

From: [DE WEVER Luc](#)
To: [+IUCN Councillors 2016-2020](#)
Subject: FOR INFORMATION - Conference call of the Bureau of the IUCN Council 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC
Date: 20 January 2020 16:07:33
Attachments: [Annex 1 - Subnational authorities in IUCN.pdf](#)
[Annex 2 - Council decision C97 11 Nominations Committee.pdf](#)
[Annex 3 - Letters from Asia and French Committees and draft replies.pdf](#)

Dear Council members,

Please be informed that, today, the President has convened an urgent conference call of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC, with the agenda as explained in his message to the Bureau, of which you will find a copy below.

Any comments from members of Council who are not members of the Bureau related to the items on the proposed agenda of the Bureau meeting shall be shared with the Bureau provided they reach the President or the Secretary to Council before the beginning of the Bureau meeting (*i.e.* 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC)." ([Rules of Procedure of the Bureau](#))

Following the Bureau meeting, Council members will receive the Bureau decision(s), if any, for validation through the no-objection procedure provided in Regulation 58.

Best regards,

Luc De Wever

Senior Governance Manager

Secretary to Council

Union Development Group (UDG)

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

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From: President - IUCN

Sent: 20 January 2020 09:58

To: +IUCN BUREAU 2017-2020

Subject: URGENT IUCN Bureau conference call today or tomorrow - PLEASE FILL IN THE DOODLE POLL

Dear members of the Bureau,

I would like to convene a meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council as soon as possible in order to:

- 1. discuss Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN;**
- 2. take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee;**
- 3. discuss the draft response to the French National Committee and Asia Regional Members Committee concerning their appeals in the context of the motions process.**

Please fill in the Doodle poll at your earliest possible convenience:

<https://doodle.com/poll/uv7dt2bpi2qh2qxf>

<i>Location</i>	Option 1	Option 2
HQ / Stockholm	12:00	14:00
Beijing	19:00	21:00
Colombo	16:30	18:30

<i>New York</i>	06:00	08:00
<i>Apia</i>	01:00 (+1)	03:00 (+1)
<i>Brasilia</i>	08:00	10:00
<i>Ramallah / Johannesburg</i>	13:00	15:00
<i>Dakar / UTC (GMT)</i>	11:00	13:00
<i>La Paz</i>	07:00	09:00

Regarding agenda item 1:

It appears to me from discussions in several Council meetings, that there is broad consensus to submit a Council motion to the 2020 Congress with proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes enabling Subnational Governments to apply for IUCN Membership. The Working Group led by Councillors Amran Hamzah and Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheeri has prepared a proposal which was subsequently presented to all IUCN Members during the Regional Conservation Forums and online.

The issue has been under discussion in IUCN Congresses since Barcelona 2008. In the meantime, in many places in the world, Subnational Governments have continued to take a more proactive role in conserving biodiversity. We therefore must conclude this matter at this forthcoming Congress, hopefully with a positive result.

I would like to discuss with you Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN.

Pending the submission of a refined proposal in the coming days/weeks, I attach herewith the proposal as approved by Council in March 2019 for the purpose of consulting IUCN Members (Annex 1).

Regarding agenda item 2:

According to the Council decision C97/11 adopted during Council's 97th meeting in October 2019 (Annex 2), the Vice Presidents acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c), after several rounds of discussion, made an unanimous recommendation to the Bureau on 30 December 2019 for the membership of the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee's role is to prepare a recommendation to Council regarding the individuals to be nominated by Council during its meeting on 10 February 2020, as candidates for election by the 2020 Congress as President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs. As the Committee needs to begin its work without delay, the Bureau will meet and take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee according to the Council decision C97/11.

Regarding agenda item 3:

In December 2019, I received letters from, respectively, the Chair of the Asia Regional Members Committee, the Chair of the French National Committee and the government of Spain, with concerns about the result of the appeals process regarding the motions submitted by their Members.

During a conference call on 17 December 2019, the CPC, among others, prepared a response to these letters. Both letters and the draft response prepared by the CPC are attached herewith as Annex 3.

As soon as the date and time of the Bureau meeting will be confirmed, a copy of this message will be forwarded to all Council members for information and comments as required by the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau.

With thanks and best regards,

ZHANG Xinsheng

President

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

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IUCN
WORLD
CONSERVATION
CONGRESS
Marseille
2020
11-19 JUNE

Including Subnational Governments in IUCN membership

Proposal of the Working Group established pursuant to WCC-2016-Res-003, approved by the IUCN Council (decision C/96/15, March 2019) for the purpose of consulting the IUCN Members online and during the Regional Conservation Forums to be held in 2019

The proposal is to create a new (third) sub-category for Subnational Governments within the “Government House” (Category A), in addition to the State Members and the Government Agency Members.¹

Definition

Subnational Governments are all levels of government with mandate and authority below the national level in any given country that is, or can be, a State Member of IUCN.

Individual voting rights

State Members maintain 3 votes as per (current) Article 34 (a) of the IUCN Statutes.

Instead of maintaining a single collective vote for all Government Agency Members within a State, each Government Agency Member also has one vote, whether or not they are from a State that is a State Member of IUCN.

Each Subnational Government Member has one vote.

The voting rights within membership Categories B and C remain unchanged.

Balancing the voting power within Category A

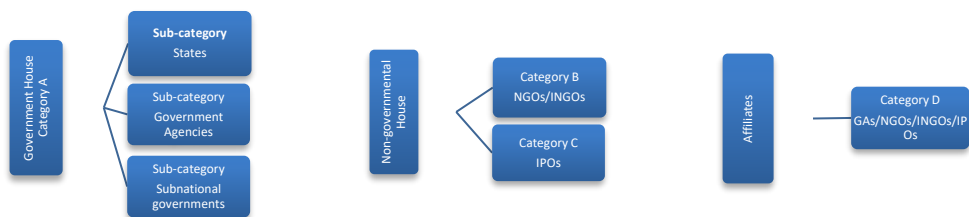
The total number of votes expressed in each of the three sub-categories of membership Category A (Government House) continue to be added together when counting the votes so that one voting result for Category A is shown.

However, in order to prevent State Members being outvoted by either one of the other two sub-categories in the Government House (the Government Agency Members and the Subnational Government Members), a ratio of 3:1:1 will be maintained by using a mathematical formula. No matter how many votes are cast in each of the three sub-categories of membership Category A, the mathematical formula will be applied to ensure that the voting weight of each sub-category respects the ratio 3:1:1. The ratio is based on the understanding that “3” represents the weight of the State Members, and “1” represents the weight of each of the two other sub-categories (Government Agency Members and Subnational Government Members).

No change in the overall balance of the separate voting structure of IUCN based on a Government House and a Non-Governmental House

This proposal in no way affects the voting power or influence of the Non-Governmental house (INGOs/NGOs/IPOs). Decisions in IUCN continue to be taken by a majority of votes cast in Category A and in Categories B and C combined. In other words, a majority in both “Houses” is required to adopt motions and other decisions. Both Houses vote independently of each other and one cannot influence the outcome of the other.

¹ Note that, to date, there are no Members in the sub-category “political and / or economic integration organisations” of membership Category A. (Article 4 of the IUCN Statutes)



Council decision C97/11 (October 2019)

The IUCN Council,

on the recommendation of the Governance and Constituency Committee pursuant to Council decision C/95/2,

1. Approves the Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee of Council (**Annex 6**) and the process for appointing its members,
2. Invites members of Council to come forward with expressions of interest to become a member of the Nominations Committee which need to reach the President by 29 October 2019,
3. Requests the Vice Presidents acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c) to make a recommendation to the Bureau for the appointment of the members of the Nominations Committee taking into account the expressions of interest received from Council members, gender and regional balance as well as a balance between first and second term Vice-Presidents/Council members,
4. Takes note that the GCC will prepare, in due time for the Bureau to approve before the end of 2019, the Terms of Reference of the:
 - 2020 Congress Finance and Audit Committee,
 - 2020 Congress Governance Committee,
 - 2020 Congress Programme Committee,
 - 2020 Congress Resolutions Committee,
 - 2020 Congress Procedural Adviser.

Nominations Committee of Council

Terms of Reference

Approved by the IUCN Council at its 97th meeting, 19-22 October 2019, decision C97/11

The task of the Nominations Committee is to assist the Council in identifying suitable candidates for the positions of President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions for submission by Council to the World Conservation Congress for election in June 2020. The duties of the Nominations Committee will be as follows:

- a) Establish a timetable for the work of the Nominations Committee during the nomination process based on a final deadline for receipt of nominations of 11 December 2019.
- b) Designate individual members of the Nominations Committee to liaise with each Commission and ensure coordination with any internal search processes taking place within the IUCN Commissions.
- c) Collect biographical information and reference material on candidates.
- d)
 1. Assess all the valid nominations which the Nominations Committee will receive from the Election Officer (Regulation 30) against the respective profiles for the elective positions after consultation, as the case may be, with the Ethics Committee of Council on any issues of ethics or conflict of interest, or with the Director General on any candidacies from members of staff. The methodology for assessing candidates will include:
 - i. a rating system using a criteria based on the profiles for elective positions;
 - ii. gender balance including one of two candidates for President, balance among Commission Chair nominees and nominees for Treasurer, depending on nominations received and qualifications;
 - iii. review and assessment of candidates' qualifications including but not be limited to, video or face-to-face interviews with the nominees for President, Treasurer, and for Commission Chairs in the case of more than one candidate nominated by the Commission Steering Committee and/or IUCN Members;
 2. Receive a report detailing which applications were rejected and the reasons why.
- e) Make short lists for each position.
- f) Formulate recommendations for submission to Council at its 98th meeting in February 2020.
- g) In the event that no candidate can be identified for a position, report to Council which may re-open the nomination process for that position.
- h) Work as a collegial body and maintain strict confidentiality with regard to its deliberations.
- i) Make recommendations to the next Council for improving the committee's role and functioning based on its own evaluation to be made before the end of the 2020 Congress taking into account Council's guidance for self-evaluation.

To: Prof. ZHANG Xinsheng President of IUCN
From: Asia Regional Members Committee, IUCN

Beijing, December 12, 2019

Subject: Protest to MWG' s decision on motions proposed from Asia for the IUCN World Congress 2020

Dear Mr. President,

As the chair for Asia Regional Members Committee, I am really disappointed with the results that only 6 out of 17 motions passed the check of Motions Working Group, which is very much lower than global average, even though we committee members from around 20 countries in Asia carefully reviewed the draft motions at the committee annual meeting in late August in Islamabad. At the RCF on Nov. 6-8, 2019, a pretty number of members talked with me on this issue. Most of the motions declined with the following wording.

According to Rule 54(a) i., a motion needs to propose or modify IUCN' s general policy. Unfortunately, after careful consideration, the MWG does not consider your motion to be proposing or modifying IUCN' s general policy.

I communicated with Dr. JonPaul Rodriguez the head of the MWG on how to define IUCN' s general policy for our better understanding the reason why so many motions from Asia declined. I appreciate his efforts to share his view on IUCN' s general policy. From his reply, most of our motions are in line with his definition on IUCN' s general policy.

We understand the valuable work that the Motions Working Group has provided to verify the quality of the motions, but we also believe that MWG should help improving the motions, hearing the members reason more patiently and finding grounds to accept motions, not simply rejecting them. It is never an easy job to engage members, to encourage them to be active. Accepting motions is an effective method to have members more involved and felt ownership, being part of the community. To propose motions is also the basic right of members, which should be respected by people who might not be members.

We therefore wish, Mr. President, that the Preparatory Committee of the Congress, examine the requests for recourse made by the members from Asia on draft motions, so as not to discourage them and accept the online debate of motions.

Thanks a lot for your time and consideration.



Ma, Keping

Chair for Asia Regional Members Committee, IUCN

CC : Dr. Grethel AGUILAR



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Prof Keping Ma

Chair of Asia Regional Members Committee of IUCN

(by email)

Gland, December 20,
2019

Dear Professor Ma,

I would like to thank you for the letter dated 12 December 2019.

First, I would like to reassure the Asia Regional Members that IUCN appreciates all the efforts put into preparing and submitting motions. With the aim of ensuring that the Membership concerns are well addressed, the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as the Appeals Body will be releasing a report on ways to improve the Motions Review process. Members will also have the opportunity to express any concerns and reflections on the motions process at the World Conservation Congress.

The Congress Preparatory Committee acting as Appeals Body provided me with the following elements for a response to the Asia Regional Members Committee.

The CPC acting as appeals body carefully reviewed each of the submitted 43 appeals, of which 8 appeals were accepted and 35 appeals were rejected.

The **rejected appeals** fell into one or both of the groups below:

In the first group, the rejection of motions was confirmed if it was determined that they were not proposing or modifying IUCN's policy (*Rule 54(a)i*), they did not contain technically sound and coherent arguments (*Rule 54(a)iii*), were not precise in what they aimed to achieve (*Rule 54(a)iv*) or, in many cases, were repeating the content of already adopted - and active - Resolutions and Recommendations (*Rule 54(a)vi*) (Resolutions and Recommendations database searchable [here](#)).

By way of example, when the technical and scientific information provided in the motion submission forms were factually incorrect and / or insufficient; or when a motion asks IUCN constituencies to endorse or support elements of global policy processes that were still under negotiation, these were deemed as not fulfilling the criteria in Rules 54(a) iii and iv.

In the second group, motions were rejected if they did not sufficiently specify which of the Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties that the motions called upon to undertake action had been consulted or had collaborated in the motion (*Rule 54(b) x a*), or which of these had been consulted to identify solutions in accordance with *Rule 54(b) x b*.

A case in point is the following: In accordance to Rule 54 (b) xi, motions which concern issues outside the State or region of the proponent must be cosponsored by at least one Member from that region. When this does not happen, motions clearly fail

to comply with a basic requirement in terms of format, among others that will be outlined in the CPC acting as appeals body report.

IUCN aspires to make our processes even more efficient and thus I am calling on you to keep on engaging actively as our Council and its subsidiary bodies work with the Secretariat on better ways to engage the Members and improve our governance processes.

I look forward to your support as we work together to make IUCN even more effective in future.

Sincerely,

Zhang Xinsheng
IUCN President

Monsieur ZHANG Xinsheng
Président de l'UICN

Paris, le 6 décembre 2019

Objet : Motions du Congrès mondial de l'UICN 2020

Monsieur le Président,

Les membres et les experts français de l'UICN se sont fortement mobilisés pour la préparation des motions du Congrès Mondial de la nature de l'UICN 2020. Grâce à la coordination mise en place par le Comité français de l'UICN, les membres et les experts ont travaillé conjointement sur 28 projets de motions qui ont été déposés avant le 28 août 2019, avec le soutien d'autres membres de l'UICN dans le monde, sur des questions importantes pour la conservation de la biodiversité. Tous ces projets ont été notamment discutés collectivement au Congrès français de la nature, organisé par le Comité français de l'UICN le 12 juin 2019 à Marseille.


Malheureusement, après examen des projets de textes par le Groupe de travail sur les motions, 11 projets de motions que nous avons présentés n'ont pas été retenus, pour des motifs souvent peu explicités et justifiés. Cela a créé une forte incompréhension parmi les membres car nous n'avons jamais connu de situation équivalente dans la préparation des précédents congrès mondiaux de l'UICN. Aucune motion présentée par les membres français n'avait été jusqu'alors rejetée.

Les membres ont bien compris l'importance et l'intérêt d'avoir une expertise fournie par le Groupe de travail sur les motions pour vérifier la qualité des textes et sa conformité aux statuts et règlement. Cependant nous pensons que l'analyse du groupe aurait plutôt dû permettre d'améliorer les textes que de les rejeter simplement, sachant que pour de nombreux projets de motions les progrès obtenus par les précédentes motions adoptées ne sont pas suffisants.

Le secrétariat de l'UICN a régulièrement communiqué auprès des membres pour les encourager à participer activement aux différentes étapes du congrès mondial. Les membres ne comprennent pas ainsi qu'ils se soient pleinement mobilisés mais que plusieurs projets de motion ne soient pas pris en compte, alors que le congrès mondial n'a lieu que tous les 4 ans et que le vote en ligne permet maintenant de garder les principales motions pour le débat lors des sessions de l'Assemblée Générale. Nous pensons qu'il est très important de maintenir et faciliter l'expression des membres lors du congrès mondial.

Nous souhaiterions donc, Monsieur le Président, que le Comité Préparatoire du Congrès, examine avec bienveillance les demandes de recours formulées par les membres français de l'UICN sur les projets de motion, pour ne pas décourager leur investissement dans la réussite du congrès et permettre le débat en ligne des motions.

Vous en remerciant par avance, je vous prie de recevoir, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de mes sincères salutations.



Bernard CRESSENS
Président

CC : Dr. Grethel AGUILAR

UICN - Comité français
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Mr. ZHANG Xinsheng
IUCN President

Paris, 6 December 2019

Subject: Motions for the IUCN World Congress 2020

Mr. President,

The French IUCN members and experts have been very active in preparing motions for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020. Under the coordination of the French Committee of IUCN, members and experts worked together on 28 draft motions that were submitted before 28 August 2019, with the support of other IUCN members around the world, on key issues for biodiversity conservation. All these projects were discussed collectively at the French Conservation Congress, organized by the French Committee of IUCN on 12 June 2019 in Marseille.

Unfortunately, after consideration of the draft proposals by the Motions Working Group, 11 of the submitted draft motions were rejected, for reasons often poorly explained and justified. This created a great deal of incomprehension among members, as we never experienced such a situation in the preparation of previous IUCN World Congresses. No motion submitted by the French members had so far been rejected.

Members understand the importance and value of having an expert opinion provided by the Motions Working Group to ensure the quality of the proposals and their compliance with the Statutes and Rules of procedure. However, we believe that the Working Group's analysis should have provided guidance to improve the texts rather than simply reject them, since for many draft motions the progress achieved by previous motions adopted is not sufficient.

The IUCN Secretariat has been in regular contact with members to encourage them to actively participate in the various stages of the World Congress. Therefore, members do not understand why, despite their full engagement, several draft motions were not taken into account, while the World Congress only takes place every 4 years and the online voting now allows to keep only the main motions for debate during the sessions of the General Assembly. We believe that it is very important to maintain and facilitate the expression of members at the World Congress.

We would therefore like the Congress Preparatory Committee, Mr. President, to carefully consider the requests for appeals made by the French members of IUCN on their draft motions, so as not to discourage their engagement for a successful Congress and to allow the online debate of motions.

I thank you in advance, Mr. President.
With my best regards,



Bernard CRESSENS
President

CC : Dr. Grethel AGUILAR

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Mr. Bernard Cressens
President
IUCN – French Committee

(by email)

Gland, December 20, 2019

Dear Mr Cressens,

I would like to thank you for the letter dated 6 December 2019.

First, I would like to reassure the French IUCN Members and the French Committee that IUCN appreciates all the efforts put into preparing and submitting motions. With the aim of ensuring that the Membership concerns are well addressed, the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as the Appeals Body will be releasing a report on ways to improve the Motions Review process. Members will also have the opportunity to express any concerns and reflections on the motions process at the World Conservation Congress.

The Congress Preparatory Committee acting as Appeals Body provided me with the following elements for a response to the French National Committee.

The CPC acting as Appeals Body carefully reviewed each of the submitted 43 appeals, of which 8 appeals were accepted and 35 appeals were rejected.

The **rejected appeals** fell into one or both of the groups below:

In the first group, the rejection of motions was confirmed if it was determined that they were not proposing or modifying IUCN's policy (*Rule 54(a)i*), they did not contain technically sound and coherent arguments (*Rule 54(a)iii*), were not precise in what they aimed to achieve (*Rule 54(a)iv*) or, in many cases, were repeating the content of already adopted - and active - Resolutions and Recommendations (*Rule 54(a)vi*) (Resolutions and Recommendations database searchable [here](#)).

By way of example, when the technical and scientific information provided in the motion submission forms were factually incorrect and / or insufficient; or when a motion asks IUCN constituencies to endorse or support elements of global policy processes that were still under negotiation, these were deemed as not fulfilling the criteria in Rules 54(a) iii and iv.

In the second group, motions were rejected if they did not sufficiently specify which of the Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties that the motions called upon to undertake action had been consulted or had collaborated in the motion (*Rule 54(b) x a*), or which of these had been consulted to identify solutions in accordance with *Rule 54(b) x b*).

A case in point is the following: In accordance to Rule 54 (b) xi, motions which concern issues outside the State or region of the proponent must be cosponsored by at least one Member from that region. When this does not happen, motions clearly fail

to comply with a basic requirement in terms of format, among others that will be outlined in the CPC acting as appeals body report.

IUCN aspires to make our processes even more efficient and thus I am calling on you to keep on engaging actively, as our Council and its subsidiary bodies work with the Secretariat on better ways to engage the Members and improve our governance processes.

I look forward to your future cooperation and support as we to make IUCN even more effective in future.

Sincerely,

Zhang Xinsheng
IUCN President



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M. Bernard Cressens
Président
Comité français de l'UICN

(par e-mail)

Gland, le 20 Décembre 2019

Cher Monsieur Cressens,

Je vous remercie de votre lettre datée du 6 décembre 2019.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais rassurer les Membres et le Comité français de l'UICN que l'UICN apprécie pleinement tous les efforts mis en œuvre pour la préparation et la présentation des motions. Afin de s'assurer que les préoccupations des Membres soient dûment prises en compte, le Comité d'organisation du Congrès, en sa qualité d'Instance d'appel, publiera un rapport sur les options visant à améliorer le processus d'examen des motions. Les Membres auront également l'occasion d'exprimer leurs préoccupations et leurs propositions sur le processus de motions lors du Congrès mondial de la nature.

Le Comité d'organisation du Congrès, en sa qualité d'Instance d'appel, m'a fourni les éléments suivants pour cette réponse au Comité national français.

Le COC, en sa qualité d'Instance d'appel, a examiné attentivement chacun des 43 recours présentés. Huit d'entre eux ont été acceptés et 35 rejetés.

Les **recours rejetés** appartiennent à l'un des groupes ci-dessous ou aux deux :

Dans le premier groupe, le rejet des motions était confirmé s'il était établi qu'elles ne proposaient ou ne modifiaient pas la politique générale de l'UICN (*article 54(a)i des Règles de procédure*), que les arguments avancés n'étaient techniquement pas valables ou cohérents (*article 54(a)iii des Règles de procédure*), que les motions n'étaient pas assez précises quant à ce qu'elles visaient à réaliser (*article 54(a)iv des Règles de procédure*) ou, dans de nombreux cas, qu'elles répétaient le contenu de résolutions ou de recommandations déjà adoptées, et encore actives (*article 54(a)vi des Règles de procédure*) (base de données des résolutions et recommandations consultable [ici](#)).

À titre d'exemple, lorsque les informations techniques et scientifiques fournies dans les formulaires de présentation des motions étaient insuffisantes et/ou inexactes dans les faits, ou lorsqu'une motion demandait aux composantes de l'UICN d'approuver ou d'appuyer des éléments relatifs à des processus politiques mondiaux encore en cours de négociation, ces éléments étaient considérés comme ne répondant pas aux critères énoncés aux articles 54(a)iii et iv des Règles de procédure.

Dans le deuxième groupe, les motions ont été rejetées lorsqu'elles n'étaient pas suffisamment précises quant à quels Membres ou composantes de l'UICN ou tierce partie, à qui la motion demandait d'agir, avaient été consultés ou avaient collaboré à l'élaboration de la motion (*article 54(b)x a) des Règles de procédure*), ou lesquels d'entre eux avaient été

consultés afin d'identifier de possibles solutions, conformément à l'article 54(b)x b) des Règles de procédure.

A titre d'exemple : Conformément à l'article 54 b) xi des Règles de procédure, les motions portant sur des questions ne relevant pas de l'État ou de la région de leur auteur doivent être parrainées par au moins un membre de cette région. Lorsque ce n'est pas le cas, il est clair que ces motions ne satisfont pas à l'une des exigences fondamentales liées au format des motions, entre autres exemples qui seront détaillés dans le rapport du COC, en sa qualité d'instance d'appel.

L'UICN aspire à rendre ses processus encore plus efficaces et c'est pourquoi je vous demande de continuer à vous engager activement aux côtés de notre conseil et de ses organes subsidiaires pour travailler avec le Secrétariat sur de meilleurs moyens d'impliquer les Membres et d'améliorer nos processus de gouvernance.

Je me réjouis de votre coopération et de votre soutien futurs pour rendre l'UICN encore plus efficace à l'avenir.

Sincèrement,

Zhang Xinsheng
Président de l'UICN

From: [President - IUCN](#)
To: [+IUCN Councillors 2016-2020](#)
Subject: IUCN Council validation by 30 January 2020 of the Bureau's decision regarding the membership of the Nominations Committee
Date: 23 January 2020 19:02:15
Attachments: [Annex 1 - Summary of the 81st Bureau meeting 21 January 2020.pdf](#)

Dear Council members,

On 21 January 2020, the Bureau held a productive conference call with the following agenda:

1. discuss Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN;
2. take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee;
3. discuss the draft response to the French National Committee and Asia Regional Members Committee concerning their appeals in the context of the motions process.

With the exception of Jenny Gruenberger, all members of the Bureau participated in the call.

Please find enclosed herewith a summary of the meeting.

I am now inviting you to validate the following decision adopted by the Bureau at its conference call of 21 January 2020, through a no-objection procedure in accordance with Regulation 58. If a minimum of five Council members who have not participated in the Bureau decision raise objections to it, the decision shall be submitted to the Council for voting. Objections, if any, should be filed by 30 January 2020 and should use the term 'objection' (français: 'objection'; español: 'objeción') in order to avoid any misunderstanding:

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the four Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c), pursuant to Council decision C97/11, Appoints the following Council members as members of the Nominations Committee:

- **Ali Kaka**
- **Ana Tiraa**
- **Jenny Gruenberger**
- **Kathy MacKinnon**
- **Sixto Inchaustegui, and**
- **Ayman Rabi**

Requests the Nominations Committee to elect its chair.

Thank you,

ZHANG Xinsheng
President

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

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From: DE WEVER Luc

Sent: 20 January 2020 16:08

To: +IUCN Councillors 2016-2020

Subject: FOR INFORMATION - Conference call of the Bureau of the IUCN Council 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC

Dear Council members,

Please be informed that, today, the President has convened an urgent conference call of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC, with the agenda as explained in his message to the Bureau, of which you will find a copy below.

Any comments from members of Council who are not members of the Bureau related to the items on the proposed agenda of the Bureau meeting shall be shared with the Bureau provided they reach the President or the Secretary to Council before the beginning of the Bureau meeting (*i.e. 21 January 2020 at 11 AM UTC*).” ([Rules of Procedure of the Bureau](#))

Following the Bureau meeting, Council members will receive the Bureau decision(s), if any, for validation through the no-objection procedure provided in Regulation 58.

Best regards,

Luc De Wever

Senior Governance Manager

Secretary to Council

Union Development Group (UDG)

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

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From: President - IUCN <president@iucn.org>

Sent: 20 January 2020 09:58

To: +IUCN BUREAU 2017-2020 <iucnbureau@iucn.org>

Subject: URGENT IUCN Bureau conference call today or tomorrow - PLEASE FILL IN THE DOODLE POLL

Dear members of the Bureau,

I would like to convene a meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council as soon as possible in order to:

- 1. discuss Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN;**
- 2. take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee;**
- 3. discuss the draft response to the French National Committee and Asia Regional Members Committee concerning their appeals in the context of the motions process.**

Please fill in the Doodle poll at your earliest possible convenience:

<https://doodle.com/poll/uv7dt2bpi2qh2qxf>

<i>Location</i>	Option 1	Option 2
HQ / Stockholm	12:00	14:00
Beijing	19:00	21:00
Colombo	16:30	18:30
New York	06:00	08:00
Apia	01:00 (+1)	03:00 (+1)
Brasilia	08:00	10:00
Ramallah / Johannesburg	13:00	15:00

<i>Dakar / UTC (GMT)</i>	11:00	13:00
<i>La Paz</i>	07:00	09:00

Regarding agenda item 1:

It appears to me from discussions in several Council meetings, that there is broad consensus to submit a Council motion to the 2020 Congress with proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes enabling Subnational Governments to apply for IUCN Membership. The Working Group led by Councillors Amran Hamzah and Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri has prepared a proposal which was subsequently presented to all IUCN Members during the Regional Conservation Forums and online.

The issue has been under discussion in IUCN Congresses since Barcelona 2008. In the meantime, in many places in the world, Subnational Governments have continued to take a more proactive role in conserving biodiversity. We therefore must conclude this matter at this forthcoming Congress, hopefully with a positive result.

I would like to discuss with you Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN.

Pending the submission of a refined proposal in the coming days/weeks, I attach herewith the proposal as approved by Council in March 2019 for the purpose of consulting IUCN Members (Annex 1).

Regarding agenda item 2:

According to the Council decision C97/11 adopted during Council's 97th meeting in October 2019 (Annex 2), the Vice Presidents acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c), after several rounds of discussion, made an unanimous recommendation to the Bureau on 30 December 2019 for the membership of the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee's role is to prepare a recommendation to Council regarding the individuals to be nominated by Council during its meeting on 10 February 2020, as candidates for election by the 2020 Congress as President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs. As the Committee needs to begin its work without delay, the Bureau will meet and take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee according to the Council decision C97/11.

Regarding agenda item 3:

In December 2019, I received letters from, respectively, the Chair of the Asia Regional Members Committee, the Chair of the French National Committee and the government of Spain, with concerns about the result of the appeals process regarding the motions submitted by their Members.

During a conference call on 17 December 2019, the CPC, among others, prepared a response to these letters. Both letters and the draft response prepared by the CPC are attached herewith as Annex 3.

As soon as the date and time of the Bureau meeting will be confirmed, a copy of this message will be forwarded to all Council members for information and comments as required by the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau.

With thanks and best regards,

ZHANG Xinsheng

President

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81st Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council

21 January 2020, 12:00-14:20 UTC

SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: discuss Council's role in achieving a consensus at the 2020 Congress about the inclusion of Subnational Governments in IUCN

Acknowledging a broad consensus in Council to submit a motion to the 2020 Congress with proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes enabling Subnational Governments to apply for IUCN Membership, the President asked advice from the Bureau whether/how to mobilize the Council to ensure there is sufficient awareness and understanding of, and support for the proposal among IUCN Members in order to bring closure to this matter during the 2020 Congress, hopefully with the adoption of the proposal. The issue has been under discussion in IUCN Congresses since Barcelona 2008. In the meantime, in many places in the world, Subnational Governments have continued to take a more proactive role in conserving biodiversity.

Bureau members confirmed their support for the sound proposal prepared by the Working Group established by Council in April 2018 but shared the concern that not all IUCN Members had the same understanding of it. It would be a shame if the proposal failed (again) to obtain the required two-thirds majority in Category A and in Category B and C combined because of lack of information and/or understanding.

There was consensus in Bureau to work together with the Working Group, the Secretariat and the Commissions on a mechanism to communicate the complexity of the proposal to IUCN Members, in particular those who have doubts about it, including organizing a workshop during the 2020 Congress. The President requested that a progress report be tabled for the Bureau meeting held in person in Gland on 7 February 2020.

Item 2: take a decision on the membership of the Nominations Committee

The Bureau continued and brought closure to the discussion which the President had initiated with his message to the Bureau of 30 December 2019 taking into account the comments made by a few Council members. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Presidents (VP), John Robinson explained that, after receiving comments from Council, the four VPs acting as Nominating Committee had another round of discussion and once again unanimously agreed to propose six names, in accordance with the practice of keeping the Nominations Committee small, with representation of the Vice-Presidents and as much diversity as possible. He clarified that Kathy MacKinnon had been proposed as Chair of a Commission and not as a Council member from West Europe.

With the exception of one Bureau member who abstained, all other Bureau members supported the proposal of the four Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee, accepting that, based on successful experience in the past, the committee needs to be small so as to be efficient and, as a result, not all regions would be represented. Vice-President Ana Tiraa also added that the six members proposed by the Nominating Committee have very good gender balance - three men and three women.

The Bureau adopted the draft decision as presented in the President's message to Bureau of 30 December 2019:

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
On the recommendation of the four Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee under Regulation 48 (c), pursuant to Council decision C97/11,
Appoints the following Council members as members of the Nominations Committee:

- Ali Kaka
- Ana Tiraa
- Jenny Gruenberger
- Kathy MacKinnon
- Sixto Inchaustegui, and
- Ayman Rabi

Requests the Nominations Committee to elect its chair.

Item 3: discuss the draft response to the French National Committee and Asia Regional Members Committee concerning their appeals in the context of the motions process

In December 2019, the President had received letters from, respectively, the Chair of the Asia Regional Members Committee, the Chair of the French National Committee and had met with a Spanish Government representative, who all expressed their disappointment at the results of the appeals process regarding the motions submitted by their Members.

During a conference call on 17 December 2019, the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC) had considered these letters together with messages from IUCN Members who had written similar messages to the Chair of CPC acting as appeals body. Draft responses had been prepared with guidance from the CPC.

Members of the Motions Working Group (MWG) and of the CPC acting as appeals body who were also members of the Bureau explained the process and methodology applied by both bodies. This included members declaring a conflict of interest regarding motions they had been closely involved with at the time of their submission and three members of CPC who were also members of the MWG recusing themselves from the appeals body. Care had been taken to separate the review of motions by the MWG from the appeals process against decisions of the MWG.

Bureau members were satisfied that due process had been followed but requested a proactive approach to improving aspects of the process during the next term, in particular the two-way communications in all phases of the motions process, and that the 2020 Congress provide both a moment to evaluate and a learning opportunity (e.g. during a workshop) about submitting motions that comply with the rules (how motions relate to core policy, how to recognize existing Resolutions and Recommendations covering the same topic, etc.). In the same vein, careful attention should be given to effective communication in the next phases of the current motions process, e.g. about the criteria for motions about new and urgent topics.