



## Fadi Ghanem

Candidate Statement for IUCN Councilor – West Asia Region

With over three decades of service at the intersection of environmental leadership, sustainable development, civic engagement, and media, I have dedicated my life to advancing nature conservation and empowering communities. My mission is grounded in a firm belief that collaboration, innovation, and grassroots advocacy are essential to addressing today's global environmental challenges—particularly in the diverse and dynamic region of West Asia.

Born on March 23, 1970, I bring a multidisciplinary approach shaped by academic qualifications in Business Computer Science, Accounting & Auditing, and specialized training in NGO capacity building. This foundation has guided my journey of public service, environmental advocacy, and business innovation.

Currently, I serve as Advisor to the **Minister of Agriculture** in Lebanon, Chairman of the **IUCN National Committee of Lebanon**, and President of the **GHADI Organization**—roles through which I have led national and regional initiatives in environmental policy, education, and community engagement. Since 1995, I have worked to merge entrepreneurial expertise with environmental stewardship through platforms like **Ghadi News**, advancing education, media outreach, scientific research, and awareness campaigns.

My professional background also includes serving as Managing Partner and Co-founder of ISB Group SARL and UBSCO SARL, where I contributed to the development of financial consulting in Lebanon. As Chair of the Media Group, I oversee influential media outlets such as [www.althaer.com](http://www.althaer.com) and [www.ghadinews.net](http://www.ghadinews.net), which advocate for critical environmental and societal issues.

In 2016, I was privileged to be appointed District Governor of **Lions Clubs International** – District 351 (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Palestine). This experience deepened my dedication to civic service and expanded my regional leadership network. Since 1999, I have actively participated in international forums and sustainability dialogues, reinforcing my commitment to global environmental cooperation.

I have spearheaded nationwide programs in collaboration with the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and regional stakeholders, focusing on biodiversity conservation, reforestation, climate adaptation, and environmental education. My work has been supported through strategic partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with government institutions, universities, municipalities, and business chambers—demonstrating a steadfast belief in the transformative power of alliances.

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### **Strategic Priorities If Elected:**

As a candidate for IUCN Councilor representing West Asia, I am committed to promoting nature conservation and sustainable development through a focused and results-oriented agenda. My top priorities include:

- 1. Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Expanding Protected Areas**  
Advocating for traditional and community-led models such as the “HIMA” initiative to safeguard natural ecosystems, cultural heritage, and the livelihoods of local populations.
- 2. Strengthening Environmental Media and Advocacy**  
Leveraging my background in environmental journalism to raise public awareness, shape policy, and promote responsible environmental practices.
- 3. Advancing Climate Resilience and Water Security**  
Supporting regional cooperation and nature-based solutions to address desertification, climate-induced risks, and water resource challenges.
- 4. Empowering Youth and Promoting Environmental Education**  
Investing in youth leadership programs and environmental education to cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders.
- 5. Integrating Sustainability into National Development Agendas**  
Ensuring that environmental protection is mainstreamed into national policy, planning, and governance structures.

I will also actively support IUCN’s **30x30 Initiative**, aiming to protect 30% of the world’s land and oceans by 2030. Through inclusive partnerships and collaborative governance, I believe we can achieve this bold vision.

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### **A Vision for the Future:**

My leadership journey—across civil society, government, and the private sector—has prepared me to serve as a catalyst for environmental progress at IUCN. I will continue to champion nature-based solutions, expand protected areas, combat land degradation, promote sustainability innovation, and ensure that conservation remains a core pillar of socio-economic development across West Asia and beyond.

With integrity, transparency, and shared purpose, I seek to contribute meaningfully to the IUCN Council and to the future we all aspire to build—a future where people and nature thrive together.