

PERSÁNYI, Miklós (Hungary)

Current employment and/or position/title:

Director General of Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden, Hungary

Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

Veteran chief executive of government and public institutions with a high level of administration experience and organizational skills, twenty years of practice in day-to-day running and long-term leadership of large conservation oriented organizations. A strong track record in organizational strategy and development, including results-based management and strategic planning. Creative and product oriented manager with intersectoral, interdisciplinary and lateral thinking.

Extensive experience and knowledge of the conservation, as well as the environmental and sustainable development agenda, environmental policy experience on local, national and international organizational levels, including employment in government and one of the major IFIs.

High level advisory, consultancy and training experience in zoo and conservation management on four continents, personal experience gained by visiting more than 500 national parks, protected areas, conservation centres, zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens.

Highly developed diplomatic and public policy skills, good capacities in maintaining relations with clients, partners and stakeholders, first-rate training, communication and presentation abilities and a wide range of products developed for environmental awareness raising.

Extensive network and travel experience on five continents including all countries of transition economies of Europe and Asia and countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa and also in the USA.

Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:

Education

- M.Sc. Biology, M.A. Communication, ELTE University of Sciences, Budapest
- M.P.S. Environmental Engineering, Gödöllő University of Agriculture
- Ph.D. Political Science specializing in environmentalism and environmental policy
- Professional Development in Natural Resource Management, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA
- Languages: professional Hungarian and English, basic conversational level Russian and German

Work Profile

- 1994–2003 and since 2007 Director General, Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden
- 2003–2007, Minister for the Environment and Water of Hungary
- 1991–1994, Senior Environmental Specialist for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London U.K
- 1986–1990, Public Administration Officer, director of departments in environmental agencies of the Hungarian Government (policy analysis, awareness raising, education)
- 1983–1986, Researcher on environmentalism and environmental policy
- Before 1983, Teacher of biology in high school, organizer of youth and environmental civil actions