



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

87th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council by conference call on 24 July 2020 from 11.00 AM - 01.50 PM UTC

Summary

(Prepared by the Secretary to Council and reviewed by the President for the purpose of informing the Council members during the process of validating the decisions of the Bureau)

All members of the Bureau¹ were present with the exception of Ana Tiraa due to the time of the call which was 1 AM in her place of residence.

Agenda Item 1. President's opening remarks and approval of the agenda

The draft agenda was approved with two additions: date of the 99th Council meeting to be held remotely and process to discuss the different options of holding the Congress.

BUREAU DECISION B87/1

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
Adopts the agenda of its 87th meeting. (Annex 1)

Agenda Item 2: Update on IUCN Covid-19 response and Council agenda

Purpose of the agenda item was to discuss the format of the 99th Council meeting which was to be held remotely on the topic of IUCN's response to Covid-19. Bureau members were reminded of the draft agenda which they had received from the Secretary to Council on 19 June 2020 and that the President had encouraged every Council member to consult with their constituencies in order to present to the meeting a true picture of how the membership responded to Covid-19, the challenges they faced and the opportunities they saw, including for IUCN to increase its relevance and global leadership.

Grethel Aguilar will report how the Secretariat has so far managed the pandemic with the support of Members and the Commissions while the Director General will present a forward looking vision.

The President summarized the discussion as follows:

- As the Union is inclusive and should demonstrate solidarity in this exceptional crisis, key stakeholders such as the Secretariat's Leadership Team, the Deputy Commission Chairs and the Chairs of the Regional Committees (for regions without a Regional Committee: the Chairs of some of the larger National Committees) will be invited to intervene during the first 45' to 50' of the meeting (max. 3' minutes for each speaker);
- The 2nd part of the meeting will be reserved for an in-depth discussion of the Council with the senior management of the Secretariat (approximately 2 hours);
- As the pandemic was evolving and many uncertainties remained, it was still not mature to deeply and broadly discuss, and difficult to take decisions on alternative formats for the 2020 Congress if it could not be held as planned;
- Another opportunity would be created for a meeting with IUCN's donors and partners.

Agenda Item 3: Terms of Reference for a Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN members on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic

¹ ZHANG Xinsheng (Chair), Nihal Welikala, John Robinson, Ana Elizabeth Tiraa, Antonio Benjamin (first part of the meeting), Jan Olov Westerberg, Ayman Rabi, Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Mamadou Diallo, Jenny Gruenberger, Bruno Oberle (DG). Also participated: Grethel Aguilar, Sandrine Friedli Cela, Enrique Lahmann and Louise Imbsen.

The Bureau had requested the Chairs of the three standing committees of the Council to propose a mechanism for Council engagement with IUCN Members regarding IUCN's response to Covid-19, with a view to preparing a discussion of this issue during the 2020 Congress. The Chairs presented their proposal of Terms of Reference (ToR) of a Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN Members on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to inform IUCN's response in the Covid/post-Covid context. ([Annex 2](#))

During a conference call on 23 July 2020, the Programme and Policy Committee of Council had suggested that: 1) a mechanism be established to take stock of all activities already undertaken or scheduled by IUCN Members, Commissions and National and Regional Committees; and 2) National Committees could be more efficiently engaged by inviting them to virtual meetings in the regions (along the structure of Regional Conservation Forums).

The Bureau agreed to formally adopt the ToR and have the Council validate the decision through the habitual no-objection procedure, following which the Working Group can be established by Council (cf. the section "Timeline" of the ToR).

BUREAU DECISION B87/2

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
On the recommendation of the Chairs of the standing committees of the Council,
Adopts the Terms of Reference of a Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN Members on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to inform IUCN's response in the Covid/post-Covid context. ([Annex 2](#))

Agenda Item 4: Date of the 99th Council meeting

At the request of members of the Bureau, the Bureau agreed to postpone the date of the 99th Council meeting currently scheduled for 31 July 2020, to sometime between 7 and 21 August 2020 dependent on the results of a Doodle poll, due to the current date being scheduled during Eid-ul-Adha. The President asked the Secretariat to propose a new date within the given period, following consultation with Council members. The Legal Adviser recommended that, in light of the exceptional circumstance that a meeting already scheduled is being postponed, Regulation 50 may be applied with some flexibility provided that Council members be given reasonable time to re-organize their calendars.

The President requested the DG to circulate the draft agenda of the 99th Council meeting to members of the Bureau for comments before transmitting a final version to him for distribution to Council.

Agenda Item 5: Process to discuss the different options of holding the Congress

The Chair of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC) requested clarification whether the analysis and recommendations of alternative options for holding the Congress fall within the ToR of the CPC. The President summarized the discussion of the Bureau by explaining that the CPC should not feel restricted by its ToR to study any and all aspects of the Congress and transmit its recommendations to Bureau which will discuss them thoroughly before forwarding its proposal(s) to Council.

Agenda Item 6: Any other Business

There was no other business tabled for discussion.



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by conference call, 24 July 2020 at 11 AM UTC**

AGENDA

Agenda Item
Agenda Item 1: President's opening remarks and approval of the agenda
Agenda Item 2: Update on IUCN Covid-19 response and Council agenda
Agenda Item 3: Terms of Reference for a Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN members on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic
Agenda Item 4: Date of the Council meeting Decision on whether to retain this date or change it as the current date is during Eid-ul-Adha
Agenda Item 5: Process to discuss the different options of holding the Congress Decision on if responsibility and decision-making lies with Bureau or CPC
Agenda Item 6: Any other Business and Closing

Terms of Reference for a Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN Members on the impacts of the CoVID-19 pandemic to inform IUCN's response in the CoVID/post-CoVID context

Background

Our world is facing a great challenge. The ongoing pandemic brings death to people, economic disruptions to our societies, heightened stress between countries and more calls for stronger borders, more nationalism, more regulations, and less international cooperation. It also overshadows the need to act strong, swift, and secure on the needs to support our planetary security.

At this time, it is easy for societies and governments to forget nature - but we must not. The coronavirus pandemic is the greatest crisis our world has faced at a global scale since World War II. The climate and biodiversity crisis will have an even harder impact in the long term.

It is very important that we – IUCN – continue to work towards our vision, “A just world that values and conserves nature”. IUCN is on the road towards our Congress where we will make decisions on our future work. In Marseille we will share ideas, knowledge and inspire each other. We will also discuss the effects of the pandemic and IUCN's role in a post-pandemic world.

On 19 May 2020, after consideration of the recommendation of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC) to launch an online discussion with IUCN Members regarding IUCN's response to Covid-19, with a view to preparing a discussion of this issue during the 2020 Congress, the Bureau requested the chairs of FAC, PPC and GCC, with support from the Secretariat, to propose to the Bureau a mechanism (ToR) for the discussion with IUCN Members and Commissions as well as the broader issue of IUCN's response to Covid-19.

Objective

Council appoints a Working Group (WG) to design, guide and oversee engagement with IUCN Members and Commissions on the impacts of the CoVID-19 pandemic to inform IUCN's response in the CoVID/post-CoVID context.

The WG will:

- 1) Put in place a mechanism for determining, in consultation with the IUCN Membership and Commissions, topics for discussion and how to structure them.
- 2) Develop and oversee an inclusive and interactive online discussion with the IUCN Membership and other relevant partners that takes into account the geographic spread of the IUCN Membership (time zones) and the digital divide between different parts of the world and the diversity among Members.
- 3) Report its findings and proposals for follow-up actions to Council/Bureau, particularly as related to the WCC including the 2021-2024 Programme, new motions, and the financial plan but also on IUCN overall response to the situation.
- 4) Identify high level, strategic and long-term implications for the Union arising from the discussion (i.e. does the pandemic create a need to revise IUCN's mission, vision, or modus operandi in different areas, for example ways of supporting our membership and commissions)

Identifying topics for discussion

1. The mechanism for determining topics for discussion will be inclusive, transparent, open to the participation of all Members and commissions and ensure regional diversity.
2. Options for such a mechanism include:
 - a. A survey to ask Members which topics they see as priorities with a ranking system and then select the top priorities based on this;
 - b. Each region selects topics based on what they consider most relevant from their perspectives.

Online discussions

1. The online engagement with Members will include at least three levels:
 - a. A global Union Portal based online discussion (open to Members, Commission members, National/Regional Committees) around 3 - 5 questions with possibility to upload op-eds and other materials.
 - b. A series of virtual meetings with internal, and as appropriate, external stakeholders in the regions /sub-regions on the basis of the same questions as above in (a) supported by the regional offices.
 - c. Meeting spaces with National and Regional Committees by representatives of council.
2. Summaries of the results are posted in the global online discussion shortly after they happen.

Further guidance for designing and conducting online discussions

The online discussions should:

1. Include and enable dialogue between the components of IUCN – Government and civil society Members, Commissions and Secretariat – on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic and key responses to be elaborated through sharing information and ideas;
2. Promote dialogues with other sectors (non-members of IUCN) e.g. health sector, agriculture, etc. and the connection to pandemics and developing appropriate nexus for future conservation work

Composition of Working Group

The Working Group will be composed of nine members including 6 from Council (including at least one commission chair) and three Regional representatives

Timeline

1. The Bureau invites members of Council to express their interest in participating in the WG by 7 August
2. The Bureau invites the Global Group for development of National and Regional Committees to nominate three representatives by 7 August
3. The Bureau decides the members of the WG, to be endorsed by council, taking into account representation of the standing committees, regions and gender, by 10 August
4. The Working Group agrees to a mechanism to ascertain 3-5 topics for discussion by 25 August, to be approved by the Bureau
5. Online discussions are held for 8 weeks from 1 September
6. WG reports findings to Council / Bureau by 15 November and proposes appropriate action