

Julia Marton-Lefèvre

Independent Advisor on Environment and Sustainable Development

Julia stepped down as Director General of [IUCN](#) (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in January 2015, where she served as head the world's largest international conservation membership organisation from **2007 to 2015**.

Prior positions have included Rector of the UN-mandated University for Peace ([UPEACE](#)); a graduate level university whose main campus is in Costa Rica. She served as Rector from **2005 to 2006**.

From **1997 to 2005** she was Executive Director of LEAD, [Leadership for Environment and Development International](#), a programme established by The Rockefeller Foundation, focused on training mid-career professionals from all parts of the world in leadership skills in sustainable development-

From **1986 to 1997** she was Executive Director of the [International Council for Science \(ICSU\)](#). ICSU is a respected non-governmental organisation devoted to scientific cooperation for the benefit of humanity. From 1978 to 1985 Julia was Deputy Executive Director of ICSU.

From **1974 to 1977** Julia was Programme Specialist in UNESCO's Environmental Education Programme.

Julia has given hundreds of speeches throughout her career, written articles, *op ed* pieces, and contributed to several books. Including co-editing the *Agenda for Science and Environment and Development*, (Cambridge University Press 1991), *Striga, Biology and Control* (ICSU Press 1984).

Examples of published articles includes *Biodiversity Is Our Life*, *Science*, March 2010; *IUCN's encounter with 007: safeguarding consensus for conservation*, *Oryx*, 2017.

She is in the process of completing a book about her professional journey focusing on leadership and the search for ways of influencing policies to achieve the goals of sustainability.

At present, she is focusing on using her broad experience to advise organisations achieve their goals. She chairs several international groups: the Executive Committee of the [Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement](#); the Donor Council of the [Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund](#); the Board of Trustees of [Bioversity International](#), and the Strategic Advisory Council to [the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations \(IDDRI\)](#).

Her links with academic institutions are with [Yale University](#) where she spent 2016 as the Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar. She continues her links with Yale at the [School of Forestry and Environmental Studies](#) by teaching and continuing to mento students. as a Fellow of Davenport College, and as a board member of [the](#)

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[Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative](#). She also serves on the Advisory Boards of [Oxford University's James Martin School](#), the [Global Institute of Sustainability](#) (Arizona State University) and the [International Risk Governance Center](#) based at the Federal Polytechnique Institute in Lausanne (EPFL). She recently completed a 10-year term as a founding member of the board of the Geneva-based [Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies](#), and remains a member of the advisory board of the Institute's [Center for Environmental Studies](#).

Julia's other board memberships include the [Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation](#); [the Global Footprint Network](#), the [Turkana Basin Institute](#), the [Oceanographic Institute- Prince Albert 1st of Monaco Foundation](#), and the advisory board of [TEEB](#) (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity).

Julia has engaged with the private sector in an advisory capacity for many years, including to the Dow Chemical Company, Coca Cola, and BNP Paribas. She has just completed her term as chair of the independent Advisory Board to the [Sustainable Biomass Program](#), advising seven large energy companies, and she is a member of the Critical Friends advisory group to the CEO of [Veolia Environment S.A.](#)

Julia received the [AAAS](#) Award for International Cooperation in Science; and has been honoured as a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the government of France; as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre de Saint-Charles by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. She also received the ProNatura Award from the government of Hungary and the Presidential citation from the Republic of Korea. She is an elected member of the [World Academy of Art and Science](#) and the [World Future Council](#) and the [Royal Geographical Society](#).

In 2019 Julia is being recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award of the [National Council for Science and the Environment](#), and as an Officer de l'Ordre National de Mérite by the President of France.

She was born in Hungary, educated in the United States and in France, and having lived in several continents, considers herself a global citizen.

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