more information about IUCN's outreach programmes, see <http://www.connect2earth.org/> and for more info about IUCN itself, see <http://www.iucn.org>.

New Zealand member organisations are organised into a national executive committee consisting of one delegate from each of the following: Department of Conservation, New Zealand Conservation Authority, Landcare Research, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, New Zealand Ecological Society, WWF New Zealand, Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand, International Federation of Landscape Architects and Lincoln's very own Faculty of Environment, Society and Design.

IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies all over the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. The Union has three components: member organisations, six scientific commissions and a professional secretariat in Geneva. IUCN membership unites both states and non-governmental organisations. They set the policies of the Union, define its global programme of work and elect its global governing council at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Member organisations organise themselves nationally and regionally.

There are six commissions that assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with scientifically credible technical and policy advice on conservation issues. These commissions are:

- Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Commission on Education and Communication
- Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
- Commission on Environmental Law
- Species Survival Commission
- World Commission on Protected Areas

The Faculty of Environment, Society and Design has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature for well over a decade now. Last year for the first time, the Faculty made several initiatives to get students more involved in IUCN. First, we started a student club affiliated with IUCN. This new club, called the Lincoln International Friends of the Environment (LIFE), now has members, an executive committee, meeting times, and an ever-growing agenda. We even have our own logo!

In its first semester of existence, LIFE accomplished quite a bit – contributing to Conservation Week, inviting several notable speakers to campus and making submissions about conservation policy in New Zealand. Speakers we hosted spoke of collabora-

tion with local indigenous communities in conservation (Aroha Mead, global chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy), protected area development and conservation in deepest darkest Himalayan valleys and beyond (Bruce Jefferies, NZ vice-chair of World Commission on Protected Areas) and the tried and true effects of climate change on biodiversity (Dr Dave Kelly from Canterbury University). Next year, we're planning more speakers and maybe even a field trip or two. LIFE is a proxy member of the Commission on Education and Communication.

The Faculty also established two summer studentships for research related to the mission of IUCN. The studentships proved a popular option for keen advanced undergraduate students to apply for, so competition was fierce. The recipients of the First Inaugural Lincoln University IUCN Summer Research Studentships (FILUIUCNSRS for short) are Shaun Coffey and Bailey Peryman. Over the summer break they have been researching and writing reports on the Australian experience of collaborative governance of natural resources and how it relates to water management in Canterbury and the prospect of biodiversity offsets in New Zealand.

In sum, IUCN is becoming more active and important in the life of Lincoln University. We welcome one and all to join LIFE. To join, please email our very own 'Captain Planet' at [life.club.lu@gmail.com](mailto:life.club.lu@gmail.com)

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