

# Action Plan for the Governance and Constituency Committee Task Force on Decision 145

Text approved by the 113th meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2025

## OBJECTIVE

IUCN's National, Regional and Interregional Committees (IUCN Member Committees) are regional and national contact points for IUCN and each have the potential to be intermediaries, brokers and negotiators; significant conveners and networkers; conduits of information between all IUCN components; vehicles for membership recruitment and retention; and multi-directional communication mechanisms, in addition to being project deliverers, advertisers and fundraisers, within the constraints, capacities and opportunities available to IUCN Members in each country or region.

The draft IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision already identifies an increasing responsibility on IUCN Member Committees, an emphasis which the final version is expected to confirm. To enable such a workload to be delivered, largely by voluntary means, this action plan aims to help all IUCN Member Committees grow stronger, to facilitate their engagement in the work of the Union and support them in becoming an even more valuable and effective part of the Union.

A key challenge for the future is to strengthen the recognition and representativeness of IUCN Member Committees – and particularly of their Chairs – at national and regional levels assigned to them by IUCN. This involves advancing a shared understanding within the Union of the roles of legitimacy, leadership and coordination that Committees are expected to play. Clarifying these dimensions will reinforce their ability to act as effective interlocutors with external stakeholders and as strategic actors within IUCN.

## BACKGROUND

Members at the World Conservation Congress 2021 requested Council to reflect on the requirements for establishing National Committees, Regional Committees and Interregional Committees (IUCN Member Committees), including proposed actions to strengthen Council's oversight of Committees to ensure their transparency, independence and integrity (see [World Conservation Congress 2020 Decision 145](#)).

The Governance and Constituency Committee Task Force on Decision 145 was appointed to carry out this work and began by carrying out a survey into the 'establishment, operations and oversight of National, Regional and Interregional Committees'. With the support of the Regional Conservation Fora, Councillors from the Region, the Secretariat and the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development, 75% of IUCN Committees

responded between June and December 2024. The findings of the survey, with analysis and interpretation from the GCC Task Force, the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development (GG), and the Secretariat's Membership and Commission Support Unit (MCSU), underpin this open-ended action plan. The GCC Task Force will take the lead on implementing the action plan with the support of GG and MCSU. As a first step, the GCC Task Force updated the [Operational Guide for IUCN National and Regional Committees](#) in consultation with the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development.

## **ACTION PLAN**

### **A. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**

- 1.** a. Conduct in-depth analysis of the results of the IUCN Member Committee survey in order to better understand how they operate and what activities will provide the greatest support and catalyst to the work of these highly diverse Committees.  
b. Supplement this analysis with further research into what Members need from their Committees and what would engage them most with their National, Regional or Interregional Committee. Understanding the capacity-building needs of IUCN Member Committees is paramount to progressing this initiative and this research will underpin future development of this action plan strategy.  
(Completed by October 2026)
- 2.** In order to better understand the important work of each Committee, the GCC Task Force will develop a template for annual reporting along with a clear timeline for its annual completion and a clear understanding of what the information will be used for. (Completed by October 2026)
- 3.** In the spirit of the One Programme Approach and to improve the recognition of the work of IUCN Member Committees and increase their profile as valuable components of the Union, a communications strategy for IUCN Member Committees will be produced in collaboration with the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development. (Completed by October 2026)

### **B. GUIDANCE AND ADVICE**

- 4.** In order to equip Committees with information and guidance to achieve their goals, the 2014 [Creating and managing an IUCN National Committee in Europe Toolkit](#) will be developed and updated into a: Creating and managing an IUCN National Committee Toolkit. Subsequently, a toolkit will be produced for IUCN Regional Committees. (Completed by June 2026)

5. In addition, the Global Directory of National and Regional Committees will be revised and maintained as an up to date register of Member Committee and Country Focal Point Contacts.
6. Ensure any recommended actions take into account the different memberships of Committees (which currently ranges from 2 to 148 Members), the different stages of development of a Committee (ranging from new to well-established), and the three different types of Committee (National, Regional, and Interregional).
7. Understanding that some Committees have benefited from registering as a legal entity, analyse the pros and cons of a Committee having a legal status and communicate the results of the analysis and any advice to all Committees. (Completed by March 2026)

### **C. RESOURCING AND NEXT STEPS**

Mindful of IUCN Statute #71 that Member Committees are self-governing and shall not impose financial obligations or liabilities upon IUCN, the following actions on resourcing will be implemented:

8. To ensure that the action plan is implementable, an analysis of prospective costs and benefits will be undertaken, followed by a request that Council encourages the implementation of the action plan. (Completed by November 2025)
9. In close association with the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development, work will begin on developing recommendations for a resourcing strategy for IUCN Member Committees to raise funds from third parties to further the work of IUCN (Commencing June 2025)
10. Recognising the strengths in both the diversity of Committees and their decentralised role, the action plan along with a timeline of deliverables will be widely consulted on with IUCN Member Committees and interested Members, including at a Forum event at the World Conservation Congress (if successfully selected), in order to maximise the usefulness, applicability and implementation of its actions. (Completed by October 2025)
11. Request the IUCN Council 2026 to 2029 to continue the work of developing the action plan and making IUCN Member Committees become an even more valuable and effective part of the Union. (Ongoing)