

DECISION OF THE BUREAU – 95<sup>th</sup> MEETING – 2 JULY 2021

(Approved unanimously by email correspondence on 6 July 2021)

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*Having considered* the work undertaken by the Working Group established by the President during the 104<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IUCN Council (22 June 2021) with the participation of the Representative of the Host Country, the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer, and the Secretariat in order to identify solutions allowing IUCN Members who cannot attend the Congress due to the pandemic to participate in decisions of the Members' Assembly,

Decides by consensus to recommend the IUCN Council to adopt the following draft decision:

The IUCN Council,

*Desirous* to be responsive to the concerns raised by IUCN Members that not all Members will have equal opportunity to travel to the Congress venue due to the pandemic;

*Mindful* to bring closure to the consideration of alternative formats of the Congress in order to allow all the Secretariat, the Host Country, other constituent parts of IUCN and its partners to use the short time before Congress to prepare for a successful event,

*In light* of the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic caused by Covid-19,

*Recognizing that* not all IUCN Members will have equal opportunity to travel to Marseille in September 2021, and

*Concerned in particular* for those Members of IUCN from the same Region or Country, as well as Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, who may be particularly affected by this situation and unable to travel and participate in the World Congress and meeting of the Members' Assembly,

Decides:

**A. Voting for elections**

1. That, in order to hold elections during Congress in the most secure way possible under conditions that apply equally to all IUCN Members, the elections be held by an online vote open to all IUCN Members eligible to vote, in accordance with Regulation 94, paragraphs c. to e. and under the supervision of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer.
2. To request the Secretariat to adapt IUCN's online voting system normally used for voting between sessions of the Congress, to the requirements of elections, under the supervision of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer.
3. That the vote on elections will be open from 4 September 2021 at 7 AM UTC and close on 7 September 2021 at 6 PM UTC.
4. That if a 2<sup>nd</sup> round for the election of the President is needed in accordance with Rule 81, paragraph (i.), the Election Officer (or Deputy Election Officer) will open an additional online vote on 8 September 2021 at a time to be determined by

her/him, which shall be closed 24 to 30 hours later in time for the election results to be announced before the close of Congress on 10 September 2021.

5. To request the Secretariat to organize a presidential candidates' debate by broadcasting or recording a virtual debate and post the recording on the Congress website prior to the vote or onsite in person as part of the meeting of the National and Regional Committees on 3 September 2021 (livestreamed and accessible to all Congress participants).

#### **B. Voting on motions and decision items other than elections**

6. That motions and all other decision items, except elections, will be voted upon at the Members' Assembly by the duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members who may hold proxies from IUCN Members not present onsite, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in order to ensure that Resolutions may timely contribute to other valued environmental decision making processes and that the Marseille outcomes be finalized at the Congress.

#### **C. Contact Groups**

7. To agree, as set out in Council document C104/2.1/1 and as elaborated in Council decision C104/4 that Contact Groups be organized virtually to allow Members off site to participate in the discussion of content of motions.

#### **D. Draft Congress Agenda**

8. That the Revised Draft Congress Agenda will be modified to take into account that elections will be held online.

Decides to focus all further efforts on the implementation of the decisions already taken, especially for the Secretariat, the Host Country and relevant bodies, and to make no more changes to the structure or form of Congress except in the event of force majeure.