



## **A CALL FOR INTEREST TO EVALUATE CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK BASED ON GLOBAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA (THE IUCN GREEN LIST PROGRAM)**

To Whom It May Concern:

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Green List program](#) is a recent initiative that aims to promote effective, equitable, and successful protected areas worldwide. By evaluating protected areas against a set of globally consistent criteria, the Green List program aims to improve the contribution that these areas make to the conservation of nature and associated social, economic, cultural, and spiritual values. Green List criteria benchmark good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes. More than 20 protected areas around the world have been added to the Green List since the launch of the program at the World Parks Congress in 2014.

In 2012, California completed the design and implementation of a science-based and stakeholder-driven [marine protected area \(MPA\) network](#). The MPA network, which spans California's entire 1,100-mile coastline and is composed of 124 individual MPAs, is the largest ecologically connected MPA network in North America and one of the largest in the world. California's MPA network is managed to achieve conservation goals specified in its founding legislation, the [Marine Life Protection Act](#). These goals have strong alignment with IUCN Green List criteria.

The California Natural Resources Agency, the California Ocean Protection Council, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are seeking to add California's MPA network to the IUCN Green List. Marine managers worldwide look to California for leadership in ocean and coastal management, and global recognition of local successes builds support for ongoing best management practices in California. Raising the international profile of California's MPA network will help ensure its durability and success for the future.

The first step in this process is the formation of the Expert Assessment Group for the Green List, or EAGL. In cooperation with IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, the IUCN Secretariat, and Accreditation Services International (an independent reviewer), the EAGL evaluates candidate Green List sites against IUCN criteria. The EAGL is at the heart of the IUCN Green List process and must be established in every participating jurisdiction. EAGL members are selected by IUCN and Accreditation Services International.

### ***Qualifications for EAGL membership***

Significant effort will be made to ensure that the EAGL for California's MPA network equitably reflects the diversity of California's ocean stakeholders. EAGL members should have 5+ years of experience related to MPAs and/or California's marine ecosystems and resources, including but not limited to experience in **one or more** of the following:

- MPA management and decision-making in California or elsewhere
- MPA-related outreach and education, especially in partnership with one of California's 14 local MPA collaboratives
- Recreational or commercial fishing
- Scuba diving, boating, or other ocean recreation
- Traditional and cultural tribal knowledge/uses of coast and ocean resources
- Scientific research related to MPAs and/or California nearshore ecology
- Sustainable development or environmental issues at a management, operational, technical, policy or governance level
- Coastal community or economic development

### ***EAGL member responsibilities***

- Receive training on the IUCN Green List program. Training for EAGL members will be held in early August in Sacramento, CA (exact dates to be determined). Attendance at this training is mandatory. Members will be reimbursed for all travel expenses.
- Evaluate California's MPA network against Green List criteria in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures, and using evidence submitted by various agencies and stakeholders as well as personal knowledge/expertise
- Recommend California's MPA network for addition to the Green List if it is found to comply with Green List criteria
- Work with representatives of the IUCN Green List program, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and Accreditation Services International as appropriate

Serving on the EAGL for California's MPA network will provide opportunities to: directly contribute to advancing the effectiveness and equitability of MPA management, bring your personal and professional expertise to bear on ocean issues; network with global innovators in marine science, management, and conservation; and become part of a growing global community of protected area practitioners and stakeholders. It is important to note that EAGL members are expected to work in a voluntary capacity, and according to their expertise without directly representing any organization. Time commitment will be approximately 6-8 days per year for two years.

If you are interested in serving on the EAGL for California's MPA network, please submit the following information to [greenlist@iucn.org](mailto:greenlist@iucn.org) by **June 15, 2018**:

- A short statement (maximum of 250 words) describing why you are interested in joining the EAGL and why you believe you are a good fit based on the qualifications listed above
- Current resume or curriculum vitae, if available
- Completed self-evaluation of expertise table (Appendix 1)

The World Commission on Protected Areas and Accreditation Services International will select a group of 5-15 individuals to compose the EAGL. Selected individuals will be notified by **July 15, 2018**.

We thank you for your interest in this program.

Sincerely,



**John Laird**

*Jurisdictional Representative*

California Secretary for Natural Resources



**Mike Wong**

*IUCN Representative*

Regional Vice-Chair North America

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

**APPENDIX 1: Self-evaluation of expertise**

(applicants please mark the applicable levels)

Experience related to MPAs and/or California's marine ecosystems and resources:

	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	Over 15 years
MPA management and decision-making in California or elsewhere			
MPA-related outreach and education, especially in partnership with one of California's 14 local MPA collaboratives			
Recreational or commercial fishing			
Scuba diving, boating, or other ocean recreation			
Traditional and cultural tribal uses/knowledge of coast and ocean resources			
Scientific research related to MPAs and/or California nearshore ecology			
Sustainable development or environmental issues at a management, operational, technical, policy or governance level			
Coastal community or economic development			

Other skills:

	Basic	Medium	Strong
Knowledge of California's MPA network			
Network of regional contacts			
Analytical skills			
Oral communication skills			
Written communication skills			
Skills in conflict resolution and negotiation			