



CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

71st General Assembly

25 – 27 April 2025, Doha, Qatar

Mediation

Draft Agenda

The **71st General Assembly of the CIC** will take place in **Doha, Qatar**, a city built on diplomacy, dialogue, and exchange. **Mediation** is the central theme of this year’s gathering—how hunters act as mediators in the field, balancing conservation with land use, working alongside **foresters, landowners, and the agricultural sector**. At the same time, hunting itself requires mediation—navigating public perception, engaging with journalists, policymakers, and civil society to ensure sustainable use is understood and valued.

Day 1: Mediation in Hunting and Conservation

Hunters are on the ground where conservation and land use intersect. Whether **resolving conflicts between agriculture and wildlife, shaping sustainable use policies, or building cooperation between sectors**, their role as mediators is critical. This day will focus on **how hunting contributes to conservation diplomacy and stakeholder dialogue**.

Day 2: Falconry – Tradition, Culture, and Conservation

On **Day 2**, the focus shifts to **falconry**, a **UNESCO-recognized Intangible Cultural Heritage** and a long-standing tradition in the region. **Doha, a global centre for falconry, provides the perfect setting** to explore its **cultural significance, conservation role, and future in a changing world**.

This year’s theme builds on last year’s **“Bridges to Biodiversity”** and aligns with the **CIC 2030 Strategic Plan**, reinforcing CIC’s commitment to **collaboration, sustainable use, and hunter-led conservation**.

Program – Day 1, Friday, 25 April 2025

8:00 – 17:00	Registration
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p><i>Opening Address:</i> H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saud Al-Thani, <i>CIC Head of Delegation, Qatar</i></p> <p><i>Welcoming Address:</i> Dr. Phillip Harmer, <i>President of the CIC</i></p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony:</i> Sebastian Winkler, <i>Director General of the CIC</i></p>
10:00 -10:20	<p>Diplomatically Engaging with Diverging Opinions</p> <p><i>Introduced by:</i></p> <p>H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saud Al-Thani, <i>CIC Head of Delegation, Qatar</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Benedikt Franke, <i>CEO of the Munich Security Conference</i></p> <p><i>Qatar Government Representative (TBC)</i></p>
10:20 -10:40	Coffee Break
10:40 -11:00	<p>Mediation and the Political Challenges to Hunting</p> <p><i>Introduced by:</i></p> <p>Charlie Jacoby, <i>CEO Fieldsports Channel</i></p> <p><i>Keynote Speaker:</i></p> <p>Lord Benjamin Mancroft, <i>3rd Baron Mancroft</i></p> <p><i>Member of the UK House of Lords, Notable Political Advocate for Hunting and Shooting.</i></p> <p><i>Concluding Remarks by:</i></p> <p>Ed Swales, <i>Founder and Chairman, Hunting Kind</i></p>
11:00 -11:20	<p>Mediation in a Changing Environment</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. Zoltán Kovács, <i>Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Relations of Hungary</i></p> <p>Ivan Calabuig-Williams, <i>Political Affairs Adviser (TBC)</i></p>
11:20 -12:00	<p>Mediating the Future of Hunting: Engaging Stakeholders for Lasting Solutions</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Tristan Breijer, <i>Director of Communications and Public Affairs, CIC</i></p> <p><i>Keynote:</i> Jurgen Tack, <i>CEO of the European Landowners' Organization</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> Carl Von Eckermann, <i>CEO, Natlink</i></p> <p>Niels Søndergaard, <i>Director of Wildlife Management & Lobbyist, Danish Hunting Association</i></p> <p>Sue Reid, <i>Special Investigations Editor, Daily Mail, UK</i></p>

12:00 -12:15	<p>Hunting as a Diplomatic Platform: Strengthening Relations and Upholding Traditions</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i></p> <p>Pierre Dubreuil, <i>CEO for the National Estates of Chambord and Rambouillet</i></p>
12:15 -13:30	Lunch
13:30 -14:15	<p>Panel Q&A—Diplomacy, Mediation, and Hunting: Building Alliances for Conservation</p> <p><i>Moderator: Charlie Jacoby, CEO Fieldsports Channel</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <p>H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saud Al-Thani, <i>CIC Head of Delegation, Qatar</i></p> <p>Benedikt Franke, <i>CEO, Munich Security Conference</i></p> <p>Dr. Zoltán Kovács, <i>Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Relations of Hungary</i></p> <p>Thierry de l'Escaille, <i>Executive President, European Landowners' Organization</i></p> <p>Pierre Dubreuil, <i>CEO, National Estates of Chambord and Rambouillet</i></p>
14:15-14:40	Coffee break
14:40 -15:10	<p>Young Opinion Session</p> <p><i>Report Back on Global Youth for Sustainable Use (GYSU) and Other YO Activities</i></p> <p>Krzysztof Kowalewski, <i>President of CIC Young Opinion Working Group</i></p> <p>YO Research Award</p> <p>Alexandros Karabalis, <i>Vice-President of CIC Young opinion</i></p>
20:00	<p>Welcome Dinner</p> <p>Edmond Blanc Award</p> <p><i>Location: TBC</i></p> <p><u>Dress code: Hunters Elegant</u></p>

Program – Day 2, Saturday, 26 April 2025

Falconry & Members Assembly

9:00 – 9:30	<p>Falconry: Hawking Practices and Cultural Heritage Worldwide</p> <p><i>Introduced by:</i></p> <p>Dr. Antje Katrin Bednarek</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i></p> <p>Mark Upton, <i>President of International Association for Falconry (IAF)</i></p>
09:30 –9:50	<p>Falconry in Arabia</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Yousuf Ibrahim Al Hamar, <i>Director of Wildlife Development Department, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, State of Qatar (TBC)</i></p> <p>H.E. Majid Ali Al Mansouri, <i>Emirates Falconers' Club and former President of IAF</i></p>
9:50 – 10:20	<p>Falconry and Wildlife Conservation: Protecting Habitats and Prey Species</p> <p><i>Introduced by:</i></p> <p>Dr. Francis Buner, <i>CIC Applied Science Division, Small Game Specialist Group & Head of Wildlife Recovery at GWCT</i></p> <p><i>Speaker:</i></p> <p>Representative from Al-Gannas Qatari Society (TBC)</p> <p>Dr. Dominik Fischer, <i>President of European Association of Avian Veterinarians</i></p>
10:20 - 10:40	<p>Coffee Break</p>
10:40-11:25	<p>Panel Q&A—Falconry and Hunting: Pathways to Safeguard Our Shared Heritage</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Antje Katrin Bednarek</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p>Representative from Al-Gannas Qatari Society (TBC)</p> <p>Dr. Dominik Fischer, <i>President of European Association of Avian Veterinarians</i></p> <p>Mark Upton, <i>President of International Association for Falconry (IAF)</i></p> <p>Yousuf Ibrahim Al Hamar, <i>Director of Wildlife Development Department, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, State of Qatar (TBC)</i></p>
11:25 - 12:00	<p>Al-Gannas Qatari Society-Falconers and Falcons</p>
12:00-13:30	<p>Lunch</p>
13:30-13:50	<p>Moving into the General Assembly, Referring to Written Documentation</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Sebastian Winkler, <i>CIC Director General</i></p> <p>Report back from CIC Divisions:</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Klaus Hackländer, <i>Division President, CIC Applied Science</i></p> <p>Bernardin Malou, <i>Division President, CIC Culture</i></p>

	Dr. Max Graf Schaffgotsch, <i>Deputy Division President, CIC Policy & Law</i>
13:50-14:10	<p>Perspectives from CIC's Working Groups</p> <p><i>Moderator: Bernardin Malou, President of CIC Culture Division</i></p> <p><i>Interventions:</i></p> <p>Dr. Thabang Teffo, <i>Head of the Responsible Resource Management Department- Southern African Wildlife College, Member of CIC Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Working Group</i></p> <p>Beatrix Bán, <i>President of the CIC Artemis Working Group</i></p> <p>Dr. Antje Katrin Bednarek</p> <p>H.E. Sheikh Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, <i>Young Opinion, Qatar</i></p>
14:10 - 14:30	<p>Secretariat Report Back</p> <p><i>Moderator: Sebastian Winkler, CIC Director General</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Arno Wimpffen, <i>CIC Deputy Director General</i></p> <p>Thomas Paulic, <i>Programme Officer</i></p> <p>Tristan Breijer, <i>Director of Communications and Public Affairs</i></p>
14:30-15:00	<p>Report Back on Sustainable Use Communication & Club 200</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Wilfried Pabst, <i>CIC Advisor</i></p> <p>Stephan Wunderlich, <i>Communications & Policy Coordinator</i></p> <p>Tristan Breijer, <i>Director of Communications and Public Affairs</i></p>
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 - 16:00	<p>Moving into Business</p> <p><i>Moderator: Sebastian Winkler, CIC Director General</i></p> <p><u>Report of the President and Director General</u></p> <p><u>Divisions and Working Group Reports</u></p> <p><u>Membership Report</u></p> <p>Arno Wimpffen, <i>CIC Deputy Director General</i></p> <p><u>Adopting CIC Resolutions & Positions</u></p> <p>Position on International Hunting - Steffen Koch, <i>CIC Head of Delegation, Germany</i></p> <p>Resolutions: 1. Wildlife-based Economy & 2. Falconry – Thomas Public, <i>CIC Programme Coordinator</i></p> <p><u>Reports of the Treasurer and Auditors</u></p> <p>David Plaz, <i>CIC Treasurer</i></p> <p>Natalia van Endert Mensdorff-Pouilly & Alexander Stärker, <i>CIC Auditors</i></p>
16:00- 16:30	<p>Celebrating the Past and the Future</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies: Arno Wimpffen, CIC Deputy Director General</i></p>

	Award Ceremony Flag Ceremony and Closing Words
18:00	Presidential Reception for Donors <i>Location: Residence of the Spanish Embassy</i> <u>Dress code: Hunter's Elegant</u>
19:00	Welcome Drink Gala Dinner CIC Wildlife Photo Prize <i>Opening Address: Javier Carbajosa Sánchez, Spanish Ambassador to Qatar</i> <i>Hunting Auction</i> <i>Auctioneer: Tristan Breijer, Director of Communications and Public Affairs</i> <u>Dress Code: Black Tie</u>