Last updated on 22 September 2025

# IUCN COUNCIL 2021-2025

## Decisions of the IUCN Council and its Bureau adopted by electronic communication between meetings

## (Listed hereafter in chronological order)

*Preliminary note:*

*The IUCN Statutes and Regulations enable the IUCN Council and its Bureau to take decisions by electronic communication between its meetings. All such decisions are recorded in the present document.*

*The Statutes require that, in order to become effective, all decisions of the Bureau are 'validated' by the IUCN Council through the no-objection procedure described in Regulation 58. The list hereafter only records the decisions of the Bureau that have been validated by the Council.*

*All decisions adopted by the Council or the Bureau during meetings, virtual or in person, are posted separately on the IUCN website under the heading of the meeting which adopted them. See the webpage.*

### C/I – 12 March 2022 – Call for expressions of interest, incl. criteria, for the positions of IC and member of the ISC of the Climate Crisis Commission

Decision C/I

The IUCN Council,
*On the recommendation of* the Bureau of the IUCN Council (decision B1/2, 4 March 2022),
Approves the Call for expressions of interest, incl. criteria, for the positions of Interim Chair and member of the Interim Steering Committee of the Climate Crisis Commission. (Annex 1)

### B/I – 9 August 2022 – Admission of new IUCN Members

Decision B/I

The Bureau of IUCN Council,
*On the recommendation of* the Governance and Constituency Committee,
Approves the admission of 16 Members applying for membership (Annex 2).

### B/II – 9 August 2022 – Members changing membership category or their name

Decision B/II

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
*On the recommendation of* the Governance and Constituency Committee,
Approves the request from three IUCN Members to change their membership category (Annex 3); and
Takes note of the name changes of five current IUCN Members (Annex 4).

**B/III – 11 August 2022 – Appointment to the steering committee of CEM**

Decision B/III

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
*On the recommendation of* the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM),
Appoints as member of the Steering Committee of CEM: Ms Shalini Dhyani (*Vice Chair for Asia*, India*).*

**C/II – 18 August 2022 - Terms of Reference of the Intersessional Council Working Group for the development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision**

Decision C/II

The IUCN Council,
Endorses the Terms of Reference of the Intersessional Council Working Group for the development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision recommended by the Bureau pursuant to Council decision C107/16 (Annex 5)

**C/III – 14 October 2022 - Membership of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission**

Decision C/III

The IUCN Council,
*On the recommendation of* the Interim Chair of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission pursuant to Council decision C107/2 (February 2022),

Appoints the following individuals as members of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission:

1 Andrea Carmen (USA)
2 Ana Tiraa (Cook Islands)
3 Christopher Dunn (USA)
4 Brendan Mackey (Australia)
5 Natalie Morata (France)
6 Li (Aster) Zhang (China)
7 Chiara Oberle (Swiss, Italian)
8 Mina Esteghamat (Iran)
9 Daniela Ortiz (Colombia)
10 Daniel James Jiron (USA)
11 Aby Drame (Senegal)
12 Scott Fulton (USA)
13 Cathy Yitong (UK)
14 Myrna T. Semaan Haber (Lebanon)
15 David King (South Africa)
16 Sunita Chaudhary (Nepal)
17 Mark McGuffie (UK)
18 Michael Wilson (USA)
19 Ravi Prasad (India)
20 Ramiro Fernandez (Argentina)

Requests the Interim Chair to present to Council, by the 1st quarter of 2023, proposals to address the geographical imbalances in the membership of the Steering Committee;

Requests the Interim Chair to ensure that all Steering Committee members declare any relevant interests and these declarations are available to Council and the Director General, and that any actual or potential conflict of interests is properly managed as required in the call for expressions of interest.

**C/IV – 5 November 2022 - Council's strategic priorities & objectives 2022-25**

Decision C/IV

The IUCN Council,

Approves the revised version of the I*UCN Council's priorities and objectives for the term 2022-25* as well as the lead responsibility in Council and timeline (Annex 6), and

Invites the Director General to bring forward to Council for its consideration at the time the Budget 2023 is presented, a request for additional resources, if any, required to provide Secretariat support for any Council priority / objective.

**C/V – 5 November 2022 - Intersessional Council Working Group – IUCN 20-year Strategy**

Decision C/V

The IUCN Council,

appoint the following individuals as members of the *Intersessional Council Working Group on the Development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision for the Union* established pursuant to 2021 Congress decision 147: (in alphabetical order)

1. Monique Catherine BISSECK Epse YIGBEDEK, Cameroon
2. Alejandro A. Imbach, Argentina
3. Marco Lambertini, Italy
4. Zdenka Piskulich, Costa Rica
5. John Robinson, US
6. Kanyinke Sena, Kenya
7. Swetha Stotra Bhashyam, India
8. Linda Wong, China/US
9. Dedee Woodside, Australia

**C/VI – 5 November 2022 - IUCN Climate Crisis Commission - Increased visibility and branding**

Decision C/VI

The IUCN Council,

Confirms that the term "Interim" could be dropped for the purpose of branding / promoting IUCN's Climate Crisis Commission provided that any promotional material mention in small characters that the Commission was provisional and its Chair and Steering Committee were "interim" until the next IUCN World Conservation Congress adopts the Commission's mandate and elects its Chair.

**C/VII – 9 March 2023 – Work Plan 2023-24 of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission**

Decision C/VII

The IUCN Council,

*On the proposal of* the Interim Chair and Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission,

Approves the Work Plan 2023-24 of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission (Annex 7).

**C/VIII – 7 August 2023 – Amendments to the Membership Dues Guide 2022-24**

Decision C/VIII

The IUCN Council,

*Pursuant to* IUCN Members' Decision (WCC 2020 Dec 125) and

*On the recommendation of the* Council's Bureau, the Finance and Audit Committee, the Governance and Constituency Committee and the Working Group on Membership Dues,

Approves:

1. the draft amendments to the Membership Dues Guide related to venue-based organisations (Annex 8) for the purpose of submitting them to an online discussion of IUCN Members and subsequently to an electronic ballot under Article 94 of IUCN Statutes and Regulation 94;
2. the Explanatory Memorandum (Annex 9); and
3. the timeline for the electronic ballot (Annex 10).

**C/IX – 22 August 2023 – Specification of the signature authority of the Acting Director General**

Decision C/IX

The IUCN Council,

Decides to modify decision C109/31 so that it henceforth reads as follows (additions in bold):

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* its Bureau, meeting *in camera* on 11 and 23 May 2023,

*Noting* the progress report of the DG Search Committee on the search process in accordance with the Terms of Reference and timeline approved by Council at its Extraordinary Meeting of 11 April 2023;

1. Transmits to the DG Search Committee its guidance for the profile and Job Description of the Director General;
2. Appoints Dr Grethel Aguilar as Acting Director General effective 1 July 2023 until the next Director General takes up her/his office. **In her role as Acting Director General of IUCN and pursuant to Article 79 (f) of the IUCN Statutes, Dr Aguilar is authorized to represent IUCN with individual signature.**

**C/X – 2 October 2023 – Proposal to amend the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations**

Decision C/X

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* its Governance and Constituency Committee,

Decides to:

1. submit its **Proposal to amend the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations** following Decision 148 taken at the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille – "Enabling effective attendance and participation of Members in future sessions of the World Conservation Congress" *en bloc* to an electronic vote of IUCN Members between 29 November and 13 December 2023 after incorporating in its Proposal the amendments to Article 19*bis* and 19*ter* of the Statutes and Article 23 of the Rules of Procedure (highlighted under the relevant provisions in Annex 11) tabled by Members during the online discussion, and to

2. put separately to the vote the amendments to Articles 56 (c) and (f) and 66 (e) of the Rules of Procedure tabled by Members during the online discussion. (Annex 12)

**C/XI – 2 October 2023 – Proposal to amend of the Membership Dues Guide for venue-based organisations**

Decision C/XI

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* its Governance and Constituency Committee,

Decides to:

1. submit its Proposal to amend of the Membership Dues Guide for venue-based organisations (Annex 13), to an electronic vote by IUCN Members between 29 November and 13 December 2023, thereby modifying the timeline for the electronic vote approved by decision C/VIII on 7 August 2023, and to

2. put separately to the vote the amendments tabled by Members during the online discussion (Annex 14).

**C/XII – 26 February 2024 – Membership Category Change**

Decision C/XII

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* its Governance and Constituency Committee,

1. Approves the request from the Regional Ministry for Sustainability, Environment and Blue Economy, Government of Andalusia (GA/909) to change its membership category from Government Agency to Subnational government;

2. Approves the request from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (GA/256), to change its membership category from Government Agency to Affiliate and
*reminding* that decisions on membership category changes are effective as of the date of the Council decisions,
rejects its request for such category change to be effective as of 1st of January 2024;

3. Approves the request from the Rainforest Alliance (ING/24984) to change its membership category from International Non-Governmental Organisation to Affiliate.

**B/IV – 9 April 2024 - Conditions for holding Council meetings in the Regions**

Decision B/IV

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*Emphasizing* the importance of Council holding every year one in-person meeting in the Regions,

Decides to modify the conditions for holding Council meetings outside IUCN's Conservation Centre based in Switzerland defined by Bureau decision B55/4 (February 2011) so that they henceforth read as follows:

1. Established by decision B55/4, the basic criteria shall remain:
   a. demonstrated opportunity to increase IUCN profile and influence and/or make a major contribution to advancing the conservation agenda,
   b. if necessary, funding to cover any incremental costs have been secured;

2. When a country, organization or institution invites Council to meet in the Regions, the host shall take charge of the costs that can't be covered by the approved budget for a Council meeting held in IUCN's Conservation Centre based in Switzerland;

3. If there is no host, the meeting may still take place in a Region, provided that costs can be covered. The Director General is encouraged to rely on the regional offices and staff to reduce the costs of the meetings hosted in the region.

4. The Bureau of the IUCN Council takes the decision to hold the meeting in a Region at least six months in advance of the meeting taking into account the assurances provided by the host or the Secretariat that the necessary funds are available to cover all foreseeable costs;

5. The Director General ensures that Council can meet in IUCN's Conservation Centre in Gland, Switzerland in case the Council meeting scheduled to be held in a Region can no longer be held at the agreed venue because of unforeseeable circumstances.

**B/V – 9 April 2024 - Appointment of a member of the Motions Working Group**

Decision B/V

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Vice-Presidents acting as Nominating Committee,

Appoints Ms Jessika Woroniak, Canada, as a member of the Motions Working Group, filling vacancy following the resignation of Mr Baidy Ba.

**B/VI – 9 April 2024 – Appointment of an additional member of the Steering Committee of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**

Decision B/VI

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the proposal of* the Chair of the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC),

Appoints Mr. Jason Pitman to the Steering Committee of CEC as CEC's Regional Vice Chair for Oceania.

**B/VII – 18 August 2024 - Qualities required for the positions of President, Treasurer, Chairs of Commissions, Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor**

Decision B/VII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the proposal of* the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC), *taking into account* the comments made by Council during its 111th meeting (May 2024),

1. Approves the following documents for the purpose of attaching them to the Call for nominations:

   The qualities required for the following elected positions (Regulation 31):
   i. President (Annexe 15)
   ii. Treasurer (Annexe 16)
   iii. Commission Chairs (Annexe 17) as revised
   iv. Councillors elected from the Regions (Annexe 18)
   v. Indigenous Councillor (Annexe 19)

2. Confirms that:

   a. the Call for Nominations to be launched in conformity with Regulations 30 and 37 shall invite proposals for Chair of WCPA, CEC, CEESP, SSC, CEM, WCEL and the Climate Crisis Commission[1], and that
   b. Council will approve, at the latest at its 113th meeting in May 2025, draft Mandates for each of these seven Commissions[2] for the purpose of submitting them to the 2025 Congress for adoption;

3. Approves the additional commission-specific criteria proposed by the Steering Committees of WCPA, CEC and CEESP for the position of Chair of their Commission, as revised, for the purpose of attaching them to the Call for Nominations in conformity with Regulation 30*bis* (Annexe 20) and, *on the proposal of* the Steering Committee of CEM, confirms the additional criteria for Chair of CEM that were attached to the Call for nominations in 2019, as revised (Annexe 20), *noting* that the Steering Committee of WCEL will consider whether to propose any additional criteria at the end of August 2024;

4. Approves the "Additional requirements for nomination to Council for members of Council and members of the Secretariat staff". (Annexe 21)

**B/VIII – 18 August 2024 - Workplan 2024-25 of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)**

Decision B/VIII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Approves the *Workplan 2024-25 of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL).* (Annexe 22)

**B/IX – 21 August 2024 - Admission of new IUCN Members**

Decision B/IX

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

[1] As far as the Climate Crisis Commission is concerned, the Council agrees to issue the Call for nominations for Chair pending final confirmation of the Commission by the 2025 Congress so that the Congress will be in a position to elect a Chair of the Commission once the Commission is confirmed.
[2] Likewise, the Council will propose a draft Mandate for the Climate Crisis Commission so that the 2025 Congress may approve it once it will have confirmed the Commission.

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Approves the admission of 18 Members (Annex 23).

**B/X – 21 August 2024 – IUCN Member name changes and a notification related to a State Member**

Decision B/X

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Takes note of the name change of 4 current IUCN Members (Annex 24);

Takes note of the notification related to the membership of 1 State (Annex 24).

**B/XI – 21 August 2024 – Mandate of the Council's Dues Working Group**

Decision B/XI

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Expands the mandate of the Council Working Group on Membership Dues to include considering member dues in a holistic manner taking into account the membership value task force recommendations and in recommending a dues structure that is fair and equitable and in preparing the draft IUCN Membership Dues Guide 2025 in due time for approval by Council C113 in May 2025 for the purpose of submitting it to the World Conservation Congress 2025 for adoption.

**B/XII – 21 August 2024 – Appointment to the Steering Committee of WCPA**

Decision B/XII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the proposal of* the Chair of WCPA,

Appoints Mr Alfred M. DeGemmis to the Steering Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) as Vice Chair World Heritage.

**B/XIII – 28 August 2024 - IUCN Council's Guidance for 2025 Election Candidates**

Decision B/XIII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) and Nominations Committee,

Approves the *IUCN Council's Guidance for 2025 Election Candidates* as revised for the purpose of attaching it to the Call for Nominations. (Annex 25)

**B/XIV – 28 August 2024 – Revised Procedure for dealing with Letters received from IUCN Members**

Decision B/XIV

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Approves a revision to the *Procedure for dealing with Letters received from IUCN Members and addressed to / intended for the IUCN Council* approved by the Bureau (decision B11/5, September 2023) with the purpose of providing more time to Council for studying Member letters with comments on the draft Council agenda. (Annex 26)

**C/XIII – 29 August 2024 – Membership category changes**

Decision C/XIII

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

1. Approves the request from the Regional Ministry of Environment and Land Planning, Government of Galicia, Spain (*Conselleria de Medio Ambiente e Ordenación do Territorio, Xunta de Galicia - CMOT*) (GA/23282) to change its membership category from Government Agency to Subnational Government;
2. Approves the request from The Zoological Society of London, (ZSL), UK (AF/252), to change its membership category from Affiliate to National Non-Governmental Organisation.

**B/XV – 12 September 2024 – Date and venue of the 112th Council meeting**

Decision B/XV

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*Pursuant to* Bureau decision B12/8 (7 March 2024) deciding to hold C112 in January 2025 instead of November 2024 and requesting the Director General to propose a date and venue "*preferably in the regions"*;

*Having considered* the options presented by the Secretariat and *welcoming* the offers of support from IUCN Members from Guatemala;

Decides to hold the 112th Council meeting in Antigua (Guatemala) from 28-30 January 2025.

**B/XVI – 11 October 2024 – Motions submission template**

Decision B/XVI

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Motions Working Group pursuant to Rule 54 (b)(xii) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress,

Approves the template for submission of motions (Annex 27).

**B/XVII – 24 December 2024 – Council-proposed motions**

Decision B/XVII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,
*Further to* Council decision C110/17 (November 2023),
*Having consulted* the Council's Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) and the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Approves the following Council-proposed motions:

1. IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation (Annexe 28)
2. Harnessing IUCN's Power: Driving Synergy for Net Zero, Nature Positive, and a Just Energy Transition (Annexe 29)
3. Developing a policy on geoengineering (Annexe 30)
4. Mobilising corporate, civil society and government support for high-integrity Nature Positive contributions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Annexe 31)
5. Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programs for climate mitigation (Annexe 32)
6. Confirming the status of the Climate Crisis Commission (Annexe 33)
7. Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations and making IUCN policy more accessible (Annexe 34)

Requests the Secretariat to file them in the motions submission system by 15 January 2025.

**C/XIV – 7 February 2025 – Extension of the deadline for nominations**

Decision C/XIV

The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Election Officer,

1. Decides to extend the deadline until 21 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC in order to allow proposals for persons to be nominated as Treasurer and additional nominations of candidates for *Councillor elected from the Regions* only for statutory regions for which, by the initial deadline of 7 February 2025, fewer complete and validated nominations have been received than there are seats in Council;

Requests the Election Officer to communicate Council's decision to all IUCN Members soon after the initial deadline of 7 February 2025 or to decide not to extend the deadline in case by that time sufficient proposals or nominations will have been made for the elective positions referred to in paragraph 1.

**B/XVIII – 31 March 2025 – Bureau's appointment of additional members of CPC acting as appeals body for the motions process**

Decision B/XVIII

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Congress Preparatory Committee taking into account Articles 62*ter* and 62*quarto* of the Rules of Procedure and Council decision C110/11,

Appoints the following individuals to be additional members of the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body for the motions process: (in alphabetical order)

1. Miradije Gerguri (Government)
2. Erica McCreedy (IPO)
3. Houssine Nibai (NGO)

**C/XV – 4 June 2025 – Draft Mandate 2026-2029 of the Climate Crisis Commission**

Decision C/XV

The IUCN Council,

Approves the draft mandate 2026-2029 of the Climate Crisis Commission for the purpose of submitting it for adoption to the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. (Annexe 35)

**C/XVI – 19 June 2025 – Appointment of the Secretary to Council**

Decision C/XVI

The IUCN Council,

*On the proposal* of the Director General in consultation with the President, concerned to ensure Luc De Wever's replacement when he retires from IUCN at the end of 2025 and proper hand-over allowing his successor to work with him for 4-5 months and to be fully engaged during the 2025 World Conservation Congress,

Approves the appointment of Ms Anna Zeichner as Secretary to Council in conformity with Regulation 56bis, effective 1 December 2025.

**C/XVII to C/XX – 7 July 2025 – Recommendations of the Bureau approved at Bureau's 14th meeting held on 30 June 2025**

COUNCIL DECISIONS C/XVII, C/XVIII, C/XIX and C/XX

By a vote concluded by email correspondence on 7 July 2025, the IUCN Council adopted the following recommendations of the Bureau approved at its 14th meeting on 30 June 2025:[3]

[3] In the absence of the required two-thirds majority, Council did not approve Bureau recommendation B14/1.

- B14/2 regarding an amendment to Regulation 39 modifying the nomination procedures on nominees with multiple nationalities (C/XVII)
- B14/3 regarding amendments to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations establishing an appeals process against definitive decisions of the Election Officer rejecting nominations (C/XVIII)
- B14/4 regarding amendments to the Statutes and Regulations establishing a dues waiver mechanism (C/XIX)
- B14/5 requesting the Chair of GCC to reconvene the drafting group that worked during the 113th Council meeting on a draft decision regarding the establishment of a Fund to assist small IPO Members to pay their membership dues. (C/XX)

The first three decisions have been incorporated in the decision sheet of the 113th Council meeting held in May 2025.

**B/XIX – 5 August 2925 - Membership applications**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Approves the admission of forty-one (41) Members. (Annexe 36)

**B/XX – 5 August 2025 - Member name changes**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Takes note of the name changes of the following seven (7) IUCN Members:

| Member ID | Previous name | New name | Country |
|---|---|---|---|
| GA/1153 | Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology | Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management | Austria |
| | *Name updated following internal structural changes.* | | |
| NG/25559 | Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future - Cornell University | Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability – Cornell University | USA |
| | *Name updated to be aligned with Cornell University new strategic plan.* | | |
| NG/26173 | Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo | Wilder Institute | Canada |
| | *Name updated following internal structural changes.* | | |
| ST/59 | Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (BMUV) | Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (BMUKN)) | Germany |
| | *Name updated following internal structural changes.* | | |
| ST/25531 | Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment | Palau |
| | *Name updated following changes in government structure.* | | |
| ST/26132 | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology | Ministry of Tourism and Environment | Maldives |
| | *Name updated following internal structural changes.* | | |
| NG/1182 | Faunam A.C./PG7 | Faunam A.C. | Mexico |
| | *Name updated following internal structural changes.* | | |

**B/XXI – 5 August 2025 - Recognition of National Committees**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

Recognizes the following National Committees:
(a) the IUCN National Committee of Madagascar; and
(b) the IUCN National Committee of the Philippines.

**B/XXII – 5 August 2025 - IUCN Awards**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation of* the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),

1. Approves […][4] as recipient of the John C. Phillips Medal;
2. Approves that Dr. Sylvia Earle, USA, Dr. Jeffrey McNeely, USA, and Dr. John Robinson, USA, be conferred IUCN Honorary Membership;
3. Takes note of […][4] as recipient of the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal, and that all Medals and Honorary Membership will be awarded at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025.

**B/XXIII – 18 August 2025 - Establishment of a Fund to assist small IPO Members with payment of their membership dues**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

*Recognizing* the significant and ongoing contributions of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) to biodiversity conservation, grounded in their ancestral stewardship and deep interdependence with nature;

*Acknowledging* that Indigenous-managed lands encompass a substantial share of the planet's remaining biodiversity;

*Recalling* the need to respect, protect and ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

*Reaffirming* that full, effective, and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in the governance of IUCN strengthens the legitimacy, accountability, and impact of the Union's mission;

*On the recommendation of* the Chairs of the Governance and Constituency Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee;

1. Requests the Secretariat to establish a fund and fundraise to support those IPOs with a total annual expenditure less than CHF 100,000 on a needs basis to:
   a. Pay 50% of their membership dues, and
   b. Enable their active participation in select IUCN events; and
2. Requests the next Council to develop a strategy to support IPOs.

**B/XIV – 18 August 2025 – Convening Contact Groups prior to Congress on Strategic Vision, Programme, amendments to the Statutes etc.**

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

[4] The names of the laureates will be announced during the 2025 Congress and, in the meantime, they will not be published.

*In accordance with* Article 45*ter* of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress,

Decides to request the Secretariat to convene one (2-hour) virtual meeting of each of the following five Contact Groups in the period between 17 September and 8 October 2025, with additional Contact Group meetings on any of these topics to be convened, as required, by the Resolutions Committee during the Congress:

1. IUCN Programme, Financial Plan 2026-29 and Commission Mandates including Motion 121 *Confirming the status of the Climate Crisis Commission* which includes the Commission's draft Mandate
2. 20-year Strategic Vision for the Union
3. Motion A: *Council's proposals to amend the Rules of Procedure regarding the motions process during Congress* and Motion B *Proposed amendments to Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure - Criteria for accepting motions*
4. Motion C: *Council's proposals to amend the Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress or Regulations*
5. Membership Dues Guide for dues from 2026 and Motion D: *Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes and IUCN Regulations regarding the dues waiver mechanism.*

Email to IUCN Members and Commission members

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To: IUCN Members in Categories A, B and C, IUCN Commission members
Cc: National and Regional Committees, IUCN Council, Director General's Office, Membership Focal Points, Membership and Commission Support Unit

**Subject: Call for expressions of interest for Interim Chair and members of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission. Deadline 28 April 2022**

Dear IUCN Members and Commission members,

IUCN Members in Categories A, B and C and IUCN Commission members are invited to send in expressions of interest from individuals for the positions of Interim Chair, and members of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission. (WCC-2021-Res-110)

The IUCN Council will consider proposals received during its meeting in May 2022 at which point it will appoint the Interim Chair. The Interim Chair will select the candidates for membership of the Interim Steering Committee for appointment by Council from the list of those who submitted expressions of interest pursuant to this announcement.

When considering possible candidates for Interim Chair, IUCN Members and Commission members are asked to keep in mind that the individual concerned must not only have the relevant professional expertise, but also the time, personal commitment and if at all possible, institutional support to make it possible to carry out the demanding duties of a Commission Chair. Creative leadership, vision and dynamism are important qualities for the position of Interim Chair if the voluntary networks concerned are to be motivated and able to contribute to implementing the Mission of the Union.

The Council has identified a series of qualifications for the positions of Interim Chair and member of the Interim Steering Committee. The list of criteria for each are included in Annexes 1 and 2 below.

May we also remind you of the statutory requirement that, as a whole, the Commission Chairs come from a diverse range of Regions and that not more than two Commission Chairs may be from any one State. The list of Commission Chairs currently in office indicating the State they are from is available below.

The Interim Chair appointed by the Council will serve until the close of the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress, when the election process will follow the details set out in the IUCN Statutes. Similarly, the Interim Steering Committee members will serve from the date of their appointment until the close of the 2025 IUCN Congress subject to Regulations 73 and 73*bis*.

IUCN Members and Commission members are invited to forward expressions of interest from individuals who meet the relevant criteria to the IUCN President by email to **president@iucn.org** to arrive **no later than 28 April 2022 at 13:00 GMT/UTC**.

We very much appreciate your attention to this important aspect of the governance of the Union.

Yours sincerely,

| Commission | Chair | State |
|---|---|---|
| Commission on Education and Communication | Sean Southey | Canada/South Africa |
| Commission on Ecosystem Management | Angela Andrade | Colombia |
| Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy | Kristen Walker Painemilla | USA |
| Species Survival Commission | Jon Paul Rodriguez | Venezuela |
| World Commission on Environmental Law | Christina Voigt | Germany |
| World Commission on Protected Areas | Madhu Rao | India/UK |

Annex 1

# Call for expressions of interest to be the Interim Chair of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission

## Background

In September 2021, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles, IUCN members agreed to initiate the establishment of a new IUCN Commission on the Climate Crisis, tasking the IUCN Council with appointing an Interim Chair (IC) and establishing an Interim Steering Committee (ISC) for the Commission. (WCC-2021-Res-110)

The aim of the new Commission is to mobilise and coordinate the Union and engage with Regional and National IUCN Committees and broader civil society efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change based on the best available scientific evidence coming from the IPCC and taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the UNFCCC through the Global Climate Action Agenda.

The IUCN Council invites IUCN Members and members of IUCN Commissions to send in expressions of interest from individuals who meet the criteria below for the position of Interim Chair and/or members of the Interim Steering Committee by 13:00 UTC on 28 April 2022.

The IUCN Bureau will consider candidates and make a recommendation to Council for the appointment of the Interim Chair at its 107th meeting on 18-19 May 2022. Gender equity and regional diversity will be taken into consideration in the review of candidates.

The Interim Chair will, with the support of the Bureau and in accordance with the criteria defined for the membership of the ISC, propose to Council the candidates for membership of the ISC at the latest by 30 June 2022, taking into account the expressions of interest received, with a view to Council appointing them by 31July 2022. The IC and ISC will be requested to develop draft terms of reference for the Commission by 15 October 2022 for Council's consideration.

The term of the IC will be until the end of the next IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025.

Candidates for Interim Chair must be of high standing, with well-respected leadership qualities; a track record of experience, expertise and knowledge in climate policy and action and its nexus with the biodiversity crisis; a demonstrated capacity to inspire colleagues and mobilise resources; with a working knowledge of IUCN; a commitment to build cohesion across the Union's components; and the commitment to dedicate substantial unpaid time to this role for the next three years.

# Criteria for the position of Interim Chair

Candidates wishing to be considered for the position of interim Chair – Climate Crisis Commission should possess the following attributes:-

**General**

a) have previous governance/Board experience, preferably in an international or intergovernmental organization or a large regional organization
b) be committed to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development
c) have a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities
d) financial literacy
e) experience in mobilizing financial resources from different sources
f) commitment to participate in Council and one of its standing committees
g) have the capacity to work in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

**Specific**

h) documented, outstanding and widely respected expertise with respect to climate science, policy, governance and action and the nexus with biodiversity
i) good knowledge of IUCN, its structures, governance processes and ongoing work in the context of climate change
j) network of contacts around the world and proven networking skills
k) ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south
l) leadership qualities - able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration
m) effective chair of meetings
n) proven strategic planning and organizational management skills
o) good communicator
p) the ability to build and achieve strategically coherent consensus and a commitment to building cohesion across the Union’s components

**Requirements**

(i) No conflict of interest;
(ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups;
(iii) Time available for the full discharge of the interim Commission Chair's duties until the next World Conservation Congress in 2025;

**Desirable**

(i) Support at institutional/employment base
(ii) Experience from regional and/or international networking
(iii) Prior IUCN involvement

Expressions of interest should be sent to the IUCN President [president@iucn.org] by 28 April 2022, and must include:

1. the candidate's response to the above criteria
2. an up-to-date CV
3. a declaration of any relevant interests (to manage (potential) conflict of interests)
4. confirmation of the candidate's commitment to dedicate the time to effectively discharge the role of a Commission Chair for the next three years
5. at least two endorsements from IUCN members in different IUCN regions
6. A document, no longer than 5 pages, of the candidate's vision for the Commission, views on how the Commission, once established, could add value to IUCN without duplicating efforts

Annex

# Call for expressions of interest as a Member of the Interim Steering Committee of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission

## Background

In September 2021, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles, IUCN members agreed to initiate the establishment of a new IUCN Commission on the Climate Crisis, tasking the IUCN Council with appointing an Interim Chair (IC) and establishing an Interim Steering Committee (ISC) for the Commission. (WCC-2021-Res-110)

The aim of the new Commission is to mobilise and coordinate the Union and engage with Regional and National IUCN Committees and broader civil society efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change based on the best available scientific evidence coming from the IPCC and taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the UNFCCC through the Global Climate Action Agenda.

The IUCN Council invites IUCN members and members of IUCN Commissions to send in expressions of interest from individuals who meet the criteria below for members of the Interim Steering Committee by 13:00 UTC on 28 April 2022.

Once appointed, the Interim Chair will, with the support of the Bureau and in accordance with the criteria defined for the membership of the ISC, propose to Council the candidates for membership of the ISC at the latest by 30 June 2022, taking into account the expressions of interest received, with a view to Council appointing them by 31 July 2022. Expressions of Interest received through this call will be made available to the Interim Chair, who will consider them in view of preparing a list of ISC nominees to Council.

The IC and ISC will be requested to develop draft terms of reference for the Commission by 15 October 2022 for Council's consideration.

The term of the ISC members will be until the end of the next IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025, subject to Regulations 73 and 73*bis*.

## Criteria

Candidates wishing to be considered as a member of the Interim Steering Committee of the Climate Crisis Commission should possess the following attributes:

- Technical qualification and in particular possess the necessary knowledge and documented expertise in climate science, policy and action, including issues concerning mitigation, adaptation and climate resilient development, and the role of nature-based solutions in these

Other factors which the Interim Chair and Council will take into account during the selection process:

- Diversity of points of view
- Geographic representation
- Gender equity and the inclusion of the vital voices of Indigenous Peoples and Youth

Expressions of interest should be sent to the IUCN President [president@iucn.org] by 28 April 2022, and must include:

1. the candidate's response to the above criteria
2. an up-to-date CV
3. a declaration of any relevant interests (to manage (potential) conflict of interests)
4. confirmation of the candidate's commitment to dedicate the time necessary serve in the Interim Steering Committee

**16 applications approved by GCC at its 4th meeting on 18 July 2022 and by e-mail correspondence concluding on 28 July 2022**

| IUCN Statutory region | # | Organisation name | Acronym | IUCN Statutory State | Website | Member Category | Letters of endorsement from IUCN Members, National/Regional Committees, Councillors, Honorary Members | Detailed application |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Africa | 1 | The Society of Writers on Environment and Development | SWED | Egypt | swed1995 (@swed_1995) / Twitter | National NGO | 1) NG/22579 The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan, Jordan<br>2) IUCN Councillor, S. Damhoureyeh | SWED |
| | 2 | Association de Continuité de Générations (Association of continuity of generations) | ACG | Tunisia | https://acg-generations.org/ | National NGO | 1) ST/7672 Ministère de l'Environnement (Ministry of Environment), Tunisia<br>2) NG/25693 Notre Grand Bleu (Our big blue), Tunisia | ACG |
| Meso and South America | 3 | Fondo de la Iniciativa para las Américas (Initiative for the Americas Fund) | FIAES | El Salvador | https://www.fiaes.org.sv/en | National NGO | 1) NG/14386 Asociación Salvadoreña Pro-Salud Rural (Salvadorean Association for Rural Health), El Salvador<br>2) NG/25967 Fundación Salvadoreña para la Promoción Social y el Desarrollo Económico (Salvadoran Foundation for Social Promotion and Economic Development), El Salvador | FIAES |
| | 4 | Mancomunidad de Municipios del Parque Nacional Montaña de Celaque (Association of Municipalities of the Montaña de Celaque National Park) | MAPANCE | Honduras | https://panorama.solutions/en<br>www.facebook.com/ParqueNacionalCelaque/ | National NGO | 1) NG/25741 Asociación para el Manejo Integrado de Cuencas de La Paz y Comayagua (Association for the Integrated Management of the La Paz and Comayagua Watersheds), Honduras<br>2) NG/25976 Proyecto Aldea Global (Global Village Project), Honduras<br>3) National Committee of IUCN Members, Honduras | MAPANCE |
| North America and the Caribbean | 5 | Institute for Sustainability & Energy at Northwestern University | ISEN | United States of America | www.isen.northwestern.edu | National NGO | 1) AF/25440 Chicago Botanic Garden, USA<br>2) NG/550 World Wildlife Fund - US, USA | ISEN |
| South and East Asia | 6 | Qingdao Marine Conservation Society | QMCS | China | http://www.qmcs.org.cn | National NGO | NG/25487 China Mangrove Conservation Network, China<br>NG/25857 SEE Foundation, China | QMCS |

**16 applications approved by GCC at its 4th meeting on 18 July 2022 and by e-mail correspondence concluding on 28 July 2022**

| IUCN Statutory region | # | Organisation name | Acronym | IUCN Statutory State | Website | Member Category | Letters of endorsement from IUCN Members, National/Regional Committees, Councillors, Honorary Members | Detailed application |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Asia | 7 | Arab Women Water Energy Environment Network Association | AWWEENA | Jordan | https://awweena.net | National NGO | 1) NG/25829 Dibeen Association for Environmental Development, Jordan<br>2) NG/25604 Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities' Members in the Environmental and Educational Fields, Jordan | AWWEENA |
| | 8 | King Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority | KARNR | Saudi Arabia | King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Royal Reserve (ksrnr.gov.sa) | Government agency | N/A | KARNR |
| | 9 | International Fund For Houbara Conservation | IFHC | United Arab Emirates | http://houbarafund.gov.ae | Government agency | N/A | IFHC |
| West Europe | 10 | UNDER THE POLE / Antipodes | UTP | France | https://www.underthepole.org | National NGO | 1) Comité national des Membres, France<br>2) AF/1520 Centre de Culture Scientifique, Technique et Industrielle de la Mer OCEANOPOLIS BREST (Centre for Scientific, Technical and Industrial Culture of the Sea), France | UTP |
| | 11 | Ville de Fontainebleau (City of Fontainebleau) | VdF | France | Accueil - Fontainebleau - Ville de Fontainebleau | Subnational government | N/A | VdF |
| | 12 | Tiergarten der Stadt Nürnberg (Nuremberg Zoo) | TgNbg | Germany | https://www.tiergarten.nuernberg.de | National NGO | 1) NG/772 Zoologisk Have København (Copenhagen Zoo), Denmark<br>2) NG/1538 Zoologischer Garten Köln (Cologne Zoological Garden), Germany | TgNbg |
| | 13 | Zoologischer Garten Berlin AG (Zoologischer Garten Berlin AG) | Zoo_Berlin | Germany | https://www.zoo-berlin.de | National NGO | 1) NG/772 Zoologisk Have København (Copenhagen Zoo), Denmark<br>2) IN/24785 European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, The Netherlands | Zoo_Berlin |
| | 14 | Universidad Católica Santa Teresa de Jesús de Ávila (Saint Teresa of Jesus Catholic University of Avila) | UCAV | Spain | https://www.ucavila.es/ | Affiliate | 1) NG/24956 Centro de Extensión Universitaria e Divulgación Ambiental de Galicia (Centre for Continuing Education and the Dissemination of Environmental Information of Galicia), Spain<br>2) NG/25232 Fundación Oxigeno (Oxygen Foundation), Spain | UCAV |
| | 15 | Insamlingsstiftelsen Kolmården Foundation (Kolmarden Foundation) | KF | Sweden | https://www.kolmarden.com | National NGO | 1) IN/1030 Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden<br>2) NG/25166 Stiftelsen Nordens Ark, Sweden | KF |
| | 16 | Galapagos Conservation Trust | GCT | United Kingdom | https://galapagosconservation.org.uk | National NGO | 1) NG/812 Fundación Charles Darwin para las Islas Galápagos (Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands), Ecuador<br>2) IN/835 Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK | GCT |

GCC4 meeting decisions - Annex

## Change of membership category of current IUCN Member organisations

| Member ID | Name | Country | Current category | Requested new category |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GA/614 | Ministère de l'environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (Québec) | Canada | Government agency | Subnational government |
| GA/25049 | Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Bureau of Environment Conservation | Republic of Korea | Government agency | Subnational government |
| GA/25305 | Dirección de Gestión Ambiental del Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado de la Provincia del Carchi) - *Environmental Agency of the Regional Goverment of Carchi* | Ecuador | Government agency | Subnational government |

## Change of name of current IUCN Member organisations

| Member ID | Previous name | New name | Country |
|---|---|---|---|
| GA/614 | Ministère de l'environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (Québec) | Gouvernement du Québec *(Government of Québec)* | Canada |
| GA/25049 | Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Bureau of Environment Conservation | Jeju Special Self-Governing Province | Republic of Korea |
| GA/25112 | Ministry of Environment and Tourism | Ministarstvo ekologije, prostornog planiranja i urbanizm *(Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism)* | Montenegro |
| NG/203 | San Diego Zoo Global | San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance | USA |
| SN/25411 | Service des Parcs naturels régionaux et biodiversité - Conseil Régional Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur * | Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur | France |

** This Member requested a change of category from Affiliate to Subnational government, which was approved by 107th Council in May 2022. They are now informing us that they want to have their name changed as well.*

# Intersessional Council Working Group on the Development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision

## Terms of Reference

(Draft recommended by the Bureau to Council for approval)

### Overview of the governance of the "Strategy Project"

The 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress requested the Council "*as a matter of priority, to establish an intersessional Council Working Group* (hereafter referred to as the "Working Group") *including IUCN Members to lead and work with the Director General*" on the development of "*a long-term (20 years) integrated Strategic Vision that includes a Financial Strategy, and Strategic Plan and other implementation plans, as needed*" and to submit it "*to a vote by the Members before the end of the next World Conservation Congress*". (2021 Congress decision 147)

The Working Group, which will comprise the Bureau of the IUCN Council, the Director General and 8 to 10 individuals proposed by IUCN Members and appointed by the IUCN Council, will provide overall guidance and direction to the Strategy Project and approve the final draft of the Strategic Vision for submission to the next Congress in 2025 for discussion and adoption.

In terms of Council decision C107/16, the individuals appointed together with the Bureau will constitute the Steering Committee of the "Strategy Project", while the Director General will act as "Project Manager". The Steering Committee will ensure the Project deliverables meet the overall guidance and direction provided by 2021 Congress decision 147, within the timeline for the development and consultation process of the 20-year Strategic Vision approved by the IUCN Council (Council decision C107/16). The Steering Committee will meet periodically in function of the decisions required from it.

### Composition of the Intersessional Council Working Group

The Working Group will be composed of:

1. The ten members of the Bureau of the IUCN Council;
2. The Director General; and
3. Eight to ten individuals appointed by the IUCN Council based on nominations [1] received from IUCN Members, taking into account the following criteria:
    a. leadership role within her/his Member institution / organization including experience with organizational and financial strategy;
    b. experience with IUCN particularly in relation to its Governance;
    c. commitment to act in a personal capacity and not as a representative of her/his government/organization and to allocate the necessary time to be an active member of the Working Group;
    d. overall balance in terms of regions, gender, age and type of organisational background, especially considering participation from youth and indigenous peoples.

The call for nominations should include that: *"IUCN Members are particularly encouraged to send in proposals for qualified individuals from youth. In addition to competence in*

[1] Nominations are signed / emailed by an individual holding a senior position in the IUCN Member organization / institution (chair of the board, chief executive or equivalent) other than the person being nominated, and must be sent to the President of IUCN (president@iucn.org).

*governance, the IUCN Council is looking for individuals with interest and expertise in governance, innovative financing, future trends/technology and strategic planning".*

**Functions of the Working Group**

1. Provide overall guidance and direction for the Strategy Project, taking into account:
   a. 2021 Congress decision 147
   b. Council decision C107/16 (May 2022) which approved a timeline for the development and a process for consultation of all IUCN Members on the 20-year Strategic Vision;
   c. as appropriate, the draft ToR for the development of the Strategic Vision offered by the previous Council as Annex to Congress Motion J (cf. 2021 Congress Decision 147 and the Annex to Motion J).
2. Meet about 5 to 6 times per year by virtual means.
3. Provide comments to documents and drafts put together in the development of the Strategy Project.

**Duration**

The Working Group is expected to finish its task at the time it approves the final draft of the Strategic Vision for submission to the next Congress in 2025 for discussion and adoption (expected for the first quarter of 2025).

However, its members may be requested to remain available for functions in connection with the discussion of the Strategic Vision during the next IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in 2025.

# Council priorities / objectives 2022 – 2025

| Priorities & objectives | Desired impact by 2025 | Lead responsibility | VP | Timeline[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1-Governance Reforms** | | | | |
| Complete the implementation of the Council Response to 2019 Governance External Review with particular attention to optimal transparency of Council and its effective communication and engagement with Members in the regions, and effective cooperation between Secretariat and Commissions | Each component of the Union effectively performs its statutory functions | DG submits proposals to C108;<br>GCC makes recommendations to C108 on selected proposals that are ready for adoption<br>GCC makes recommendations to C109 on all other proposals taking into account C108 discussion<br>Immediate implementation of approved proposals in 2023-24<br>"Light" review of results by external reviewer at C112 | Hilde Eggermont | 15Nov22<br>17Jan23<br>09May23<br>Nov24 |
| **2-Resolutions** | | | | |
| Ensuring implementation of all Resolutions and Decisions requiring action by Council with particular attention to:<br>a. 2021 RES 110 establishing a Climate Crisis Commission<br>b. 2021 DEC 148 on increased Member involvement in Congress<br>c. Increased effectiveness / transparency of the motions process<br>d. Impact of armed conflict on biodiversity | Effective implementation of IUCN Resolutions and Decisions adopted by WCC<br>Improved levels of Member participation and confidence in, and management of, Congress and intersessional decision-processes | PPC proposes and Council approves in accordance with the process approved by Council (DEC C107/11) except:<br>a- Interim Chair proposes, Council approves<br>b- Advisory Group proposes, GCC reviews, Council approves<br>c- GCC proposes, PPC and FAC review, Council approves | Imèn Meliane | Overall: 2025 Congress<br>a- ToR approved and Commission operational by/before C108<br>b- Council approval of final proposals for online vote at C110<br>c- Idem |

[1] **C108**: 29 November 2022 (Part I – virtual) and 17-19 January 2023 in person; **C109**: May 2023; **C110**: November 2023; **C111**: May 2024; **C112**: November 2024; **C113**: February/March 2025

**Council priorities / objectives 2022 – 2025**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3-Strategic Vision** | | | | |
| a- Develop the 20 year Strategy incl. a financial strategy to achieve a sustainable Union and submit to Congress<br>b- Measure and communicate the delivery of conservation outcomes and impact of Nature 2030 | 20 year Strategy delivered and adopted at Congress<br>IUCN financially secure<br>Conservation outcomes and impacts measured | a- DG proposes; Intersessional Council WG reviews (FAC on financial strategy); Council reviews; WG approves the final version for submission to Congress<br>b- DG reports; PPC reviews; Council takes decisions as required | Razan AlMubarak | a- Per Council DEC C107/16:<br>C109 draft for consultation<br>C111 approval final version<br>C113 approval of statutory amendments required<br>b- 2025 Congress |
| **4- Membership value proposition** | | | | |
| a- Modify as required and implement the membership strategy with particular attention to engagement of IUCN Members as part of the *One Programme* approach<br>b- Improve the transparency of IUCN investment in countries and Regions (programs, presence, projects)<br>c- Retain and grow State party membership | Increased engagement and satisfaction of Members National & Regional Committees and Commissions in IUCN's work<br>Number of State members is increased<br>Greater equity in the distribution of IUCN resources | a- GCC proposes; Council approves<br>b- DG reports; FAC reviews; Council takes decisions as required<br>c- DG reports; GCC reviews; Council takes decisions as required | Ramiro Batzin | Ongoing, annual review by Council, and report to Congress |
| **5-International positioning** | | | | |
| a- Identify international policy priorities and areas where IUCN can have a maximum impact<br>b- More effectively leverage expertise, networks, collaborations and influence of IUCN's constituent parts and new partners<br>c- Expedited and measured responses to international issues | IUCN's influence is improved and mobilizes all of its constituents<br>High ambition conservation goals are secured | a- DG reports or proposes; PPC reviews; Council takes decisions as required<br>b- DG reports or proposes; PPC reviews; Council takes decisions as required<br>c- CEC to draft, Council to take decisions as required | Peter Cochrane | All by 2025 Congress |

# IUCN Climate Crisis Commission
## Work Plan 2023-2024

(Approved by the IUCN Council, decision C/VII, 9 March 2023)

## 1- Introduction

The resolution (WCC-2020-Res-044-EN) defines that the '*The Climate Crisis Commission'* ***aim is to mobilize and coordinate the Union and engaging with Regional and National IUCN Committees and broader civil society efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change based on the best available science*** *coming from the IPCC and taking into account the actions and initiatives that are developed in the* ***UNFCCC through the Global Climate Action Agenda***. It mentions that ***"transformative change for a system-wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions*** *is necessary.*

Based on this, the Climate Crisis Commission vision is ***a world in which global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and society is adapting to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are Nature Positive, and promote just outcomes for all***.

For this, it must lead and support implementation of solutions proposed by all forms of science with a main focus on just decarbonization, synergies between climate and biodiversity, and addressing vulnerable nature and human sectors. To realize this vision, the Climate Crisis Commission must help consolidate IUCN's extensive climate-related policy as articulated through Congress resolutions, connect with existing efforts and synergies and build new ones, promote productive and constructive partnerships and leverage IUCN's convening power. Actions guided by principles including equity, social and climate justice, ecosystem integrity, environmental safeguards and a rights based approach, will be essential for rapid and sustainable transformations. It will also be important to engage all sectors in society, working with women and youth as key parts of the equation. It will also be important that new Commission's work recognizes the sustainable nature conservation practices of Indigenous Peoples, respects, protects and uphold their rights including to their lands, territories and resources, and ensures the application of Free Prior and Informed Consent.

In addition to assisting IUCN's engagement with the formal intergovernmental processes addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, the Climate Crisis Commission recognizes the necessarily ambitious transformational change that must now occur; percolate the economic, political, cultural and social dimensions across multiple fronts; and be implemented by different actors at many-levels.

Neither climate nor nature goals will be achieved without fundamental reforms of our financial and economic architecture and a well planned systems transition, shaped through a convergence approach. This will undoubtedly require addressing real concerns such as the credibility and validity of “NetZero” approaches, and the further development of the “Nature Positive” concept and actions.

## 2- Goal

By 2025, IUCN CCC will have been effective in bringing a more holistic, integrated and just approach to the development and implementation of IUCN climate policy and programs and to IUCN’s engagement with international and regional processes, effectively contributing to the efforts of the world community in limiting warming to below 1.5ºC and enabling the necessary adaptation and resilience.

## 3- Objectives

- Develop and promote holistic policies and guidelines that facilitate the rapid transition away from fossil fuel to clean energy sources, climate and nature convergence and the enabling conditions to effectively address both challenges.
- Through strong collaboration with other Commissions and the Secretariat, promote synergistic policies and approaches with relevant multilateral processes in addition to the UNFCCC and CBD including UNCCD, RAMSAR, CITES, UNEA, SDGs and those related oceans, food and materials management. Help mobilize, coordinate and collaborate with all components of the Union and external partners under a “One Union”, “whole of society approach”, leveraging IUCN convening power and knowledge.
- Promote and implement solutions that advance synergistic climate-biodiversity outcomes, including by integrating science, Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge systems, and local community knowledge in this effort.
- Address the controversies that limit the climate and nature convergence.
- Promote the use of accurate data and appropriate technology to bring solutions to address the climate and nature crises, whilst preventing, warning and limiting its use if it is contrary to climate, nature and sustainability objectives.
- Promote innovative solutions and develop innovative tools/mechanisms, to address the climate and nature crises, through addressing the four climate transitions suggested by IPCC and the 5 key drivers of nature loss identified by IPBES.
- Promote inclusiveness by working with and for local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.
- Raise public awareness and capacity building under a coherent action plan for an effective impact of the commission's measurements.
- Develop the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission mandate for the IUCN 2025 World Conservation Congress based in the CCC Terms of Reference.
- Secure resources for running the Climate Crisis Commission by developing a strategic plan for resource mobilization.

- Promote science, technology, data and planning for integrated nature and climate strategies, as well as methodologies and indicators to measure progress towards the Commission's climate objectives.

## 4- Work Plan 2023-2024 objective

Based in an active and tenacious membership, in robust external partnerships, and strongly developing visibility and positioning actions; being recognized as key contributors to addressing the climate and nature crises.

## 5- Workstreams

## 5.1. Thematic focus

### 1. Policy

- Participate in and organize events related to the priorities of the IUCN and CCC; contribute to the development and promotion of evidence-based policies and programs, building upon and critiquing as needed, decisions made in the global multilateral political processes.
- Address contentious topics with rights-based approaches that promote ecosystem integrity;
- Convene dialogues and advocate e evidence-based recommendations for the Global Stocktake process that help to raise climate ambition on NDC's and Long Term Strategies, working with IUCN regional and national offices;
- Convene dialogues and advocate recommendations to the Global Goal on Adaptation process that strengthen and prioritize adaptation strategies at the national level that promote justice, ecosystem integrity and resilience.
- Working through collaborations with the Secretariat, regional and national committees, and across Commissions, and building upon multilateral decisions, create the enabling conditions for high quality implementation of Nature based Solutions.
- Work to address the lack of integrity in many carbon offset projects and develop principles and guidelines that will address deficiencies and prioritize the protection and restoration of biodiverse, carbon rich ecosystems
- Document and effectively communicate the role of protecting and restoring ecosystems in contributing to limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees as part of comprehensive approach to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.
- Begin development of frameworks for evaluating how the clean energy infrastructure needed for the rapid transition away from fossil fuels can be rolled out in ways that protect nature and and be just for all;
- Strongly advocate for the strengthening of Commitments by UNFCCC Parties at COP28 for the rapid phasing out of fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas);

- Develop a high level engagement strategy with key actors at COP28.

2. **Solutions and innovative tools**
    - Explore a strong collaboration between the Climate Action Agenda and the CBD Action Agenda, to develop tools and mechanisms to put nature/nature's role as a key enabler to achieve climate objectives.
    - Develop frameworks for supporting the rapid decarbonization of economies and transition away from fossil fuel to clean energy sources in ways that protect nature and promotes social justice.

3. **Finance**
    - Engage and contribute, by submitting recommendations, to the development of the Loss and Damage Fund.
    - Support COP2COP multi-stakeholder initiative on resource mobilization which seeks to is to address the key nature and climate challenge on the reform of the financial architecture: How do we collectively raise ambition on public finance and incentives, which in turn, can catalyze and incentivize private sector investment into the protection, restoration and conservation of intact and existing ecosystems?

4. **Technology and data**
    - Draft position papers on the implications for to the global warming target, and biodiversity and human well-being of certain climate technologies such as carbon dioxide removal (CDR) and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

## 4.2. Cross-cutting areas

1. **Communications and outreach**
    - Communicate the vision, mission and narrative of the CCC in support of outreach activities.
    - Develop a brief document to communicate the purpose, goals and plans of the Climate Crisis Commission.

2. **Partnerships**
    - Design and develop a strategic plan to identify and develop innovative partnerships that contribute to the CCC strategy and Work Plan, as well as helping position its work in the international climate space.
    - Strategically partnering and working, from a "whole of society" and rights based approach with non-state actors, drive implementation through the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda / Marrakech Partnership and the CBD Sharm-El Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People. These are vehicles to raise ambition, drive implementation and bring coherence between both climate and nature agendas.

3. **Flagship projects/products**
    - Develop a CCC flagship project and product that positions the Commission, conveys the value add of the CCC, supports the decision making process, focuses on the climate and nature convergence and brings solutions that contribute to scaling up, socially just and Nature positive actions (e.g. Climate solutions evaluation framework).

## 4.3. Internal organization and structure

1. **Membership**
   Identify and convene members under the structure and Work Plan of the Commission, guided by principles of inclusion, including youth and Indigenous Peoples, gender, geographic balance, and intergenerational balance.

2. **Resource mobilization**
    - Secure new resources for the Climate Crisis Commission by developing a strategic plan for resource mobilization.
    - Design and develop a flagship project with IUCN Secretariat to elevate and mainstream the CCC work, whilst accessing additional resources.

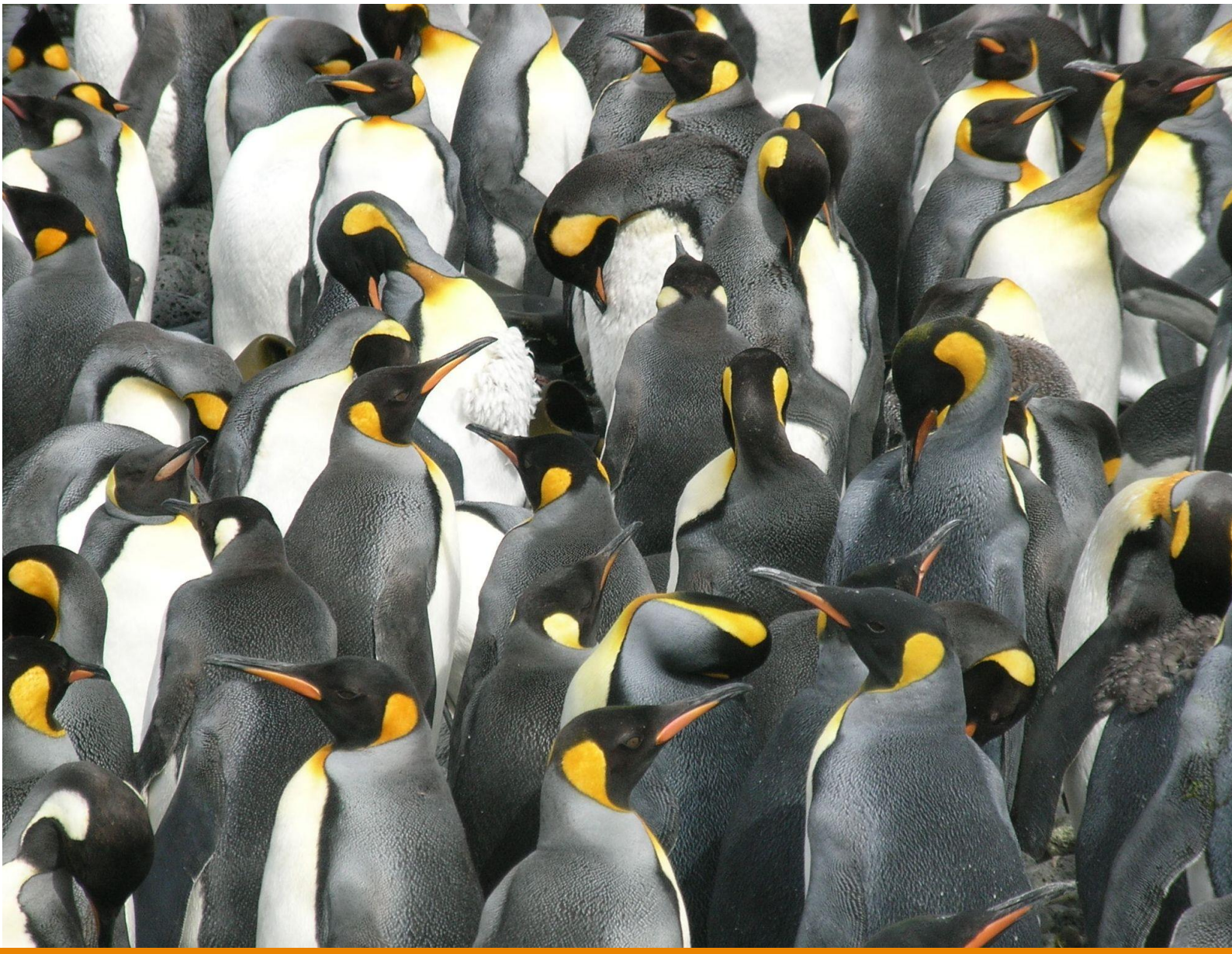
3. **Cross commission collaboration**
    - Work across Commissions to promote synergies and collaborations.
    - Define focal points within the Commission Steering and Working groups and creat mechanisms for collaboration.

4. **IUCN Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) role at UNFCCC**
    - Lever IUCN's IGO role at UNFCCC process to strengthen the organization and CCC's advocacy, increase our influence and visibility, and improve our position as a trusted, knowledgeable, solutions-orientated and progressive thinking peak global organization in the ongoing climate deliberations.

## 5- Organizing the work

While the IUCN CCC Steering Committee organizes the dedicated teams for each Workstream and appoints the regional vice chairs, the Steering Committee members will play a "working team" role to further develop and implement the actions proposed in this Work Plan.

# Annex 1: (Proposed Amendments) IUCN Membership Dues Guide



The presentation of material in this publication and the geographical designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries.

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# Introduction

IUCN is a unique organisation – a democratic membership Union – composed of over 1,500 Members, some 18,000 scientific experts in our thematic Commissions and some 900 staff, who work together in more than 160 countries. By joining IUCN, Members benefit from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base and convening power, extensive networking opportunities and access to high-level political, economic and social decision making. More information on the benefits of IUCN membership is available here.

The prompt payment of annual membership dues is essential to fund the work of IUCN, supporting the implementation of the Programme and governance of the Union, the facilitation of global networking and communications, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

**Membership dues are payable in advance and payment shall be received by the 1st of January.** Invoices, issued in Swiss Francs, are prepared and dispatched during the last quarter of the preceding year.

This Dues Guide provides information on the calculation and structure of dues for IUCN Members.

**This Membership Dues Guide was approved by electronic vote of Members on 10 February 2021 (WCC 2020 Dec 152)[1] and ~~formally~~ updated as a consequence of the inclusion of subnational governments in IUCN membership at the World Conservation Congress ~~(WCC 2020 Dec 152)~~. The Membership Dues Guide was subsequently revised with a new methodology for the Membership dues of venue-based organisations in Category B and C (subject to Member vote in November 2023). ~~No other changes have been made to the content of this Guide, which was initially approved by IUCN Council at its 98th meeting in February 2020 and published with official Congress documents.~~**

[1] Council, at its 100th meeting in September 2020, had approved this revised version of the Guide. They clarified that following the postponement of the 2020 Congress to 2021, the Guide would apply for membership dues as from 2022, and that the 2017-2020 Membership Dues guide would remain applicable for the 2021 membership dues, to enable the Secretariat to timely invoice IUCN Members before 1 January 2021

# Applicability of the Guide

This Membership Dues Guide is applicable for membership dues as from 2022 and will remain in force until a revised Guide is adopted by the next World Conservation Congress.

The amendment related to the calculation of the membership dues for venue-based organisations is effective from 6 December 2023 (to be confirmed) which is the close of the electronic vote at which the amendment was adopted.

# Categories of membership

Membership of IUCN is divided into four categories, as defined in Articles 4 and 5 of the IUCN Statutes.

Category A: States, government agencies and Subnational governments;
Political and/or economic integration organisations;

Category B: National non-governmental organisations;
International non-governmental organisations;

Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations; and

Category D: Affiliates.

For each category, there is a corresponding dues scale. It is one of the functions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress to determine the dues of Members of IUCN (Article 20 (f) of the IUCN Statutes).
More information on the calculation and structure of IUCN membership dues can be found in the sections below.

At the 2000 Congress (Amman), Members requested the IUCN Council to review the calculation of membership dues, linking them to a recognized published inflation index instead of the pre-defined percentage increase used since the 17th Session of the General Assembly (San José, 1988).
In Bangkok, in 2004, the Members' Assembly approved Council's proposal to use the Swiss Consumer Price Index[2] (CPI), published annually by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office to index the membership dues, from 2006 onwards. No adjustments to the dues are made when the index is negative.

# Membership dues

## Category A: States, government agencies, subnational governments, and political and/or economic integration organisations

As per Regulation 22[3] of the IUCN Statutes, the "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" is used as a basis to establish the membership dues groups for States, government agencies, subnational governments and political and/or economic integration organisations. The repartition of UN assessment percentages within the IUCN dues groups (Table 1) is decided by the IUCN Council, while the definition of the dues amounts (Tables 2, 3 and 4) is a Congress decision.

The latest "UN scale of assessments for the period 2019-2021[4]" was published on 4 January 2019. Consequently, the IUCN Dues Guide has been updated to reflect the 2019–2021 UN Scale of assessments and it is valid from 2022.

[2] https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/prices/consumer-price-index.html
[3] Regulation 22 of the IUCN Statutes: "*Dues for Members in Category A shall be established by the World Conservation Congress and be calculated for the period until the next World Congress on the basis of the latest available percentage assessed for States concerned in the budget of the United Nations. The Council may establish groups for the setting of dues...*".
[4] https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/271

In the calculation of membership dues for States, government agencies, subnational governments and political and/or economic integration organisations, IUCN does not apply the UN assessment percentages directly. Rather, IUCN has elaborated its own sliding scale to form the IUCN dues groups/levels by grouping the different countries according to their percentage contributions to the UN budget. Approved by the 2000 IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman), the present scale of percentage grouping, used to determine the IUCN Category A membership dues scale of 11 groups, ranging from "0" to 10, is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: IUCN sliding scale of State, government agency, subnational government and political and/or economic integration organisation Members and corresponding UN assessment percentages**

| IUCN CATEGORY A MEMBERS IN DUES GROUPS: | CORRESPOND TO STATES WITH A UN ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE OF: | UN ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGES: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | | | | Less than | 0.01% |
| 1 | | From | 0.01% | up to & including | 0.05% |
| 2 | | More than | 0.05% | up to & including | 0.07% |
| 3 | | More than | 0.07% | up to & including | 0.11% |
| 4 | | More than | 0.11% | up to & including | 0.19% |
| 5 | | More than | 0.19% | up to & including | 0.35% |
| 6 | | More than | 0.35% | up to & including | 0.67% |
| 7 | | More than | 0.67% | up to & including | 1.31% |
| 8 | | More than | 1.31% | up to & including | 2.59% |
| 9 | | More than | 2.59% | up to & including | 5.15% |
| 10 | | More than | 5.15% | | |

The membership dues scales for States (Table 2), Government agencies (Tables 3 & 4) and Subnational governments (Table 3), comprise 11 groups. For the composition of the 11 dues groups, please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category A: States

**Table 2: States**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7,790 | 15,570 | 31,150 | 51,520 | 78,980 | 118,400 | 181,280 | 247,670 | 295,290 | 396,260 | 495,330 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[5].*

## Category A: Government agencies and subnational governments

For a government agency and a subnational government, the dues group is the same as that of its State.

Government agencies are divided into two groups, A and B:

Group A: government agencies of a State where the State IS a Member of IUCN
Group B: government agencies of a State where the State IS NOT a Member of IUCN.

Dues for government agencies in Groups A and B are shown in Tables 3 and/or 4 respectively. Subnational governments dues are shown in Table 3.

**Government agencies and subnational governments – Group A:**

**Table 3: Government agencies where the State is a Member of IUCN and subnational governments – Group A**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 3,560 | 5,440 | 7,430 | 8,860 | 11,890 | 14,860 |

[5] Decision from the Members' Assembly in 2004 (refer to page 2 for more information)

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[6].*

Membership dues for a government agency where the State IS a Member of IUCN are 3% of those of the State rate, except for government agencies of Groups "0" to 3 who pay the rate based on Group 4[7]. For the appropriate dues group of your agency please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

The membership dues for subnational governments are governed by the scale for "Government agencies where the State is a Member of IUCN", irrespective of whether the State is a Member or not.

**Government agencies – Group B:**

**Table 4: Government agencies where the State is not a Member of IUCN – Group B**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3,890 | 3,890 | 7,790 | 12,880 | 19,750 | 29,620 | 45,320 | 61,920 | 73,820 | 99,070 | 123,830 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[5].*

In a country where the State IS NOT a Member of IUCN, the government agency pays 25% of the amount of dues payable by the State if it were a Member, except for Group "0" for which the rate of dues is the same as in Group 1[6]. For the appropriate dues group of your agency, please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category A: Political and/or economic integration organisations

The amount of dues payable by political and/or economic integration organisations is the average amount obtained by adding up the dues payable by each of its State components, as if they were Members of IUCN, and dividing it by the number of States constituting the organisation concerned. Please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations

Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[8].

The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups.

- A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil societies.

- Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[9].**

[6] Decision from the Members' Assembly in 2004 (refer to page 2 for more information)
[7] Decision made by the 17th General Assembly of IUCN in San Jose, Costa Rica
[8] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*"
[9] This sentence was amended in October 2022 to clarify the definition of "total expenditure" for Members and applicants

- Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[10] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as:
  a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or
  b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation-related research, or
  c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:
     i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);
     ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;
     iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);
     iv. Conservation advocacy; and
     v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.
     vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for self-reported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure.

Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided.

**Re-assessment of membership dues**

Every four years, after the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Secretariat undertakes a re-assessment of the dues groups for Members in Category B and C. In 2021, after the approval of the Dues Guide at the Congress, each Member will be required to submit to the Secretariat, a declaration of total expenditure for the last three years, together with their annual audited financial statements for those three years. This information will be used by the Secretariat to calculate the average total expenditure for that period and to determine their dues group for the next quadrennial or until a new Dues Guide is approved by Members. This exercise will be completed on time for the 2022 invoicing in November 2021.
If a Member does not submit the information required, the Secretariat will use the latest financial statements available from public sources to determine the level of total expenditure of the Member. Failing that, the organisation will be reclassified into the dues group immediately above the one it is currently in.

**Table 5: National and international non-governmental organisations and Indigenous peoples' organisations**

| Group | Total Expenditure bands ~~(USD)~~or total conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations (USD) | | Membership dues scale (CHF) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | FROM (≥) | TO (<) | |
| 1 | - | 100,000 | 300 |

[10] Venue-based organizations are defined as those organisations which are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organization must be one of the following:
- A university,
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2** | **100,000** | **500,000** | **480** |
| **3** | **500,000** | **900,000** | **770** |
| **4** | **900,000** | **1,620,000** | **1,230** |
| **5** | **1,620,000** | **2,916,000** | **1,970** |
| **6** | **2,916,000** | **5,248,800** | **3,150** |
| **7** | **5,248,800** | **9,447,840** | **5,030** |
| **8** | **9,447,840** | **17,006,112** | **8,050** |
| **9** | **17,006,112** | **30,611,002** | **12,885** |
| **10** | **30,611,002** | | **20,620** |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF)*
*FROM: equal to or above the amount indicated; TO: below the amount indicated*

### Category D: Affiliates[11]

Dues for Affiliate Members, shown in Table 6, were established according to Regulation 23[12]_[13].

All Affiliate Members pay the same rate as indicated below. Affiliate Members do not have the right to vote, nominate candidates or submit Motions to the World Conservation Congress (Article 12 (b) of the IUCN Statutes).

**Table 6: Affiliates**

| Affiliates |
|---|
| 3,150 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

# Payment of dues

## When do dues become payable?

**Membership dues are payable in advance and payment shall be received by the 1st of January.** Invoices, issued in Swiss Francs, are prepared and dispatched during the last quarter of the preceding year, i.e. dues for 2022 should be received no later than 1 January 2022; dues for 2023 should be received no later than 1 January 2023, etc.

IUCN membership does not expire unless the IUCN Member is withdrawn or expelled from IUCN as detailed in Article 13 of the IUCN Statutes, or unless the IUCN Member withdraws voluntarily by providing IUCN with written notification of its intention to withdraw its membership. Members withdrawing from the Union must ensure that all outstanding membership dues have been paid, up to and including the year of the notification of withdrawal.

With regards to withdrawal from the Union in relation to non-payment of membership dues, according to Article 13 (a) of the IUCN Statutes, "*The rights of a Member in connection with elections, voting and motions shall ipso facto be suspended when the dues of that Member are one year in arrears*.

*If the dues of a Member are two years in arrears, the matter shall be referred to the World Congress[14] which may rescind all the remaining rights of the Member concerned. Such rescission shall be on such terms as the World Congress may determine*";

and 13 (b) "*If, one year after the decision of the World Congress to rescind the remaining rights of a Member, the Member in question has not paid its arrears owed up until such rescission, that Member shall be deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN*".

## How can dues be paid?

### Members

Dues shall be paid in Swiss Francs (CHF) or any other freely convertible currency. In countries where IUCN is represented by a Regional, Country or Project Office, payment of dues may be made to the IUCN Office in local currency, as per Regulation 25 of IUCN Statutes[15].

[11] Government agencies, subnational governments, Political and/or economic integration organizations and national & international non-governmental organizations can apply as Affiliates.
[12] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*".
[13] Decision made by the 17th General Assembly of IUCN in San Jose, Costa Rica.
[14] Decision may be made during the World Conservation Congress or by electronic vote in-between Congresses.
[15] Regulation 25 of IUCN Statutes: "*Dues shall be paid in Swiss francs or any other freely convertible currency according to the scales established by the World Congress, unless the Director General has agreed with the Member in question that payment in local currency or provision of facilities, goods and services in lieu of dues may be accepted because this will release for use by IUCN a sum equivalent to the assessed dues of the Member in question*".

For payments which are not made in CHF, Members are requested to use the same daily exchange rates as IUCN: http://www.oanda.com/currency/live-exchange-rates/, which will help to avoid major exchange rate differences when the payment is processed in IUCN accounts. Any exchange rate loss/gain or other difference in payment will be adjusted in the Member's next year's invoice.

In the case of outstanding dues from previous years, payments received will be first used to offset arrears before being allocated to the current year's dues. If amounts paid are higher than what is due, the extra amount will be credited to the next year's dues.

For payments by bank transfer, Members will bear all bank charges. Invoice number, Member ID and relevant contact details must be quoted when making payments. Secretariat/Membership Focal Points should be informed if the payment is made to the Regional Office directly or through a third party to help with the follow-up of payments.

For payments by credit card, membership dues of amounts up to 5,000 CHF can be settled by credit card* via the Member profile page on the Union Portal[16]. Only Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted. Transaction charges for credit card payments will be borne by IUCN.

Payment receipts can be downloaded from the individual Member organisational pages on the Union Portal (within a few weeks of receipt of funds by IUCN Headquarters).

### Applicant Member organisations

A deposit equivalent to the entire current year of membership is payable at the time of submitting a membership application. However, once the new Member has been admitted, the membership dues for that year are calculated on a pro-rata basis of the total annual membership dues, starting from the month following admission. If the balance is then positive, it will be credited to the following year. If an application for IUCN membership is rejected, the deposit will be reimbursed less any administrative costs that may apply.

### Adhesion of States

In accordance to Article 6 of the IUCN Statutes "*States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall become Members of IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year's membership dues.",* the payment equivalent to the first year of membership is payable at the time of submitting the letter of adhesion. The membership dues for that year are calculated on a pro-rata basis of the total annual membership dues, starting from the month following receipt of the letter of adhesion and payment of dues.

## Payments details

Membership dues or deposit payments may be made to the following bank account:

| | |
|---|---|
| Account name: | **IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** |
| Bank Address: | UBS Switzerland AG<br>Place St. François 16<br>CH-1002 Lausanne<br>Switzerland |
| IBAN/Bank account | IBAN CH23 0024 3243 3350 3501 W<br>Swift Code: UBSWCHZH80A<br>Currency: Swiss Francs |

**For any information regarding your payment, please contact your Membership Focal Point.**

May we kindly remind you to inform us of any important changes in your organisation that may affect your organisation's membership of IUCN, such as the category of membership or the dues group.
If your Statutes and/or expenses have significantly changed since your organisation joined IUCN, please provide your Membership Focal Point with your organisation's most recent Statutes and/or financial report, including the details of your organisation's total expenditure.

[16] please refer to section 4.15 of the Union Portal Guide

# IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A

***(Based on the Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations 2019–2021)***

## GROUP "0"

Afghanistan
Albania
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
*Cook Islands
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Dominica
Eritrea
Eswatini
Fiji
Gambia
Georgia
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Kiribati
*Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Montenegro
Mozambique
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
*Niue
North Macedonia
Palau
*Palestine
Republic of Moldova
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Suriname
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Tuvalu
Uganda
Vanuatu
Zambia
Zimbabwe

## GROUP 1

Angola
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus
Democratic Republic of the Congo
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guatemala
Iceland
Jordan
Kenya
Latvia
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Libya
Malta
Mauritius
Monaco
Myanmar
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Serbia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Yemen

## GROUP 2

Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Luxembourg
Morocco
Ukraine

## GROUP 3

Croatia
Cuba
Ecuador
Lithuania
Slovenia
Uruguay
Viet Nam

## GROUP 4

Algeria
Egypt
Iraq
Kazakhstan
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Slovakia

## GROUP 5

Colombia
Czech Republic
Hungary
Kuwait
Malaysia
New Zealand
Nigeria
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
South Africa
Thailand

## GROUP 6

Chile
Denmark
Finland
Greece
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Singapore
United Arab Emirates

## GROUP 7

Austria
Argentina
Belgium
India
Mexico
Norway
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Sweden
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

## GROUP 8

Australia
Netherlands
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Spain
Türkiye

## GROUP 9

Brazil
Canada
France
Italy
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## GROUP 10

China
Germany
Japan
Switzerland
United States of America

** is not or is not located in, a member of the United Nations. Refer to Regulation 22.*

**INTERNATIONAL UNION**
**FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Membership and Commission Support Unit
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**Electronic vote by the IUCN Members**
**on a revised version of the Membership Dues Guide.**

# Proposal for the revision of the Membership Dues Guide for venue-based organisations

**Action Requested:**

IUCN Members are invited to CONSIDER and ADOPT the proposed amendments to the IUCN Membership Dues Guide submitted by the IUCN Council to an electronic ballot under Article 94 of IUCN Statutes and Regulation 94 pursuant to IUCN Members Decision WCC 2020 Dec 125. (Annex 1)

**DRAFT MOTION**

The IUCN Members,

*Voting by electronic means at the invitation of the IUCN Council pursuant to IUCN Members Decision WCC 2020 Dec 125, point 2 a),*

Adopt, with immediate effect, the amendments to the IUCN Membership Dues Guide attached hereafter as Annex 1, according to Article 20(f) of IUCN Statutes.

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### Members' mandate

In 2022, IUCN introduced a new methodology for calculating the Membership dues of national and international non-governmental organisations (see current Membership Dues Guide). Their dues are now calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure as approved by IUCN Members by electronic vote of Members on 10 February 2021( WCC 2020 Dec 152). The WCC decision also mandated the 2021-2025 Council to continue its work on dues for venue-based organisations and submit a proposal for IUCN Members to vote on before the 2025 Congress.

Please also note that the WCC decision also requested Council to work on and present for a vote before the Congress: "the issue of the value of membership and Members facing difficult financial situations and not being able to pay their dues." Council is working on this matter and in the meantime any Members facing financial difficulties is encouraged to contact their Regional Member Focal Point or the Membership Unit at IUCN Headquarters to explore payment plans and paying in instalments. Council also recognizes that Membership dues and the value of IUCN membership pose a broader set of issues affecting other IUCN Members beyond venue-based organisations. The

Governance and Constituency Committee of Council will continue its work to propose a holistic Membership strategy and a revised Membership Dues Guide for adoption at the next Congress in 2025 (see Council decision C109/14 from the May 2023 Council meeting).

**What are venue-based organisations?**

Venue-based organisations[1] are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organisation must be one of the following:

- A university[2],
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization[3].

**Rationale for the proposed revisions**

Venue-based organisations with a major physical infrastructure have a high level of expenditure related to non-conservation activities and therefore their membership dues are disproportionally higher than those of Members whose expenditure predominantly relates to conservation activities.

Following concerns raised by some IUCN Members that the new dues methodology and dues reassessment had resulted in significant increases of dues for venue-based organisations, the IUCN Council established the Council Working Group on Membership dues (the "Working Group") and tasked them with finding a solution for venue-based organisations.

Based on the work of the former and current Dues Task Forces, the Working Group proposed two options for consideration:

1. Dues based on expenditure on conservation activities only, or
2. A cap on dues.

The background paper discussed during the 9th Governance and Constituency Committee meeting, and the 109th Council meeting, providing considerations on the issue of the dues for venue-based organisations, is available here.

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[1] Translation: French: les organisations qui entretiennent de grandes infrastructures; Spanish: organizaciones que mantienen gran infraestructura.

[2] IUCN Regulation 5b contains a detailed definition of universities as: Any duly accredited university, similar institution of higher learning, specialized centre or research institute, organized within a State, seeking admission to this Category shall: (i) be a notfor-profit entity which conforms with the law of the State where its seat is located; (ii) have been in existence for at least three years; (iii) be an academic or professional entity of high standing; and (iv) be autonomous in administration and governance.

[3] To qualify as a venue-based organisation, the Member must have both a major physical infrastructure and one of the primary purposes listed in the bullet points. For example, while the purpose of a ramblers' association is the sport of hiking, if it does not have a major physical infrastructure it does not qualify as a venue-based organisation.

**Council recommendation**

At its 109th meeting in May 2023, following recommendation from its Governance and Constituency Committee, the IUCN Council approved the proposal for "Dues based on conservation activities only" for venue-based organizations as defined in Council Decision C109/14[4].

The proposed membership dues are included and explained in the proposed amendments to the Membership Dues Guide attached herewith as Annex 1.

[4] The text of the Council decision at its 109th meeting in May 2023:

Decision C109/14
The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation* of the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) which had considered the proposal for membership dues of venue-based organisations presented by Council's Working Group on Membership Dues (Dues WG),

*Taking into account* the mandate given to the 2021–2024 Council by IUCN Members in paragraph 2.a of the decision adopted by electronic vote in February 2021:

1. Recognizes that the proposal to modify the Membership dues for venue-based organisations by taking into account the venue-based organisation's expenditure on conservation activities and not their total expenditure is the best option to pursue and that the question of the government agencies needs further work;
2. Requests the GCC in coordination with Finance and Audit Committee and the Secretariat, to prepare and submit to Council for approval by email correspondence, draft amendments of the Membership Dues Guide approved by IUCN Members in February 2021 related to venue-based organisations and the timeline for submission to the electronic ballot of IUCN Members in accordance with Regulation 94;
3. *recognizing* that Membership dues and the value of IUCN membership pose a broader set of issues affecting other IUCN Members beyond venue-based organisations, requests the GCC to continue its work and propose a holistic Membership strategy and a revised Membership Dues Guide for adoption at the next Congress.

Timeline for the electronic vote on the amendments to the 2022-24 Dues Guide

- Electronic discussion opens for Members to submit comments: 9 August 2023 and closes on 19 September 2023
- First formal notice of the electronic ballot issued: 27 September 2023
- Second formal notice of the electronic ballot issued: 18 October 2023
- Opening of Member e-vote: 22 November 2023
- Closing of Member vote: 6 December 2023
- Publication of vote results on Union Portal: 20 December 2023

| Text proposed by Council | Revised text incorporating the following amendments tabled by Members during the online discussion | Text as it will read if adopted by Members |
|---|---|---|
| Addition of a new provision in the Statutes as follows: | | |
| 19*bis*. The World Congress meeting in ordinary or extraordinary session shall have a hybrid format. It shall be held at a physical location (the "venue") whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members shall have the right to: | 19*bis*. The World Congress meeting in ordinary or extraordinary session shall have a hybrid format. It shall be held at a physical location (the "venue") whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members shall have the right to: | 19*bis*. The World Congress meeting in ordinary or extraordinary session shall have a hybrid format. It shall be held at a physical location (the "venue") whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members shall have the right to: |
| a) participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their right to speak and vote by attending either on site or remotely by using electronic means; | c) participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights ~~to speak and vote~~ by attending either on site or remotely by using electronic means; | a) participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights by attending either on site or remotely by using electronic means; |
| b) participate in the World Conservation Forum events either on site or, to the extent this option is available, remotely by using electronic means. | d) participate in the World Conservation Forum events either on site or, to the extent this option is available, remotely by using electronic means. | b) participate in the World Conservation Forum events either on site or, to the extent this option is available, remotely by using electronic means. |
| 19*ter* | 19*ter* | 19*ter* |
| (a) In exceptional circumstances, an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress may be held in a fully virtual format, whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights to speak and vote exclusively by electronic means. The principles of non-discrimination and freedom of expression set forth in Articles 21, as | (a) In exceptional circumstances, an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress may be held in a fully virtual format, whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights ~~to speak and vote~~ exclusively by electronic means. The principles of non-discrimination and freedom of expression set forth in Articles 21, as | (a) In exceptional circumstances, an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress may be held in a fully virtual format, whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights exclusively by electronic means. The principles of non-discrimination and freedom of expression set forth in Articles 21, as well as Article 23 shall |

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| well as Article 23 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The Council shall decide whether it is possible to organize World Conservation Forum events entirely remotely.<br><br>(b) A fully virtual session of the World Congress meeting in ordinary session shall be held in conformity with the Rules of Procedure applied *mutatis mutandis*, either<br><br>(i) if requested by at least one-fifth of the Members of either Category A or Categories B and C combined, or<br><br>(ii) if the Council considers it necessary by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. | well as Article 23 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The Council shall decide whether it is possible to organize World Conservation Forum events entirely remotely.<br><br>(b) A fully virtual session of the World Congress meeting in ordinary session shall be held in conformity with the Rules of Procedure applied *mutatis mutandis*, either<br><br>(i) if requested by at least one-fifth of the Members of either Category A or Categories B and C combined, or<br><br>(ii) if the Council considers it necessary by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. | apply *mutatis mutandis*. The Council shall decide whether it is possible to organize World Conservation Forum events entirely remotely.<br><br>(b) A fully virtual session of the World Congress meeting in ordinary session shall be held in conformity with the Rules of Procedure applied *mutatis mutandis*, either<br><br>(i) if requested by at least one-fifth of the Members of either Category A or Categories B and C combined, or<br><br>(ii) if the Council considers it necessary by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. |

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| Amend the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress as follows: | | |
| 23. The Secretariat shall provide the World Congress with such secretarial and other assistance as it requires. It shall be responsible for preparing, receiving, translating and circulating the official documents of the meetings by electronic means and for arranging interpretation. | 23. The Secretariat shall provide the World Congress with such secretarial and other assistance as it requires, including the electronic platform and related services to enable Members attending onsite and remotely to exercise their rights as defined in the Statutes. It shall be responsible for preparing, receiving, translating and circulating the official documents of the meetings by electronic means and for arranging interpretation. | 23. The Secretariat shall provide the World Congress with such secretarial and other assistance as it requires, including the electronic platform and related services to enable Members attending onsite and remotely to exercise their rights as defined in the Statutes. It shall be responsible for preparing, receiving, translating and circulating the official documents of the meetings by electronic means and for arranging interpretation. |

| Text proposed by Council revised to incorporate option 2 as a way to put the option to the vote (highlighted in yellow colour) | Text proposed as amendment to Council's proposal as revised in order to put option 1 to the vote (highlighted in yellow colour) | Text as it will read if adopted by Members (highlighted in yellow colour) |
|---|---|---|
| Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress | | |
| 56. (a) The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or *ad hoc* contact group of delegates from accredited Members, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. It may also propose that motions whose arguments are not technically sound or coherent and require further development or motions which are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by the Members' Assembly, be deferred to the next World Congress. | 56. (a) The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or *ad hoc* contact group of delegates from accredited Members, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. It may also propose that motions whose arguments are not technically sound or coherent and require further development or motions which are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by the Members' Assembly, be deferred to the next session of the World Congress. | 56. (a) The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or *ad hoc* contact group of delegates from accredited Members, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. It may also propose that motions whose arguments are not technically sound or coherent and require further development or motions which are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by the Members' Assembly, be deferred to the next session of the World Congress. |
| (b) The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group. | (b) The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group. | (b) The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group. |
| (c) When meeting during the World Congress, contact groups may have a fully virtual or hybrid format as defined in Article 19*bis* of the Statutes. | (c) When meeting during the World Congress, contact groups ~~may~~ shall have a fully virtual ~~or hybrid~~ format ~~as defined in Article 19*bis* of the Statutes~~. | (c) When meeting during the World Congress, contact groups shall have a fully virtual format. |
| (d) With the purpose of increasing the time available for discussion and to reduce the number of contact groups held in parallel due to the limited window of opportunity during the Congress, the | (d) With the purpose of increasing the time available for discussion and to reduce the number of contact groups held in parallel due to the limited window of | (d) With the purpose of increasing the time available for discussion and to reduce the number of contact groups held in parallel due to the limited window of opportunity during the Congress, the |

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| Motions Working Group may decide that contact group meetings be convened exclusively by electronic means for a first reading of motions in the three weeks prior to the Opening of the Congress.<br><br>~~(c)~~(e) Commission members, representatives of recognized National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may take part in contact groups only in a technical advisory and support capacity, without prejudice to the application of Rule 66 (c) and (d).<br><br>~~(d)~~(f) For issues that prove hard to resolve in contact groups, the Resolutions Committee or the facilitator of a contact group may set up one or more drafting groups that balance the spectrum of views on the motion, for the purpose of achieving a consensus text. Should a consensus remain impossible, the drafting groups may decide to present minority views as amendments. Drafting group meetings may also be convened in a fully virtual or hybrid format.<br><br>~~(e)~~(g) The reports of such contact groups or drafting groups shall ordinarily be considered by the Resolutions Committee prior to their presentation to the World Congress. The debate in the World Congress shall take place on the text resulting from this process. | opportunity during the Congress, the Motions Working Group may decide that contact group meetings be convened exclusively by electronic means for a first reading of motions in the three weeks prior to the Opening of the Congress.<br><br>~~(d)~~(e) Commission members, representatives of recognized National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may take part in contact groups only in a technical advisory and support capacity, without prejudice to the application of Rule 66 (c) and (d).<br><br>~~(e)~~(f) For issues that prove hard to resolve in contact groups, the Resolutions Committee or the facilitator of a contact group may set up one or more drafting groups that balance the spectrum of views on the motion, for the purpose of achieving a consensus text. Should a consensus remain impossible, the drafting groups may decide to present minority views as amendments. Drafting group meetings shall ~~may~~ also be convened in a fully virtual ~~or hybrid~~ format.<br><br>~~(f)~~(g) The reports of such contact groups or drafting groups shall ordinarily be considered by the Resolutions Committee prior to their presentation to the World Congress. The debate in the | Motions Working Group may decide that contact group meetings be convened exclusively by electronic means for a first reading of motions in the three weeks prior to the Opening of the Congress.<br><br>(e) Commission members, representatives of recognized National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may take part in contact groups only in a technical advisory and support capacity, without prejudice to the application of Rule 66 (c) and (d).<br><br>(f) For issues that prove hard to resolve in contact groups, the Resolutions Committee or the facilitator of a contact group may set up one or more drafting groups that balance the spectrum of views on the motion, for the purpose of achieving a consensus text. Should a consensus remain impossible, the drafting groups may decide to present minority views as amendments. Drafting group meetings shall also be convened in a fully virtual format.<br><br>(g) The reports of such contact groups or drafting groups shall ordinarily be considered by the Resolutions Committee prior to their presentation to the World Congress. The debate in the World Congress shall take place on the text resulting from this process. |

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| | World Congress shall take place on the text resulting from this process. | |

| Text proposed by Council | Amendment proposed by Members during the online discussion (highlighted in yellow colour) | Text as it will read if adopted by Members (highlighted in yellow colour) |
|---|---|---|
| Amend the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress as follows: | | |
| 66. (a) Only the Head of Delegation or her/his replacement as defined in Rule 6 may vote and speak on behalf of that Member. | 66. (a) Only the Head of Delegation or her/his replacement as defined in Rule 6 may vote and speak on behalf of that Member. | 66. (a) Only the Head of Delegation or her/his replacement as defined in Rule 6 may vote and speak on behalf of that Member. |
| (b) No delegate may ~~use the voting card, electronic voting card or recognition card for the right to~~ speak or vote for~~of~~ another delegation without the ~~express prior written~~valid proxy of the delegation in question as described in rule 66 f). | (b) No delegate may ~~use the voting card, electronic voting card or recognition card for the right to~~ speak or vote for~~of~~ another delegation without the ~~express prior written~~valid proxy of the delegation in question as described in rule 66 f). | (b) No delegate may speak or vote for another delegation without the valid proxy of the delegation in question as described in rule 66 f). |
| (c) ~~For the purposes relevant to this Rule, 'delegate' shall also refer to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the Member delegation giving the proxy.~~ | (c) ~~For the purposes relevant to this Rule, 'delegate' shall also refer to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the Member delegation giving the proxy.~~ | |
| (d) A Member eligible to vote ~~who is unable to attend the World Congress or a delegation unable to attend a particular sitting of the Members' Assembly,~~ may give a proxy to a delegation of another Member eligible to vote or to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the | (d) A Member eligible to vote ~~who is unable to attend the World Congress or a delegation unable to attend a particular sitting of the Members' Assembly,~~ may give a proxy to a delegation of another Member eligible to vote or to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the | (d) A Member eligible to vote may give a proxy to a delegation of another Member eligible to vote or to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the Member delegation giving the proxy. In order for the proxy to be validly recorded in the electronic voting system, it shall be provided at |

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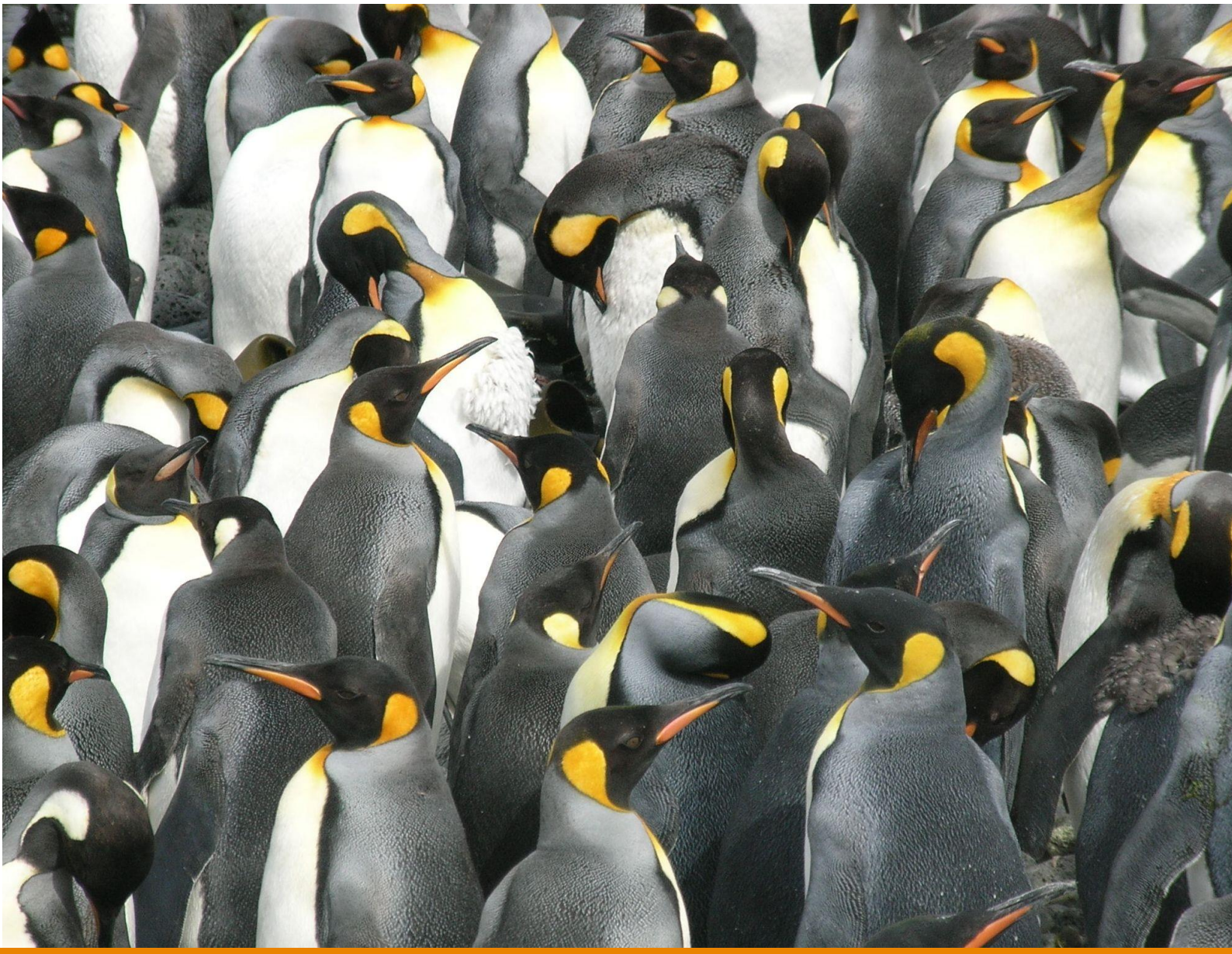
| Member delegation giving the proxy. In order for the proxy to be validly recorded in the electronic voting system, it shall be provided at minimum one day before the Opening of the World Congress in order for it to apply for the duration of the World Congress and on the day before the specific sitting or before the specific day it is meant to apply. | Member delegation giving the proxy. In order for the proxy to be validly recorded in the electronic voting system, it shall be provided at minimum one day before the Opening of the World Congress in order for it to apply for the duration of the World Congress and on the day before the specific sitting or before the specific day it is meant to apply. | minimum one day before the Opening of the World Congress in order for it to apply for the duration of the World Congress and on the day before the specific sitting or before the specific day it is meant to apply. |
| (e) A Member shall not transfer proxy of itshis own vote while holding other proxies and shall not transfer another Member's proxy without prior authorization of the proxy giver. A Member shall not accept more than five proxies. | (e) A Member shall not transfer proxy of itshis own vote while holding other proxies and shall not transfer another Member's proxy without prior authorization of the proxy giver. A Member shall not accept more than ~~five~~ ten proxies. | (e) A Member shall not transfer proxy of its own vote while holding other proxies and shall not transfer another Member's proxy without prior authorization of the proxy giver. A Member shall not accept more than ten proxies. |
| (f) In order to be valid, all proxies shall be ~~made~~ recorded ~~in writing and transmitted to the Congress Secretariat~~ in the electronic voting system within the deadline set in Rule 66 (d). | (f) In order to be valid, all proxies shall be ~~made~~ recorded ~~in writing and transmitted to the Congress Secretariat~~ in the electronic voting system within the deadline set in Rule 66 (d). | (f) In order to be valid, all proxies shall be recorded in the electronic voting system within the deadline set in Rule 66 (d). |
| (g) Proxies shall not be allowed for elections under Rule 77*bis* or when all Members vote exclusively online. | (g) Proxies shall not be allowed for elections under Rule 77bis or when all Members vote exclusively online. | (g) Proxies shall not be allowed for elections under Rule 77bis or when all Members vote exclusively online. |

# Annex 1: (Proposed Amendments) IUCN Membership Dues Guide



The presentation of material in this publication and the geographical designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Version dated 31 October 2021 – revised 30 October 2022 and in November 2023 (to be confirmed)

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# Introduction

IUCN is a unique organisation – a democratic membership Union – composed of over 1,500 Members, some 18,000 scientific experts in our thematic Commissions and some 900 staff, who work together in more than 160 countries. By joining IUCN, Members benefit from IUCN's scientific credibility, its unsurpassed knowledge base and convening power, extensive networking opportunities and access to high-level political, economic and social decision making. More information on the benefits of IUCN membership is available here.

The prompt payment of annual membership dues is essential to fund the work of IUCN, supporting the implementation of the Programme and governance of the Union, the facilitation of global networking and communications, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

**Membership dues are payable in advance and payment shall be received by the 1st of January.** Invoices, issued in Swiss Francs, are prepared and dispatched during the last quarter of the preceding year.

This Dues Guide provides information on the calculation and structure of dues for IUCN Members.

**This Membership Dues Guide was approved by electronic vote of Members on 10 February 2021 (WCC 2020 Dec 152)[1] and ~~formally~~ updated as a consequence of the inclusion of subnational governments in IUCN membership at the World Conservation Congress ~~(WCC 2020 Dec 152)~~. The Membership Dues Guide was subsequently revised with a new methodology for the Membership dues of venue-based organisations in Category B and C (subject to Member vote in November 2023). ~~No other changes have been made to the content of this Guide, which was initially approved by IUCN Council at its 98th meeting in February 2020 and published with official Congress documents.~~**

[1] Council, at its 100th meeting in September 2020, had approved this revised version of the Guide. They clarified that following the postponement of the 2020 Congress to 2021, the Guide would apply for membership dues as from 2022, and that the 2017-2020 Membership Dues guide would remain applicable for the 2021 membership dues, to enable the Secretariat to timely invoice IUCN Members before 1 January 2021

# Applicability of the Guide

This Membership Dues Guide is applicable for membership dues as from 2022 and will remain in force until a revised Guide is adopted by the next World Conservation Congress.

The amendment related to the calculation of the membership dues for venue-based organisations is effective from 6 December 2023 (to be confirmed) which is the close of the electronic vote at which the amendment was adopted.

# Categories of membership

Membership of IUCN is divided into four categories, as defined in Articles 4 and 5 of the IUCN Statutes.

Category A: States, government agencies and Subnational governments;
Political and/or economic integration organisations;

Category B: National non-governmental organisations;
International non-governmental organisations;

Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations; and

Category D: Affiliates.

For each category, there is a corresponding dues scale. It is one of the functions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress to determine the dues of Members of IUCN (Article 20 (f) of the IUCN Statutes).
More information on the calculation and structure of IUCN membership dues can be found in the sections below.

At the 2000 Congress (Amman), Members requested the IUCN Council to review the calculation of membership dues, linking them to a recognized published inflation index instead of the pre-defined percentage increase used since the 17th Session of the General Assembly (San José, 1988).
In Bangkok, in 2004, the Members' Assembly approved Council's proposal to use the Swiss Consumer Price Index[2] (CPI), published annually by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office to index the membership dues, from 2006 onwards. No adjustments to the dues are made when the index is negative.

# Membership dues

## Category A: States, government agencies, subnational governments, and political and/or economic integration organisations

As per Regulation 22[3] of the IUCN Statutes, the "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" is used as a basis to establish the membership dues groups for States, government agencies, subnational governments and political and/or economic integration organisations. The repartition of UN assessment percentages within the IUCN dues groups (Table 1) is decided by the IUCN Council, while the definition of the dues amounts (Tables 2, 3 and 4) is a Congress decision.

The latest "UN scale of assessments for the period 2019-2021[4]" was published on 4 January 2019. Consequently, the IUCN Dues Guide has been updated to reflect the 2019–2021 UN Scale of assessments and it is valid from 2022.

[2] https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/prices/consumer-price-index.html
[3] Regulation 22 of the IUCN Statutes: "*Dues for Members in Category A shall be established by the World Conservation Congress and be calculated for the period until the next World Congress on the basis of the latest available percentage assessed for States concerned in the budget of the United Nations. The Council may establish groups for the setting of dues...*".
[4] https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/271

In the calculation of membership dues for States, government agencies, subnational governments and political and/or economic integration organisations, IUCN does not apply the UN assessment percentages directly. Rather, IUCN has elaborated its own sliding scale to form the IUCN dues groups/levels by grouping the different countries according to their percentage contributions to the UN budget. Approved by the 2000 IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman), the present scale of percentage grouping, used to determine the IUCN Category A membership dues scale of 11 groups, ranging from "0" to 10, is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: IUCN sliding scale of State, government agency, subnational government and political and/or economic integration organisation Members and corresponding UN assessment percentages**

| IUCN CATEGORY A MEMBERS IN DUES GROUPS: | CORRESPOND TO STATES WITH A UN ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE OF: | UN ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGES: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | | | | Less than | 0.01% |
| 1 | | From | 0.01% | up to & including | 0.05% |
| 2 | | More than | 0.05% | up to & including | 0.07% |
| 3 | | More than | 0.07% | up to & including | 0.11% |
| 4 | | More than | 0.11% | up to & including | 0.19% |
| 5 | | More than | 0.19% | up to & including | 0.35% |
| 6 | | More than | 0.35% | up to & including | 0.67% |
| 7 | | More than | 0.67% | up to & including | 1.31% |
| 8 | | More than | 1.31% | up to & including | 2.59% |
| 9 | | More than | 2.59% | up to & including | 5.15% |
| 10 | | More than | 5.15% | | |

The membership dues scales for States (Table 2), Government agencies (Tables 3 & 4) and Subnational governments (Table 3), comprise 11 groups. For the composition of the 11 dues groups, please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category A: States

**Table 2: States**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7,790 | 15,570 | 31,150 | 51,520 | 78,980 | 118,400 | 181,280 | 247,670 | 295,290 | 396,260 | 495,330 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[5].*

## Category A: Government agencies and subnational governments

For a government agency and a subnational government, the dues group is the same as that of its State.

Government agencies are divided into two groups, A and B:

Group A: government agencies of a State where the State IS a Member of IUCN
Group B: government agencies of a State where the State IS NOT a Member of IUCN.

Dues for government agencies in Groups A and B are shown in Tables 3 and/or 4 respectively. Subnational governments dues are shown in Table 3.

**Government agencies and subnational governments – Group A:**

**Table 3: Government agencies where the State is a Member of IUCN and subnational governments – Group A**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 3,560 | 5,440 | 7,430 | 8,860 | 11,890 | 14,860 |

[5] Decision from the Members' Assembly in 2004 (refer to page 2 for more information)

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[6].*

Membership dues for a government agency where the State IS a Member of IUCN are 3% of those of the State rate, except for government agencies of Groups "0" to 3 who pay the rate based on Group 4[7]. For the appropriate dues group of your agency please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

The membership dues for subnational governments are governed by the scale for "Government agencies where the State is a Member of IUCN", irrespective of whether the State is a Member or not.

**Government agencies – Group B:**

**Table 4: Government agencies where the State is not a Member of IUCN – Group B**

| Group | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3,890 | 3,890 | 7,790 | 12,880 | 19,750 | 29,620 | 45,320 | 61,920 | 73,820 | 99,070 | 123,830 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF) and include an increase corresponding to the average of the 2016 to 2019 Swiss Consumer Price Index (0.35%)[5].*

In a country where the State IS NOT a Member of IUCN, the government agency pays 25% of the amount of dues payable by the State if it were a Member, except for Group "0" for which the rate of dues is the same as in Group 1[6]. For the appropriate dues group of your agency, please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category A: Political and/or economic integration organisations

The amount of dues payable by political and/or economic integration organisations is the average amount obtained by adding up the dues payable by each of its State components, as if they were Members of IUCN, and dividing it by the number of States constituting the organisation concerned. Please refer to the **IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A** at the end of this guide.

## Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations

Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[8].

The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups.

- A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil societies.

- Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[9].**

[6] Decision from the Members' Assembly in 2004 (refer to page 2 for more information)
[7] Decision made by the 17th General Assembly of IUCN in San Jose, Costa Rica
[8] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*"
[9] This sentence was amended in October 2022 to clarify the definition of "total expenditure" for Members and applicants

- Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[10] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as:
  a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or
  b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation-related research, or
  c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:
     i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);
     ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;
     iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);
     iv. Conservation advocacy; and
     v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.
     vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for self-reported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure.

Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided.

**Re-assessment of membership dues**

Every four years, after the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Secretariat undertakes a re-assessment of the dues groups for Members in Category B and C. In 2021, after the approval of the Dues Guide at the Congress, each Member will be required to submit to the Secretariat, a declaration of total expenditure for the last three years, together with their annual audited financial statements for those three years. This information will be used by the Secretariat to calculate the average total expenditure for that period and to determine their dues group for the next quadrennial or until a new Dues Guide is approved by Members. This exercise will be completed on time for the 2022 invoicing in November 2021.
If a Member does not submit the information required, the Secretariat will use the latest financial statements available from public sources to determine the level of total expenditure of the Member. Failing that, the organisation will be reclassified into the dues group immediately above the one it is currently in.

**Table 5: National and international non-governmental organisations and Indigenous peoples' organisations**

| Group | Total Expenditure bands ~~(USD)~~or total conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations (USD) | | Membership dues scale (CHF) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | FROM (≥) | TO (<) | |
| 1 | - | 100,000 | 300 |

[10] Venue-based organizations are defined as those organisations which are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organization must be one of the following:
- A university,
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2** | **100,000** | **500,000** | **480** |
| **3** | **500,000** | **900,000** | **770** |
| **4** | **900,000** | **1,620,000** | **1,230** |
| **5** | **1,620,000** | **2,916,000** | **1,970** |
| **6** | **2,916,000** | **5,248,800** | **3,150** |
| **7** | **5,248,800** | **9,447,840** | **5,030** |
| **8** | **9,447,840** | **17,006,112** | **8,050** |
| **9** | **17,006,112** | **30,611,002** | **12,885** |
| **10** | **30,611,002** | | **20,620** |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF)*
*FROM: equal to or above the amount indicated; TO: below the amount indicated*

### Category D: Affiliates[11]

Dues for Affiliate Members, shown in Table 6, were established according to Regulation 23[12]_[13].

All Affiliate Members pay the same rate as indicated below. Affiliate Members do not have the right to vote, nominate candidates or submit Motions to the World Conservation Congress (Article 12 (b) of the IUCN Statutes).

**Table 6: Affiliates**

| Affiliates |
|---|
| 3,150 |

*Membership dues are expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

# Payment of dues

## When do dues become payable?

**Membership dues are payable in advance and payment shall be received by the 1st of January.** Invoices, issued in Swiss Francs, are prepared and dispatched during the last quarter of the preceding year, i.e. dues for 2022 should be received no later than 1 January 2022; dues for 2023 should be received no later than 1 January 2023, etc.

IUCN membership does not expire unless the IUCN Member is withdrawn or expelled from IUCN as detailed in Article 13 of the IUCN Statutes, or unless the IUCN Member withdraws voluntarily by providing IUCN with written notification of its intention to withdraw its membership. Members withdrawing from the Union must ensure that all outstanding membership dues have been paid, up to and including the year of the notification of withdrawal.

With regards to withdrawal from the Union in relation to non-payment of membership dues, according to Article 13 (a) of the IUCN Statutes, "*The rights of a Member in connection with elections, voting and motions shall ipso facto be suspended when the dues of that Member are one year in arrears*.

*If the dues of a Member are two years in arrears, the matter shall be referred to the World Congress[14] which may rescind all the remaining rights of the Member concerned. Such rescission shall be on such terms as the World Congress may determine*";

and 13 (b) "*If, one year after the decision of the World Congress to rescind the remaining rights of a Member, the Member in question has not paid its arrears owed up until such rescission, that Member shall be deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN*".

## How can dues be paid?

### Members

Dues shall be paid in Swiss Francs (CHF) or any other freely convertible currency. In countries where IUCN is represented by a Regional, Country or Project Office, payment of dues may be made to the IUCN Office in local currency, as per Regulation 25 of IUCN Statutes[15].

[11] Government agencies, subnational governments, Political and/or economic integration organizations and national & international non-governmental organizations can apply as Affiliates.
[12] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*".
[13] Decision made by the 17th General Assembly of IUCN in San Jose, Costa Rica.
[14] Decision may be made during the World Conservation Congress or by electronic vote in-between Congresses.
[15] Regulation 25 of IUCN Statutes: "*Dues shall be paid in Swiss francs or any other freely convertible currency according to the scales established by the World Congress, unless the Director General has agreed with the Member in question that payment in local currency or provision of facilities, goods and services in lieu of dues may be accepted because this will release for use by IUCN a sum equivalent to the assessed dues of the Member in question*".

For payments which are not made in CHF, Members are requested to use the same daily exchange rates as IUCN: http://www.oanda.com/currency/live-exchange-rates/, which will help to avoid major exchange rate differences when the payment is processed in IUCN accounts. Any exchange rate loss/gain or other difference in payment will be adjusted in the Member's next year's invoice.

In the case of outstanding dues from previous years, payments received will be first used to offset arrears before being allocated to the current year's dues. If amounts paid are higher than what is due, the extra amount will be credited to the next year's dues.

For payments by bank transfer, Members will bear all bank charges. Invoice number, Member ID and relevant contact details must be quoted when making payments. Secretariat/Membership Focal Points should be informed if the payment is made to the Regional Office directly or through a third party to help with the follow-up of payments.

For payments by credit card, membership dues of amounts up to 5,000 CHF can be settled by credit card* via the Member profile page on the Union Portal[16]. Only Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted. Transaction charges for credit card payments will be borne by IUCN.

Payment receipts can be downloaded from the individual Member organisational pages on the Union Portal (within a few weeks of receipt of funds by IUCN Headquarters).

### Applicant Member organisations

A deposit equivalent to the entire current year of membership is payable at the time of submitting a membership application. However, once the new Member has been admitted, the membership dues for that year are calculated on a pro-rata basis of the total annual membership dues, starting from the month following admission. If the balance is then positive, it will be credited to the following year. If an application for IUCN membership is rejected, the deposit will be reimbursed less any administrative costs that may apply.

### Adhesion of States

In accordance to Article 6 of the IUCN Statutes "*States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall become Members of IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year's membership dues.",* the payment equivalent to the first year of membership is payable at the time of submitting the letter of adhesion. The membership dues for that year are calculated on a pro-rata basis of the total annual membership dues, starting from the month following receipt of the letter of adhesion and payment of dues.

## Payments details

Membership dues or deposit payments may be made to the following bank account:

| | |
|---|---|
| Account name: | **IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** |
| Bank Address: | UBS Switzerland AG<br>Place St. François 16<br>CH-1002 Lausanne<br>Switzerland |
| IBAN/Bank account | IBAN CH23 0024 3243 3350 3501 W<br>Swift Code: UBSWCHZH80A<br>Currency: Swiss Francs |

**For any information regarding your payment, please contact your Membership Focal Point.**

May we kindly remind you to inform us of any important changes in your organisation that may affect your organisation's membership of IUCN, such as the category of membership or the dues group.
If your Statutes and/or expenses have significantly changed since your organisation joined IUCN, please provide your Membership Focal Point with your organisation's most recent Statutes and/or financial report, including the details of your organisation's total expenditure.

[16] please refer to section 4.15 of the Union Portal Guide

# IUCN dues groups for IUCN Members in Category A

***(Based on the Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations 2019–2021)***

## GROUP "0"

Afghanistan
Albania
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
*Cook Islands
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Dominica
Eritrea
Eswatini
Fiji
Gambia
Georgia
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Kiribati
*Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Montenegro
Mozambique
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
*Niue
North Macedonia
Palau
*Palestine
Republic of Moldova
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Suriname
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Tuvalu
Uganda
Vanuatu
Zambia
Zimbabwe

## GROUP 1

Angola
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus
Democratic Republic of the Congo
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guatemala
Iceland
Jordan
Kenya
Latvia
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Libya
Malta
Mauritius
Monaco
Myanmar
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Serbia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Yemen

## GROUP 2

Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Luxembourg
Morocco
Ukraine

## GROUP 3

Croatia
Cuba
Ecuador
Lithuania
Slovenia
Uruguay
Viet Nam

## GROUP 4

Algeria
Egypt
Iraq
Kazakhstan
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Slovakia

## GROUP 5

Colombia
Czech Republic
Hungary
Kuwait
Malaysia
New Zealand
Nigeria
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
South Africa
Thailand

## GROUP 6

Chile
Denmark
Finland
Greece
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Singapore
United Arab Emirates

## GROUP 7

Austria
Argentina
Belgium
India
Mexico
Norway
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Sweden
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

## GROUP 8

Australia
Netherlands
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Spain
Türkiye

## GROUP 9

Brazil
Canada
France
Italy
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## GROUP 10

China
Germany
Japan
Switzerland
United States of America

** is not or is not located in, a member of the United Nations. Refer to Regulation 22.*

**INTERNATIONAL UNION**
**FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Membership and Commission Support Unit
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1196 Gland, Switzerland
membership@iucn.org
Tel: +41 22 999 0000
Fax: +41 22 999 0002
https://www.iucn.org/our-union/members

**Electronic vote by the IUCN Members**
**on a revised version of the Membership Dues Guide.**

# Proposal for the revision of the Membership Dues Guide for venue-based organisations

**Action Requested:**

IUCN Members are invited to CONSIDER and ADOPT the proposed amendments to the IUCN Membership Dues Guide submitted by the IUCN Council to an electronic ballot under Article 94 of IUCN Statutes and Regulation 94 pursuant to IUCN Members Decision WCC 2020 Dec 125. (Annex 1)

**DRAFT MOTION**

The IUCN Members,

*Voting by electronic means at the invitation of the IUCN Council pursuant to IUCN Members Decision WCC 2020 Dec 125, point 2 a),*

Adopt, with immediate effect, the amendments to the IUCN Membership Dues Guide attached hereafter as Annex 1, according to Article 20(f) of IUCN Statutes.

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### Members' mandate

In 2022, IUCN introduced a new methodology for calculating the Membership dues of national and international non-governmental organisations (see current Membership Dues Guide). Their dues are now calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure as approved by IUCN Members by electronic vote of Members on 10 February 2021( WCC 2020 Dec 152). The WCC decision also mandated the 2021-2025 Council to continue its work on dues for venue-based organisations and submit a proposal for IUCN Members to vote on before the 2025 Congress.

Please also note that the WCC decision also requested Council to work on and present for a vote before the Congress: "the issue of the value of membership and Members facing difficult financial situations and not being able to pay their dues." Council is working on this matter and in the meantime any Members facing financial difficulties is encouraged to contact their Regional Member Focal Point or the Membership Unit at IUCN Headquarters to explore payment plans and paying in instalments. Council also recognizes that Membership dues and the value of IUCN membership pose a broader set of issues affecting other IUCN Members beyond venue-based organisations. The

Governance and Constituency Committee of Council will continue its work to propose a holistic Membership strategy and a revised Membership Dues Guide for adoption at the next Congress in 2025 (see Council decision C109/14 from the May 2023 Council meeting).

**What are venue-based organisations?**

Venue-based organisations[1] are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organisation must be one of the following:

- A university[2],
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization[3].

**Rationale for the proposed revisions**

Venue-based organisations with a major physical infrastructure have a high level of expenditure related to non-conservation activities and therefore their membership dues are disproportionally higher than those of Members whose expenditure predominantly relates to conservation activities.

Following concerns raised by some IUCN Members that the new dues methodology and dues reassessment had resulted in significant increases of dues for venue-based organisations, the IUCN Council established the Council Working Group on Membership dues (the "Working Group") and tasked them with finding a solution for venue-based organisations.

Based on the work of the former and current Dues Task Forces, the Working Group proposed two options for consideration:

1. Dues based on expenditure on conservation activities only, or
2. A cap on dues.

The background paper discussed during the 9th Governance and Constituency Committee meeting, and the 109th Council meeting, providing considerations on the issue of the dues for venue-based organisations, is available here.

[1] Translation: French: les organisations qui entretiennent de grandes infrastructures; Spanish: organizaciones que mantienen gran infraestructura.

[2] IUCN Regulation 5b contains a detailed definition of universities as: Any duly accredited university, similar institution of higher learning, specialized centre or research institute, organized within a State, seeking admission to this Category shall: (i) be a notfor-profit entity which conforms with the law of the State where its seat is located; (ii) have been in existence for at least three years; (iii) be an academic or professional entity of high standing; and (iv) be autonomous in administration and governance.

[3] To qualify as a venue-based organisation, the Member must have both a major physical infrastructure and one of the primary purposes listed in the bullet points. For example, while the purpose of a ramblers' association is the sport of hiking, if it does not have a major physical infrastructure it does not qualify as a venue-based organisation.

**Council recommendation**

At its 109th meeting in May 2023, following recommendation from its Governance and Constituency Committee, the IUCN Council approved the proposal for "Dues based on conservation activities only" for venue-based organizations as defined in Council Decision C109/14[4].

The proposed membership dues are included and explained in the proposed amendments to the Membership Dues Guide attached herewith as Annex 1.

[4] The text of the Council decision at its 109th meeting in May 2023:

Decision C109/14
The IUCN Council,

*On the recommendation* of the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) which had considered the proposal for membership dues of venue-based organisations presented by Council's Working Group on Membership Dues (Dues WG),

*Taking into account* the mandate given to the 2021–2024 Council by IUCN Members in paragraph 2.a of the decision adopted by electronic vote in February 2021:

1. Recognizes that the proposal to modify the Membership dues for venue-based organisations by taking into account the venue-based organisation's expenditure on conservation activities and not their total expenditure is the best option to pursue and that the question of the government agencies needs further work;
2. Requests the GCC in coordination with Finance and Audit Committee and the Secretariat, to prepare and submit to Council for approval by email correspondence, draft amendments of the Membership Dues Guide approved by IUCN Members in February 2021 related to venue-based organisations and the timeline for submission to the electronic ballot of IUCN Members in accordance with Regulation 94;
3. *recognizing* that Membership dues and the value of IUCN membership pose a broader set of issues affecting other IUCN Members beyond venue-based organisations, requests the GCC to continue its work and propose a holistic Membership strategy and a revised Membership Dues Guide for adoption at the next Congress.

Timeline for the electronic vote on the amendments to the 2022-24 Dues Guide

- Electronic discussion opens for Members to submit comments: 9 August 2023 and closes on 19 September 2023
- First formal notice of the electronic ballot issued: 27 September 2023
- Second formal notice of the electronic ballot issued: 18 October 2023
- Opening of Member e-vote: 22 November 2023
- Closing of Member vote: 6 December 2023
- Publication of vote results on Union Portal: 20 December 2023

| **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** | **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** | **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** |
|---|---|---|
| Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[1]. | Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[2]. | Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[2]. |
| The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. | The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. | The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. |
| A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil societies. Membership dues for | A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil societies. Membership dues for | A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil societies. Membership dues for |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[2].** | national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[3].** | national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[3].** |

[1] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*"

[2] This sentence was amended in October 2022 to clarify the definition of "total expenditure" for Members and applicants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[3] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as:<br>a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or | Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[4] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as:<br>a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or | Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[4] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as:<br>a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or |

[3] Venue-based organizations are defined as those organisations which are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organization must be one of the following:

- A university,
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation related research, or<br>c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);<br>ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;<br>iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building); | b. if the Member's conservation expenditure is not included in, or reflect their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, such as on the following activities: ~~in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation related research, or~~<br>c. ~~if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:~~<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations); | b. if the Member's conservation expenditure is not included in, or reflect their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, such as on the following activities:<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);<br>ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;<br>iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);<br>iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants. |

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| iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.<br>vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for selfreported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure.<br><br>Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a | ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;<br>iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);<br>iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.<br>vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for selfreported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure. | vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for self-reported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure.<br><br>Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an |

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| declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. | Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. | organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. |

| **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** | **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** | **Category B: National and international non-governmental organisations, and Category C: Indigenous peoples' organisations** |
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| Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[1]. | Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[1]. | Dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations, shown in Table 5, were established according to Regulation 23[1]. |
| The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. | The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. | The dues scale for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations comprise ten different dues groups. |
| A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil | A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil | A lower group was set for lower indigenous peoples' organisations and smaller civil |

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| societies. Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements** | societies. Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[2].** | societies. Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples' organisations are calculated on the basis of the organisation's total expenditure (in US Dollars). **This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year. Total expenditure includes expenditure funded by project restricted income and any other funding source. It also includes grants to third parties, interests and taxes. Total expenditure should agree with the organisation's audited financial statements, or, in the absence of a formal audit, the financial statements approved by the organisation's board or trustees[2].** |

[1] Regulation 23: "*Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council*"

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| **approved by the organisation's board or trustees[2].**<br><br>Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[3] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as: | Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[4] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as: | Membership dues for national and international non-governmental organisations which can be considered as venue-based organisations[4] are calculated on the basis of the organization's conservation activities expenditure (instead of the total expenditure of the organisation). Specifically, expenditure on conservation activities is defined as: |

[2] This sentence was amended in October 2022 to clarify the definition of "total expenditure" for Members and applicants

[3] Venue-based organizations are defined as those organisations which are characterised by major physical infrastructures that represent their primary annual expenditure. These venues serve large groups of members, users or visitors. The venue-based organization must be one of the following:

- A university,
- An aquarium or zoo (for the purpose of keeping land or sea animals within enclosures for public viewing and conservation purposes),
- A botanical garden (for the purpose of having a documented collection of living plants for research, conservation, display and/or education),
- A museum (for the purpose of displaying a collection of artifacts of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance), or
- A sport organization.

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| a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or<br>b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation related research, or<br>c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);<br>ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution; | a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or<br>b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation related research, or<br>c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations);<br>ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution; | a. what the Member reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts, or<br>b. in the case of universities, the total expenditure of the faculty that carries out conservation related research, or<br>c. if the Member is neither a university or its conservation expenditure is not included in their audited accounts, the Member must self-report its expenditure, which IUCN reserves the right to verify, on the following activities:<br>i. Direct Conservation Action (field work, species recovery, veterinary care, conservation assurance populations); |

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| iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);<br>iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.<br>vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for self-reported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure. | iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);<br>iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.<br>~~vi. In addition, and recognizing that a fundamental IUCN Admission criteria for new Members is "the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature," the minimum for selfreported conservation expenditure is 25% of total expenditure.~~ | ii. Conservation research both inside and outside the institution;<br>iii. Field conservation education (awareness-building, education, training, capacity building);<br>iv. Conservation advocacy; and<br>v. Conservation fundraising and direct grants.<br><br>Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an |

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| Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. | Applicant and Member organisations are requested to provide appropriate financial information including their latest annual audited financial statements together with a declaration of total expenditure or conservation expenditure for venue-based organisations. This will enable the IUCN Secretariat to determine the dues group an organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. | organisation should be in. If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided. |

IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# THE PRESIDENT OF IUCN
# ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented here to guide IUCN members in the nomination process and Council's Nominations Committee.

1. Election

The President of IUCN is elected by the World Conservation Congress. IUCN Regulation 32 provides the following guidance:

> "Not more than two nominations for President and for Treasurer shall be made by the Council after considering the proposals made by Members in Categories A, B and C. Nominations for President may also be made directly by Members as provided for in the Statutes, provided that such nomination is received by the Director General not less than two months prior to the opening of the session of the World Congress."

*Guidance for nomination of President*

(a) Nominations should take into account the background of the Director General and reflect the diversity of IUCN. (Regulation 33)

(b) Nominations should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment and also contribute to promoting a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people.

2. Term of Office

The term of office of the President extends from the close of the World Conservation Congress at which the President is elected to the close of the next ordinary session of the Congress.[1] (Statutes, Article 41)

The President, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities of the President

*General*

(a) As a member of the IUCN Council, the President serves first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

*Specific*

(b) To preside over and lead the work of the Council pursuant to the Statutes including but not restricted to Article 37, decisions of the World Conservation Congress, and strategic objectives of Council, promoting the One Programme Charter which calls upon the constituent parts of the Union to work together to implement the IUCN Programme collaboratively.

[1] Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

(c) To preside at sittings of the World Conservation Congress.

(d) To work with all members of Council and the Director General to make the World Conservation Congress and Council as effective as possible.

(e) To guide the Director General, in consultation with the Chairs of Council Committees, on the issues to be brought before Council in the draft agenda, and where appropriate, to approve the papers to be laid before Council before these are circulated to the members.

(f) To advise the Director General, on behalf of the Council, on how the policies, strategies and decisions endorsed, defined or adopted by the Council should be implemented between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

(g) To contribute prestige and influence to enhance the high regard in which the Union is held in the international arena and to facilitate its access to governments and international organizations at the highest level.

(h) To represent the Union at meetings of persons of similar status, and to undertake such other representational tasks as are appropriate; representational duties being divided between the President and Director General in a fashion most convenient to them both.

(i) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes.

4. Qualifications and Requirements

*General*

(a) Previous governance/board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

(b) Commitment to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(c) Have a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(d) Financial literacy

(e) Capable of working in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

(f) Gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates.

*Specific*

(g) The President should be:

(i) an individual with a significant record of interests and activities strongly supportive of the Vision, Mission and objectives of IUCN

(ii) of international profile, with a network that enables access to high level officials

(iii) an excellent ambassador for the Union

(iv) an accomplished speaker

(v) a competent chair for meetings

(vi) an individual with leadership qualities

(h) Have a fair level of understanding of IUCN's Statutes

*Requirements*

(i) Avoid conflict of interest situations

(j) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups

(k) Able to devote substantial time to the Union

*Desirable*

(l) Support at institutional/employment base

(m) Experience from regional and/or international networking

(n) Prior IUCN involvement

5. Expenses

The Presidency of IUCN is a voluntary position. IUCN covers the cost of travel and subsistence for meetings of the Council and will cover the expenses incurred by the President when undertaking special missions for the Union agreed as a part of the Union's programme of action. IUCN may also contribute to office support for the President, according to a budget agreed with the Director General and Council.

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provides guidance on the role and responsibilities of the President (Section 4, §44-53). Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.

IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# THE TREASURER OF IUCN
# ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented here to guide IUCN members in the nomination process and Council's Nominations Committee.

1. Election

The Treasurer of IUCN is elected by the World Conservation Congress. Regulation 32 provides the following guidance:

> "Not more than two nominations for President and for Treasurer shall be made by the Council after considering the proposals made by Members in Categories A, B and C."

*Guidance for nomination of the Treasurer*

The nomination process for the Treasurer should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment. It should also contribute to promote a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people representation.

2. Term of Office

The term of office of the Treasurer extends from the close of the World Conservation Congress at which the Treasurer is elected to the close of the next ordinary session of the Congress.[1] (Statutes, Article 41)

The Treasurer, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities of the Treasurer

*General*

(a) To, as member of Council, serve first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

*Specific*

(b) The Treasurer's role is non-executive, advisory and consultative; overall responsibility for financial management lies with the Director General under the oversight of the Council assisted by its Finance and Audit Committee

(c) The Treasurer shall provide advice and report to the World Congress, in particular on the financial health of IUCN, the audited financial statements and the draft financial plan. (Article 89 of the Statutes and Regulation 90*bis*)

[1] Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

(d) The Treasurer shall assist the Council in its oversight function regarding the financial affairs of IUCN and in particular, shall:

(i) provide advice and comments to the Council on the draft annual budget submitted by the Director General for approval; (Article 89 of the Statutes and Regulation 90*bis*);

(ii) provide advice on reserves and risk management strategies (Regulation 90*bis*);

(iii) confer with the external auditors each year on the annual audit of the financial statements of IUCN (Regulation 90*bis*).

(e) The Treasurer shall be kept informed by the Director General about IUCN's financial situation between sessions of the Council. (Article 89 of the Statutes)

(f) The Treasurer shall carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes and the Regulations.

4. Qualifications

The IUCN Treasurer should:

*General*

(a) have previous governance/board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

(b) be committed to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(c) have a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(d) commit to serve Council in one of its standing committees

(e) have the capacity to work in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

(f) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

*Specific*

(g) have outstanding financial management credentials

(h) be knowledgeable about finance, accounting, investment and fundraising of international organizations or large regional organizations

(i) be familiar with Swiss financial practices, aided by the Secretariat on the technical aspects of Swiss law and accounting standards

(j) have investment experience

(k) be able to advise on fundraising strategies

(l) a fair level of understanding of IUCN's Statutes

*Requirements*

i. Avoid conflict of interest situations;

ii. Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups

iii. Have substantial time available to devote to the Union

*Desirable*

i. Support at institutional/employment base

ii. Experience from regional and/or international networking

iii. Prior IUCN involvement

5. Expenses

The position of Treasurer of IUCN is a voluntary position. However, IUCN covers the cost of travel and subsistence for meetings of the Council and any expenses incurred in the execution of the Treasurer's duties for the Union, in accordance with the standards approved for Councillors.

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of Council, the composition and structure of Council. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook, the Code of Conduct for IUCN Councillors as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.

IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# IUCN COMMISSION CHAIRS
# ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented below to guide the nomination process and Council's Nominations Committee.

1. Election

The Chairs of the IUCN Commissions are elected by the World Conservation Congress. Regulation 34 to the IUCN Statutes provides the following guidance:

> "Nominations for election to the office of Chair of each Commission shall be made to each ordinary session of the World Congress by the Council after considering proposals made by Members in Categories A, B and C, and by the members of that Commission. The nominations shall take into account the need to ensure that the holders of these offices are of the highest professional calibre and, as a whole, come from a diverse range of Regions."

*Guidance for nomination of Commission Chairs*

The nomination process for Commission Chairs should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment. It should also contribute to promote a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous peoples' representation.

2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Chairs of Commissions extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.[1] (Statutes, 41)

The Chairs of Commissions, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, 42)[2]

3. Responsibilities of Commission Chairs

*General*

(a) To serve first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

*Specific*

(b) To provide strategic, creative, dynamic and visionary leadership for the activities of the Commission to enable it to fulfill their functions as defined in article 75 of the Statutes and their mission as defined in the mandate adopted by the World Conservation Congress and contribute its part of the IUCN Programme and in the One Programme Charter.

[1] Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the "World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year" and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

[2] Article 42 of the IUCN Statutes: "Members of the Council shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. For the purpose of this Article, the time served to fill the balance of the term of a Council member following a vacancy occurring in Council, shall not be counted."

(c) To serve as the lead representative for the Union in the substantive field of expertise of the Commission.

(d) To maintain and motivate a network of Commission members and be responsive to their inquiries and concerns.

(e) To ensure the work of the Commission is well organized and effectively managed.

(f) Within the preceding, to ensure that the Commission works closely with the other IUCN Commissions, IUCN's membership, its National and Regional Committees and the Secretariat to further the objectives of IUCN and its integrated programme.

(g) To raise financial resources, supplementary to the budget of the Union's Secretariat for the activities of the Commission, in close coordination with the Strategic Partnerships Unit, the regional programmes and other thematic programmes of the Secretariat.

(h) To represent the Commission at national and international fora directly related to the implementation of the Commission's programme of activities.

(i) To propose to Council a candidate for appointment as Deputy Chair of the Commission and candidates for membership of the Commission Steering Committee taking into account gender, regional balance, and the inclusion of the youth and indigenous people.

(j) Be responsible for the appointment or re-appointment of the members of the Commission and the assessment of their performance.

(k) To ensure effective and accountable management of all Commission funds and appropriate reporting to Council and Commission members.

(l) To present a written report at each ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress and to report regularly to Council through written and oral reports, as requested, but not less than once a year.

(m) To ensure the consistent and transparent application of the Code of Conduct of the members of IUCN Commissions, the IUCN Policy on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment, and all related Commission-specific policies.

(n) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes.

4. Qualifications and requirements[3]

Commission Chairs should have the following attributes:

*General*

(a) have previous governance/board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

(b) be committed to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(c) have a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(d) financial literacy

[3] These qualifications and requirements may be completed by additional commission-specific qualification criteria which the Steering Committees of the Commissions may propose to Council for adoption in accordance with Regulations 30*bis* and 31 and the Procedure for the in-Commission selection process of candidates for Commission Chair approved by Council in March 2019 (C/96/16 - Annex 9).

(e) commit to serve Council in one of its standing committees

(f) have the capacity to work effectively in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

(g) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

*Specific*

(h) outstanding, widely respected expert within the work of the Commission

(i) good knowledge of IUCN and a fair level of understanding of IUCN's Statutes

(j) network of contacts around the world and proven networking skills

(k) practical experience within the work of the Commission

(l) ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south

(m) leadership qualities - able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration

(n) effective chair of meetings

(o) proven strategic planning and organizational management skills, experience managing / supervising staff

(p) good communicator

(q) experience with the concerned Commission. Although the individual is not required to currently[4] be a member of the Commission, s/he should be able to demonstrate active commitment to and engagement with the respective Commission for the last four years or more[5]

(r) fundraising skills, experience or be prepared to raise funds for operational and programmatic expenses to complement COF.

*Requirements*

(i) Avoid conflict of interest situations;

(ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups;

(iii) time available for the full discharge of the Commission Chair's duties as defined in Section 3 above;

*Desirable*

(i) Support at institutional/employment base

(ii) Experience from regional and/or international networking

(iii) Prior IUCN involvement

5. Secretariat support for the work of the Commission

Commission Chairs may expect to receive from the Secretariat reasonable support for the work of their Commission in accordance with IUCN Regulation 81.

[4] During the nominations process 2024-25.

[5] The "last four years or more" shall not apply to the Climate Crisis Commission which has been established in 2022 pursuant to 2021 Congress Resolution 110.

6. Expenses

The position of Commission Chair is a voluntary position. Commission Chairs may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses within the framework of the financial support provided by the Secretariat to the Commission and in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors (Council Handbook).

7. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Commission Chairs (Handbook Section 7, §64-72). Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.

IUCN, INTERNATION UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# COUNCILLORS ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented below to guide the nominations for Councillors elected from the Regions.

1. Election

The Councillors elected from the Regions are elected by the World Conservation Congress following the provisions of the IUCN Statutes, Article 39 and the IUCN Regulations 36 to 40. There shall be twenty-eight Councillors elected from the Regions.[1] The number of elected Councillors for each Region shall be as follows: four (4) for Africa; four (4) for Meso and South America; three (3) for North America and the Caribbean; five (5) for South and East Asia; three (3) for West Asia; three (3) for Oceania; three (3) from West Europe, and three (3) from East Europe, North and Central Asia.

*Guidance for nominations of Councillors elected from the Regions*

Nominations should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment and also contribute to promoting a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people. Mindful of this objective, IUCN Members are encouraged to nominate for each Region at least one more candidate than the number of seats allocated for the Region concerned.[2]

2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Councillors elected from the Regions shall extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.[3] (Statutes, Article 41)

The Councillors elected from the Regions, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities and roles of Councillors elected from the Regions

*General*

(a) As members of Council, Councillors elected from the Regions serve first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

*Specific*

(b) Within the above parameters, Councillors elected from the Regions provide input to the Council on the interests, priorities and needs of the IUCN Members, including the Members from their region;

[1] The list of States by Region is set forth in the Annex to the Regulations (Regulation 36).

[2] Council Handbook §14.

[3] Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

(c) Councillors elected from the Regions act as IUCN's ambassadors, working with the President and Director General to advance the Vision, Mission and interests of the Union and to promote its services within the Region;

(d) Councillors elected from the Regions serve as key contact points in the Region to facilitate the work of the Council, the Director General and Secretariat, members of Commissions and IUCN Members, promoting the One Programme Charter which calls upon the constituent parts of the Union to work together to implement the IUCN Programme collaboratively;

(e) Working actively with IUCN Regional and National Committees in line with the Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees, IUCN Regional Offices and Members, Councillors elected from the Regions assist in promoting the work of the Union;

(f) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes;

(g) Assisting Council and the Director General and the Secretariat in evaluating advice from, and working with, the membership in the Region;

(h) Reporting to Members on Council deliberations;

(i) Consulting the membership on issues to be discussed in the Council and conveying their opinions to Council;

(j) Developing and maintaining regular contact with the IUCN Members in the Region, individually and through the Regional and National Committees, to keep them informed on the work of IUCN globally and in the Regions;

(k) Participating in meetings of IUCN National and/or Regional Committees, other regional fora and gatherings of Members from the Region;

(l) Promoting the Mission of the Union, fostering public awareness, and encouraging development of the membership in the Regions;

(m) Facilitating communications between members of IUCN Commissions in the Region and IUCN Members and IUCN Offices;

(n) Maintaining regular contact with their IUCN Regional and Country Offices and their designated Secretariat Focal Point within the Region;

(o) Identifying persons and organizations within the Regions who could contribute to the work of the Union;

(p) Responding to correspondence and requests for advice from IUCN Members, regional Commission representatives and members of the IUCN Secretariat;

(q) Representing IUCN at national and international meetings in coordination with the Director General and IUCN Regional and Country Offices and in conformity with the Statutes and the Council Handbook[4];

(r) Assisting in fundraising for IUCN, both globally and within the regions.

4. Qualifications for the Post

Councillors should have the following attributes:

*General*

(a) previous governance/board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

[4] Art. 79 (e) and (f) of the Statutes and §39 of the Council Handbook

(b) commitment to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(c) a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(d) financial literacy

(e) commitment to serve Council in one of its standing committees

(f) the capacity to work in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

(g) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

*Specific*

(h) outstanding, widely respected individuals;

(i) experience working at regional or international level;

(j) capacity for guiding development of the Union's policies between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

(k) competency in one of the key areas of Union development and oversight;

(l) a fair level of understanding of IUCN's Statutes;

*Desirable*

(i) Support at institutional/employment base

(ii) Experience from regional and/or international networking

(iii) Prior IUCN involvement

*Requirements*

(i) Avoid conflict of interest situations. Councillors elected from the Regions should preferably not simultaneously hold the position of IUCN Council member and National, Regional or Interregional Committee Chair[5]

(ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups

(iii) Able to devote substantial time to the Union (1 to 2 Council meetings per year; preparation; participation in Committees and Task Forces throughout the year; regional duties and communications with Members as detailed under Section 3 above. Cumulatively this is at least six weeks of work per year).

5. Expenses

The position of Councillor elected from the Regions is a voluntary position. Councillors elected from the Regions may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors

[5] In line with the Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees which provides, among others: "All IUCN National and Regional Committees shall therefore take all appropriate steps to ensure: […] c. as many Members and individuals as possible have the opportunity to participate in IUCN's governance bodies and processes, and to ensure that Members have a diversity of individuals operating within the IUCN´s structures, both leading them in the pursuit of IUCN business as well as representing their interests. Therefore, the Chair of a National or Regional Committee should preferably not, subject to availability of an alternate Committee representative to fill the position of Chair, simultaneously hold the position of IUCN Council member and Committee Chair (Part III, Section 8)".

(Council Handbook).

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of Council, its composition and structure. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.

IUCN, INTERNATION UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

# INDIGENOUS COUNCILLOR
# ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented below to guide the nominations for Indigenous Councillor.

1. Election

The Indigenous Councillor is elected by the World Conservation Congress in accordance with Article 28 of the IUCN Statutes and IUCN Regulations 36 to 40.

*Guidance for nominations of the Indigenous Councillor*

Nominations should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment and also contribute to promoting a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people.

2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Indigenous Councillor shall extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.[1] (Statutes, Article 41)

The Indigenous Councillor, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities and roles of the Indigenous Councillor

*General*

(a) As a member of the IUCN Council, the Indigenous Councillor serves first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes, and advising on a diversity of issues with an indigenous perspective, in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

*Specific*

(b) Within the above parameters, the Indigenous Councillor provides input to the Council on the interests, priorities and needs of the IUCN Members, including in particular the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members;

(c) The Indigenous Councillor acts as IUCN's ambassador, working with the President and Director General to advance the Vision, Mission and interests of the Union and to promote its services, in particular with indigenous peoples;

(d) The Indigenous Councillor serves as key contact point for indigenous people to facilitate the work of the Council, the Director General and Secretariat, members of Commissions and IUCN Members, promoting the One Programme Charter which calls upon the constituent parts of the Union to work together to implement the IUCN Programme collaboratively;

[1] Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

(e) Working actively, in conformity with the Statutes and the Council Handbook, with IUCN Regional and National Committees, Regional Offices, Members and Councillors elected from the Regions, the Indigenous Councillor assists in promoting the work of the Union;

(f) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes;

(g) Assisting Council and the Director General and the Secretariat in evaluating advice from, and working with, the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members;

(h) Reporting to Members on Council deliberations;

(i) Consulting the membership on issues to be discussed in the Council and conveying their opinions to Council;

(j) Developing and maintaining regular contact with the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members, individually and through the Regional and National Committees, to keep them informed on the work of IUCN globally and in the Regions;

(k) Participating in meetings of IUCN National and/or Regional Committees, other regional fora and gatherings of Members from the Regions and the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members;

(l) Promoting the Mission of the Union, fostering public awareness, and encouraging development of the membership in the Regions and in particular, promoting membership of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations;

(m) Facilitating communications between members of IUCN Commissions in the Regions and IUCN Members, in particular Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members and IUCN Offices;

(n) Maintaining regular contact with IUCN Regional and Country Offices and their designated Secretariat Focal Point in the Regions;

(o) Identifying persons and organizations within the Regions who could contribute to the work of the Union;

(p) Responding to correspondence and requests for advice from IUCN Members, regional Commission representatives and members of the IUCN Secretariat;

(q) Representing IUCN at national and international meetings in coordination with the Director General and IUCN Regional and Country Offices;

(r) Assisting in fundraising for IUCN, both globally and within the regions.

4. Qualifications for the Post

The Indigenous Councillor should have the following attributes:

*General*

(a) gender equity and regional diversity, and affiliation with indigenous people or Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

(b) previous governance/board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

(c) commitment to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(d) a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(e) financial literacy

(f) commitment to serve Council in one of its standing committees

(g) the capacity to work in any of the official languages of IUCN

(h) an understanding of, and experience with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*Specific*

(i) outstanding, widely respected individuals;

(j) experience working at regional or international level;

(k) capacity for guiding development of the Union's policies between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

(l) competency in one of the key areas of Union development and oversight.

(m) a fair level of understanding of IUCN's Statutes;

*Desirable*

(i) Support at institutional/employment base

(ii) Experience from regional and/or international networking

(iii) Prior IUCN involvement

*Requirements*

(i) Avoid conflict of interest situations. The Indigenous Councillor should preferably not simultaneously hold the position of IUCN Council member and National, Regional or Interregional Committee Chair[2];

(ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups;

(iii) Able to devote substantial time to the Union (1 to 2 Council meetings per year; preparation; participation in Committees and Task Forces throughout the year; regional duties and communications with Members as detailed under Section 3 above. Cumulatively this is at least six weeks of work per year).

5. Expenses

The position of Indigenous Councillor is a voluntary position. The Indigenous Councillor may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors (Council Handbook).

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of Council, its composition and structure. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.

[2] In line with the Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees which provides, among others: "All IUCN National and Regional Committees shall therefore take all appropriate steps to ensure: […] c. as many Members and individuals as possible have the opportunity to participate in IUCN's governance bodies and processes, and to ensure that Members have a diversity of individuals operating within the IUCN´s structures, both leading them in the pursuit of IUCN business as well as representing their interests. Therefore, the Chair of a National or Regional Committee should preferably not, subject to availability of an alternate Committee representative to fill the position of Chair, simultaneously hold the position of IUCN Council member and Committee Chair (Part III, Section 8)".

# Additional Commission-specific criteria for the position of Commission Chair approved by the Steering Committees of the IUCN Commissions and Council in accordance with Regulations 30*bis* and 31

(for the purpose of attaching them to the Call for nominations in addition to the general Qualifications required for election approved by Council)

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII)

## World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

- Experience and standing in a specific area relevant to protected areas such as planning, management, science or policy
- Strong knowledge and experience of protected area policy at international level
- Some experience in both developed and developing nations
- Willingness and ability to invest substantial time (at least 16 hours a week, on average) to discharge the duties of Commission Chair
- Availability and ability to travel frequently to represent the Commission
- Knowledge and experience of fundraising and proven capacity to raise funds or in-kind contributions
- Committed to communicating and reporting internally on Commission activities to Commission members, in addition to reporting requirements to Council
- Hold a university degree in the natural sciences, ecology, or conservation biology, or other field directly related to the mandate of the Commission
- Published significantly in scientific journals on topics central to the work of the Commission

## Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

Candidates for the position of Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environment, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) should confirm that they have sufficient time and financial resources to perform the responsibilities of the Chair. In addition, candidates should:

1. **Expertise**
    - A widely respected expert in the fields relevant to the Commission's work and have practical experience within the Commission's areas of focus, including sustainability, social justice, diversity, and equity in nature conservation and development.
2. **Knowledge and Experience**
    - Have knowledge and/or experience that qualifies them to lead the Commission, with particular attention to:
        1. High-level work and expertise in the range of activities supported by the Commission, including policy and field-based research at the interface of nature conservation and socioeconomic, environmental justice, cultural, and spiritual concerns.
        2. Familiarity with IUCN's structure, processes, and the procedures and remits of international organizations.

3. Inclusive leadership and transparency in actions and communication, demonstrating strategic planning, organizational management skills, and the ability to provide vision, direction, and inspiration.

3. **Political Acumen**
   - Be aware of the political requirements of the position, including the ability to navigate and address the diverse political, social, and economic contexts within which the Commission operates.

4. **Meeting Facilitation**
   - Be an effective chair of meetings, ensuring productive and inclusive discussions that advance the Commission's mission and strategic approaches.

5. **Volunteer Leadership**
   - Have experience in leading and motivating a volunteer network to harness and optimize the contributions of a largely volunteer organization, enhancing the capacity and reach of the Commission.

6. **Understanding of the Commission's Work**
   - Understand the Commission's work and how it contributes to IUCN's "One Programme" Charter, specifically in areas such as environmental human rights, rights-based conservation, and the integration of cultural and spiritual values in conservation.

7. **Networking Skills**
   - Have a robust network of contacts around the world and strong networking skills to facilitate partnerships and collaborations that further the Commission's goals.

8. **Communication Skills**
   - Be an effective communicator, capable of engaging with broad-based scientific networks and diverse audiences to tell the Commission's story and promote its mission and achievements.

9. **Cultural Competence**
   - Have the ability to work across cultures and disciplines, recognizing and valuing the contributions of diverse perspectives, including those from indigenous peoples, local communities, and other underrepresented groups.

## Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

*(Additional Commission-specific criteria as approved and attached to the Call for nominations in 2019)*

Criteria for selection of candidates for Chair of the Commission:

- Candidates for the position of Chair should confirm that they would have sufficient time and financial resources to perform the responsibilities of the Chair of the Commission (See application procedures below). In addition, candidates should:

  A. Be an outstanding, widely respected expert within the work of the Commission, and practical experience within the work of the Commission;
  B. Have knowledge and/or experience that qualifies them to lead the Commission, with particular attention to:

1. High-level scientific work and expertise in the range of activities supported by the Commission,
2. IUCN's structure and process as well as international organizations' procedures and remits,
3. Inclusive leadership (strategic planning and organizational management skills) and transparency in actions/communication (able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration);

C. Be aware of the political requirements of the position;
D. Be effective chair of meetings
E. Have experience in leading and motivating a volunteer network to harness and optimize the contributions of a largely volunteer organization;
F. Understand the Commission's work and how it contributes to IUCN's "One Programme" Charter;
G. Have a network of contacts around the world and networking skills
H. Be good communicator and experienced at communicating with broad-based scientific networks and ability to tell the Commission's story to a wide variety of audiences;
I. Have the ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south
J. Have the time available for the full discharge of the Commission Chair's duties and institutional support for the discharge of the Commission Chair's duties (see Appendix)
K. Have the capacity to work in English and if possible at least one of the other official languages

## Species Survival Commission (SSC)

No additional Commission-specific criteria.

## Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

- Demonstrated commitment in working closely with the CEC over the last four or more years.
- Have a high-level expertise, knowledge, and experience in communications and/or education. Some level of competencies and knowledge of both fields required.
- Demonstrated engagement with and commitment to IUCN's Youth Strategy and ability to champion meaningful youth engagement throughout IUCN.

# ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION TO COUNCIL AND GUIDANCE FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

(Approved by the IUCN Council at its 76th Meeting in May 2011, Decision C/76/40, and endorsed by the IUCN Council at its 85th Meeting, May 2015, Decision C/85/8; revised by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, decision B/XVI, 1 July 2019 and revised by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024 decision B/VII)

## A. Introduction

In view of issues that arose during the quadrennium that ended with the 2008 Barcelona Congress, and in order to address those issues and otherwise contribute to the integrity, effectiveness and efficiency of the nominations and election process (the "election process" or "process"), the following guidance has been developed by Council. It aims to ensure good governance practices in the election process and to guide the various persons and functions involved in that process, including the following:

- The Nominations Committee of Council
- The prospective and actual candidates
- The Director General

## B. Additional requirements for nomination to Council functions[1]

1. Eligibility when Secretariat staff members intend to apply for Council office:

   a. Candidates who are a member of the IUCN staff will notify the Director General of his/her intention to run for any Council office before the deadline for nominations[2]. As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification to the Director General will include the confirmation that, should he/she be nominated, his/her employment contract with IUCN will end at a date agreed with the Director General, which will not be later than the date recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council or by the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions or Indigenous Councillor.

   b. The Director General will as soon as possible transmit to the Nominations Committee, or to the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions or Indigenous Councillor, the staff member's notification of intention to run for Council. In this transmittal, the DG will set forth the proposed terms and conditions for the continued employment of the staff member up to the effective end date of the employment contract, which the Director General will tentatively agree with the staff member and other relevant staff.

   c. The Nominations Committee/Election Officer in cooperation with the Director General will determine as soon as possible the date by which the employment contract shall be ended at the latest, taking into account all relevant facts and circumstances in each case.

2. Additional requirements when members of Council (other than the current President) intend to apply for the office of President

[1] The following additional requirements for nomination to Council have proven their effectiveness during the 2012 and 2016 nominations and elections process. However, in order to strengthen the status of the additional requirements and ensure they are implemented also after the nominations will have been made, Council may consider whether to incorporate them in the Statutes as eligibility criteria.

[2] Deadline for nominations is 7 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC (decision of the 111th meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2024).

a. A member of Council who intends to present his/her candidacy for the office of President will notify the Nominations Committee in writing of such intention before notifying any IUCN Members, Council members or Secretariat member. He/she will do so at the latest during the meeting of the IUCN Council referred to in Regulation 30, which decides on the nominations to be put forward to Congress (in the intersessional period 2021-2025 this will be the 113th Meeting of Council to be held in May 2025). Such a member of Council will be expected to:

i. Disclose in writing to the Congress Nominations Committee any actual or potential conflict of interest to which his/her candidacy might give rise.

ii. Avoid taking unfair advantage of functions and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of Council or any other component of IUCN, including the use of resources that may have been placed at his/her disposal for the purpose of carrying out those functions or activities, for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances of prevailing over the opponent(s).

## C. Guidance for all candidates during the nomination and election campaign process

Appendix A[3] provides a Guidance document for candidates which will form part of the nomination papers and which shall be signed by each candidate as a requisite step for his/her nomination.

[3] Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, decision B/XIII, 28 August 2024)

WCEL

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
COMMISSION MONDIALE DE DROIT DE L´ENVIRONNEMENT
COMISION MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

# IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

# 2024-2025 Work Plan

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## 1. Mission and Goal

According to its mandate, approved by the World Conservation Congress on 10 February 2021 (electronic vote), the mission of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is to assure through the environmental rule of law, the proper valuation, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature through transformative change across legal, political, technological, social, financial and economic sectors. Fundamental, system-wide and cross-sectoral changes, including paradigms, goals and values, are necessary for achieving global and national sustainability goals, such as those expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2030 Mission and 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the Paris Agreement and Nature 2030.

To this end, the goal of WCEL is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to employ the environmental rule of law for preventing harm to, conserving, restoring, and recovering nature, and assuring that uses of natural resources are equitable and ecologically sustainable.

## 2. Objectives

The mandate defines that WCEL will pursue its objectives in coordination with the IUCN Programme 2021–2025, and in cooperation with IUCN Members and components of the Union, through the Commission members and specialist groups, and in partnership with relevant international entities, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other expert environmental law organisations, law schools, associations of judges and environmental prosecutors, as well as judicial institutes, academies, and schools, in order to:

a. promote the 2016 World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law, the 2018 Brasília Declaration of Judges on Water Justice, and other ethical and innovative legal instruments, legislation, and judicial decisions useful to promote the environmental rule of law, to fight environmental crimes including wildlife trafficking and ecocide, to prevent damages to biodiversity, to conserve and restore nature, and to achieve environmental sustainability;

b. build knowledge and apply legal, scientific, technical and other capacity in all regions and at all levels to enable governments and decision-makers to draft, enact, implement and enforce environmental law in an effective manner;

c. work closely with the Secretariats of relevant conventions and agreements that protect and conserve nature to support the further complementary development, implementation and enforcement of those conventions and agreements;

d. build capacity and educate governmental officials, including judges and public prosecutors, legislators, and stakeholders at all levels on furthering the environmental rule of law, by applying environmental law and policy, improving access to information and justice, and facilitating public participation in environmental decision-making to ensure that natural resources are managed equitably and sustainably;

e. engage with Members, National/Regional Membership Committees, and WCEL members to create expert environmental law networks;

f. collaborate with the other six IUCN Commissions on relevant issue of environmental law; and g. collaborate with other components of the Union and Secretariat, especially the IUCN Environmental Law Centre and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, and partner institutions, including UNEP, the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment, and UNITAR, to provide education, information and knowledge on law and governance necessary to achieve ecological sustainability.

## 3. Priorities

WCEL will implement its objectives through its priorities that further the IUCN Programme 2021–2025. WCEL's objectives will be implemented in an integrated way through its work and strategic plans, expert membership, specialist groups, its network of collaborating centres of environmental law, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, the Union's Regional and National Committees and Offices, and other professional partnerships, as well as with UN institutions pursuant to the Union's UN observer status. Other partners include the Organization of American States, GLOBE International, INECE, the International Association of Judges, the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment, the International Association for Water Law, the International Law Association, and regional societies of international and environmental law. WCEL will address the following priorities, contingent on the availability of financial resources and through the voluntary contributions of expertise by its members and partners, in order to:

**a. Strengthen WCEL specialist groups – WCEL will enhance the effectiveness of its specialist groups with particular emphasis on:**

**(1) priority legal themes** corresponding to the IUCN Programme 2021–2025 areas, including addressing biodiversity loss; natural and cultural heritage conservation; ecosystem protection; agriculture; soils; freshwater and wetlands; desertification; coastal and marine degradation; global wildlife exploitation, trade, and trafficking; ocean biodiversity; climate change, renewable energy and biofuels; equitable governance of natural resource management; pandemics and emerging infectious diseases of animal origin; and

**(2) cross-cutting themes** such as environmental ethics, environmental human rights, indigenous peoples, protected areas, Arctic and Antarctic polar governance, compliance and enforcement of environmental laws, sound environmental adjudication, access to justice in environmental matters, protection of whistle-blowers and environmental defenders, environmental justice, and national and international financial institutions, and requests made by the World Conservation Congress.

**b. Promote the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law** – WCEL will promote and collaborate closely with the Academy as the world's leading network of academic institutions, universities and professors engaged in the research and teaching of environmental law.

**c. Collaborate with centres of environmental law** – WCEL will continue to recognise, promote and collaborate with centres, institutes of environmental law and other partners in building coordinated information, research, learning and capacity-building programmes on the legal aspects of biodiversity.

**d. Knowledge, capacity building, and technical assistance** – WCEL will collaborate with all components of the Union, especially its Members, its Commissions, Regional Offices, the Environmental Law Centre, the Academy of Environmental Law, and other partners, including UNEP, Convention Secretariats, INECE, the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment to develop international agreements and national legislation, and implementation programmes, particularly in less-developed countries and regions affected by conflicts.

**e. Promote 'good governance' and the environmental rule of law** – WCEL will work with IUCN Members, its Commissions, UN institutions, governments and other stakeholders to encourage and promote 'good governance' and institutions to respect the environmental rule of law, with special focus on effective compliance with and enforcement of international and local legislation for the protection of nature.

**f. Support the Judiciary** – WCEL will continue to work with the judiciary and other relevant judicial institutions, both international and national, including judicial institutes and associations of judges, to strengthen the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, to build capacity in the judiciary to provide access to justice, to effectively adjudicate environmental issues, to apply and enforce environmental law, to provide legal reference services and information databanks - including ECOLEX, the Judicial Environmental Portal and INFORMEA, and to promote the development and study of environmental jurisprudence.

**g. Promote programmatic synergies among MEAs** – WCEL will work with the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in support of more coherent implementation, especially at the national level, governments and stakeholders, and with other conventions, agreements and processes to identify and promote synergies among them and IUCN's mission and Programme.

**h. Strengthen the legal foundations of conventions** – WCEL will study and undertake efforts to most effectively enhance the implementation and elaboration of multilateral environmental agreements and conventions related to natural resources and environmental concerns and provide expertise and capacity building for strengthening of national focal points, national implementation laws, including, for example, efforts to implement climate change-related commitments under the Paris Agreement.

**i. Study and advance the conceptual development of environmental law** – WCEL will research the application of new or emerging international and national legal and governance instruments and principles, including Rights of Nature, Ecocide, the World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law, the principle of non-regression and progression, and the principle of resilience.

**j. Sustainable Development Goals** – WCEL will study and undertake efforts with key partners to promote the implementation and strengthen the legal aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 4. Strategic Priorities for 2024-2025

### 4.1 Overall priorities:

WCEL will continue representing IUCN in **advisory proceedings on climate change**. WCEL drafted the written submissions of the IUCN to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Inter-American Court

on Human Rights (IACtHR). WCEL further held the IUCN oral statements at the IACtHR and ITLOS. In 2024 and 2025, the proceedings at the ICJ will be expected, where WCEL, in collaboration with the IUCN Secretariat, will represent the IUCN in these important proceedings.

Other priorities include:

- Continue to enhance its member base (currently about 1.300 members) and to increase the diversity and levels of membership, particularly in countries or regions with few or no members and to better and more effectively connect with its members.

- Effective monitoring of the implementation of relevant IUCN WCC Resolutions including:
  - *Resolution 050 "Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law using legal indicators"*
  - *"Strengthening the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment"*
  - *"Building Madagascar's capacity to counter the threat from invasive species"*
  - *"Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity"*
  - Other resolutions with relevance for WCEL.

- Collaborate with the other 6 IUCN Commissions, the IUCN Secretariat and IUCN national and regional committees to the extent possible to raise awareness about the role of law and the importance of the environmental rules of law, and to strengthen legal capacity.

- Increase the involvement and effectiveness of the work carried out by the WCEL eight Specialist Groups and four Task Forces (see Annex I).
- Enhance cooperation with the IUCN secretariat on two joint projects: (1) Rights of nature and (2) Legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

### 4.2 Mandated Priorities

In responding to the 10 priorities set out in the Commission's mandate above, the WCEL has defined the following **key priorities** for 2024-2025:

*a. Strengthen and enhance effectiveness of WCEL specialist groups with particular emphasis on:*

*(1) priority legal themes corresponding to the IUCN Programme 2021–2025:*

In 2024-2025, the Commission will continue to strengthen its capacity in the areas of:

- **Biodiversity law, including with respect to the Ocean** (especially in relation to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022, and international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction – BBNJ Agreement, adopted in 2023); negotiations on exploitation regulations for deep-sea mining;
- **Climate change law** (especially with regard to the following topics: Fighting climate change: A best practice guide for judges and courts; Islands and climate change, Legal pathways to net-zero GHG emissions and nature-based solutions, Enabling legal environment for emerging technologies (such as geoengineering and solar engineering) to support climate action, Equity and Fairness within and outside the Climate Change Regime, Climate Justice & Climate Litigation, Climate Finance, and the maintenance of the IUCN WCEL Climate Law Network);
- **Environmental Rule of Law**, especially with respect to **Rights of Nature**, further strengthening the international recognition of a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (based on the resolutions by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 and the UN General Assembly in 2022), and the promotion of legal principles, such as: non-regression, progression, cross-compliance;
- **Legal instrument to plastic pollution** (international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to be adopted in 2024): work on legal design, principles and objective of the agreement, collaborate with IUCN secretariat to enhance the legal capacity in the secretariat
- **Nature-based solutions**, including forest protection, soil and sustainable agriculture, fresh water and wetlands, ocean governance, especially the need for safeguards

*(2) cross-cutting themes:*

- **Involving Youth:** The stronger and more effective involvement of early career members and youth is one of the key priorities of the commission, focused on the continued growth of the Early Career Group;

- **Geographical focus:** The WCEL Steering Committee adopted a priority focus on *Islands*, as one of the world's most vulnerable geographical areas to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as some of the most progressive and dynamic centers of legal development and innovation:
- **Collaboration with Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE) and the Task Force on a Model Forest Act:** WCEL will continue its constructive engagement with the GJIE in several projects, including the Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI) and others
- **Further cross-cutting themes** in the commission´s work are: ethics, peace and security (protection of the environment during armed conflict), role of private and corporate actors, justice, gender, IP, compliance and enforcement.

*b. Promote the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law:*

The WCEL will also in 2024-2025 work in collaboration with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law on the promotion of events, especially the annual colloquia, seek to organize joint events, and participate in each other's events, and Steering Committee meetings (the chair of the IUCN Academy is an ex officio member of the WCEL SC, and vice versa)

*c. Collaborate with centres of environmental law:*

In 2024-2025, WCEL will continue its collaboration with the IUCN Environmental Law Center and the IUCN Governance Center. One example is the publication of "Environmental Indicators", based on WCEL Conference in Paris, December 2021. The publication (in English) was launched during COP28 in Dubai in 2023. The Spanish and French versions of this publication will be launched during 2024.

*d. Knowledge, capacity building, and technical assistance:*

In 2024-2025, on commission leadership level and through the WCEL Specialist Groups and Task Forces, WCEL will continue organizing capacity building workshops. Capacity-building and networking will be carried out with partner organisations, such as FAO («The role of law in sustainable agrifood systems»), ADB, EBRD, the Secretariat of Aarhus Convention, and others to enhance the development and dissemination of environmental law expertise and networks worldwide. Importantly, WCEL in 2025 will organize the **Fourth World Environmental Law Congress** together with the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training in Morocco.

*e. Promote 'good governance' and the environmental rule of law:*

WCEL will continue its cooperation with UNEP as the secretariat for the Montevideo V Program for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, focusing in particular on the following elements:

- Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Rights of Nature
- Non-Regression and Progression
- Fairness
- Remedies

*f. Support the Judiciary:*

WCEL cooperates closely with the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment – a global network of judges for judges - as well as with the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment, and the Asian Development Bank´s program on capacity building for judges in the Asia pacific region.

*g. Promote programmatic synergies among MEAs:*

WCEL continues to participate in the negotiations – as part of the IUCN delegation - of main MEA processes: UNFCCC COP29 (Azerbaijan), UNFCCC COP30 (Brazil), CBD COP16 (Colombia), the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, UNCLOS BBNJ, UNEP Montevideo Program.

WCEL will pay particular attention to:

- End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument
- Science-Policy interface
- Nature-based solutions
- Submission of NDCs under the Paris Agreement in 2025

*h. Strengthen the legal foundations of conventions:*

WCEL contributes in its work to the further development of MEAs with profound expert knowledge and by enhancing legal and negotiating capacity within the IUCN Secretariat and with partner organizations. This applies in particular to the following areas: climate change (UNFCCC and Paris Agreement), biodiversity (CBD), water law (World Water Forum), ocean law (UNCLOS) and UNEA/6/4 and 6.

*i. Study and advance the conceptual development of environmental law:*

Work within WCEL will focus on the further conceptual development of environmental law, in particular with regard to the following aspects:

- Nature-Based solutions
- Circular economy/circularity (in the context of the Plastic treaty)
- Rights of Nature
- Rights of Future Generations
- Ecocide
- Principles of non-regression and progression
- Transformative Power of Law for Ambition and Implementation in International Environment Treaties:
  - Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation
  - BBNJ Implementation Guide
  - Paris Agreement
  - Other, as appropriate (e.g. UNEA resolutions)

*j. Sustainable Development Goals:*

WCEL works on the integration of environmental law knowledge with the scientific and policy expertise of the other Commissions; thus, working holistically on the implementation of the SDGs.

## 5. Main events in 2024 and 2025

- IUCN WCEL Steering Committee meeting and International Expert Colloquium on the "Environmental Rule of Law", 26-28 August 2024, Washington DC
- United Nations Future Summit (2024)
- Regional Conservation Fora (2024)
- CBD COP 16 (2024, Colombia)
- Fourth World Environmental Law Congress (IUCN WCEL), Morocco, May 2025
- IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025
- UNFCCC COP30 (2025, Brazil)

## 6. Structure of the Commission

### *6.1 Leadership*

- Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt, IUCN WCEL Chair
- Ayman Cherkaoui, IUCN WCEL Deputy-Chair

- Roberto Coll, IUCN WCEL Executive Officer

### *6.2 Steering Committee*

***Members:***

- Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Tanzania (based in Nairobi, Kenya)
- Prof. Dr. Nilufer Oral, Turkey (based in Singapore)
- Prof. Dr. Lavanja Rajamani, India (based in Oxford, UK)
- Prof. Dr. Agnes Michelot, France
- Marina Venâncio, Brazil (based in Cambridge, UK)
- James Cameron, UK
- Prof. David Forman, US
- Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Kenya
- Christina Pak, Philippines
- Claudia De Windt, Dominican Republic (based in Washington, D.C., US)
- Maria Muavesi, Fiji

***Ex officio members:***

- Dr. Sheila Abed, Paraguay (WCEL chair emerita)
- Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin, Brazil (WCEL chair em.)
- Dr. Parvez Hassan, Pakistan (WCEL chair em.)
- Prof. Nicholas Robinson, USA (WCEL chair em.)
- Sandrine Friedli Cela, Switzerland (IUCN Legal Officer)
- Dr. Alejandro Iza, Argentina (based in Bonn, Germany)
- Dr. Tiina Paloniitty (Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law)

### 6.3 *Specialist Groups*

*Biodiversity Law*

Chair: Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Kasimbazi (Uganda) ebkasimbazi@gmail.com

Deputy Chair: Michelle Lim, Ph.D. (Australia) michelle.lim11@gmail.com

*Climate Change Law*

Co-Chairs: Dr. Francesco Sindico (Italy, based in Scotland) francesco.sindico@strath.ac.uk and Fabiano de Andrade, Ph.D. (Brazil) Fabiano.DeAndrade@alumni.eui.eu

*Early Career Group*

Chair: Marina Venâncio (Brazil) marinademariavenancio@gmail.com

Deputy Chair: Alvin Gachie (Kenya) alvin.gachie@un.org

*Peace, Security and Conflict*

Chair: Prof. Dr. Karen Hulme (United Kingdom) klhulm@essex.ac.uk

Deputy Chair: Associate Prof. Dr. Daniëlla Dam-de Jong (The Netherlands) d.a.dam@law.leidenuniv.nl

*Ethics*

Chair: Prof. Dr. Kathryn Gwiazdon (United States of America) katygwiazdon@gmail.com

Deputy Chair: Prof. Dr. Cristiane Derani (Brazil) cristiane.derani@ufsc.br

*Ocean Law*

Chair: Prof. Dr. Cymie Payne (United States of America) cp@cymiepayne.org

Deputy Chair: Pradeep Singh (Malaysia) pradeep@uni-bremen.de

*Soil and Sustainable Agriculture Law*

Chair: Dr. Irene Heuser (Germany) irene.heuser@googlemail.com

Deputy Chair: Elizabeth Dooley (US) Beth.Dooley@teagasc.ie

*Water and Wetlands Law*

Chair: Stefano Burchi (Italy) stefano.burchi@gmail.com

Deputy Chair: Dr. Michael Hantke-Domas (Chile) mhantke@gmail.com

***6.4 Task Forces (4)***

*Model Forest Act*

Chair: Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin (Brazil) ahbenja@gmail.com

*Global Judicial Institute on The Environment*

Focal Point: Prof. Dr. Nick Bryner (USA) nickbryner@gmail.com

*Taskforce on Treaty to Address Global Plastic Pollution*

Chair: Prof. Dr. Alexandra Harrington arharrington@gmail.com

IUCN Secretariat: Janaka De Silva Janaka.DeSilva@iucn.org /Minna Epps Minna.EPPS@iucn.org

*Taskforce on Rights of Nature*

Chair: Prof. Phillipe Cullet pc38@soas.ac.uk

IUCN Secretariat: Sabrina Nick Sabrina.Nick@iucn.org

**Oslo, 30 June 2024**

**Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt**

**Chair, IUCN WCEL**

# ANNEX:

# Specific Work Plans of the WCEL Specialist Groups and Task Forces

## 1. Climate Change Law Specialist Group

**TEAM AND NUMBERS**

Co-chairs (Francesco Sindico and Fabiano de Andrade Correa)
Executive Assistant (Marina Dutra Trindade)
426 Members of the Specialist Group
289 Members of the SG Linked in Group

**PROJECT**

*Fighting Climate Change: A best practice guide for judges and courts* (2019-2024)
Project Coordinators: Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh and Sarah Mead

**NEXT STEPS**

- Book publication in Q4 2024
- Book launch (online event, late 2024)

**CLUSTERS**

a) *Islands, Nature & Renewable Energy Law* (2022-2024)
Coordinators: Francesco Sindico, Madeline Taylor and Romain Mauger

**NEXT STEPS**

- Promotion and dissemination of deliverables included in the web page accessible here.
- Collaboration with the IUCN GINGR initiative including at COP 29 and in the context of a GEF proposal
- Mapping of the legal dimension of renewable energy related work carried out by IUCN (TBC)
- Contribution to an IUCN Resolution on Green Hydrogen and Nature protection (TBC)

b) *Legal aspects of nature-based solutions to address the climate crisis* (2022-2024)
Coordinators: Fabiano de Andrade Correa and Kristin Meyer (TBC)

**NEXT STEPS**

- Brainstorming sessions with project members and IUCN Secretariat
- Development of a database for networking and collaboration on initial deliverables/output dissemination
- Development of legal brief, standalone or as contribution to the IUCN report on NbS
- COP29: Discussion groups and unofficial side events

**THE CLIMATE LAW NETWORK**

- Increase geographical diversity, particularly from developing countries
- Regular meetings: every 2 or 3 months – networking and collaboration purposes
    - Networking session: August 2024 (schedule TBC)
    - CBD COP-related meeting sessions in October with guest from the IUCN CBD COP delegation (schedule TBC)
    - UNFCCC COP-related meeting sessions in November with guest from the IUCN UNFCCC COP delegation (schedule TBC)
- Increase membership presence in the ENGAGE platform and on LinkedIn – turn them as reference spaces for climate lawyers
- Topical sessions with other Commissions/SGs/TFs within IUCN to build dialogue between legal and non-legal researchers
- Development of a database to facilitate the connection between topics and members

**GENERAL**

- Representation in the August 2024 IUCN WCEL Colloquium in Washington DC, USA
- Participation to the IUCN Leaders' forum in October 2024 in Geneva
- Advisory opinions
    - Written statement to the ICJ following previous contributions to IUCN's work at ITLOS and IACtHR
    - Follow up on submissions and participation on hearings
    - Events to discuss the AOs and raise awareness, disseminate preliminary results (e.g. from ITLOS), including through a COP29 Official side event
- Contribution to other relevant international climate change legal processes as appropriate (for example, input into UN Special Rapporteurs' requests)

**DELIVERABLES**

- Book (Cambridge University Press) - *Fighting Climate Change: A best practice guide for judges and courts* (2024/2025)
- GEF proposal (if successful, a series of policy briefs on islands, renewable energy and nature)
- COP 29 Discussion Paper on Grids, Energy Justice and Resilience
- IUCN Resolution on Green Hydrogen and Nature protection (TBC)
- Internal document reviewing the legal dimension of renewable energy related work carried out by IUCN (TBC)
- Official side event at COP 29 on the 3 AOs to which IUCN has been contributing

## 2. Biodiversity Law Specialist Group

**Mission:**

The Mission of the Biodiversity Law Specialist Group (BLSG) is to promote scholarship, discourse, capacity-building and legal innovation in the regulation of the multiple relationships between humans and nature and the intrinsic, relational and instrumental values of biodiversity.

**2024-2025 Priorities**

In 2024, the BLSG established the following working groups:

- Biodiversity-Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Biodiversity Litigation
- Biodiversity and Human Rights
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
- Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework
- Access and Benefit Sharing.

The remainder of 2024 will be dedicated to establishing the governance and leadership of the Working Groups listed above. Recognising the broad areas of biodiversity law, the Working Groups will enable greater depth of collaborations on specific biodiversity topics. Collaborations will include activities such as workshops, webinars, publications and broader engagement.

In addition to developing the role of Working Groups within the BLSG, the 2024/2025 workplan will involve further development of the projects set out below as well as a new project on the biodiversity-health nexus (e.g. OneHealth).

**Projects**

**Project 1: Mapping WCEL Biodiversity Law Synergies**

- Activities: Desk-based analysis and conversations with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of other WCEL SGs, the ECG and the WCEL Executive Officer.
- Expected Outcome: A map of the interactions between the work of the Biodiversity Law SG and existing WCEL and IUCN work (especially the governance work of other IUCN Commissions e.g. CEESP and WCPA).
- Outputs/Products: Strategic Document setting out synergies and gaps and priorities for WCEL Biodiversity Law SG work.
- Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: Discussions with and invitation for comment from each of the WCEL SG and ECG Chairs and Deputy Chairs.
- How will "cross cutting" issues be addresses: The interaction of each of the cross-cutting issues and the work of the Biodiversity Law SG will be explicitly identified.
- Timeline: September 2024
- Lead(s): Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi, Dr Michelle Lim, in collaboration with WCEL Executive Officer

**Project 2: Promoting synergies and cooperation of the biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs and regional agreements (e.g. UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNCLOS and AEWA)**

- Activities: Based on Project 1 above, identify areas of possible synergy and cooperation across biodiversity-related MEAs and
- Expected Outcome: Produce a clear set of recommended actions aimed at improving the ability of the Conventions and agreements to address the key drivers of biodiversity loss.
- Outputs/Products: A report that provides a summary of comparison of the biodiversity- related conventions characteristics and areas for synergy.
- Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: The report links to the work of each of the other WCEL SGs. SG Chairs, Deputy Chairs and WCEL members will be invited to comment and contribute.

How will "cross cutting" issues be addresses: Each of the cross-cutting issues (Justice, Youth and Intergenerational Equity, Gender, Indigenous peoples, Judiciary/Courts, Compliance/ Enforcement, Role of Private Sector Stakeholders) relate directly the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements and their areas of cooperation and synergies will be identified.

Timeline: December 2025.

Lead(s): Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi

**Project 3: Description IUCN WCEL and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework**

Activities: Prepare publications on implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (e.g. journal articles, policy brief on implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in relation to Indigenous peoples and local communities).
Participate in Conferences and workshops.
Expected Outcome:
Outputs/Products: Publications related to the Global Biodiversity Framework
Timeline: Ongoing until December 2025
Lead(s): Dr Michelle Lim, Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi

**Project 4: Biodiversity litigation**

Activities/Products/Projects

- Activities: Bring together SG expertise on biodiversity litigation.
- Expected Outcome: Consolidation of a network of experts on biodiversity litigation.
- Outputs/Products: Webinar(s) and workshops including collaboration with the Taskforce for the Rights of Nature and Conservation Litigation

Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: This project will link the role of the judiciary in the other WCEL SGs.

- How will "cross cutting" issues be addresses: The project addresses the cross-cutting issues of Justice and Judiciary/Courts, Compliance/ Enforcement.
- Timeline: April 2025

Lead(s): Biodiversity Litigation Working Group

**Project 5: Capacity Building Explore opportunities to build intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary biodiversity law expertise**

- Activities: The aim of capacity building activities is not only to build expertise in biodiversity related legal instruments but also for biodiversity lawyers to engage with cutting-edge science and social science knowledge.
- Survey to BLSG members on the skills they can offer and the additional biodiversity knowledge they would like to build.
- Liaise with other Commissions on where biodiversity law knowledge would be useful.
- Link to IPBES and IPBES knowledge products.
- Identify individuals in the Early Career Group who have expertise in Biodiversity Law. Integrate these individuals into the BLSG.
- Explore funding opportunities e.g. UNEP, CBD, ADB etc.
- Expected Outcome: A plan for building biodiversity law capacity at multiple scales.
- Outputs/Products: Webinars and information guides and collaborations.
- Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: This project will build on the mapping exercise of Project 1 and the synergies of Project 2. From there we will identify the interest in and scope for collaboration on building biodiversity law capacity within WCEL and across other IUCN Commissions.
- How will "cross cutting" issues be addresses: Each of the cross-cutting issues (Justice, Youth and Intergenerational Equity, Gender, Indigenous peoples,

Judiciary/Courts, Compliance/ Enforcement, Role of Private Sector Stakeholders) relate directly to the capacity building initiative.

- Timeline: August 2025

Lead(s): Biodiversity Law SG leads and ECG leads (need to check in with ECG leads)

**Project 6: Description: Biodiversity-Health Nexus (OneHealth)**

- Activities: Explore expertise and interest for this topic within the group
- Expected Outcome: Possible further Working Group
- Outputs/Products: Summary of shared interests and agenda of next steps.
- Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: None identified. Will identify links within the wider IUCN network.
- How will "cross cutting" issues be addresses:
- Timeline: End of 2025

Lead(s): TBC

Communication (with WCEL leadership, SC, other SGs, within SG, with parts of Union)

Updates and posts from Chair and Deputy Chairs social media accounts (Linkedin and Twitter) including sharing of Annual Report. Sharing of news items with WCEL Executive Officer for dissemination through WCEL Channels. Retweeting and sharing of IUCN and IUCN WCEL Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook posts.

The Biodiversity Law Specialist Group provides legal and technical advice to the IUCN, its members and constituencies and the WCEL on the legal aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity. The Biodiversity Law Specialist Group also examines the underlying values of law; the suitability of existing laws to achieve transformative change towards a thriving multi-species planet; and provides recommendation of legal and governance reform. The Biodiversity Law Specialist Group is also source of expertise on these issues for the IUCN Secretariat, i.e., its Environmental Law Centre in Bonn.

## 3. Environmental Security and Conflict Specialist Group

**Project 1: Fulfilling Resolution 052: Devising Guidelines on the ILC Draft Principles on the Protection of the Environment in relation to Armed Conflict**

This project is about creating guidance for implementation of the ILC Principles. So far, we have held workshops on two topic areas covered by the Principles and consulted with specialists in the field.

Work for 2024-5:

- Produce final draft of guidance on enhancing the protected of environmental protected areas in armed conflict
- Produce final draft of guidance on implementing corporate responsibility and liability obligations in relation to armed conflict
- Possibly hold another workshop on a further specific topic area, such as occupation, post-conflict obligations, practical dimensions.

**Project 2: Analyzing biodiversity/nature and conflict**

This project relates specifically to the impacts of armed conflicts on biodiversity and MEAs ability to hep address environmental damage caused by conflict.

Work plan 2024-5:

- Produce report on conflict issues in biodiversity instruments and fora.
- Enhance the recognition of conflict as a challenge for MEA bodies through side events, networking.

**Project 3: New ways to tackle wildlife and environmental crime in relation to conflict**

This project has broadened out in scope to incorporate not just environmental crimes in relation to conflict, but also in relation to times of crisis and environmental crime more generally. Ecocide is now a bigger part of the project.

Work plan 2024-5:

- Advocacy and engagement through workshops and side-events for inclusion of environmental crimes/ecocide in the proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention.
- Expert input into the consultations by the International Criminal Court for new or revised environmental crimes provisions.
- Promotion/advocacy inputs into UNTOC processes to bring about a new Protocol on illegal Wildlife Trafficking.
- Workshop/conference on environmental crimes, including ecocide and rights of nature, including with a focus on conflict (eg Colombia).

## 4. Ethics Specialist Group

**OVERVIEW**

In the build-up to IUCN WCC 2025, the ESG will prioritize:

- continuing our focus on the intersection of our conservation crises with our governance crises and the particular role of ethics and IUCN
- building a strategy plan to engage and empower our members and mission within the commission and throughout all of IUCN
- hosting a 40th anniversary Symposium in 2024 in Amman, Jordan (ESG+40)
- collaborating with WCEL, other SGs, other commissions, Task Forces, members, and national committees on WCC workshops/motions

**WORKPLAN**

1. **Enlist (1-2) WCEL Executive Assistants (UFSC, NIU Law) – September 2024**

2. **Create a Strategy Plan**
    a. Aim: draft open for comment as prep to ESG+40 (October 2024), adopt December 2024
    b. Invite members – August 2024
    c. Contents:
        i. Mission (including ethics as the foundation of the rule of law; it is the inquiry into right and wrong behavior and when responsibility attaches. We do not separate conservation crises from governance crises.)
        ii. Membership – internal/external WCEL engagement strategies
        iii. ESG Structure – Exec Cmte, working groups w/project coordinators
        iv. Outreach and Communication – w/in membership and w/networks
            1. Promote cross-commissional work
            2. Annual symposium
        v. Priority themes (draft list below)
            1. Methodology
            2. Projects
        vi. Honors/awards/recognitions?
        vii. Schedule, with benchmark dates
    d. Draft priority themes (subject to change based on Strategy Plan development)
        i. IUCN Governance
            1. Transparency, member access/participation
            2. Members are the heart of IUCN
        ii. Ecological Law and Governance
            1. Non-market approaches
            2. Interdisciplinary

3. Non-hierarchical (feminist approaches)

iii. Global Governance, Democracy, and Peace
   1. Human rights and responsibilities
   2. War, conflict, and occupation

iv. Decolonization
   1. Applied climate ethics
   2. Racism and sexism
   3. Dignity and identity

**3. IUCN WCC 2025 Congress Preparation and Congress Activities**

a. Strategy Plan will guide our engagement across IUCN.

b. Key networks: Chair is a member of the IUCN WCC 2025 Motions Working Group, the Executive Committee of the US National Committee (USNC), and is the Executive Director of an IUCN member organization (NGO).

c. The ESG will be present at the US RCF and the Annual Meeting of the USNC.

d. Resolutions Review, Motions Drafting = in alignment with our thematic priorities, or due to an urgent topical matter, review IUCN resolutions to determine what applies to support IUCN engagement or what new action (motions) needs to be taken.

e. Workshops = host one workshop to focus on the work of the ESG and the role of ethics at IUCN; and partner on others.

f. Note: we foresee two major issues arising at the WCC:

i. **Human rights** because of recurring, unaccounted for, egregious violations around the world, but also because of the WCC's location at the UAE, an oil and gas nation with serious human rights abuses – including but not limited to development and climate harms from the oil and gas industry, mass migrant labor (which experts have called 'modern day slave labor'), the lack of an independent media and the jailing of journalists (lack of freedom of speech and freedom of the press), and limited or absent women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, etc.

ii. **The legitimacy of IUCN** because of our location in the UAE, for the reasons noted above. We must learn from COP28 of the UNFCCC and how they lost legitimacy when the UAE hosted the COP and had a CEO of an oil and gas industry as its President. There may also be added complexity because our President is employed by the UAE government and has ties to the oil and gas industry.

iii. **The governance of IUCN –** for the first time we may have a Presidential candidate from the host country, and we need to think now how to ensure fair elections.

4. **International Symposium Honoring the 40th Anniversary of the ESG (all details TBC)**

*a*. Theme: *The Place and Power of IUCN for Peace, Justice, and Life on Earth*

b. Hosts: IUCN WCEL ESG, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, Womenomics, in collaboration with the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia, American University of Madaba, and Greater Amman Municipality.

c. October 28-31, 2024

d. Methodology – site visits, workshops, all of IUCN inclusion, local community engagement (minimal traditional panel presentations), space to discuss motions/WCC prep, space to discuss draft ESG Strategy Plan

e. Participants – past and present WCEL and ESG Chairs, President, DG, key figures re: subject matter expertise, key figures re: collaboration across commissions, members, Secretariat

f. Short synopsis – From conflict to climate change, crises always unequally affect the most vulnerable among us – those who have been made vulnerable by historic and current systems of law and governance. Please join us for an exploration into the role and responsibility of the world's oldest international conservation organization at this critical moment in time. Learning from our history, what are the principles that should guide future action to create a more just, more sustainable future for all? This Symposium, honoring the 40th anniversary of the creation of the IUCN Ethics Working Group in 1984, will bring together leaders from law, governance, conservation, and communities to better understand the founding purpose of IUCN in 1948, to review its work since its inception, and explore together its power and potential to address our current crises. It will be a mix of traditional panels and site visits with local community projects.

**2024-2025 CALENDAR**

- 25-28 June 2024 – Partner: 32nd International Conference of the Global Ecological Integrity Group, *From Colonialism to Cosmologies: Ecological Integrity and Indigenous Knowledge in Law, Policy, and Science*, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC), Centro de Ciências Jurídicas (CCJ), Florianópolis, Brazil
- 07 July 2024 – Partner: first meeting of the WINGS working group (Women's International Network Global Symposium), Gary, Indiana, USA
- August 2024 – invite ESG members to be a part of the Strategy Plan working group
- August 2024 – US RCF; US National Committee Annual Meeting; WCEL Annual Meeting, Washington DC
- September 2024 – Partner: Recife Declaration on Racism as a Global Public Health Crisis at the World Congress of Epidemiology, Cape Town, South Africa
- October 2024 – present skeleton draft of Strategy Plan to ESG members
- 28-31 October 2024 – Host: International Symposium Honoring the 40th Anniversary of the ESG: *The Place and Power of IUCN for Peace, Justice, and Life* on Earth, Amman, Jordan

- December 2025 – adopt ESG Strategy Plan
- Spring 2025 – USNC Town Hall to prepare US members for Congress, Washington DC
- Spring 2025 – Meeting of the Motions Working Group, will also schedule meetings with key Secretariat members (and Council, Commission members if present), Gland, Switzerland
- June 2025 – Partner: 33rd International Conference of the Global Ecological Integrity Group/Ecological Law and Governance Association at European University, Rome
- 2025 – ESG Annual Symposium (continuation from 2024, subject to change due to Strategy Plan)
- October 2025 – IUCN WCC 2025, ESG workshops, members meeting, etc.

## 5. Early Career Specialist Group

### Introduction

This note outlines the revised terms of reference (ToRs) and work plan for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Commission on Environmental Law Early Career Specialist Group (IUCN WCEL ECSG, or ECSG), in line with the 2021-2024 mandate of the World Commission on Environmental Law and the 2021–2024 IUCN Programme titled "Nature 2030: One nature, one future." It also provides an overview of the ECSG's projects for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, highlighting their main goals, expected outcomes, and expected outputs.

### About the Early Career Specialist Group

The ECSG provides a platform for early-career environmental lawyers, policymakers, decision-makers, and researchers to develop innovative and integrated legal solutions to our planet's emerging challenges. 'Early-career' can be defined as "35 years or younger or within five years of completing a postgraduate degree in law or ten years or less since completing an undergraduate degree in law." Nonetheless, all WCEL and broader IUCN community members are welcome to engage in and contribute to the ECSG's activities.

As of 06 June 2024, the ECSG membership was composed of 418 emerging environmental law scholars and practitioners from all eight IUCN Statutory Regions. ECSG members include leading early-career professionals working across all environmental law fields, from biodiversity to climate change law. The ECSG seeks to leverage its members' expertise by developing projects focused on cutting-edge and cross-cutting environmental law topics (please see section 2 for the projects' overview).

The ECSG leadership team for the 2021-2024 quadrennium will comprise a Chair (Ms. Marina Demaria Venâncio), a Deputy-Chair (Mr. Alvin Gachie), and the Project Leads. The Chair and Deputy-Chair will be responsible for the overall coordination of activities and act as a liaison between the ECG and other WCEL and IUCN specialist groups and entities. The Project Leads will be appointed by the Chair and Deputy-Chair and will be tasked with supporting the implementation of activities under their respective projects or working areas.

The ECSG will meet at least twice a year in regular virtual meetings. Additional working meetings will be convened by the leadership team as deemed necessary.

**Overview of core projects**

Four core projects are proposed for the quadrennium 2021-2024, all cross-cutting in nature. ECSG members may propose new projects to the ECSG leadership team at any given time, and specific working groups can be created for specific activities.

*1. Next-generation environmental law research (timeline for implementation: 2022-2024)*

This project will identify and explore emerging and/or cutting-edge topics in national and international environmental law research, providing next-generation perspectives to IUCN and the broader legal community. The end goal of this project is to develop a collaborative publication on next-generation environmental law perspectives to be promoted at the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Activities:

a) Publish at least three ECSG policy briefs on cutting-edge environmental law subjects.
b) Host at least one annual webinar addressing cutting-edge environmental law issues.
c) Organize side events at the margins of IUCN and WCEL flagship events.
d) Discuss possible motions on intergenerational environmental law issues for the 2024 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Provide inputs and next-generation environmental law perspectives to the other WCEL Specialist Groups and IUCN Commissions upon request.
e) Coordinate and develop a collaborative publication on next-generation environmental law perspectives

Outputs for 2024-2025:

a) Policy briefs on cutting-edge environmental topics published in 2024 and 2025.

b) Annual webinars organized in 2024 and 2025.
c) One side event organized at the margins of an IUCN and/or WCEL flagship event by 2025.
d) Outline and call for papers for the publication on next-generation environmental law perspectives by 2024. Launch of the publication by 2025

Project Leads: Ms. Elisa Fiorini Beckhauser and Ms. Valeriana Augusta Broetto.
Budget: Fundraising strategy to be decided by the Project Lead. The WCEL Zoom account will be made available for the webinars.

*2. World Commission on Environmental Law Mentorship Programme (timeline for implementation: 2022-2024)*
This project will design and implement a mentorship programme for the World Commission Environmental Law, which will allow early-career professionals to exchange information and receive guidance from more senior professionals within the Commission. In general terms, there are limited opportunities for early-career graduates and practitioners in the field of environmental law to find a mentor who can share their experiences and provide advice on specific subject areas. To address this mentorship gap, the project will consist of two tracks:

a. One-on-one direct mentorship: in this track, a call for mentors will be shared with WCEL specialist groups and task forces to nominate interested mentors. The request will include the prospective mentors' availability to schedule at least two one-on-one meetings with a mentee. A mentor may also select their interest to be paired with one or more mentees. Similarly, a call for individuals interested in mentorship meetings will be shared with ECSG members. Criteria for pairing mentors and mentees will include the area of expertise and professional interests. Once colleagues express their interest in participating in the Programme, mentors and mentees will be paired up, introduced to each other, and requested to schedule the meetings. Mid-year and end-year reminders will be sent to the participants, and participants will be asked to fill out a survey and report on the lessons learned and areas for improvement for the Mentorship Program.

b. Early-career talks: in this track, quarterly career talks will be held to promote further exchange between the ECSG and other WCEL Specialist Groups. Each WCEL Specialist Group will be invited to nominate a speaker for an informal career talk. The speaker will be invited to share information about her/his career journey and choices made at various inflection points, which may include details about her/his current role, socio-cultural background, influences and opportunities, and other factors that the speaker considers

led to their eventual place in the work environment. The talks will be followed by an interactive Q&A session.

Activities:
a) Develop a concept note and mentorship guide for mentors and mentees.
b) Organize at least two one-on-one direct mentorship cohorts, and follow up on its implementation through surveys.
c) In collaboration with other WCEL Specialist Groups, organize and promote "early-career talks."

Outputs for 2024-2025:
a) Assessment report, including lessons learned in implementing the one-on-one direct mentorship cohorts, published in 2024.
b) Blog posts about the "early-career talks" and/or the mentorship programme published quarterly in 2024 and 2025.
Social media posts with key lessons shared by mentors in 2024 and 2025.

Project Leads: Ms. Ishwarya Kandasamy and Ms. Jiya Matharani.

Budget: Fundraising strategy to be decided by the Project Lead. The WCEL Zoom account will be made available for the one-on-one mentorship sessions (if needed).

*3. Networks and partnerships for the future of environmental law (timeline for implementation: 2022-2024)*

This project will strengthen networks run by early-career environmental lawyers, policymakers, decision-makers, and researchers and establish partnerships to create opportunities for these professionals to showcase their research and work, co-design initiatives, and further develop their skills within the Commission and the broader IUCN programme. In special, this project will pay particular attention to networks in Small Island Developing States and developing countries.

Activities:
a) Map existing networks and communities of practice run by, or relevant to, early-career environmental law professionals – including other IUCN early-career networks – and create an online database on the WCEL website.
b) Showcase the work of existing networks and communities of practice run by early-career environmental professionals.

c) Organize networking sessions for early-career and senior environmental law professionals, preferably at the margins of WCEL and IUCN events.
d) Collaborate with the WCEL, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and other IUCN entities to foster opportunities for early-career professionals. These may include awards, panels in relevant environmental law conferences, travel grants, research grants, special events, inter alia.
e) Establish partnerships with universities, law faculties, and research institutions, creating opportunities for IUCN WCEL ECG members.

Outputs for 2024-2025:
a) At least two news articles/web stories about ECGS members' existing networks and communities of practice published yearly in 2024 and 2025.
b) At least one networking event organized by 2025.
c) In partnership with WCEL, the IUCN Academy of Environmental and/or other IUCN entities, at least one new opportunities created for early-career professionals by 2025.
d) At least one partnership was established with universities, law faculties, and research institutions by 2025.

Project Leads: Ms. Camille Loyer and Mr. Patrick Toussaint.
Budget: Fundraising strategy to be decided by the Project Lead. There will be funding for travel amounting to USD 2,000.00.

*4. Science-policy interfaces in the context of environmental rule of law (timeline for implementation: 2022-2024)*

Science-policy interfaces "can be defined as social processes which encompass relations between scientists and other actors in the policy process, and which allow for exchanges, co-evolution, and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of enriching decision-making" (den Hove, 2007). This project will promote exchange between early-career environmental law professionals and scientists from different fields, as well as explore how science-policy interfaces can help strengthen environmental rule of law, as defined in the 2016 IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law. This includes discussing how to promote legal frameworks of procedural and substantive rights and obligations in line with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (e.g., right to environment, obligation to protect nature, right to nature, rights of nature, ecological sustainability and resilience, in dubio pro natura, intergenerational equity). The end goal of this project is to develop a guide/brief of good legislative practices, based on the best available science, on how to incorporate ecological considerations into sectoral laws.

The final scope of the guide will be decided by the Project Lead(s) in consultation with the ECSG Chair and Deputy Chair

Activities:
a) Convene at least three since-policy workshops and/or webinars.
b) Develop a white paper about science-policy interfaces in the context of environmental rule of law.
c) Develop a guide/brief of good legislative practices based on the best available science on how to incorporate ecological considerations into sectoral laws.

Outputs for 2024-2025:
a) One science-policy workshop and/or webinar organized by 2025.
b) White paper about science-policy interfaces in the context of environmental rule of law by 2025.
c) A guide/brief of good legislative practices, based on the best available science, on how to incorporate ecological considerations into sectoral laws by 2025.

Project Lead: Ms. Paula Galbiatti Silveira.
Budget: Fundraising strategy to be decided by the Project Lead. The WCEL Zoom account will be made available for the workshops/webinars. Terms and conditions to be agreed in consultation with the ECSG Chair and Deputy Chair.

**Reporting**
The Project Leads will provide a report on their activities to the Chair and Deputy Chair by the end of November every year. This report should include an overview of the progress in implementing activities, main achievements, and a list of all events, publications, and other global knowledge products launched in the reporting year. The Chair and Deputy Chair will provide the WCEL Chair and Deputy Chair with a full report on the status of ECSG's activities by the end of December every year.

**Contribution to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 and IUCN Motions**
The ECSG will seek alignment, as appropriate, with other IUCN and WCEL led initiatives and guidelines, especially those focused on intergenerational partnerships and perspectives.

In the context of the 2021–2024 IUCN Programme, the ECSG will seek to leverage the expertise of early-career professionals and advocate for intergenerational partnerships for nature in line with IUCN's commitment to "improve its outreach to young people so that

intergenerational partnerships become a day-to-day reality in the work of the Union, the IUCN Council, the Commissions, Secretariat and Members. IUCN will work across all fronts, including education, engagement, activation and communication to foster intergenerational knowledge sharing, enhance meaningful youth participation in IUCN's work, and increase youth engagement in policy advocacy and programmes" (see Prioritised Programme Area 4.1, "people"). In implementing projects, the ECSG will also seek to implement the Prioritised Programme Areas of "Land," "Water," "Oceans," and "Climate," including through collaboration with other WCEL Specialist Groups and Task Forces, as well as external partners. This will promote the commitment by the Union to "promote leadership from youth by facilitating young people's representation in decision-making processes and governance arrangements" and to "foster intergenerational partnerships that enable mentoring and learning opportunities" (section 5)

Additionally, the core ECSG projects described in section 2 will contribute to the implementation of IUCN Resolutions. These include, for example, Resolution N. 050 (WCC) – Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law using legal indicators and Resolution N. 062 (WCC 2020) - Role of children and youth in nature conservation.

**Communication, network engagement and partnerships**

The ECSG Chair and Deputy Chair will appoint a Communications and Community Engagement Focal Point who will contribute to raising the profile of ECSS's activities and improving engagement and exchange of information between the group's members. The role of the Focal Point will include promoting involvement through a wide range of channels, including social media, and creating an engagement plan that raises awareness and builds a common understanding of ECSG's mission and activities.

Concerning partnerships, the ECSG will seek to establish and maintain internal and external partnerships for (a) strategic advice, (b) mentorship activities, and (c) resource mobilization. Internal partners include other IUCN WCEL Specialist Groups and Task Forces.

## 6. Soil and Sustainable Agriculture Law Specialist Group

The SoilSAL SG scope is broadly interpreted to include the international and national law and governance aspects of the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soils. The focus is on the system of controls and supports that direct decision making and

practical action regarding natural resources towards sustainable use and management of soil, especially sustainable agriculture.

The range of activities of the new Specialist Group on "Soil and Sustainable Agriculture Law" (SoilSAL SG) of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) extends the work of the prior WCEL SG on "Sustainable Soils, Desertification and Sustainable Agriculture" which included soil protection and sustainable use of soil, desertification, prevention and rehabilitation as well as sustainable agriculture. The omission of the term "desertification" in the title of the new SG activities does not mean that this focus is left out of the SG's work. "Desertification" describes the process by which fertile soil becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture. The perspective of the global South is to be explicitly included.

**Vision**

The vision of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) is a just society living in harmony with nature where humans and non-humans are united by the principle of ecological solidarity. In such society, all parts of nature are valued, conserved, restored and wisely used. This means respecting that our soil fulfills a multitude of ecological, economic and social functions, especially being the fundamental basis for terrestrial biodiversity, supplying the vast majority of world's food, filtering and storing water and attenuating flooding, and being more broadly recognised as having an essential function in regulating the global climate. Soil degradation deserves the same political attention and should be treated on the same level as the loss of biodiversity and the adverse effects of climate change. Soil must be fully protected against all threats and harm and managed and used in a sustainable way, for the benefit of all.

**Framework and thematic focus**

**Further implementation of existing WCC Resolutions**

The SoilSAL SG intends to continue to implement the work of the inaugural Soil Specialist Group which was based on the parameters of the first "Soil" Resolution of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Amman Jordan 2000, which requests the IUCN Environmental Law Program:

> "in its development of legal guidelines and explanatory material, and investigation into a global legal instrument for the sustainable use of soils, to pay particular attention to the ecological needs of soil and their ecological functions for the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of human life".

The IUCN World Conservation Congresses (WCC) also passed two further "Soil Resolutions" in Bangkok Thailand in 2004 and in Barcelona Spain in 2008. These Resolutions have given the imprimatur of the IUCN to investigate international and national legislative aspects of sustainable use of soils, and calls upon members of the Union to support this work.
At the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Marseille in September 2021, a number of resolutions were adopted that are significant for the role of the WCEL, especially the Resolutions

- No. 3 on "Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs",
- No. 70 on "Combatting soil degradation and artificialisation",
- No. 114 on "Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises",
- No. 117 on "Actions to strengthen food sovereignty and security of indigenous peoples and peasant communities".

**Soil protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil**

Currently, at least a quarter of the world's soils are either higly degraded and at least one third of the world's soils are already affected by some form of degradation. Recent major international reports have highlighted the alarming impact of food production systems on climate change, land and biodiversity, especially the:

- IPCC special report on climate change & land (IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems) and the
- IPBES Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration (IPBES= Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

The task of the legal system is to create the conditions for the sustainable management and use of soils. We need modern legal frameworks at each level (local, national, regional, international) and innovative legal instruments including compliance [enforcement] mechanisms that can effectively protect the soil and ensure its sustainable use. Such relevant instruments include legal arrangements (statute/regulation, property rights, contract, and civil law) as well as economic, social and other instruments and strategies. Government, industry and commerce and civil society all form part of the system of governance.

**Sustainable agriculture**

Soil sustainability is the foundation of agriculture. Sustainable agriculture deals with farming in sustainable ways meeting society's present needs for food, fibre, energy and textiles, and to ensure food security for future generations to meet their needs. Due to the fact that agriculture is simultaneously causing environmental changes and being impacted by these changes, the role of law is to create the framework conditions for the sustainable management of land, taking into account climate change, water scarcity, water pollution, soil and land degradation, deforestation and other aspects of sustainable agriculture. Recent international reports highlight the alarming impact of food production systems on climate change, land stability and biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture can contribute to food security, water security, climate regulation and other objectives, supporting progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international targets on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. There will be a new IUCN publication on sustainable agriculture of Prof. Dr. Ian Hannam

Agricultural production is expected to increase to meet world demand for 8.5 billion people by 2030. The 2021 IUCN WCC Resolution No. 3 on “Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs” calls on the requirement to support the improvement of food systems, to accelerate action in the field of sustainable agriculture, land degradation neutrality and landscape restoration as well as, among other aspects, to promote land health and soil biodiversity in relevant policy fora. Topics canvassed are food sustainability and food security, plant-based biofuels, invasive species and biosecurity, climate change and agriculture, rural biodiversity, agricultural technology and sustainability, the social and environmental justice of agricultural systems, implementation and effectiveness of international regimes for sustainable agriculture, agricultural trade and investment. Only if there is fundamental change in the way we manage soil and land, can we reach climate change targets, avert the dramatic loss of biodiversity and make global food systems sustainable. Law plays a fundamental role in shaping soil health and supporting the transition of the present conventional agricultural system to sustainable forms of agriculture. This shift is an essential prerequisite in order to achieve more sustainable and resilient societies.

**Specific priorities (2024-2025) of the WCEL SoilSAL SG**

**Soil and sustainable agriculture governance**

Soil integrity is one of the basic and most neglected components of human culture and the global ecosystem. In most parts of the world, the fields of biological, chemical and physical soil protection are still “poor cousins” compared to other areas of environmental policy-making and legislation. Sustainable agriculture has also moved to the centre of international politics. The Soil SAL SG of WCEL will commit to contribute through legal inputs to systematically making progress towards better governance for soils and sustainable agriculture. This will encompass all legal aspects of governance, including international law, national legislation, property or market rights, administrative law, and related administrative and implementation arrangements.

**International legal instrument for the protection and sustainable use of soil**

Concerning binding legal instruments at the international level, all three Rio conventions have a role in the use of soils, but there is no specific or comprehensive soil or land protection convention yet. Various publications by SoilSAL SG members since 2000 outline how the three Rio conventions are insufficient as a framework to meet the objective of the prevention of soil threats and the long term sustainable use of soil. However, there is a view that their programmatic synergies can be better coordinated to be more effective in the sustainable use of soil. In this regard, the SoilSAL SG will continue to investigate and discuss options for an international legal instrument for soil with international environmental law and soil science groups. The Centennial Conference of the International Union for Soil Science (IUSS) in may 2024 showed that there is currently a momentum to advocate for putting soil protection on the same legal level as water protection and air pollution control – it does not necessarily have to be separate soil protection convention or a protocol on soil protection, but it can also be in the form of a thematic annex to the UNCCD. In particular, the SoilSAL SG recognizes that the role of the UNCCD process, especially in relation to the objective of land degradation neutrality (see next focus topic below) will continue to be pursued as an effective process to fill various legal gaps, including with a protocol or instrument on the protection and sustainable use of soils. SG members will also continue to prepare informative publications (e.g. in the several volumes of the International Yearbook on Soil Law and Policy) which canvass various legal options and elements suitable to protect and manage soil in a sustainable way. Furthermore, the contact to soil science NGOs (like IUSS or the British Society for Soil Science with whom we had a side event at the

Centennial meeting of IUSS) should be intensified in order to advocate for these legal solutions.

**Agenda 2030: SDG Target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)**

Land degradation neutrality (LDN) is defined as "a state whereby the amount and quality of land) resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems" (decision 3/COP.12, UNCCD, 2015a). As set out in SDG 15.3, it draws from targets under SDG Goal 2 (to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), as well as elements from other related SDGs (3, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 17) and the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The definition of LDN emphasises the importance of ecosystem services in achieving sustainability of food production. Enhancing food security without necessarily improving soil productivity, but contributing to soil health is a major challenge in this context. Delivering LDN by 2030 requires strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for soil protection as well as developing capacities at local, national, regional and at the international level for sustainable land management. LDN is also in line with the zero net land take objective and the SoilSAL SG will continue to encourage regulations and land planning documents to take into account soil quality, including agricultural capability, as a criteria. The next UNCCD COP 16 from 2nd-13th of December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will focus on land restoration and land at the heart of the SDGs and will therefore present a good possibility to advocate for soil protection and soil health.

**Food security, the transition to sustainable agriculture and tipping points for soils**

According to the current scenarios, we will have around 8.5 billion people on our planet by 2030 and between nine and twelve billion people by 2050. The food crisis has put the issue of soil on the international agenda, not for the first time, but in a different way than we have responded to hunger in the world over the last fifty years. About 1 billion people do not have sufficient food and access to safe water. Humans will need healthy soil in order to survive, but soil will require increased legal protection at all levels in order to ensure long term food security. Fertile soils are a precondition for sustainable development. The reduction in fertile soil and the impact of climate change is placing the security of food production at risk. Food insecurity is one of the most serious and frightening consequences of soil degradation and an important global concern. We will need 70-100 % greater food production from existing agricultural land in order to feed 9 billion people, and some sources say that food production will need to double by mid-century. Question is: How do we sustainably intensify the production of food, fiber, fuel and textiles to meet the demands of future generations? Improving governance for sustainable development of food and agriculture systems is

needed in order to realize the transition to sustainable agriculture. In order to transform the global food system, the governance of soil will need to improve to guarantee healthy and productive soils. In this context, the SoilSAL SG will continue to explore the subject of soil governance as a priority topic.

The Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, includes the commitment to conserving and sustainably using our planet's terrestrial resources, reversing the trends of environmental degradation and protecting soil and land, but this commitment is not a clear priority. One of the urgent actions of this declaration is to accelerate all actions to end hunger and food insecurity and realize the right to adequate food. Strengthening the human health also means recognizing the connection between the soil biodiversity and the gut microbiome. These statements all remain vague and we will have to use the less than six years till 2030 wisely to progress.

**Sustainable land management**

Sustainable land management (SLM) is defined as 'the stewardship and use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions. The further development of the SLM principles and further instruments (like Technical Guidelines for Governance in Rangelands) is an essential aspect of the legal considerations.

**Protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using soils for climate change objectives**

The direct role of soil in regulating the global climate is substantial and quite complex. The most prominent role of soil is in regulating the climate as a part of the carbon cycle. The SG focusses on stressing the relevance of soil organic matter and soil organic carbon for regulating the climate in the context of the existing legislation and maybe a future Paris-Agreement-like international instrument for soil. Soil is one of the major carbon "sinks" and it constitutes the largest terrestrial carbon pool, with potential for significant greenhouse gas emissions when not managed sustainably. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC and the 2015 Paris Agreement is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a specific level. The UNFCCC Parties are requested to "cover all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases" in their national climate change policies (Article 3.3 UNFCCC), and Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as

appropriate, GHG sinks and reservoirs (UNFCCC Art 4.1(d), Paris Agreement Art 5.1). This stresses the fundamental relevance of soil organic matter (SOM) and soil organic carbon (SOC) decline. Maintaining and increasing SOM and SOC levels is also fundamental to implementing the global goal on adaptation set out in Paris Agreement Article 7 to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The SoilSAL SG will continue to explore the different options to design legal and institutional systems to increase terrestrial carbon storage on a long time scale and to prevent and manage emissions from soil including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. This could be a starting point for a legal instrument to protect soil in the light of the serious level climate change negotiations have reached with the continuing increase in global carbon emission levels. This task shall be conducted together with the WCEL Climate Change Law Specialist Group. The next UNFCCC COP 29 in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, could be a good chance, also in the context of the discussions with/within the Coalition of Action for Soil Health (CA4SH).

**Soil protection law developments: Africa, India and South-East Asia**

In many legal systems, comparative law is part of the legislative process (like in the European Union) or at least legal comparisons or model acts can serve as recommendation or suggestion for the development of regional or national law.

SoilSAL SG will therefore – as far as capacities allow – continue to further assist individual countries with soil legislation reform and implementation. Initial focus areas have included Iceland, China, Mongolia, and Central Asian countries, then more latterly, Africa, India and South East Asia. This follows on from workshops in Africa and India in 2018 and 2019, organized by the German Environment Agency and local universities and organizations, about African and Indian soil governance and LDN implementation (which led to a statement of the Pan-African Parliament about the connection between the issues of climate change, food security and land use that the SoilSAL SG had a role in drafting).

The SoilSAL SG will continue its cooperation with the Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law (ARIEL) and the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt, UBA), and other partners, concerning soil governance in Southeast Asia. The last two webinars provided an introductory session to stakeholders on the overview, issues and potential ways forward towards a sustainable soil management regime in the region as well as a platform for stakeholders to inquire from experts, discuss issues and ways forward to address existing gaps in the regional soil governance framework.

**Legal instruments for the protection of soils against specific threats**

Soil is exposed to a variety of threats which vary from region to region, namely: soil contamination, soil biodiversity loss, organic matter decline, soil erosion, soil compaction, soil sealing, soil acidification, salinization, waterlogging and floods and landslides. Historically, the focus of soil legislation was on the prevention of soil contamination and sometimes soil rehabilitation. In recent times, the focus of science and practice has increasingly been placed on individual threats. Three examples (and other considerations regarding other soil threats may follow):

- Soil organic matter (SOM) plays a fundamental role in supporting soil fertility, retaining water, sustaining biodiversity and regulating the global carbon cycle – and so SOM decline has gained attention.
- Soil pollution: The Phy2Climate is a project funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, aiming at combining clean biofuel production and phytoremediation solutions from contaminated lands worldwide. It offers the chance for recovery of arable land through improved phytoremediation coupled with other new approaches, like advanced liquid biofuel production.
- Another example is given in the WCC Resolution No. 70 on "Combatting soil degradation and artificialisation" where States and governments at all levels are asked, among other aspects, to develop policies for the renaturation and de-artificialisation of soils and the reduction of soil sealing and to propose economic incentives. The EU project on
- The critical role of soil biodiversity as the foundation for terrestrial life, underlying soil functions and the provision of soil ecosystem services, is also increasingly being acknowledged, in science, and within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Mechanisms are required to mainstream soil biodiversity into decision making to address and reverse soil biodiversity loss, including by implementing the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity Draft Action Plan 2020-2030. The next CBD COP 16 in October/November 2024 in Cali (Colombia) will offer the unique opportunity to include soil biodiversity loss prevention and broader legal instruments of soil protection into the decisions.

**Linking with Soil Ethics & Indigenous knowledge**

Considering the essential role soil plays in the biosphere and the maintenance of life, it must be concluded that reconciling human existence with ecological integrity would also mean that a paradigm shift in the thinking about soil is needed to ensure that future generations

will have healthy and ecologically stable soil. Our societal task would be to tread new paths towards the preservation of ecologically stable and healthy soils and to develop a new, ecology-based soil protection ethic. The legal framework to be created will underpin and stabilize this development. This task shall be conducted together with the WCEL Ethics Specialist Group.

**Further Topics**

The SG will also explore new aspects, like tenure rights and land acquisition or transnational trade and implications for soils.

**Cooperation**

**Continuing Cooperation with IUCN World Commission on Ecosystem Management and the Global Drylands Initiative and other IUCN World Commissions**

IUCN uses ecosystem-based approaches and works with governments and local communities to develop and implement policy, legislation and action contributing to ecosystem management for neglected ecosystems. It promotes the ecosystem approach and integrates the management of land, water and biodiversity. The goal of the Global Drylands Initiative is in particular to restore, sustainably manage and protect dryland ecosystems for multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. Serving as the IUCN Focal Point to the UNCCD, the Global Drylands Initiative leads IUCN's efforts to influence the global discourse on land degradation and sustainable land management.

Intensifying co-operation with other IUCN Commissions and soil-related Specialist Groups, in order to have regular exchange on multi disciplinary aspects.

**Further Collaboration with Scientific Community**

Regular Cooperation of the WCEL SoilSAL SG with the scientific community and research organisation will continue particularly with the exchange of information on soil protection and on the development of soil protection law:

- the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
- the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC)

**Continuing Cooperation with UNCCD**

On the basis of the current joint work plan between IUCN and UNCCD both sides will support progress towards policies and programmes that deliver LDN through the application of nature-based solutions. Legal instruments to put LDN and the protection against all soil threats in concrete terms at all levels will be part of the necessary capacity building.

**UN FAO**

The SoilSAL SG would continue to support the activities of the UN FAO and its Global Soil Partnership (GSP) which was established in 2012 as an interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership. At the beginning of 2021 a global database called „SoiLEX" was established. SoilSAL SG members will continue to access the national soil instruments in the data base for their research and publication requirements. Collaboration with the GSP on the global database on national soil instruments will also assist by providing access to specific national soil protection instruments as well as information on how specific soil threats have been approached by different legislative approaches. The further development of the SLM principles and further instruments (like the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for SSM) is an essential aspect of the legal considerations.

**Cooperation with the Youth International Soil Governance Commission**

The Youth International Soil Governance Commission (YISGC) which was recently founded with around 50 members is an independent body established by young non-state actors. It intends to strengthen the science-policy interface for good international soil governance and the chair of this group has been invited to join the SoilSAL SG. We could co-operate together in determining ways to recrute young members in an efficient way, associating the YISGC with the IUCN WCEL SoilSAL SG.

**Communication in the SG**

Further additional methods shall enhance the cooperation between SG members:

- Checking additional mechanisms for communication
- Establishing a WCEL website
- Establishing a modern group exchange system to promote quick dialogue between members, e.g. a whatsapp group for the SoilSAL SG members
- Establishing a LinkedIn profile for public relations of SoilSAL SG topics

**Outcome**

- producing a range of publications, journal articles, books and reports
- Advice on specific issues of soil and sustainable agriculture law
- publications in the International Yearbook on Soil Law and Policy (IYSLP) or other journals with SG relevant topics and special editions
- public relations campaign to raise awareness about our common vision?

**Participation at international conferences in 2021-2025 with relevance for soil protection and sustainable agriculture law**

**Seeking a secretariat for the SOILSAL SG**

The search is for an IUCN Member institution.

## 7. Water and Wetlands Law Specialist Group

The balance of the SG's work for the remainder of the time horizon ahead 2024-2025 will focus on three research projects regarding, respectively:

1. Reverberations in domestic law of the ecosystem-support function of groundwater
2. International liability for environmental damages caused in transboundary waters
3. Manifesto for National Integrated Legal Frameworks for Water Resources Governance

### 1. Reverberations in domestic law of the ecosystem-support function of groundwater

- Individual topical contributions received will be peer-reviewed (internally by the group)
- A webinar will be organized to present the individual topical contributions received
- Publication (by IUCN jointly with the International Association for Water Law – AIDA) of the individual topical contributions received will be pursued

### 2. International liability for environmental damages caused in transboundary waters

- Group work will continue based on the discussion material generated by individual group members (Draft Report, Proposed Work Packages, Concept Note, Survey of Relevant Cases)

### 3. Manifesto for National Integrated Legal Frameworks for Water Resources Governance

- Further conceptual refinement of the Manifesto contents will be pursued
- A presentation webinar of the Manifesto will be organized

## 8. Ocean Law Specialist Group

The IUCN WCEL Ocean Law Specialist Group mandate is to work toward a healthy ocean, recognizing the special needs of coastal areas, coral reefs, and the high seas. Its priorities, consistent with WCEL priority legal thematic areas include: recovery and conservation of ocean biodiversity; climate change; ecosystem protection; coastal and marine degradation; and equitable governance of natural resource management. Priority cross-cutting themes include: Earth systems governance, protected areas, Arctic and Antarctic polar governance; compliance and enforcement of environmental laws.

The Ocean Law Specialist Group goals for the remainder of the 2021-2025 quadrennium are:
1. Support the development of Earth Systems Governance, especially integration of ocean, climate, and biodiversity in national and international law, and particularly through implementation of WCC resolutions and in coordination with the Climate Change and Biodiversity Specialist Groups
2. Contribute to the Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty ratification process, preparatory work, and eventual implementation of BBNJ commitments
3. Contribute to the processes under the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and other international bodies
4. Contribute to other ocean-related processes, such as the UN Ocean Conference, the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the 30 x 30 initiative
5. Advance the capacity to implement by providing legal assistance to states and others through expert white papers, model legislation, webinars, and other capacity-building activities, in particular in relation to the International Tribunal for the Law Sea advisory opinion on climate change obligations of States under the Law of the Sea Convention, for which the Specialist Group provided IUCN's oral and written statements.

6. Encourage broad membership involvement and development of new areas of work, as well as supporting early career researchers
7. Continue the productive integration and cooperation with other IUCN components, especially the Secretariat Ocean Team and the World Commission on Protected Areas
8. Seek opportunities to work with IUCN regional colleagues and others to provide special attention to islands

Work in 2024-25 will be focused on the BBNJ preparatory work, the development of the ISA's Mining Code, and several multilateral ocean-related efforts such as the UN Ocean Conference, the UNFCCC Ocean-Climate Dialogue, and the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Additional projects are developed according to available resources.

**Project 1: Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)**
Description:
Contribute to the ratification and implementation of an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity (BBNJ),
Resolutions 128 (2020), 047 (2016) and 050 (2016).
Activities/Products/Projects
Activities:
1. Support ratification of treaty - Develop legal analysis, policy recommendations, and inform state and non-state stakeholders through: a) participation in the UN Preparatory Commission meetings on the IUCN delegation (Chair) and other delegations (other OLSG members), b) participation in Track 1.5 discussion such as the High Seas Dialogues, c) collaborate with and participate in civil society organizations that advance capacity-building with regard to Ocean Law, such as the High Seas Alliance and d) presentations, and publications
2. Support implementation - Develop guidance for implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for the international arrangements and national legal systems
Expected Outcome: Rapid ratification to deliver for long-term stewardship of ocean biodiversity and, eventually, effective implementation
Outputs/Products: Implementation Guide to the BBNJ Agreement, webinars, workshops
Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: interested Early Career SG members are invited to engage; collaboration with the Biodiversity Law SG
Interaction with other IUCN units: Collaboration with the Ocean Team, the Oceania regional office, and the World Commission on Protected Areas

How will “cross cutting” issues be addressed:
Compliance and enforcement is an important element in the BBNJ text and eventual implementation
Timeline:
1. Phase 1, supporting adoption - until adoption of treaty text – DONE (June 2023)
2. Phase 2, supporting implementation – through 2025
Lead: Prof. Cymie Payne

**Project 2: The development of the Mining Code at the International Seabed Authority**
Description: Contribute to ongoing negotiations on the draft regulations for the exploitation of seabed mineral resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction and other related matters at the ISA, including the development of a robust general policy for the protection of the marine environment.
Support implementation of WCC 122 (2021).
Activities: In person and virtual participation in negotiations and other events, providing bilateral and multilateral support to IUCN members, as well as assisting IUCN Ocean team with interventions and submission of written comments.
Expected Outcomes: Increased knowledge and improved text in ISA exploitation regulations that takes into account losses of natural capital and biodiversity and allows for inclusive and informed decision-making, as well as reflects environmental, economic, equity and institutional concerns at the ISA; to support the development of a robust general policy that ensures the protection of the marine environment; and to promote a moratorium or pause on the transition from exploration to exploitation until such concerns are alleviated.
Outputs/Products: Policy briefs, blogs, webinars, podcasts, white paper, side events
Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: Eventually, to involve and collaborate with the Biodiversity SG and Ethics SG.
Interaction with other IUCN units: Collaboration with the Ocean Team, the Oceania regional office, and the Commission on Ecosystem Management and the World Commission on Protected Areas
How will “cross cutting” issues be addressed: To be discussed with the Biodiversity SG and Ethics SG in particular.
Timeline: June 2024 onwards
Lead: Mr. Pradeep Singh

**Project 3: Ocean and Climate Change**
Description:

Increase awareness and develop legal strategies to address the multiple impacts of greenhouse gas pollution (GHG) on the ocean. There are very few adaptation strategies that are possible. Mitigation of GHG emissions in the marine environment has not been addressed adequately. Island states are particularly affected.
Activities: In person and virtual participation in negotiations and other events, as well as assisting with interventions and submission of written comments. In particular, disseminating and engaging in the implementation of findings made in the recent Advisory Opinion of ITLOS and actively engaging in the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues in coordination with the IUCN secretariat Ocean Team, and through the BBNJ mechanisms (ABMT/MPA for adaptation, EIA/SEA for mitigation)
Expected Outcome: Increase consideration of legal aspects of GHG pollution in and on the ocean and taking a precautionary approach to emerging ideas such as marine geoengineering.
Outputs/Products: Policy briefs, blogs, white papers, side events
Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: Consultation with WCEL leadership, the Climate SG and engagement of the Early Career SG.
Interaction with other IUCN units: Collaboration with the Ocean Team, the Oceania regional office
Timeline: June 2024 onwards
Leads: Prof. Cymie Payne and Mr. Pradeep Singh (an OLSG member/s may take on the lead role)

**Project 4: Multilateral ocean-related processes**
Description:
Contribute to multilateral ocean-related processes, such as the UN Ocean Conference (in Nice in June 2025), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Biodiversity Framework and 30 x 30 initiative, the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
Activities: In person and virtual participation in negotiations and other events, as well as assisting with interventions and submission of written comments.
Outputs/Products: Policy briefs, blogs, white paper, side events
Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: To involve and collaborate with the Climate SG, Biodiversity SG and Early Career SG.
Timeline: 2024-2025
Leads: Prof. Cymie Payne and Mr. Pradeep Singh (an OLSG member/s may take on the lead role)

**Project 5: Earth Systems Approach to Ocean Governance**

Description:
Support the development of Earth Systems Governance, especially integration of ocean, climate, and biodiversity in national and international law, including monitoring and compliance, the role of the range of dispute settlement measures, and the role of international courts and tribunals
Activities:
• Co-sponsor seminars/conferences with academic institutions on topics such as trusteeship for areas beyond national jurisdiction; institutions and rules for integrated ecosystem management; responsibility to the international community for obligations to preserve the marine environment; the special concerns for polar regions; international responsibility of international administrative bodies; and evolution of the Law of the Sea in light of modern scientific knowledge and current planetary conditions
• Invite blog posts for the WCEL website from Ocean Law Specialist Group members on relevant topics, especially as Earth Systems Governance relates to their scholarship, practice, region, and gender
• Develop a community of practice, together with external partners.
Expected Outcome: Contribute to development of the concept of 'Earth Systems Governance'
Outputs/Products: A peer-reviewed journal article offering recommendations for application of the Earth systems approach to governance of ocean ecosystems based on the activities proposed above.
Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: Other SGs will be encouraged to contribute their insights and to participate in all the activities. In particular, OLSG will reach out to leaders of other SGs, particularly Biodiversity SG and Climate SG, to collaborate.
How will "cross cutting" issues be addressed: The cross-cutting issues are not intended to be a focus of this project but are anticipated to emerge in the course of the work.
Timeline: 2024-2025
Lead: Prof. Cymie Payne and Mr. Pradeep Singh

**Other Projects:**
We welcome members of the OLSG to contact us and co-develop projects on any subject matter of interest that falls within our mission as described above. Below is a Non-exhaustive list of potential themes that may be developed in collaboration with other relevant SGs and with other members of the OLSG.
Description
Below is a non-exhaustive list on potential themes that may be developed in collaboration

with other relevant SGs and with members of the Ocean Law SG:
• Earth Systems Governance (ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus).
• Marine geoengineering
• Marine plastics
• Marine protected areas and marine area-based management tools
• Fisheries governance
• Marine pollution from shipping and dumping
• Ocean and indigenous people
• Ocean and food supply
• Ocean and gender
• Ocean justice/equity
• Ocean and courts/tribunals (marine environmental/resources dispute resolution) • Ocean and the private sector
• Small island states and the blue economy
• Ocean capacity building and transfer of technology
• Ocean and climate change: rising sea levels and baselines
• Ocean and the coast: coastal adaptation, coral reefs, mangroves
• Ocean-based negative emission technologies and nature-based solutions
• Ocean tourism

Activities/Products/Projects
• Activities: To be determined after consultation with other interested SGs and members of the Ocean Law SG
• Expected Outcome: TBD
• Outputs/Products: Policy briefs, blogs, white paper, side events, webinars, conference panel/papers, workshops.
• Possible interaction with other WCEL/SGs: To involve and collaborate with all relevant SGs

The Ocean Law SG welcomes all WCEL members who wish to join us.
This SG encourages members to be active contributors. We support members, especially Early Career members, who have the desire and ability to take a leadership role on a subject within our scope that is of interest to them and we may recognize their leadership with the title “Project Leader”.
Recognizing that participation and support of the group takes many forms, some more visible than others, we use newsletters to inform members of events (such as UN meetings) where we will have a presence and when possible, we organize meetings of

group members at those meetings to share knowledge and to strengthen our community.
We anticipate that members who agree to act as focal points for IUCN resolutions will have a special function within the group as rapporteurs on their topic, which touch on many issues that we will not be able to give individual attention to.

**Partnerships, Funding and Fund-raising**
The Ocean Law SG advances the goals of IUCN by promoting, developing and implementing international environmental law through a variety of activities. These include reports, convenings, participation in international meetings and negotiations including preparation of international draft agreement texts, representation in international courts and tribunals, collaboration with other IUCN Commissions, and supporting capacity building and the development of knowledge through the IUCN Academy and other scholarly activities. In particular, the Ocean Law SG partners with the IUCN Ocean Team.

The Ocean Law SG worked with the Secretariat to find funding for the BBNJ Agreement Implementation Guide.

Communication (with WCEL leadership, SC, other SGs, within SG, with parts of Union)
Annual reports, periodical meetings with WCEL leadership, regular meetings with leaders of other SGs (especially Climate SG and Biodiversity SG to further the climate-ocean biodiversity nexus), outreach to and collaboration with the secretariat, frequent posting of news items and blogs as well as internal updates within the Ocean Law mailing list.

## 9. Task Force on the Rights of Nature

The rights of nature task force has the following activities planned for the next twelve months:

- Ocean rights consultation (in addition to a paper commissioned by the Ocean Yearbook).
- Information Note on rights of nature prepared for UNEP/UNDP: The draft is being reviewed within the UN. Following publication, outreach and, depending on UNEP resources, further consultations to be held.
- Publication of papers arising from the initial indigenous peoples and rights of nature workshop organized in Meghalaya, India in April 2024.

- Engaging with learned societies on rights of nature (such as International Law Association).
- Engagement with national IUCN committees on rights of nature (ongoing work with the French committee).

Additional planned activities (for now in proposal stage):

- Consultation with PhD candidates around the world working on rights of nature-related theses.
- Direct engagement with campaigns for recognition of elements of nature, such as the Rhône river and the Mediterranean Sea.

## 10. Task Force on the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE)

Objective

The Task Force on the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE) serves as a liaison between the IUCN WCEL and the GJIE to coordinate, promote, and carry out activities that support judges, courts, and tribunals in exercising their role to adjudicate and resolve environmental disputes, consistent with the environmental rule of law. Thus, the core objective in this workplan is to provide support for and collaborate with GJIE on key activities and in organizing GJIE events. This workplan lays out some of the key upcoming activities of the GJIE and ways in which the Task Force can coordinate between WCEL and GJIE throughout the coming year.

Task Force/GJIE Activities

During 2024/2025, GJIE is planning activities in four key areas: (1) regional judicial capacity building events; (2) side events and engagement of judiciaries at COPs for major multilateral environmental agreements; (3) continued work in supporting the Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI), along with key partners; and (4) further developing the judicial portal as a means for communication, exchange of information, and dissemination of key environmental judgments and jurisprudence.

- Regional Judicial Capacity Building events: as a core component of the GJIE's work, the Institute organizes capacity building events along with regional and national judicial academies. The Task Force provides a point of contact for GJIE to request support from WCEL and for WCEL members to engage with these events.
- COP side events and judicial engagement:
    - CBD COP, October 2024, Colombia: the Task Force is working with GJIE and other institutional partners, such as the NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ), to hold a side event on judges and biodiversity with

GJIE members in order to highlight the role of the judiciary in implementing biodiversity law and other related laws and policies.
    - UNFCCC COP, November 2024, Azerbaijan: the Task Force is working with GJIE and other partners, including the Asian Development Bank, to organize a side event to follow on the one held at COP 28 in Dubai, with a dialogue among high-level judges on climate change law and jurisprudence.
- Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI):
    - The Task Force is helping to coordinate the engagement of WCEL as a key partner in MoFAI, along with GJIE, the ADB, World Bank, FAO, and others. This includes participation of the WCEL Chair and WCEL TF/GJIE Chair at meetings of the MoFAI Drafting Committee, to be held in person in July 2024 in Indonesia with additional global meetings held virtually.
- Judicial Portal:
    - Together with UNEP and other partners in the InforMEA initiative, the Task Force coordinates WCEL's efforts to support the Global Judicial Portal. The portal is now available online with some limited information about environmental jurisprudence, and the portal will continue to be built on throughout the year as a tool available both to the public and to judges in order to facilitate exchange of information and good practices.

Support and Key Partnerships

- UNEP: UNEP's Law Division acts as a key partner in providing secretariat support to GJIE, and is thus providing an important role together with the Task Force

The Task Force relies on a small amount of financial support from the IUCN WCEL COF in order to allow for travel to and participation in GJIE meetings as needed. However, most funding for activities in this workplan is provided by co-organizing institutions and partners for GJIE events.

## 11. Agreement on Plastic Pollution Task Force

- 17 – 21 June 2024 – Chair represents IUCN as 1 of 2 delegates to the final OEWG3 negotiations for the creation of a Science-Policy Panel under UNEA Res 5/8. The Chair has been involved in previous OEWG sessions and will provide legal guidance and support to the delegation and to IUCN Members.
- 25 – 28 June 2024 – Chair represents IUCN as 1 of 2 delegates to Basel Convention OEWG. The Chair has been involved in the previous Basel, Rotterdam and

Stockholm Conventions Conference of the Parties and will provide legal guidance and support to the delegation and to IUCN Members.

- July/August 2024 – Chair will participate as part of the IUCN-GRID Arendal Afripac project in training sessions for the 5 West African partner countries and others in advance of the INC Intersessional Open-ended Experts Groups.
- June/July 2024 – when made available, Chair will analyse the First Draft of the Plastics Treaty and provide a written summary that will be shared publicly and with the Afripac countries. The Chair and the head of the IUCN delegation to the INC, Dr Karine Siegwart, will lead an outreach campaign for the inclusion of a biodiversity article in the Plastics Treaty until November 2024 and INC-5.
- 24 – 28 August 2024 – Chair will provide legal and technical support to the INC Intersessional Open-ended Experts Groups being convened to address financing and criteria for the Plastics Treaty. Depending on institutional arrangements, this will either be in-person in Bangkok or remote.
- 7 – 10 September 2024 – Chair will attend and potentially participate in the WTO Public Forum as part of the IUCN delegation in order to address the nexus between biodiversity and trade as well as the regime convergence issues and subsidies issues between the WTO and Plastics Treaty.
- October 2024 – Potential participation of the Chair at the CBD COP16 in Cali, including in proposed event at IUCN Pavilion with the WCEL Biodiversity SG.
- November 2024 – Potential participation of the Chair at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, including in proposed event at IUCN Pavilion with the WCEL Climate Change SG.
- November 2024 – Chair will participate as part of the IUCN-GRID Arendal Afripac project in training sessions for the 5 West African partner countries and others in advance of INC-5 at an in-person event in Dakar.
- November – December 2024 – Chair to participate as part of IUCN delegation to INC-5 negotiations in Busan.

Generally 2025 – Chair will continue to act as a member of the IUCN's delegation for the Diplomatic Conference that will see the adoption of the Plastics Treaty, as well as any necessary intersessional work. The Chair will also continue to work as part of the Afripac project and provide legal guidance to IUCN Members regarding the Plastics Treaty and its implementation.

Membership applications submitted by 31 March 2024 and approved by GCC16

| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AFRICA** | | | | | | | | |
| Ghana | Kasa Initiative Ghana | | https://www.kasaghana.org | NGO | [Member] A ROCHA GHANA [Africa] | [Member] Nature Conservation Research Centre [Africa] | **Approve** | View |
| Mozambique | Fundação para a Conservação da Biodiversidade | BIOFUND | https://www.biofund.org.mz | NGO | [Member] Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar [Africa] | [Member] Fonds Fiduciaire pour le Banc d'Arguin et la Biodiversité Côtière et Marine [Africa] | **Approve** | View |
| South Africa | Professional Hunters Association of South Africa Foundation | PHASA Foundation | https://phasafoundation.co.za/ | NGO | [Member] International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey [West Europe] | [Member] Safari Club International Foundation [North America and the Caribbean] | **Approve** | View |
| **EAST EUROPE, NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA** | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
| Armenia | HH GAA A. TAKHTAJYANI ANVAN BUSABANUTYAN INSTITUT | IoB | https://www.sci.am/orgsview.php?id=12&langid=2 | NGO | [Councillor] Dr Samad-John SMARANDA [East Europe, North and Central Asia] | [Member] Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets [East Europe, North | **Approve** | View |
| North Macedonia | Centar za istrazuvanje i informiranje za zivotnaata sredina Eko-svest Skopje | Eko-svest | https://ekosvest.com.mk/ | NGO | [Member] Ministerstvo za zivotna sredina i prostorno planiranje / Uprava za zivotna sredina [East Europe, North and Central Asia] | [Member] Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |
| **MESO AND SOUTH AMERICA** | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
| Ecuador | Fundacion La Iguana | | https://laiguanatest.mobirisesite.com/ | NGO | [Member] Reforestamos México A.C. [Meso and South America] | [Member] Centro Intercultural de Estudios de Desiertos y Océanos A.C [Meso and South America] | **Approve** | View |
| **NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN** | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
| United States of America | Global Conservation | GC | http://www.globalconservation.org | NGO | [Member] FUNDAECO- Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación [Meso and South America] | [Member] Paso Pacífico [North America and the Caribbean] | **Approve** | View |
| **SOUTH AND EAST ASIA** | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
| Viet Nam | Center for Nature Conservation and Development | CCD | https://ccd.org.vn/ | NGO | [Member] Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development [South and East Asia] | [Member] Institute of Constructions and Urban Economics [South and East Asia] | **Approve** | View |
| **WEST ASIA** | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
| Iraq | Engineering Association for Development and Environment-EADE | EADE | http://www.eadeorg.com | NGO | [Member] Arab Network for Environment and Development [Africa] | [Member] Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research [West Asia] | **Approve** | View |
| Lebanon | Al Matn Organization for Environment and Sustainable Development | MESD | http://www.mesd-env.org | NGO | [Committee] Lebanon National Committee of IUCN Members [West Asia] | [Member] Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon [West Asia] | **Approve** | View |
| Lebanon | Nature Care Association (NCA) | NCA | | NGO | [Committee] Lebanon National Committee of IUCN Members [West Asia] | [Member] Al Shouf Cedar Society [West Asia] | **Approve** | View |
| Palestine | Jenin Beekeepers Cooperative Association | JBCA | http://jbca.ps/ | NGO | [Member] Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development [West Asia] | [Member] Palestine Wildlife Society [West Asia] | **Approve** | View |
| Qatar | Qatar Foundation - Earthna | QF | https://www.qf.org.qa | NGO | [Member] Centro de Conservación, Investigación y Manejo de Áreas Naturales - Cordillera Azul [Meso and | [Member] Wetlands International [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |

Membership applications submitted by 31 March 2024 and approved by GCC16

| WEST EUROPE<br>Statutory state | Organisation | Acronym | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 | GCC recommendation to Council | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | Natuurpunt | NP | https://www.natuurpunt.be | NGO | [Member] Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen [West Europe] | [Member] Zoologisk Have København [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |
| Denmark | Foundation for Environmental Education | FEE | http://www.fee.global | NGO | [Member] Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature [West Europe] | [Member] Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa [Africa] | **Approve** | View |
| France | WILDLIFE ANGEL | | https://www.wilang.org | NGO | [Member] Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques [West Europe] | [Member] BIOPARC CONSERVATION [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |
| Spain | Fundación Vida Sostenible | FVS | https://www.vidasostenible.org/ | NGO | [Member] Fundación Oxigeno [West Europe] | [Member] Fundacion Savia por el Compromiso y los Valores [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Vincent Wildlife Trust | VWT | https://www.vwt.org.uk/ | NGO | [Committee] United Kingdom National Committee of IUCN Members [West Europe] | [Member] People`s Trust for Endangered Species [West Europe] | **Approve** | View |

## *Change of name and State Member notification*

### 1. Change of name of 4 current IUCN Member organisations

| Member ID | Previous name | New name | Country |
|---|---|---|---|
| GA/25112 | Ministry of Ecology - Spatial Planning and Urbanism (Ministarstvo ekologije - prostornog planiranja i urbanizma) | Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Development (Ministarstvo turizma, ekologije, održivog razvoja i razvoja sjevera) | Montenegro |
| | *The change of name occurs after a reorganisation of the government of Montenegro.* | | |
| NG/26142 | Econom Korea | ECONOW | Republic of Korea |
| | *The change of name occurred for their 15th anniversary, also because the name Econom Korea was used by another organisation in the country, generating confusion.* | | |
| ST/25312 | Ministry of Agriculture and Forests | Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources | Bhutan |
| | *The change of name occurs with the moving of Department of Forests and Park Services to Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, from Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and includes a change of IUCN liaison.* | | |
| NG/1461 | Keidanren committee on Nature Conservation | Keidanren Nature Conservation Council | Japan |
| | *Member advised that it has changed its name* | | |

### 2. Notification related to membership of a State

| Member ID | Name | Country | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| ST/26470 | Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania | Albania | Adhesion of Albania as IUCN State Member is now complete (signed adhesion letter and deposit payment received by the IUCN Secretariat). A joint announcement has been published. |

IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

**IUCN Council's Guidance for 2025 Election Candidates**

(Approved by decision C/76/40 of the 76th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2011; revised by decision C/85/8 of the 85th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2015, decision B/XVI of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 1 July 2019 and decision B/XIII of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 28 August 2024)

IUCN seeks to attract candidates with the necessary competencies, profile and ability to represent the interests of the Union in order to provide effective governance including oversight, strategic direction, and policy guidance between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

Council members have a fundamental obligation to serve IUCN with diligence and integrity. This obligation extends to candidates for election to the offices of IUCN to ensure good governance practices in the elections process. The following guidance is intended to serve this purpose.

1. An individual proposed for nomination by Council as candidate for President, Treasurer or Commission Chair becomes a candidate once nominated by decision of the IUCN Council[1] of which the candidate will receive formal notice. Once an individual is proposed to Council for nomination to any of the aforementioned positions and until Council takes a decision whether to nominate the individual concerned to Congress for election, IUCN Members, Commission members as well as the individual proposed shall abstain from any attempt to persuade Council members to nominate the individual. Any actions to the contrary may lead to withdrawal of the proposed individual by the Nominations Committee from the list of nominees provided to the Council.

2. Candidates for President, Treasurer and Commission Chair may start campaign activities[2] from the moment they have been notified of Council's decision to nominate them to Congress for election. Candidates for President nominated in conformity with Article 27 of the Statutes may start campaign activities[2] from the moment their candidacy is received by the Director General in conformity with Regulation 32. Candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor may undertake campaign activities[2] once their nomination has been validated by the Election Officer and posted in IUCN's intranet in conformity with Regulation 40.

3. In undertaking their election campaign activities, candidates are to conduct themselves with integrity and with respect and fairness towards the opposition candidates and their colleagues.

4. In their campaigning activities, candidates are encouraged to demonstrate restraint in respect of the resources they use and allocate available resources in the first place to conservation purposes. Candidates should prefer to communicate about their candidacy by electronic means instead of postage or printed materials. However, they shall also not abuse email addresses of IUCN members through excessive communications.

5. In conducting their election campaign activities, candidates are to refrain from making untruthful representations about their qualifications and/or their opponents' qualifications for the office sought.

[1] Council meeting C113 scheduled for 7-9 May 2025

[2] The term "campaign activity" is to be understood as any action (such as electronic or postal mail, social media, physical or virtual meetings, blogs and other web-based platforms or publications) undertaken in support of or against a candidate for election with the candidate's knowledge, whether taken by the candidate or an IUCN Member on the candidate's behalf.

6. Candidates must avoid taking advantage of functions, trips, events and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of IUCN for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances to be elected. This relates in particular to incumbent Council members, Commission members or members of staff nominated for a Council position in the use of resources that may have been placed at his/her disposal for the purpose of carrying out those functions or activities.

7. All campaign activities are to end on the date and time which the Congress Steering Committee will establish and announce during the 2025 Congress, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any manipulative activity, real or perceived. In particular, candidates shall refrain from arranging or endorsing the dissemination on their behalf of any flyers or other campaign support information or materials following the closing date and time for campaign activities.[3]

8. A member of Council who intends to present his/her candidacy for the office of President will inform Council at the latest during the meeting of the IUCN Council referred to in Regulation 30 which considers the nominations. (In the 2021-2025 inter sessional period, this will be the 113th meeting of the IUCN Council[4])

9. Candidates who are a member of the IUCN staff will notify the Director General of his/her intention to run for Council office before the deadline for nominations[5]. As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification to the Director General will include the confirmation that, should he/she be nominated, his/her employment contract with IUCN will end at a date agreed with the Director General, which will not be later than the date recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council or by the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions.

10. Candidates undertake to observe and uphold a free and fair process in their participation in all phases of the nominations and election process.

11. Candidates shall disclose in writing to the Congress Nominations Committee any actual or potential conflict of interest to which his/her candidacy might give rise.

12. This Guidance is issued and shall be interpreted pursuant to Council's procedure on "Additional requirements for Nomination to Council and guidance for election candidates."[6]

[3] Date to be established, taking into consideration that campaigning (a) must be allowed up to a certain date at the Congress venue in order for candidates to have the opportunity to meet with and get known by Members, but (b) must come to a halt at least on the eve – e.g., midnight – of election day, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any activity that is – or may be perceived to be – unfair to other candidates.
[4] The 113th Meeting of the IUCN Council is scheduled for 7-9 May 2025.
[5] Deadline for nominations is 7 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC
[6] Approved by decision B/VII of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024.

# Procedure

## for dealing with Letters received from IUCN Members and addressed to / intended for the IUCN Council

(Approved by the Bureau, decision B11/5, September 2023 and revised by the Bureau, decision B/XIV on 28 August 2024)

1. This procedure applies to letters (incl. emails) received by the President, Council members, the Director General, or other Secretariat staff, from Members that are explicitly addressed to the Council, or cc'ing the Council or requesting that a copy be shared with the Council including, in particular, the letters in response to the Secretariat's communication to Members of the draft agenda of the forthcoming Council meeting – as required by the Council's Transparency Policy (2016).

2. The Secretariat shall acknowledge receipt within 48 hours.

**Letter(s) received in response to the invitation to comment on the draft Council agenda**

3. The Member letters received in response to the invitation to comment on the draft Council agenda will be compiled and shared with Council as a Council document at the latest on the day following the deadline for comments. The Secretariat shall distribute the draft Council agenda at least six weeks in advance of each ordinary meeting of the Council, with a deadline for comments of three weeks prior to the meeting. If as part of an ordinary meeting, a virtual meeting of the Council is held shortly before the in-person meeting, the draft Council agenda, if available, may be distributed to IUCN Members prior to the virtual meeting[1].

4. Shortly after receipt, the Secretariat will transmit Member letters to the relevant standing committee (PPC, FAC or GCC) in function of the topics covered in the letters, with the request to add the letter to the agenda of the committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting. Letters may be transmitted to more than one committee if the topic(s) concerned relate to the ToR of more than one committee, or if the Chair of the committee who received it first so advises. In case of doubt to which committee a letter relates, the Secretary to Council will consult the committee chairs. The action taken will be mentioned in the final version of the Council document containing all Member letters received.

5. Letters may be responded to by the Secretariat, even prior to the Council meeting, if they only require a piece of information or clarification (e.g. that the topic raised by the Member is already included in the draft Council agenda, or the answer to the question raised by the Member is already available). Also this action, together with the Member letter(s) concerned, will be included in the Council document compiling all Member letters. If the Secretariat responds prior to the Council meeting, the relevant standing committee will be informed.

6. The standing committee(s) concerned will include, in their verbal report / slide presentation to Council, their advice to Council and/or the Secretariat, the elements of the response to Member(s) concerned. The committee(s) may also propose, as appropriate, a draft Council decision on one or the other issue raised by Member letter(s).

[1] As was the case before C110 and C111, both held in person.

7. The committees' advice to the Council or the Secretariat, as the case may be, revised by Council or with any comments made by Council, or the Council decision, will enable the Secretariat to prepare the response to Member letter(s) within 4 weeks from the end of the Council meeting.

8. Response letters to IUCN Members will be signed by the IUCN President except if the President delegates this to other members of Council or the Secretary to Council, and with the exception of the letters that already received a response as referred to in §4 above.

9. The Secretary to Council will ensure that all Member letters receive a response and maintain a record of all such letters and how they were addressed.

**Other letters received from IUCN Members between meetings of the IUCN Council**

10. The IUCN President should also transmit to the standing committees for information and advice, letters received from IUCN Members other than those commenting on the draft Council agenda and that are not confidential in nature or letters that are intended for Council or about issues pertaining to Council's authority. This includes Member letters explicitly addressed to the Council or cc'ing the Council or requesting that a copy be shared with the Council and received by individual Council members, the Director General or members of the Secretariat staff who shall forward them to the President and Secretary to Council without delay.

11. Council members will forthwith receive a copy of all such letter(s) with indication of how each letter will be dealt with including, as the case may be, that one or more standing committees have been requested for advice.

12. Every effort will be made to provide a response to Member letters within 4 to 6 weeks from the date of receipt. If the issue raised in a letter warrants it being discussed by Council, the Member(s) concerned shall be informed that the matter was forwarded to Council for consideration at its forthcoming meeting and a response will be provided within four weeks from the end of the Council meeting.

**Council Handbook**

13. With the Council's approval, this procedure will be included in the Council Handbook.

# Motions submission form

## Part 1- Preliminary Questions

**Title of the motion** *

**Original language of the motion as submitted** *

- English
- Français
- Español

## Background information

**1. Does the proposed motion:**

**Correspond with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* of Part VII of the *Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, and Regulations*: "define the general policy of IUCN and to influence the policies or actions of third parties, or to address the governance of IUCN, within the parameters of IUCN's objectives as set forth in Articles 2 and 3 of the Statutes"? (Rule 54 of Part VII of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress.)** *

- Yes
- No

**Propose an amendment to either the draft IUCN Programme 2026-2029, or to the mandates of the IUCN Commissions, or both?** *
(Please note that amendments to the draft IUCN Programme 2026-2029 (open for consultation on the Engage platform) or to the Commission mandates (2026-2029) should be submitted through the specific online platform designed for that purpose.)

- Yes
- No

(Popup box: Rule 51 states, inter alia, that "Members shall be invited to submit proposals to modify the draft IUCN Programme and proposals regarding the mandates of the IUCN Commissions, online, at the same time as they are invited to submit motions in accordance with Rule 49. […] All such motions shall be remitted by the Motions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee [to the Council to be discussed and integrated in the draft programme before Congress or] to session of the World Congress that considers the Programme and mandates of the Commissions. The sponsors of these motions shall be advised of this action.")

**Address issues pertaining to the governance of IUCN?** *
(Please note that proposals to amend the Statutes have to be submitted through the specific online platform designed for that purpose. Such proposed amendments shall be received by the Secretariat not later than six months before the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress [by 9 April 2025]. Council shall inform the Member as to whether it proposes to lay the amendment before the World Congress, and if so, in what form. Article 104 of the IUCN Statutes.)

- Yes
- No

**2. Specify which IUCN constituents (Members or components of IUCN) or third parties (Rule 54(b)x) referred to in the operative paragraph(s) of this motion have:**

**Been consulted during the development of this motion** *
[Choose from full list of Members and components of IUCN]

**Collaborated in the development of the motion** *
[Choose from full list of Members and components of IUCN]

**Provide any additional information about consultations carried out / collaboration with IUCN constituents in the development of this motion, in particular if consultations had the purpose of identifying solutions that might address the underlying issues (Rule 54(b)x).***

Content limited to 1000 characters (approximately 200 words), remaining: **1000**

**3. Before submitting this motion, have you searched the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform to ensure that this motion does not overlap or repeat previously adopted Resolutions or Recommendations? (Rule 54(a)vi)** *

- Yes
- No

**Please specify what is new, over and above previously adopted Resolutions or Recommendations (Rule 54(a)vi) and state which Resolutions / Recommendations it may complement.** *

Content limited to 1000 characters (approximately 200 words), remaining: **1000**

**4. Please indicate whether the proposed motion has been discussed in one of the Regional Conservation Fora held in 2024 or, where applicable, in a meeting of the National or Regional Committee(s) of the country(ies) or region(s) concerned? (Rule 51*bis* and Regulation 66*ter*)** *

- Yes
- No

**Please specify in which**

Content limited to 1000 characters (approximately 200 words), remaining: **1000**

**5. Does the motion focus on local, national or regional issues?** *

- Yes
- No

**Please provide evidence that (1) the matter covered by the motion has been engaged at local, national and/or regional instances and that the desired result has not been achieved, and (2) that the Members and relevant Commission members as well as other stakeholders in the geographic area in question have been consulted (Rule 54(a)vii).** *

Content limited to 2500 characters (approximately 500 words), remaining: **2500**

**6. Does the proposed motion concern issues arising in a State(s) outside the proponent's State/Region?** *

- Yes

- No

**Please ensure that the motion is co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member eligible to vote, from the Region with which the motion is concerned (Rule 49*bis*).**
**Please select the State(s) in which the Member(s) is/are based.**
[Choose from a list of States]

**Author's contact** *

NEXT

**Note:** For your motion to be taken into consideration, you need to submit it **before the end of the day (23:59) GMT/UTC on 15 January 2025.**
Any motion saved as draft on the system beyond that date and time, will be discarded automatically and NOT be taken into consideration by the Motions Working Group.

DELETE | SAVE AS DRAFT | SUBMIT

## Part 2- Body of Motion

### Preamble

**The preamble explains in a succinct way the rationale for the motion and substantiates the action(s) called for in the operative part.** *

Note: Each sentence is presented as a separate paragraph and should open with a term IN CAPS, e.g. NOTING, MINDFUL OF, RECOGNIZING, AWARE OF, CONCERNED, RECALLING, WELCOMING, etc.

Additional information may be provided in the explanatory memorandum (see below).

Content limited to 2000 characters (approximately 350 words), remaining: **2000**

**The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

### Operative paragraphs

**The operative section of the motion specifies the position of Members and contains the action(s) that they are agreeing to take.** *

Note: Each paragraph starts with an action term IN CAPS, e.g. CALLS ON, REQUESTS, URGES, AGREES, DECIDES, ENCOURAGES, INVITES, etc.

Content limited to 1500 characters (approximately 250 words), remaining: **1500**

### Proponent and co-sponsors

**Proponent**

**You are submitting this motion on behalf of the proponent:** *

Note: In accordance with Rule 49 only Members eligible to vote may propose a motion.

[Choose from list of Members eligible to vote, or the IUCN Council in case the motion is submitted by the Council]

**Co-sponsors** *

As per Rule 49, any motion submitted must be co-sponsored by **at least five other Members**, from **at least two Regions** (in the sense of Articles 16 and 17 of the Statutes), eligible to vote. Please note that only Members from categories A, B and C who have **paid their Membership dues** up to and including 2024 are eligible.

Please identify the minimum of five eligible Members that have explicitly agreed to co-sponsor this motion in the below field.

Please bear in mind that if the motion concerns issues arising in a State(s) outside the State or Region of the proponent, **at least one co-sponsor needs to be from the Region concerned**. (Rule 49*bis*)

Note: only Members eligible to vote (Members in Category A, B or C, which have paid their membership dues, up to and including 2024) are shown below (and only once the payment of any outstanding dues is received by the IUCN Secretariat - this may take up to five working days).

Please note that the primary contact of the proponent and co-sponsors indicated here will receive an email informing them that a motion has been submitted on their behalf.

[Choose from list of Members eligible to vote]

## Explanatory memorandum

**Explanatory Memorandum (optional)**

In line with Annex 11 to Council Decision C111/14, the Explanatory Memorandum should be published together with the motion but be kept short (to keep translation cost/time reasonable); should include the information about resources (financial and other) required to implement the motion (if adopted); and should explain why a motion is required instead of exploring other possible ways to achieve the objective of the draft motion.

1. Maximum 500 words as established in Rule 50.
2. It may contain background information, historical notes or relevant publications or websites, as well as further details about the actions, strategies or processes, the financial and human resources required to implement the proposed motion.

Content limited to 3500 characters (approximately 500 words), remaining: **3500**

**Author's contact** *

NEXT

**Note:** For your motion to be taken into consideration, you need to submit it **before the end of the day (23:59) GMT/UTC on 15 January 2025.**
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DELETE | SAVE AS DRAFT | SUBMIT

## Part 3- Implementation Measures

### Information required for the implementation of the motion

**1. Provide:**

**a) An overview of the activities and estimated resources needed to implement the motion (these can be human or other resources, but expressed in USD). Also include an estimation of the resources pledged (in USD), including by the proponent, co-sponsors, or third parties.** *

Note: Please round to the nearest dollar (e.g., 25900) and do not include any non-numeric symbols (i.e., no commas, decimals, or apostrophes). Note that to submit the motion, the table must be completed such that 1) all entries in the table are numeric, 2) there is an entry for total resources required and total resources pledged (i.e., those cells are not empty), and 3) the total resources pledged do not exceed the total resources required.

| **Activity** | **Estimated financial resources required (USD)** | **Estimated financial resources pledged (USD)** |
|---|---|---|
| Field activities | | |
| Scientific activities | | |
| Education/ communication/ raising awareness | | |
| Fundraising | | |
| Policy influencing | | |
| Convening stakeholders/ networking | | |
| Capacity building | | |
| Other (please specify below) | | |
| **Total** | | |

**Rate here to which degree the resources required for the implementation of the motion have been estimated and committed. During the online discussion of motions, proponents will be able to update this information and rating, while IUCN Members will be able to pledge or commit their contribution to the implementation of a motion.** *

**A. Motion submitted *without* any resources pledged or committed to fund or otherwise contribute to its implementation.**

**B. Motion submitted with realistic pledge(s) or commitment(s) of funds or other resources to implement the motion *in part*. Commitments should be recorded in section b) below.**

**C. Motion submitted with realistic pledge(s) or commitment(s) to fund or otherwise contribute to implement the motion *in full*. Commitments should be recorded in section b) below.**

**D. Motion can be implemented within the regular budget and resources available to the Member or component of IUCN (Secretariat, Commission, etc.) which is called upon to implement the motion.**

- A
- B
- C
- D

**Comments on the estimated resources required and rating above, including the main actions and timeline, as well as the strategy for mobilising additional resources in the case that they are not pledged.**

Content limited to 2500 characters (approximately 400 words), remaining: **2500**

**Upload a more detailed budget document. (Optional)**

Choose file | No file chosen | Upload

Select a document from your computer to upload it to this form (preferred format: xls/xlsx)

**b) A description of the contributions which proponent and co-sponsors intend to make towards the implementation of the motion: (Rule 54(b)x)**

*Proponent*

**IUCN Member** *

[Choose from list of Members eligible to vote and IUCN Council]

**Proposed actions** *

- Capacity building
- Convene stakeholders/networking
- Education/communication/raising awareness
- Field activities
- Fundraising
- Policy influencing/advocacy
- Scientific/technical activities
- Other

**Description**

Remaining characters: **800**

*Co-sponsors*

**Co-sponsor 1** *

[Choose from list of Members eligible to vote]

**Proposed actions** *

- Capacity building
- Convene stakeholders/networking
- Education/communication/raising awareness
- Field activities
- Fundraising
- Policy influencing/advocacy
- Scientific/technical activities
- Other

**Description**

Remaining characters: **800**

**Co-sponsor 2** *
[Choose from list of Members eligible to vote]

**Proposed actions** *

- Capacity building
- Convene stakeholders/networking
- Education/communication/raising awareness
- Field activities
- Fundraising
- Policy influencing/advocacy
- Scientific/technical activities
- Other

**Description**

Remaining characters: **800**

**ADD ANOTHER**

**2. Provide here the name of a focal point who would be in charge of reporting annually on the follow-up and implementation of the motion if adopted:**

**Name** *

**Surname** *

**Institution** *

**Email** *

**3. If the operative paragraph(s) of this motion is/are directly related to the mandate and work of one or more IUCN Commission(s), has the Steering Committee of the relevant Commission(s) committed to oversee implementation and assist in the gathering of data on the implementation of the Resolutions involved?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

**Specify which Commission(s)**

- Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
- World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

- Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
- Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
- Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

**4. As required by WCC-2016-Res-001, please indicate when the motion automatically ceases to be effective and will be moved to the Resolutions and Recommendations Archive. This can be either when a stated period has elapsed or when an objective has been achieved. ***

Remaining characters: **800**

## Scope

**Please indicate which of the 8 global transformations listed in the IUCN Draft Programme 2026-2029 this motion addresses. ***

- One Health
- Realign Financial and Economic Systems
- Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems
- Sustainable Cities
- Water Stewardship and Security
- Regenerative Blue Economy
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Green, Just Energy Transition
- None of the above

**Indicate the geographic scope of the implementation of this motion. ***

- Regional
- Country
- Local/Sub-national
- Global

**Region ***

Please select which region your motion pertains to (or select 'Global').

- Global
- Africa
- East Europe, North and Central Asia
- Meso and South America
- North America and the Caribbean
- Oceania
- South and East Asia
- West Asia
- West Europe

## Keywords

**Nature and biodiversity ***

Please select up to THREE keywords that best reflect your motion's focus on the natural world (if applicable).

- Artificial – aquatic
- Artificial – terrestrial
- Deserts
- Forests
- Grassland

- Islands
- Marine & Coastal
- Mountains
- Polar
- Rocky areas
- Subterranean
- Wetlands
- Fungi
- Plants
- Invertebrates
- Fishes
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals
- None

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** *
Please select a maximum of THREE SDGs that are most relevant to your motion.

- Goal 1 - no poverty
- Goal 2 - zero hunger
- Goal 3 - good health and well-being
- Goal 4 - quality education
- Goal 5 - gender equality
- Goal 6 - clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - reduce inequalities
- Goal 11 - sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - climate action
- Goal 14 - life below water
- Goal 15 - life on land
- Goal 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - partnerships for the goals
- None

**Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** *
Please select a maximum of THREE GBF targets that are most relevant to your motion.

- **Target 1**: Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss
- **Target 2**: Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems
- **Target 3**: Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas
- **Target 4**: Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts
- **Target 5**: Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species
- **Target 6**: Reduce the introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and minimize their impact
- **Target 7**: Reduce pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity
- **Target 8**: Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience
- **Target 9**: Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people
- **Target 10**: Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry
- **Target 11**: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people
- **Target 12**: Enhance green spaces and urban planning for human well-being and biodiversity

- **Target 13**: Increase the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge
- **Target 14**: Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level
- **Target 15**: Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts
- **Target 16**: Enable sustainable consumption choices to reduce waste and overconsumption
- **Target 17**: Strengthen biosafety and distribute the benefits of biotechnology
- **Target 18**: Reduce harmful incentives by at least $500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity
- **Target 19**: Mobilize $200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including $30 billion through international finance
- **Target 20**: Strengthen capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity
- **Target 21**: Ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action
- **Target 22**: Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all
- **Target 23**: Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action

**Threats and drivers** *
Please select up to THREE keywords from the list below which most closely relates to the threats to biodiversity which your motion will address (if applicable).

- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Climate change & severe weather
- Energy production & mining
- Fisheries & harvesting aquatic resources
- Gathering terrestrial plants/non-timber products
- Geological events
- Human intrusions & disturbance
- Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals
- Invasive species
- Logging & wood harvesting
- Natural hazards / natural disasters
- Natural system modifications
- Pollution
- Residential & commercial development
- Transportation & service corridors
- None

**Author's contact** *

NEXT

**Note:** For your motion to be taken into consideration, you need to submit it **before the end of the day (23:59) GMT/UTC on 15 January 2025.**
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DELETE | SAVE AS DRAFT | SUBMIT

## IUCN Policy on Synthetic Biology in Relation to Nature Conservation

RECOGNISING that 'synthetic biology', as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is developing rapidly and may have significant positive and negative impacts on the integrity and diversity of nature, relevant for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and equitable sharing of benefits.

RECALLING Resolutions WCC-2020-Res-123 and WCC-2016-Res-086, which mandate development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation.

ACKNOWLEDGING the IUCN Council Decisions C108/2 and C109/8 on the process and terms of reference for implementation of WCC-2020-Res-123.

COMMENDING the inclusive and participatory process carried out to implement WCC-2020-Res-123, including:
a) IUCN constituency-wide responses to the call for information.
b) Establishment of the first IUCN Citizens' Assembly, yielding 80 Recommendations.
c) IUCN constituency receipt of multiple resources in support of effective participation, and invitation to two introductory webinars.
d) Two IUCN constituents-wide invitations to provide feedback into the inclusive and participatory process.

ALSO COMMENDING the drafting process carried out as mandated by WCC-2020-Res-123, including:
a) IUCN constituency-wide nominations and comments on the provisional appointment of IUCN Res123 Policy Development Working Group.
b) IUCN constituency-wide peer review of the first and second drafts of the policy.

WELCOMING the invaluable work undertaken by the different IUCN constituents who engaged in the development of this policy; the CBD Secretariat for engaging as observers to the Policy Development Working Group; and the generous funding granted by the Government of Germany and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

RECOGNISING the deliberations on synthetic biology under the CBD, particularly decision COP/16/L.21; and under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Health Organization, among others.

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

1. ADOPTS the IUCN Policy on Synthetic Biology in Relation to Nature Conservation, attached herewith as Annex 1.

2. CALLS UPON all IUCN constituents to follow this policy if engaging with synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation.

3. RECOMMENDS that IUCN Members, Council, Commissions and Director General share knowledge, guidance and contribute to build capacities to assist with the implementation of this policy, collaborating as appropriate with other organisations working in this field, including through participation in international policy discussions on the subject.

4. ENCOURAGES IUCN constituents to report on their implementation of this Resolution.

5. INVITES the Parties to the CBD, CITES, and to other relevant multilateral environmental agreements to take this IUCN policy into account when considering synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation.

# IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation

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## A. Problem definition

Life on Earth faces multiple challenges. Approximately, a quarter of Earth's species are facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the coming decades, and there is ongoing loss and disruption of genetic diversity and ecosystems. This crisis is primarily driven by unsustainable human activities, including in the context of agriculture, harvest of wild species, built infrastructure, invasive alien species, diseases, pollution, and climate change. Nature conservation, in the context of this policy, is understood as the human activity dedicated to averting the loss of the integrity and diversity of nature and advancing its recovery. These conservation efforts have resulted in some notable successes, but biodiversity continues to decline globally. There is thus an urgent need to continue to strengthen efforts to address drivers and causes of biodiversity loss and support its recovery.

The field called 'synthetic biology', as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (see section D), is developing rapidly and largely independently of nature conservation efforts. Different applications of synthetic biology may have significant positive and negative impacts on the integrity and diversity of nature. This is relevant for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.

Synthetic biology is not to be seen to replace ongoing and future efforts to address biodiversity loss. Synthetic biology could be complementary to these efforts.

There are divergent views on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. While research is ongoing, there remain significant data and knowledge gaps about synthetic biology and its potential ecological, ethical, economic, social, and cultural impacts. There is a need for a policy to inform decision-making on the application of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. IUCN has a unique role to foster dialogue by convening governments, non-governmental organisations, and Indigenous Peoples' organisations, and to build knowledge on this topic. IUCN, therefore, has decided to develop a policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. This policy should not be interpreted as supporting or opposing synthetic biology, per se.

# B. Audience

The audience for this policy is all constituent parts of IUCN, including Members, Commissions, Secretariat, and National, Regional, and Interregional Committees, including in their interactions with other stakeholders involved in synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. This policy is intended to guide the work of the IUCN Secretariat, Commissions, and Member organisations and could be informative to a wider audience.

# C. Goal

The goal of this policy is to provide a basis to inform decision-making:

- on whether or not to use a synthetic biology application for nature conservation, and on the responsible use of synthetic biology for nature conservation; and
- on how to address the implications for nature conservation of the use of synthetic biology in other sectors.

This policy is intended to harmonize with international instruments, goals, and guidelines, as referenced in the Appendix.

# D. Scope

This policy covers *synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation*; specifically, synthetic biology, whether applied for the purpose of nature conservation, or applied in other sectors, for example, industry, agriculture, or medicine, with potential direct or indirect impacts in relation to nature. The table below illustrates this scope, recognising that there may be cases that span more than one of these categories.

| SECTOR / IMPACTS | Conservation | Other (e.g. industry, agriculture, medicine) |
|---|---|---|
| Ecological | *In scope* | *In scope* |
| Social, economic, cultural | *In scope* | *Not in scope* |

This policy applies to all applications of tools and technology of synthetic biology, as well as associated research and development, in relation to nature conservation. Synthetic biology is understood according to the operational definition of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Decision XIII/17): "*A further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems*."

This policy does not specify particular applications or technologies of synthetic biology in order to avoid implying an overly narrow scope, while aiming to ensure that the policy is future-proof given the rapidly evolving field.

This policy provides general guidance and is not intended as a detailed implementation guide.

# E. Principles

Recognizing the plurality of values of nature and its benefits, the following principles, and any interconnections among them, should be considered in discussions and decision-making on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. The first ten principles are adapted from the IUCN Resolution 123 (2020) "Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation", with their order unchanged. The order of the principles presented does not imply priority.

- Protect and restore integrity and diversity of nature.
- Advance intergenerational equity.
- Foster gender equity.
- Respect rights, beliefs, and cultures.
- Uphold the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- Practice inclusion of knowledge holders and rights-holders.
- Facilitate stakeholder and rights-holder participation.
- Take into account multiple sources of types of knowledge and expertise.
- Practice trans-, inter- and multidisciplinarity.

- Ensure that decision-making is science-based; encompasses other authoritative information, including traditional knowledge; and considers ethical principles and a plurality of values.
- Promote fairness, including equitable sharing of benefits, and appropriate provisions for liability and redress; minimize bias and conflict of interest; and ensure transparency and broad accessibility.
- Apply a case-by-case approach as included in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD.
- Apply the precautionary principle, such as articulated in the 1992 Rio Declaration. Given that all life depends on nature, and the scope of this policy is in relation to nature conservation, the application of the precautionary principle should consider the *In Dubio Pro Natura* principle.

# F. General considerations

The General considerations I-V, presented below, should be interpreted and applied consistently with this policy in its entirety and in accordance with international instruments, national and subnational legislation, and customary law.

## I. General considerations for decision-making

This subsection addresses decision-making in relation to synthetic biology. Such decision-making should be guided by the above-mentioned principles, in particular taking a science-based approach and considering other knowledge systems, feedback and perspectives from diverse stakeholders and rights-holders including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and gender and intergenerational equity. Governance contexts are also an important consideration.

Decision-makers should be able to access information on relevant synthetic biology research, development, and applications in relation to nature conservation. This is particularly important given that synthetic biology is a fast-developing field, the intricate web of interactions in nature, significant knowledge gaps, and research to better understand these dynamics is ongoing.

Regulatory and other frameworks to evaluate and manage research on, development, and applications of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation should, as appropriate:

a) Follow a clear process, or processes, for consistent and transparent decision-making, including criteria on whether or not to proceed with any stage of research, development or application. Decision-making processes should include provisions for stakeholders and rights-holder involvement, and, if applicable, further instruments and processes enabling broad public participation.

b) Adopt a case-by-case assessment approach. When relevant, a timely, context-sensitive, inclusive, and participatory problem formulation and feedback process should also be followed.

c) Assess risks and assess benefits in accordance with section F. II. Consideration should also be given to the desirability of independent review of risk assessments and benefit assessments.

d) Be guided by the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, as referred to in section F. III.

e) Provide project plans that include a staged approach, including staged consultation with relevant stakeholders and rights-holders that might lead to reassessments and adaptive management.

f) Ensure that when risk management plans are necessary, they include clear and enforceable conditions relating to containment, monitoring of effects, reporting, contingency plans, and responses to address effects.

g) Consider cross-jurisdictional risks and benefits and call for collaboration among relevant entities across jurisdictions, in line with agreements such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

h) Ensure the proponent of a synthetic biology development or application, along with any relevant authorities, be responsible for appropriate public engagement, transparency, and sharing of information relevant for decision-making.

i) Assess and impose conditions relating to liability and redress, including as provided for in the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, when necessary.

In addition, regulatory frameworks should establish rules providing that those who fail to comply with those frameworks are to be held responsible for any harm caused by their unauthorized use or release of synthetic biology applications.

All relevant entities are encouraged to apply the above provisions, and seek comment or advice from independent relevant expert bodies, particularly in jurisdictions where there are no applicable legislative, administrative, or policy measures.

## II. General considerations for risk assessments and benefit assessments for decision-making

This subsection addresses assessments of risks and assessments of benefits in relation to nature conservation.

The assessment of risks and the assessment of benefits should occur independently. Decision-making should then consider both, recognising that risks and benefits are not necessarily proportionally related. Both assessment and decision-making processes should consider the precautionary principle and other principles as set out in section E.

Risk assessments and benefit assessments should:

a) Be enacted on a case-by-case basis.

b) Be rigorous, comprehensive, and transparent, and include such details as correspond with the significance of the risks and benefits. These should include assessing intended and unintended impacts, short-term and long-term effects, multiple interactions, the ability to remediate undesirable consequences, and cumulative effects of synthetic biology whether applied

directly for nature conservation or with implications for nature conservation. Risk assessments and benefit assessments should also consider alternatives, including non-synthetic biology approaches and the implications of inaction, and recognise knowledge gaps.

c) Have regard to the characteristics of the organism or technology and the proposed conditions of use, the characteristics of the receiving environment, and whether the application is for research, contained use, semi-field or field trials, commerce, or conditioned or unrestricted release.

d) Recognise differences in national policies, respect national sovereignty, and align with relevant international instruments.

e) As appropriate, incorporate ecological, cultural, socioeconomic, and animal welfare considerations.

f) In accordance with international instruments and national legislation, as appropriate, incorporate feedback and perspectives from relevant stakeholders and rights-holders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities; build upon past experience; respect knowledge systems; be established in a participatory and anticipatory approach; and recognize the potential scale and complexity of introducing new technologies and their applications to nature.

## III. General considerations for Free, Prior and Informed Consent

This subsection addresses the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in decision-making by Indigenous peoples and local communities about synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation, when relevant. Free, Prior and Informed Consent should be applied consistent with relevant national legislation and international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the CBD. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) is also relevant.

In line with the preceding paragraph, to enable Indigenous Peoples and local communities potentially impacted by a synthetic biology application to make informed decisions, the proponents of such applications should: provide relevant information, emphasizing both the potential positive and negative impacts of the activity, presented in a language and format understood by the community, respecting customary laws and protocols; and acknowledge the right of communities to agree or not agree through all stages of the applications.

In order to implement the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent effectively, capacity building and communication to encourage mutual understanding, trust, and knowledge exchange between the proponents of a synthetic biology application and the potentially impacted Indigenous Peoples or local communities should be encouraged.

## IV. General considerations for fair and equitable sharing of benefits

This subsection addresses the fair and equitable sharing of benefits associated with the potential application of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) principles, as established in international instruments, including the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), as well as national legislation, may apply to synthetic biology applications in relation to nature conservation. ABS principles and rules may also apply to Digital Sequence Information (DSI) in relation to synthetic biology applications in accordance with relevant international instruments and national legislation.

The application of ABS rules to synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation should incorporate gender and inter-generational equity.

Intellectual property rights may influence access to, and use of, applications of synthetic biology, and should not run counter to the objectives of nature conservation. Furthermore, processes and requirements to apply for, and grant intellectual property rights on, applications of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation should respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relation to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as established by customary laws and international and national legislation.

## V. General considerations for communication, education, and public awareness

This subsection addresses the need for increased understanding of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation. This requires communication, education, and public awareness to be timely, comprehensive, inclusive, open, and balanced.

All relevant governmental and other entities should make an effort to foster trust, be transparent, respect diverse views, and encourage accessibility of information and public engagement. All relevant stakeholders should seek to be aware of the most up-to-date and relevant information about synthetic biology research, development, and applications.

All governmental and other entities are encouraged to be transparent with information about synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation, such as outlined in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation on Open Science, and according to international instruments and national legislation. These efforts should recognize potential sources of bias and conflicts of interest, and be transparent about those sources and the rationale for decision-making. All governmental and other entities should be encouraged to publicise results and findings, and to provide equitable access to tools, knowledge, and capacity building.

In considering the use of synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation, the full range of views of stakeholders and rights-holders should be sought, understood, and respected.

Information about synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation should be communicated in an accessible manner, including by using open source platforms, and using clear, easy to understand language and technology with which the target audience can engage.

Consistent with their scope, responsibilities, and capabilities, all governmental and other entities engaged in synthetic biology are encouraged to offer accessible capacity building, in particular for

stakeholders and rights-holders, including adequate training and technical expertise to support better engagement, understanding, policy making, implementation, monitoring, and impact assessments.

# Appendix: Relevant foundational decisions and reference materials

This appendix lists instruments referenced in the text of the policy under each relevant section where they appear. It also includes selected policies and technical documents (marked with an asterisk (*)) that, while not explicitly mentioned in the policy, are particularly relevant to provide additional context.

**Section A. Problem Definition**

Operational definition of Synthetic Biology: Convention on Biological Diversity: *"A further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems."*

- Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XIII/17
- Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XIV/19
- Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XV/31
- Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice- SBSTTA, Recommendation 26/4

- IUCN Resolution 123 (2020) Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation

**Section B. Audience** No instruments referenced in this section.

**Section C. Goal** No instruments referenced in this section.

**Section D. Scope**

Operational definition of Synthetic Biology: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - as above

**Section E. Principles**

General principles:

- IUCN Resolution 123 (2020) Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation
- * IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law, 2016

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

- FPIC, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Article 19: *"States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned*

*through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them."*

Values and Valuation of Nature

- * Convention on Biological Diversity - Preamble: "*Conscious of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and of the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components…"*
- * Methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (IPBES 2022)

Conflict of interest and bias

- * Convention on Biological Diversity: Differentiation between "conflict of interest" and "bias": Decision 14/33 (see paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4, Annex – page 2).

Case-by-case approach

- * Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Article 15/ Annex III. General Principles- Risk assessment: "6. *Risk assessment should be carried out on a **case-by-case basis**. The required information may vary in nature and level of detail from case to case, depending on the living modified organism concerned, its intended use and the likely potential receiving environment."*

Precautionary Principle/Approach

- Rio Declaration 1992, Principle 15: "*In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."*
- * United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology working definition (2005): "*When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm. Morally unacceptable harm refers to harm to humans or the environment that*
    - *is threatening to human life or health, or*
    - *serious and effectively irreversible, or*
    - *inequitable to present or future generations, or*
    - *imposed without adequate consideration of the human rights of those affected.*

  *The judgment of plausibility should be grounded in scientific analysis. Analysis should be ongoing so that chosen actions are subject to review. Uncertainty may apply to, but need not be limited to, causality or the bounds of the possible harm. Actions are interventions that are undertaken before harm occurs that seek to avoid or diminish the harm. Actions should be chosen that are proportional to the seriousness of the potential harm, with consideration of their positive and negative consequences, and with an assessment of the moral implications*

*of both action and inaction. The choice of action should be the result of a participatory process."*

- In Dubio Pro Natura as defined in the IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law *: "In cases of doubt, all matters before courts, administrative agencies, and other decision-makers shall be resolved in a way most likely to favour the protection and conservation of the environment, with preference to be given to alternatives that are least harmful to the environment. Actions shall not be undertaken when their potential adverse impacts on the environment are disproportionate or excessive in relation to the benefits derived there from."*

## Section F. General Considerations

### I. General considerations for decision-making

See E. Principles

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

### II. General considerations for risk assessment and benefit assessment for decision-making

See E. Principles

Participatory approaches

- * OECD 2020 Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave

### III. General considerations for participation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent

See E. Principles

Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- FPIC, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) - Article 19
- Convention on Biological Diversity Article 8(j) - Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices, and subsequent decisions and bodies of work. "*Subject to national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge innovations and practices.*"
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)

## IV. General considerations for fair and equitable sharing of benefits

- Convention on Biological Diversity - Article 15 - Access to genetic resources
- Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

## V. General considerations for communication, education, public awareness

- UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science 2021

***Harnessing IUCN's Power: Driving Synergy for Net Zero, Nature Positive, and a Just Energy Transition***

Preamble

NOTING the breach of the 1.5°C temperature rise threshold, and escalating impacts of human-induced climate change on nature, people, and our planet, as evidenced by the best available science,

NOTING WITH CONCERN the lack of progress and political willingness to develop, prepare, update or enhance NDCs Climate Plans as well NBSAPs biodiversity plans.

WELCOMING the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and IPCC joint workshop, noting that the climate and biodiversity crises are intertwined and require synergistic solutions and systems change.

RECALLING Resolution 114 Integrated Solutions to the Climate Change and Biodiversity Crises.

FURTHER RECALLING the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, led by the Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidencies of the Rio Conventions.

NOTING the critical importance of strengthening linkages between the Rio Conventions and other relevant international mechanisms.

RECALLING the IUCN Youth Strategy, Indigenous Peoples Self-Determined Strategy, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, and other relevant strategies, recognising the vital role of civil society stakeholders in driving actions for climate, nature, and energy transition, noting that these actions must be just, equitable and rights-based.

RECOGNIZING that the world *has agreed on a NetZero and nature positive and just energy transition and* urgent need to accelerate action on it.

*ACKNOWLEDGING that global efforts remain insufficient, and that the world is not on track to to achieve the 1.5°C and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.*

*NOTING that synergies are important because they can optimize the use of scarce resources; generate coherence in public climate and biodiversity policies, promote dialogue between public and private actors working towards these objectives; accelerate implementation; facilitate international cooperation and resource mobilization, among other benefits.*

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

**REQUESTS the Director-General and Secretariat, Members, Commissions, and relevant constituents to**

i) Promote credible and mandatory Net Zero systems that enable actionable public and private targets
ii) Work on completing the necessary systemic elements to achieve effective Net Zero and nature Positive outcomes
iii) Advocating for Nature Positive to become a formally recognized goal for both public and private sectors
iv) Establish mechanisms of collaboration and joint work across Rio Conventions that strengthen synergies between national strategies and targets, leading to a net zero, nature positive, just and rapid energy transitions.

v) Urges the private sector and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the integrity and 1.5 alignment of their net zero targets.

**REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL to work with IUCN Members and Commissions to:**

i) Advocate for a just energy transition that prioritize the protection of biodiversity and the rights of local communities.
ii) Develop best practices and guidance on sustainable energy practices that minimize environmental and social impacts, with particular reference to infrastructure siting and mining activities.
iii) Encourage the incorporation of social and environmental impact assessments as mandatory components in the approval process for renewable energy projects and critical minerals and mining.
iv) Promote the implementation of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that local communities receive fair compensation.
v) Support capacity building initiatives and funding opportunities for local communities to engage in sustainable energy practices and conservation efforts.
vi) Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Draft motion on geoengineering v4

PREAMBLE (297 words, 1851 characters)

RECOGNISING the urgency of the climate crisis, the continuing rise in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and the collective failure globally to halt the growth in greenhouse gas emissions;

RECOGNISING that deliberate, large-scale interventions in the Earth's natural systems to counteract climate change or mitigate its effects (geoengineering) are or may be proposed or implemented by government or non-government actors, within or beyond national jurisdictions;

CONCERNED that geoengineering interventions are likely to have significant impacts on and consequences for biodiversity, ecological functioning and ecosystem services including carbon sequestration;

ALARMED by the lack of consistent, rigorous, science-based policy or regulatory frameworks that consider the ethical, social and environmental risks and impacts of potential geoengineering interventions, their merits and whether the risks of inaction outweigh the risks of implementing the intervention;

CONCERNED that there is no policy, regulatory or governance framework that consistently and specifically addresses risk and impact assessment of geoengineering proposals beyond and within national jurisdictions, on land, in the ocean and/or in space;

CONCERNED that geoengineering interventions could be proposed and employed as a means of, or otherwise have the effect of, lowering or delaying ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to deliberately or inadvertently support the continued use of fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gas emissions;

NOTING these issues and concerns have been raised in many international forums including the UNFCCC, CBD, ITLOS, London Convention and others, stressing the need for precaution and science-informed approaches;

NOTING however given the climate crisis that the risks and consequences of inaction may need to be carefully weighed in the future against geoengineering interventions carrying the risk of significant adverse consequences;

WELCOMING the inclusive and participatory process adopted for the development of a draft policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation (WCC-2020 RES 123):

The IUCN WCC RESOLVES to: (153 words 916 characters)

REQUEST the IUCN Council and the Director-General to develop a draft IUCN policy on geoengineering for consideration and approval by members well before WCC 2029, drawing on the inclusive and participatory approach developed by Council to implement the policy

development mandate in WCC-RES123, the principles and lessons from that process, decisions on geoengineering in the CBD, UNFCCC, ITLOS, the London Convention and other relevant international forums, and ensuring that the draft policy specifically excludes geoengineering as any form of offset against continued extraction and use of fossil fuels;

INVITE IUCN members to contribute to and support the draft policy development process;

URGE, in the interim, all governments to adhere to CBD COP decisions on geo-engineering and to collectively avoid overshooting the temperature rise targets agreed to under the Paris Agreement, particularly cautioning against the deployment, by State or non-State actors, of any unproven, untested and unregulated geoengineering technologies to reach net-zero emission goals.

**World Conservation Congress 2025**

**Motion for adopting a resolution on "Mobilising corporate, civil society and government support for high-integrity Nature Positive contributions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**"

**Background**

The term 'Nature Positive' is increasingly prominent in policy and private sector commitments to biodiversity conservation.

The Nature Positive definition produced by the Global Goal for Nature (Locke et al., 2021) is:

**'Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050'.**

The delivery of Nature Positive is a "whole of society" effort, with contributions needed from companies, civil society, including Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and governments.

Nature Positive is aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)'s Mission and Vision. As a quantifiable outcome goal, it can be used by companies, government and civil society. However, without a common understanding of methods for delivery and monitoring, the term risks becoming diluted and used to enable 'greenwashing'.

Nature Positive outcome metrics, and approaches are therefore key, and should build from work already undertaken, including:

- The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management IMEC Working Group's paper *Nature-positive for business: Developing a common approach*
- The Nature Positive Initiative's process to identify State of Nature Metrics
- A document (Measuring Nature Positive) that was circulated to IUCN members in November 2023 for consultation. It provides guidance on practical ways for companies to deliver and report contributions to the KMGBF. It is now published in its final form.

**Recognising the need and opportunity for all sectors of society to contribute to Nature Positive, and the timely context of the KMGBF and regulations such as the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, we set out a resolution to support the uptake by companies, civil society and governments of proposed principles and mechanisms to support the delivery of measurable, verifiable Nature-Positive outcomes, for species and ecosystems.**

**Proposed resolution**

**WCC-2024-Res-XXX-EN**

**Mobilising corporate, civil society and government support for high-integrity Nature Positive contributions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that
the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (2022) sets out ambitious 2030 targets for the conservation of biodiversity including for species and ecosystems;

RECOGNIZING that the Parties to the CBD are largely responsible for achieving the CBD's goals and targets;

RECALLING the following resolutions:

- WCC 2016 Res 059 – IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets
- WCC 2016 Res 066 – Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting
- WCC 2016 Res 067 – Best practice for industrial-scale development projects
- WCC 2016 Rec 102 – Protected areas and other areas important for biodiversity in relation to industrial activities and infrastructure development
- WCC 2016 Rec 110 – Strengthening business engagement in biodiversity preservation
- WCC 2012 Res 108 – The green economy and corporate, social and environmental responsibility
- WCC 2008 Res 056 – Rights-based approaches to conservation
- WCC-2020-Res-116 – A Nature-Positive outcome from the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework

RECALLING that due to the need for governments to deliver national contributions towards the KMGBF, demonstrating progress towards Nature-Positive may soon become a general regulatory requirement;

NOTING that risk and reporting frameworks for corporates and financial institutions are increasingly requiring measurement and disclosure of biodiversity impacts.

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, through the Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation Thematic Group (IMEC), has produced a Technical Paper which lists principles, definitions and recommended actions for use by companies, governments and civil society.

ACKNOWLEDGING the contributions of the IUCN Commissions and Members in contributing to the review of the Measuring Nature Positive: The IUCN approach document, between November 2023 and March 2024:

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, UAE:**

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to:
    a. Enhance delivery of rapid, high-integrity contributions to the achievement of Nature Positive by companies, civil society and governments, through outreach across components of the Union and the increased uptake of approaches including those developed by IUCN;
    b. Support Union-wide efforts to improve and support the development of market-led mechanisms (including biodiversity or nature credits) to deliver positive contributions towards Nature Positive, including as informed by IUCN;
    c. Encourage members to engage with companies and governments to plan, set targets and deliver rapid, high integrity contributions to achieving Nature Positive;

2. CALLS on States, international agencies, and multilateral biodiversity financing bodies to:
    a. Support the development of regulatory and policy frameworks that encourage or compel companies to make high-integrity contributions to achieving Nature Positive including through actions aligned with the KMGBF, in particular Goal A on species and ecosystems;
    b. Work closely with companies to screen, set targets for and rapidly deliver high-integrity contributions to achieving Nature Positive;
    c. Ensure that contributions claimed towards Nature Positive align with best practice including equal and active participation of all stakeholders in formulation and delivery of contributions, and compliance with the highest standards of participation and consultation, and the core principles (Annex 1).

Annex 1: Best practice, including equal and active participation of all stakeholders in formulation and delivery of contributions, compliance with the highest standards of participation and consultation, and core principles, as summarised in the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management IMEC Working Group's paper Nature -positive for business: Developing a common approach.

i. Nature as a whole: Adopt targets which capture all realms of nature upon which the business impacts and depends, balancing trade-offs to ensure that nature benefits.

ii. Avoid and mitigate: Apply the mitigation hierarchy and focus on impact avoidance and minimisation measures, and work to achieving a net gain for all elements of nature negatively impacted by operational activities and material impacts in the value chains.

iii. Holistic actions: Extend actions to encompass landscape-level thinking, up- and down- stream impacts and dependencies; and include sector-wide efforts to 'transform' and drive systemic change.

iv. Aligned with global goals: Apply measurable, science-based targets that are consistent with global goals (e.g., the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals).

v. Mainstreaming: Integrate nature and the importance of biodiversity into the decision-making processes of the business, from board room down, into the operations, risk and financial decision making, and into the value chains.

vi. Collaborative: Identify and engage with stakeholders within landscapes, sectors and value chains that will enable and support nature positive outcomes.

vii. Adaptive: Apply effective monitoring of the state and pressure on nature across landscapes and value chains with a clear process for triggering adaptive management responses.

viii. Transparent: Introduce commitments and targets that are externally communicated and backed up by credible, clear, and replicable approaches to measurement.

ix. Just: Deliver safeguards and activities that respect the important role, contributions, rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

x. Measurable: Adopt clear and demonstrable measurement and accounting of losses and gains, for operational level commitments (e.g., net gain or net positive impact) and within the value chain.

**World Conservation Congress 2024**

**Draft Council sponsored motion on "Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programs for climate mitigation**"

## Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability documenting the impacts of climate change-induced hazards and risks to terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on Mitigation of Climate Change describing the current trends of climate mitigation and adoption of climate mitigation technologies and policy instruments, as well as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) and the joint Scientific outcome of the IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change (2021) report the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem loss resulting in the increase of greenhouse gas emissions and urging synergistic climate and biodiversity action to protect and restore carbon and species-rich ecosystems.

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, global climate mitigation policies have been promoted for achieving net-zero emission reduction targets by 2050. To that end, many countries are adopting carbon pricing and trading mechanisms as key financial instruments. Globally, around 70 Carbon Pricing Instruments (CPIs), including 37 carbon taxes and 34 Emission Trading Systems (ETSs), are now in operation, covering around 23% of the total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since 2007, regulated and voluntary carbon crediting programs have issued around 4.7 billion tCO2e credits. Until 2017, the major share of the carbon credits came through the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). However, after 2017, non-UN carbon credit platforms, such as the California Compliance Offset Program, Verified Carbon Standard (Verra), Gold Standard, and Climate Action Reserve (CAR), have become major global carbon credit market players.

At UNFCCC COP 29 rules to guide the market mechanisms of the Paris Agreement (Articles 6.2 and 6.4) were approved - notwithstanding State Party concerns about the process. Deep concerns were expressed by civil society about the adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring permanence and additionality of carbon credits, in particular, those based on removing carbon from the atmosphere; the lack of periodic scientific, risk-based assessments of mitigation outcomes; high risks to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity from some allowable removal activities such as large scale bioenergy plantations and marine geoengineering; and inadequate safeguards for human rights and community wellbeing. Several parties supported a proposal to include chapeaux text on the need for land-based activities under Article 6 to align with the K-M GBF (as per 1/CMA5, para 33), but it did not survive.

At CBD COP 16 the decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change emphasized "that biodiversity and ecosystem integrity play an important role in combating climate change", acknowledged "the essential functional role of biodiversity in underpinning the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services" and that "protecting and restoring ecological integrity contributes to addressing both climate change and biodiversity loss, and its impacts" (CBD 16/22).

Given the likely rapid expansion of projects under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the already evident rapid expansion of CPIs, there is an urgent need to improve guidance for all financial and trading mechanisms and increase understanding of the functional role of biodiversity and

ecological integrity in the provision of all ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and, most importantly, long-term carbon retention.

Thousands of carbon mitigation projects have been registered with the ETSs and voluntary carbon offset programs. Most of these projects are focused on energy and industrial sectors, with less volume on natural ecosystem-related sectors such as forests and wetlands, except in REDD+ programs, which exclusively deal with the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector.

Minimizing the risk of losing ecosystem carbon to the atmosphere is dependent on achieving two goals simultaneously: (1) protecting and restoring the integrity and stability of natural ecosystems and, in particular, of carbon-dense ecosystems, and (2) rapidly reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Ecosystem integrity and the natural patterns, composition and structure of biodiversity underpin integrity is an essential pre-requisite for successful (low risk & relatively stable) carbon sequestration and storage in ecosystems. While the removal of carbon by ecosystems is not a substitute for reducing emissions from fossil fuels, it is important to try to retain and, where feasible, recover lost ecosystem carbon stocks.

Carbon markets could contribute to scale-up investments in nature-based climate solutions by reducing emissions or removing tCO2e, which would help reduce global warming and ultimately benefit human well-being and the natural environment. Nevertheless, concerns about the negative impacts of carbon-crediting projects on natural ecosystems and biodiversity are increasing. Clear priorities for Natural Climate Solutions need to be established. Too few projects foster carbon retention in primary forests and other carbon-dense ecosystems undamaged by modern industrial impacts. Encouraging the natural regeneration of carbon-dense ecosystems to buffer, reconnect and help protect existing natural ecosystems and their carbon stocks would reduce risks to restoration and protection efforts, as would ensuring reforestation efforts are focused on previously forested land and recovering the species they once supported.

Renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, and hydropower plants, which constitute a large share of carbon mitigation projects, are detrimental to ecosystems when ecological integrity, connectivity and natural habitats are destroyed, reducing ecosystem stability and adversely impacting biodiversity, including wildlife (e.g., birds, bats, fisheries) and impeding wildlife movement.

A recent review by Shah et al. (2024) suggests that while carbon crediting programmes and their methodologies and standards for carbon accounting have progressed, they frequently do not adequately address biodiversity conservation and broader sustainability issues. To safeguard ecosystems, minimize risks to carbon sequestration and storage and enhance biodiversity conservation, a paradigm shift is required in the design of mitigation crediting programmes. Carbon mitigation benefits from natural ecosystems must be considered a co-benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation programs, not vice versa. All carbon mitigation (and wider climate mitigation) projects must be designed to ensure triple-balanced outcomes: climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and social well-being. To appropriately achieve these outcomes, key steps include reviewing and realigning existing policies on carbon pricing and revenue sharing, benefit sharing, and outcomes monitoring for climate mitigation schemes.

The IUCN's Commissions and Members have made significant contributions to advancing the integration of biodiversity conservation into climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Their work has been instrumental in shaping policies and frameworks that emphasize the need for biodiversity to be central in addressing the climate crisis. These contributions align with the

broader international goals outlined in key United Nations initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), and the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Additionally, the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (2017–2030) and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 2022 provide vital frameworks for conservation action, with the findings from the 2023 Global Stocktake underscoring the urgency of integrated approaches.

Looking ahead, the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) will play a pivotal role in advancing scientific knowledge to support the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in areas related to climate change and biodiversity. This initiative aims to leverage science as a tool for addressing global sustainability challenges, with a focus on biodiversity conservation.

A critical area for integration is the Agriculture, Forest, and Other Land-Use (AFOLU) sector, including Blue Carbon initiatives, which are central to the implementation of carbon market policies and pricing instruments. It is crucial that these sectors fully incorporate biodiversity conservation into their strategies, aligning with national and international policies that aim to mitigate climate change while safeguarding ecosystems. In this context, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are responsible for achieving the goals of the GBF, with governments playing a key leadership role. This includes developing policies and frameworks that manage natural resources sustainably and protect biodiversity, particularly in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems under their control.

**Proposed motion**

**WCC-2024-Res-XXX-EN**

**Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programs for climate mitigation**

NOTING the urgent need to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity as essential actions for climate mitigation and adaptation;

CONSIDERING the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which sets ambitious 2030 biodiversity conservation targets alongside climate change considerations (Target 8);

WELCOMING CBD decision 16/22 on Climate and Biodiversity supporting synergistic actions and emphasizing the role of biodiversity in climate mitigation and adaptation while calling for greater policy coherence between the Rio Conventions;

FURTHER WELCOMING UNFCCC decision 1/CMA 5 on the Global Stocktake highlighting the importance of nature conservation in line with the GBF;

RECALLING that the Paris Agreement (2015) sets out emission reduction targets and carbon crediting mechanisms, as well as the Kyoto Protocol (1998) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);

EMPHASISING that fossil fuel extraction and burning are the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions and that achieving net-zero emissions requires economy-wide measures as well

as market and non-market Carbon Pricing Instruments to limit warming to 1.5 degrees and minimise the risk of reversal;

CONSIDERING that renewable energy projects may pose risks to ecosystems and biodiversity at local and regional levels;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that nature-based carbon projects could harm ecosystems, potentially outweighing their climate benefits and increasing risks to carbon storage; BUT STILL NOTING their significant potential to help achieve global temperature reduction goals.

RECOGNIZING the potential conflict with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' rights and challenges for ensuring social and environmental safeguards in those projects;

RECALLING previous resolutions on integrated solutions to climate and biodiversity crises, renewable energy development, and climate change mitigation: Resolution 114.2020, Resolution 056.2016, Resolution 172.2012 and Resolution 4.076.2008;

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2024, at its session in Abu Dhabi, UAE:**

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to:
    a. Develop policy and guidelines for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem conservation into climate mitigation projects, particularly those generating carbon credits, to ensure biodiversity integrity.
2. CALLS on States, international agencies, and multilateral climate financing bodies to:
    a. Ensure biodiversity protection and ecosystem integrity are central to climate mitigation and adaptation actions, policies and projects, incorporating biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem integrity indicators and ecosystem management practices into carbon crediting and trading systems;
    b. Use the UN Statistical Commission's natural reference level (UNSEEA 2021) to reflect the value of intact ecosystems and the recovery of degraded ones and adopt full-cost accounting for carbon mitigation projects, considering biodiversity loss, conservation costs and ecosystem storage risks;
    c. Adopt the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, ensuring safeguards for biodiversity and rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities;
    d. Increase funding for biodiversity conservation to address future threats caused by climate mitigation projects;
3. INVITES governments and donors to enhance support for research and awareness raising on the impacts of climate mitigation initiatives on biodiversity, particularly regarding global carbon credit trading, and the trade-offs in benefit-sharing and sustainability for affected communities.

**Annex – XX: IUCN COP28 Technical Brief**

**Prepared by the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (November 2023)**

**Climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation**

## Summary

A significant proportion of carbon mitigation projects implemented through market mechanisms (e.g., trading and offset) have a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, forestry, transport, and industry sectors. At the same time, new natural climate solutions including ecosystem-based carbon credit projects are emerging rapidly. The global increase in carbon mitigation efforts raises concerns about their potentially adverse impacts on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Recent experience shows that while the carbon market approaches have progressed methodologies and standards for carbon accounting, they frequently do not address biodiversity conservation and wider sustainability issues adequately. **To safeguard ecosystems and enhance biodiversity conservation, we suggest a paradigm shift in carbon mitigation policies. Carbon mitigation benefits from natural ecosystems should be considered as a co-benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation programs, not the other way around.** All carbon mitigation (and wider climate mitigation) projects must be designed to ensure triple-balanced outcomes: carbon mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and social wellbeing. To reliably achieve these outcomes, key steps include the review and realigning of existing policies on carbon pricing and revenue sharing, benefit sharing, and outcomes monitoring for climate mitigation schemes.

## Background

Global climate mitigation policies are promoting a radical shift in emission reduction activities to achieve net-zero targets by 2050. Carbon market mechanisms are being adopted as key instruments in national and regional climate mitigation policies. From early initiatives such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) they now extend to many other forms of market instruments including Emission Trading Systems (ETS) (i.e., allowance-based cap-and-trade system), carbon taxes, and voluntary carbon crediting and offset programs (i.e., producing carbon credits through project-based carbon emission reduction or sequestration). Alongside this focus on carbon mitigation, however, new concerns are emerging that suggest the need for improved integration with biodiversity and ecosystem management objectives.

## Global carbon mitigation: carbon pricing and trading programs

Globally, as of April 2022, there are 71 Carbon Pricing Instruments (CPIs), including 37 carbon taxes and 34 ETSs, covering around 23% of total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (World Bank, 2022). Most of the CPIs are implemented in Europe and North American regions. East and Southeast Asian (e.g., China, Japan, South Korea) and South American (e.g., Brazil, Argentina) countries have implemented (or scheduled) either carbon tax or ETSs at national or sub-national level. In the Oceania region, New Zealand has adopted ETS, while Australia has chosen to promote carbon crediting mechanisms instead of ETS. Most of the African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian countries (e.g., India, Bangladesh) and Russia are yet to develop and implement a carbon tax or ETS. Around USD 84 billion of carbon pricing revenue was collected globally in 2021, two-thirds of which came from ETSs (World Bank, 2022).

Most of the ETSs are applied to major sectors that produce emissions including power generation, industry, domestic aviation, transport, buildings, and waste. The forestry sector is included only in the New Zealand ETS. Most of the ETSs consider only CO2 emissions, ignoring other greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) which have high global warming potential from relatively small emission levels.

Alongside ETS and carbon taxes, carbon crediting programs and voluntary carbon offset programs are playing a major role in the global carbon market. Around 4.7 billion tCO2e of carbon credits have been issued since 2007 through carbon credit programs (World Bank, 2022). Until 2017, the major share of the carbon credits came through international CDM. However, after 2017, independent carbon credit platforms have become the major players in the global carbon credit market. Meanwhile, domestic carbon credit mechanisms have also grown in recent years, as have the voluntary markets which cater to aspects such as voluntary offsetting or direct investment in climate change mitigation as contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR) or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategies. Most of the carbon crediting mechanisms are geared towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, forestry, transport, and industry sectors. Although carbon offset programs exist alongside the carbon tax and ETS programs, only a limited portion of credits from the carbon offset programs can be utilized in ETS programs depending on the rules of the ETSs.

**Natural ecosystems considered in carbon mitigation programs**

The carbon crediting programs established around the world are generally focusing on energy and industrial sectors, with less attention to natural ecosystem-related sectors such as forests and wetlands, except in the REDD+ program which exclusively deals with the forest sector. However, as new natural climate solutions are emerging, natural ecosystem-based carbon credit projects can be expected to increase in the future. Forest management projects including afforestation and reforestation, improved forest management, urban forest/tree plantation, or savanna forest management are already included in many carbon credit programs including the California Compliance Offset Program, Verified Carbon Standard (Verra), American Carbon Registry (ACR), and Climate Action Reserve (CAR). Grassland management projects are included in some carbon credit programs (e.g., ACR, CAR, Verra) and peatland restoration projects have been registered by Verra. ACR has registered some offset projects involving coastal and deltaic wetlands. Some voluntary offset programs (e.g., Plan Vivo and Social Carbon) are also trying to include other ecological sectors and issues in their offset programs, with examples including attention to algal blooms in marine environments, private conservation areas, and areas of biodiversity importance. However, these initiatives are mostly at the conceptual and methodological development stage and no projects have yet been registered. As agricultural land use is one of the largest sources of GHG emission, some activities related to agro-ecosystems, such as rice cultivation, soil enrichment, nitrogen management, and agricultural land management, may be also considered by the carbon credit markets and offset programs.

**Biodiversity conservation issues in carbon mitigation programs**

Carbon mitigation projects may have adverse effects on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Renewable energy projects including wind, solar, and hydropower plants, which constitute a large share of carbon mitigation projects, have been found to be detrimental to wildlife biodiversity (e.g., birds, bats, fisheries) if their habitat is disturbed by the project activities.

For example, apart from killing of birds by collision with turbines, noise pollution from wind turbines is one of the main concerns that can affect wildlife through influences on survival mechanisms, socializing, or reproductive processes (Bennun et al., 2021). Solar power plants can cause the

destruction of natural habitats, death of birds and other animals due to collision with solar photo voltaic (PV) panels and transmission lines, or drowning in the evaporation ponds of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) type solar plants. Additionally, the materials required for technologies and infrastructure such as turbines or solar panels are often sourced from the mining of rare earth materials, and these activities can have adverse environmental impacts (Bennun et al., 2021).

Hydropower projects that are incentivized by some carbon mitigation programs may have a significant impact on downstream hydrology, ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife. Afforestation/Reforestation or forest management related carbon mitigation projects, which are implemented through all the carbon market mechanisms, are generally thought to have a positive impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. However, there is growing evidence that afforestation/reforestation programs may facilitate the replacement of high biodiversity forests (and other ecosystem types) by less diversified plant communities such as exotic monocultures (New Zealand Government, 2022). Grassland management projects for carbon mitigation may improve biodiversity in grassland ecosystems but there remains concern around specific impacts on some species (e.g., arthropods). In comparison, wetland and peatland carbon projects can provide a wide range of co-benefits including fish and wildlife habitat protection, with very few potentially negative impacts having been documented in the literature. The biodiversity impacts of agro-ecosystem carbon projects are relatively poorly understood, and this is a fast-moving area of research and development that requires urgent attention.

Recent experience shows that while the carbon market approaches have progressed methodologies and standards for carbon accounting, they frequently do not address biodiversity conservation and wider sustainability issues adequately. Based on a global review of the current state of these approaches we identified five major issues that contribute to these concerns: (a) a lack of biodiversity assessment in the design phase, and monitoring in the operational phase of carbon mitigation programs, (b) inappropriate pricing for carbon credits from nature-based carbon offset projects, (c) gaps in GHG accounting systems of nature-based carbon mitigation projects, (d) inadequate allocation of carbon taxes and direct finance revenues for biodiversity conservation, and (e) lack of appropriate policies and regulations for benefit sharing among stakeholders.

## Way forward

In most sectors, a paradigm shift in the practice of planning and implementing carbon mitigation projects is necessary to address biodiversity and ecosystem management issues alongside climate objectives. Specifically, we recommend a shift towards accounting for carbon benefits from natural ecosystems as a co-benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, not the other way around. Since carbon regulation is one of the key ecosystem services provided by nature, we should maintain ecosystem integrity and support biodiversity conservation as a first priority that takes precedence over opportunities to harness carbon credits. At the same time, it is critical that carbon mitigation projects are designed to support social well-being. Improved systems for the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of project outcomes towards these three objectives (carbon mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and social wellbeing) are necessary to ensure the accountability of individual projects.

**We make the following key recommendations to address the biodiversity and sustainability concerns in carbon mitigation projects and market mechanisms:**

- **Upgrade current policies** and regulations for carbon crediting and carbon trading systems to incorporate biodiversity enhancement and conservation issues
- **Develop full-cost accounting and pricing methods** for carbon mitigation projects and programs
- **Develop and implement fit-for-purpose biodiversity assessments** for the evaluation and monitoring of carbon mitigation projects
- **Avoid or minimize impacts on biodiversity** hotspots
- **Allocate more funds** from the carbon tax and ETS revenues from ETS **to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management** with a focus on addressing legacy issues and future threats to the integrity of key ecosystems
- **Incorporate equitable and well-defined benefit-sharing mechanisms** in the design and implementation of carbon mitigation projects

**Further information can be found at:**

Bennun, L., van Bochove, J., Ng, C., Fletcher, C., Wilson, D., Phair, N., Carbone, G. (2021). Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development. Guidelines for project developers. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Cambridge, UK: The Biodiversity Consultancy.

ICAP. (2022). Emissions Trading Worldwide: Status Report 2022. Berlin: International Carbon Action Partnership.

New Zealand Government. (2022). *Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act 2020. Version as at 6 August 2022*. Wellington: New Zealand Government. Retrieved 12 August 2023 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0022/latest/versions.aspx.

Shah, M.A.R., Orchard, S., Kreuzberg, E., et al. (2024). Climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation: a review of progress and key issues in global carbon markets, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN (draft)

World Bank. (2022). State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2022. World Bank, Washington, DC. Doi: 10.1596/978-1-4648-1895-0.

**WCC 2025 motion xx**

**Confirming the status of the Climate Crisis Commission.**

NOTING WCC-2020-Res-110 which, reflecting IUCN members' deep concerns and growing commitment to urgent climate action, "called on IUCN Members to agree on establishing a new Commission with the working title of 'The Climate Crisis Commission'"; and to this end requested Council to provide guidance on the process to establish an interim Commission Chair and Steering Committee;

APPRECIATING the work done by the IUCN Council in operationalizing the Climate Crisis Commission including appointing an interim Chair, establishing an interim Steering Committee,, adopting the terms of reference, the work plan and the membership recruitment process of the Commission as well as ensuring that the call for nominations launched on the 19th of November 2024 in conformity with Regulations 30 and 37 invited proposals for the Chair of the Climate Crisis Commission and that a draft mandate be submitted to the Congress together with the other Commissions' mandate.

FURTHER APPRECIATING the work of the interim Climate Crisis Commission Chair, interim Steering Committee, members, and thematic groups and their contributions to the work of the Union;

MINDFUL that the climate crisis continues to worsen and that focused and joined-up climate action is needed urgently to meet the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal and the global goal on adaptation; deliver on the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and to deliver on the mission and vision of IUCN;

FURTHER STRESSING that IUCN has a special role to play in addressing the climate-biodiversity nexus and advancing coherence between multilateral agreements on climate change and biodiversity;

RECOGNIZING the important contributions of the Climate Crisis Commission to the implementation of the IUCN Programme and the Commission's role in promoting synergistic climate action among all Commissions;

CONSIDERS that with the removal of the interim status of the Climate Crisis Commission, its funding shall no longer be limited to "extra-budgetary resources" as was prescribed in paragraph 4 of WCC-2020-Res-110.

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi:**

1. THANKS the IUCN Council and the interim Climate Crisis Commission Chair and interim Steering Committee for their successful efforts in implementing WCC-2020-Res-110 and operationalizing the Climate Crisis Commission;
2. REMOVES the interim status of the Climate Crisis Commission, of the function of Chair and of the Steering Committee;

3. CONFIRMS the name and the establishment of the Climate Crisis Commission as an official Commission in accordance with article 74 of the IUCN Statutes, which includes all the functions of a Commission set forth in Article 75 of the IUCN Statutes and the Regulations;
4. APPROVES the Mandate of the Climate Crisis Commission for the period 2026-2029 (Annex)[1];
5. CONFIRMS that, pursuant to article 74 of the IUCN Statutes, the Climate Crisis Commission shall operate within the framework of IUCN's Programme and Financial Plan approved for the period of 2026-2029; and
6. AGREES that the funding of the Climate Crisis Commission be guided by the Commissions Financial Rules[2] and to that effect, DECLARES obsolete paragraph 4 of WCC-2020-Res-110.

[1] To be annexed to this motion when Council will have approved the draft Mandates of the Commissions at its 113th meeting in May 2025.

[2] The Commissions Financial Rules adopted by Council in accordance with Regulation 83 provide guidance on the management of income raised and expenditure incurred for Commission activities and on the use of Commission Operating Funds (COF), which are approved by Council for each Commission as part of the IUCN annual budget in conformity with article 46 e) of IUCN Statutes.

# Implementation of Resolution WCC-2020-Res-001 *Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews* and new Council-sponsored motion

*Note by the Secretariat*

## I. Background

At the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, IUCN Members adopted Resolution WCC-2016-Res-001 *Identifying and archiving obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations to strengthen IUCN policy and to enhance implementation of IUCN Resolutions*.

This Resolution states that a retirement process is needed in order to allow all components of the Union to:

- **Comprehend and convey** IUCN's large body of policy,
- **Keep track of its implementation,** and
- **Review it thoroughly when preparing motions** to be submitted to Congress.

Subsequently, Members adopted Resolution WCC-2020-Res-001 *Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews* at the 2020 World Conservation Congress. This latter Resolution welcomed the development and application of criteria for identifying implemented, elapsed, superseded or obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations and the creation of an accessible archive. It further endorsed a list of Resolutions and Recommendations to be archived.

This note focuses on operative paragraph 4 of the Resolution, which requests the Council and the Director General to:

> *a. to review and refine the criteria used to initially populate the archive in the light of feedback from the online discussion, to review the implementation of active Resolutions and Recommendations and to recommend to the next Members' Assembly, applying these criteria, a list of Resolutions and Recommendations for retirement and archiving, together with the criterion for which each is to be retired and archived;*
>
> *b. undertake a policy review before the next Members' Assembly of all active Resolutions and Recommendations, and archived Resolutions that have established IUCN policy that remains active and in force, with a view to assembling (and potentially proposing consolidation of) Resolutions that deal with the same or closely related issues to help ensure that IUCN's policy positions are collated, clear and accessible; and*
>
> *c. consider the need for, and modalities of a mechanism for the ongoing review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted in future Members' Assemblies, with a view to moving to the archive those that are implemented, obsolete, or for which a specified interval has elapsed, or a milestone has been achieved, while ensuring their continued policy currency and relevance.*

The purpose of this note is to provide a roadmap and the rationale for the actions needed to implement this Resolution, and options on the way forward.

## II. Implementation of Resolution WCC-2020-Res-001

Paragraph 4.a. requests a review of the criteria used to populate the archive in light of feedback from the online discussion.

Proposed way forward:

- The criteria, as presented in annex 1 of the Resolution, may be amended considering comments from the online discussion, in particular those expressed by the Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO). Once the concerns are addressed, the revised criteria for archiving Resolutions will be made available in the Resolutions and Recommendations Platform.

Rationale:

- The Secretariat is of the view that the 4 criteria remain relevant and that the concerns raised by ECO involve the interpretation and application of the criteria, and therefore any changes would be minor and largely immaterial to the review.

The second part of paragraph 4.a. requests the application of the criteria to active Resolutions and Recommendations and to recommend to the next Members' Assembly, a list of Resolutions and Recommendations for retirement and archiving together with the criterion for which each is to be retired and archived.

Proposed way forward:

- For the 2025 World Conservation Congress, the criteria will be applied to the Resolutions and Recommendations from the last two Congresses – Hawai'i 2016, and Marseille 2020 – and to any other Resolution for which an activity report was submitted, thus providing new information about its implementation.
- The list of the Resolutions and Recommendations for archiving, together with the criterion for which each is to be retired and archived, will be presented as an annex of a Council-sponsored motion on this subject. A draft motion can be found in section IV of the present document; the Annex is still under development and it will be finalised in time for the online discussion of motions. An explanation of this procedure will be included in the explanatory memorandum, in the interest of full transparency.[1]

Rationale:

- Since status of implementation of all Resolutions and Recommendations was considered at the time of the retirement exercise in 2019, it is only possible to apply the criteria to those active Resolutions and Recommendations for which new information regarding their implementation has subsequently become available.

Regarding paragraph 4.b., given the substantial resources that would be involved in a comprehensive policy review, the PPC Task Force and the Secretariat are exploring innovative options, including the use of artificial intelligence. The Secretariat contracted a specialist firm on a pro bono basis to develop an interactive tool – Chat R&R – in which users can query the Resolutions and Recommendations database, and the tool will respond with summaries and other digestible and accessible responses. The tool has undergone initial testing by a small group of Secretariat staff, and will be made available to more users over time.

[1] A similar approach was taken for a Council-sponsored motion for the 2020 Congress. That motion, subsequently adopted as WCC-2020-Res-060, made several requests about promoting the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, which was still under review when the deadline for motion submission passed, but was published and endorsed by Council prior to the online discussion.

Proposed way forward:

- Finalise and slowly rollout the Chat R&R tool to a broader user base. Chat R&R will be able to synthetise and present IUCN policy that deals with the same or closely-related issues in a 'digestible' manner.
- The timeline for the delivery of this tool remains to be determined. However, it is possible to say, with some degree of confidence, that it can be launched in a beta version in the course of 2025.

Rationale:

- The use of technology, in this case artificial intelligence, can greatly support the implementation of this clause, and indeed would address some of the reasons for retiring Resolutions, as the tool would be able to rapidly review the large body of Resolutions and Recommendations, and convey a synthesis of existing policy. A policy review to assemble Resolutions on the same topic would no longer be necessary. Users would be able to ask more specific questions, and on any topic of their choice.

Paragraph 4.c. asks to consider modalities for conducting the revision of the status of implementation of Resolutions with a view to moving to the archive those that meet the criteria.

Proposed way forward:

- There are a number of options to address this provision, with different implications. Three are presented here, though many others could be explored.

    - Option 1: Status quo. Given the considerable amount of resources involved in researching the implementation of all active Resolutions, at every Congress a list of Resolutions to be archived is submitted, considering only the Resolutions of the previous two Congresses and those Resolutions for which new information on their implementation becomes available. However, after a while, without inputs from the various IUCN constituents, it is likely that many active Resolutions would accumulate, because they would not meet any of the criteria for retirement.

    - Option 2: An additional criterion for archiving – a sunset clause – could be considered. As for previous Resolutions and Recommendations, being transferred to the archive would not mean it is no longer valid, but rather that it is not being implemented. This could be conducted on the basis that activity reports have not been submitted after a specified number of years.

    - Option 3: If the Chat R&R tool can synthesise the large number of Resolutions that constitute IUCN's policy, the only criteria for archiving Resolutions would be that they are obsolete or superseded by a newer Resolution. In the latter case, Members would have to indicate at the time of motions submission which Resolution(s) would need to be archived. The artificial intelligence tool would no longer review these Resolutions, since they would no longer be IUCN policy. With regard to the status of implementation, it is assumed that the implementation is always ongoing until proven otherwise, and Members, Commissions and the Secretariat are invited to submit activity reports.

## III. Conclusion

In light of the above, the PPC is invited to consider the draft motion in the section below. The PPC Task Force can recommend that the PPC continue its work on this matter in the next intersessional period.

## IV. DRAFT MOTION

**Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations and making IUCN policy more accessible**

UNDERLINING that Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the World Conservation Congresses and the preceding General Assemblies establish the fundamental body of IUCN policy;

NOTING that a large body of IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations has accumulated and that to date Members have adopted 1,442 Resolutions and Recommendations;

RECALLING Resolutions 7.001 *Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews* (Marseille, 2020) and 6.001 *Identifying and archiving obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations to strengthen IUCN policy and to enhance implementation of IUCN Resolutions* (Hawai'i, 2016); and

RECOGNISING that recent advances in technology, including of artificial intelligence and large language models, have the potential to make IUCN's body of policy more accessible;

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

1. ENDORSES the list of Resolutions and Recommendations to be moved to the archive, including the criterion for which each is to be archived, attached herewith as Annex 1, noting that a number of these Resolutions establish and provide the context for formal IUCN policy that remains current;

2. WELCOMES the progress made by the Task Force on Archiving Resolutions on developing an artificial intelligence tool to allow users to query the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform, in order to better understand what policy is contained therein, and which gaps may remain; and

3. REQUESTS the Council and the Director General to continue to work intersessionally to consider the need and modalities for additional reviews and to support IUCN constituents to make use of new tools to better access the policy elements of IUCN's Resolutions and Recommendations.

# Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)

## Mandate 2026-2029

Under the Union's "One Programme Charter," the Climate Crisis Commission network of volunteer scientists, experts, and managers will contribute to the Union's efforts through various thematic groups, regional groups, specialist groups, and task forces. Collectively, these specialists will provide scientific and authoritative advice to IUCN regarding the Climate Crisis, promoting understanding and the best available science through a rights-based lens to drive change.

With the adoption of the IUCN Programme 2026-2029, the Commission will collaborate closely with IUCN regional and global programmes at the project, country, regional, and global levels. A strong component of the CCC strategy will be promoting collaboration with other Commissions and partners.

1. **Mission**
   The IUCN Climate Crisis Commission develops and shares expert guidance on solutions for limiting global warming that are both appropriate and effective, promoting justice and ecosystem integrity, and grounded in the best available science. This includes upholding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). The IUCN CCC will mobilize and help coordinate the Union's efforts by building and promoting productive and constructive partnerships that foster transformational change.

2. **Vision**
   To work towards a world where global warming is limited to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and society adapts to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are Nature Positive, and promote just outcomes for all.

3. **Goal**
   Advance science-based approaches that are holistic, integrated, and just, in the development and implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation policy and programs.

4. **Objective**
   To promote action on climate, biodiversity, and communities by strengthening pathways to achieve — and go beyond — net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This includes transitioning away from fossil fuels toward clean renewable energy, protecting and restoring the integrity of ecosystems, and supporting the implementation of the IUCN's strategic vision and Programme, including relevant climate change Resolutions from the IUCN World Conservation Congresses

5. **Focus**
   In pursuit of our goal and objective, the Commission, in collaboration with relevant Secretariat programmes, other Commissions, and partners, will work aligned with the IUCN Programme 2026-2029 through the following:

a. Science-based, authoritative advice and guidance will be made available to policymakers and implementing authorities at local to global levels, pertaining to governance and management related to Climate.
b. Advice and guidance to promote credible pathways for achieving net-zero and net-negative emissions, as well as reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.
c. Respecting the traditional knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples, as well as human rights in general.
d. Advance pathways to conserve and protect ecosystems
e. Knowledge Products that respond and develop an information base that promotes climate goals, along with biodiversity and community benefits.

**6. Priorities to deliver the IUCN Programme 2026-2029**

The Climate Crisis Commission's plans for the next intersessional period are framed around priority areas that align with and will contribute to the Programme 2026-2029. The main priority areas are:

a. **Collaborate with IUCN and other partners to promote advice, guidance, and consultation on climate change** and the necessity of reducing anthropogenic emissions from all sources. This includes emphasizing how climate risks escalate with every increment of global warming and the need to provide communities with the capabilities and resources necessary to adapt and become resilient.
b. **Support IUCN initiatives at key multilateral forums** such as UNFCCC COP 30 and others as needed.
c. **Provide information and advice on substantial commitments to phase out fossil fuels, along with recommendations to strengthen and prioritize adaptation strategies** that promote justice, uphold ecosystem integrity, and advance ambitious climate and biodiversity commitments.
d. **Contribute to developing working papers and policy briefs addressing key issues** such as the just energy transition; the synergies between climate and biodiversity, and the harmonization of multilateral frameworks leveraging IUCN's convening power.
e. **Promote the creation of innovative, accessible, and participatory financial mechanisms** that support the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

**7. Structure and organization of the Commission**

**a. Chair, Deputy Chair, and Steering Committee**

The Commission is led by the Chair, whom IUCN Members elect at the IUCN Members' Assembly. The Steering Committee provides leadership and guides the development and implementation of CCC's work through its operational structure, comprising regional and thematic groups, including finance, policy, climate justice, solutions, and innovative approaches.

**b. Membership**

CCC's membership comprises volunteers who are experts in climate and are representative of various professional and geographic areas. The recruitment of young

professionals is also a priority. Members contribute to the Commission's work plan through thematic groups, regions, and, as needed, specialist groups and task forces.

c. **Relation with the IUCN Secretariat**
CCC will collaborate with the Secretariat on activities aligned with the Commission's mandate, and the Director General will designate a focal person for the Commission to implement IUCN's 2026-2029 Programme.

**GCC21 (virtual meeting) - 15 July 2025**
**Applications for Council approval**

**Africa**

| Organisation | Acronym | Country | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ogiek Peoples' Development Program | OPDP | Kenya | http://www.ogiekpeoples.org | IPO | [Member] Indigenous Information Network [Africa] | [Member] African Wildlife Foundation - Kenya HQ [Africa] |
| Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network | IWBN | Kenya | https://iwbn-rmibn.org/ | IPO | [Member] Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena [Meso and South America] | [Member] Indigenous Information Network [Africa] |
| Ujamaa Community Resource Team | UCRT | Tanzania | https://www.ujamaa-crt.or.tz/ | IPO | [Member] Asociación SOTZ`IL [Meso and South America] | [Member] Indigenous Information Network [Africa] |
| Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides | COGEZOH | Niger | http://cogezoh.org/ | NGO | [Member] Association de Gestion des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune de la Comoé-Léraba [Africa] | [Member] Centre Régional de Recherche et d`Education pour un Développement Intégré [Africa] |
| Save Environment and People Agency (SEPA) | SEPA | Zambia | http://www.sepaforzambia.org | NGO | [Member] BirdLife Zimbabwe [Africa] | [Member] Zambia Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum [Africa] |
| Groupe d'Etude et de Protection des Mammifères du Maroc | GEPMAM | Morocco | https://gepmam-org-ma.mystrikingly.com/ | NGO | [Member] Association Marocaine pour la Protection de l`Environnement et le Climat [Africa] | [Member] Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganeraie [Africa] |
| Malawi University of Science and Technology | MUST | Malawi | https://must.ac.mw/ | NGO | [Member] Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust [Africa] | [Member] Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust [Africa] |
| Association Malienne Pour le Développement Rural | AMPDR-ONG | Mali | | NGO | [Committee] Comité national des Membres de l'UICN du Mali [Africa] | [Member] Association Malienne pour la conservation de la faune et de son environnement [Africa] |
| Coordination Union for the Rehabilitation of the Environment | CURE | Malawi | http://cure-mw.org | NGO | [Member] Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi [Africa] | [Member] Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust [Africa] |
| Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire en RDC | ANAPAC - RDC | Congo (DROC) | https://anapacrdc.org/ | IPO | [Member] Indigenous Information Network [Africa] | [Member] Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature [Africa] |
| Association IRADA pour le développement de Tozeur | IRADA Tozeur | Tunisia | https://www.iradatozeur.org/ | NGO | [Member] Green Compass [Africa] | [Member] Exploralis [Africa] |
| Tropenbos Ghana | TBG | Ghana | http://www.tropenbosghana.org/ | NGO | [Member] A ROCHA GHANA [Africa] | [Member] Nature Conservation Research Centre [Africa] |

**East Europe, North and Central Asia**

| Organisation | Acronym | Country | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zoologická zahrada hl. m. Prahy | Prague Zoo | Czech Republic | https://www.zoopraha.cz/ | NGO | [Member] European Association of Zoos and Aquaria [West Europe] | [Member] Ministerstvo životního prostředí [East Europe, North and Central Asia] |

**Meso and South America**

| Organisation | Acronym | Country | Website | Category | Endorser name 1 | Endorser name 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y El Caribe | RMIB-LAC | Panama | https://rmib-lac.org/ | IPO | [Member] Asociación SOTZ`IL [Meso and South America] | [Member] Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena [Meso and South America] |
| Red Indigena de Turismo de México | RITA | Mexico | http://www.rita.com.mx/ | IPO | [Member] Asociación SOTZ`IL [Meso and South America] | [Member] Asociación Ak'Tenamit [Meso and South America] |
| Centro de Aprendizaje para la Conservación en Sarapiquí | CECOS | Costa Rica | http://learningcentercostarica.org | NGO | [Member] Asociación de Organizaciones del Corredor Biológico Talamanca Caribe [Meso and South America] | [Member] Preserve Planet [Meso and South America] |
| CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE GESTION AMBIENTAL A.C. | LA MANO DEL MONO | Mexico | https://lamanodelmono.org | NGO | [Member] Centro Intercultural de Estudios de Desiertos y Océanos A.C [Meso and South America] | [Member] Reforestamos México A.C. [Meso and South America] |
| Plataforma Integral de Desarrollo Sustentable PIDES | C Minds | Mexico | https://www.cminds.co/ | NGO | [Member] Pronatura Península de Yucatán A.C. [Meso and South America] | [Member] Reforestamos México A.C. [Meso and South America] |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asociación Programas de Gestión Ambiental Local | ASOPROGAL | Guatemala | | NGO | [Member] Asociación Ak'Tenamit [Meso and South America] | [Member] FUNDAECO- Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación [Meso and South America] |
| **North America and the Caribbean** | | | | | | |
| **Organisation** | **Acronym** | **Country** | **Website** | **Category** | **Endorser name 1** | **Endorser name 2** |
| Reserva: The Youth Land Trust | Reserva | United States of America | http://www.reservaylt.org | NGO | [Member] Fundación EcoMinga [Meso and South America] | [Member] The Explorers Club [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Urban Biodiversity Hub | UBHub | Canada | https://www.ubhub.org | NGO | [Member] The Nature Conservancy [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] Secretaría del Medio Ambiente del Gobierno de la Ciudad de México [Meso and South America] |
| National Audubon Society | | United States of America | https://www.audubon.org | INGO | [Member] BirdLife International [West Europe] | [Member] Ducks Unlimited Canada [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Point Blue Conservation Science | | United States of America | https://www.pointblue.org/ | NGO | [Member] San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] The Nature Conservancy of Canada [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Springs Stewardship Institute | SSI | United States of America | https://springstewardshipinstitute.org/ | NGO | [Member] Re:wild [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] St. Louis Zoological Park [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Seattle Aquarium | | United States of America | https://www.seattleaquarium.org/ | NGO | [Member] Association of Zoos and Aquariums [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] Wildlife Conservation Society [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Global Choices | | United States of America | https://globalchoices.org/ | NGO | [Member] SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE (DBA MISSION BLUE) [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] Stop Ecocide International Ltd [West Europe] |
| **Oceania** | | | | | | |
| **Organisation** | **Acronym** | **Country** | **Website** | **Category** | **Endorser name 1** | **Endorser name 2** |
| Hamilton City Council | | New Zealand | https://hamilton.govt.nz/ | SN | | |
| **South and East Asia** | | | | | | |
| **Organisation** | **Acronym** | **Country** | **Website** | **Category** | **Endorser name 1** | **Endorser name 2** |
| Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute | KoAGI | Korea (RK) | https://www.koagi.or.kr/ | GA | | |
| Suncheon City | | Korea (RK) | https://www.suncheon.go.kr | SN | | |
| Seub Nakhasathien Foundation | SNF | Thailand | http://www.seub.or.th | NGO | [Member] Freeland Foundation [South and East Asia] | [Member] Regional Community Forestry Training Center [South and East Asia] |
| FORESTS AND LIVELIHOOD ORGANIZATION | FLO | Cambodia | http://www.flocambodia.org | NGO | [Member] Culture and Environment Preservation Association [South and East Asia] | [Member] Fisheries Action Coalition Team [South and East Asia] |
| Indigenous Peoples Rights International | IPRI | Philippines | https://iprights.org/index.php/en/about-ipri/who-we-are | IPO | [Member] Forest Peoples Programme [West Europe] | [Member] Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme Asia [South and East Asia] |
| **West Europe** | | | | | | |
| **Organisation** | **Acronym** | **Country** | **Website** | **Category** | **Endorser name 1** | **Endorser name 2** |
| Oceano Azul Foundation | FOA | Portugal | https://www.oceanoazulfoundation.org/ | NGO | [Member] National Geographic Society [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] World Wide Fund for Nature - International [West Europe] |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conserve Global | None, the shortened form is Conserve | United Kingdom | https://conserveglobal.earth/ | INGO | [Member] Margaret Pyke Trust [West Europe] | [Member] International Crane Foundation, Inc. [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Dublin Zoo | | Ireland | https://www.dublinzoo.ie/ | NGO | [Member] Bristol Clifton and West of England Zoological Society [West Europe] | [Member] The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland [West Europe] |
| Zoo Landau in der Pfalz | Zoo Landau | Germany | https://www.zoo-landau.de | NGO | [Member] Zoologischer Garten Köln [West Europe] | [Member] Wilhelma, Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten Stuttgart [West Europe] |
| Alpenzoo Innsbruck-Tirol | | Austria | https://www.alpenzoo.at/ | NGO | [Member] The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland [West Europe] | [Member] Wilhelma, Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten Stuttgart [West Europe] |
| Association des Naturalistes de la Vallée du Loing et du massif de Fontainebleau | ANVL | France | http://www.anvl.fr/ | NGO | [Committee] Comité national de l'UICN, France [West Europe] | [Member] Office pour les insectes et leur environment [West Europe] |
| Botanic Gardens Conservation International | BGCI | United Kingdom | https://www.bgci.org/ | INGO | [Member] Atlanta Botanical Garden [North America and the Caribbean] | [Member] Chicago Botanic Garden [North America and the Caribbean] |
| Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas | FIRE | Spain | https://fundacionfire.org/la-fire/ | NGO | [Member] Fundación Oxigeno [West Europe] | [Member] Fundación Global Nature [West Europe] |
| Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia | | Spain | https://www.carm.es/ | SN | | |