



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

115th Meeting of the IUCN Council (C115)

Abu Dhabi, 8 October 2025

Decisions

Approval of the Agenda

COUNCIL DECISION C115/1

The IUCN Council,
Adopts the Agenda of its 115th Meeting. (Annexe 1)

Amendment to Article 85 of the Regulations

COUNCIL DECISION C115/2

The IUCN Council,
On the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC),
Adopts, in second and final reading, the proposed amendment to Regulation 85 concerning the Legal Adviser approved by Council in first reading in May 2025 (Decision C113/25) as revised in light of the comments received from IUCN Members in accordance with Articles 101-103 of the Statutes. (Annexe 2)

Truth and Reconciliation

COUNCIL DECISION C115/3

The IUCN Council,

Recalling that Resolution 119 “*Renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery to Rediscover Care for Mother Earth*”, gave a focused mandate to Council to establish an IUCN Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, to explore and explain best practices for involving Indigenous Peoples in co-stewardship of protected natural areas, conservation of nature, and sustainable use of species, and other appropriate activities for the care of Mother Earth;

Noting the three background papers produced for Council consideration—one presented at the 113th Council meeting and two additional papers presented at the 114th Council meeting:

- Truth and Reconciliation Briefing for Council: Context, Rationale, and Pathways Forward; (Document C113/9)
- Expanded Evidence, Imperatives, Progress, and Recommendations for an IUCN Truth and Reconciliation Process (Document C114/5/1); and
- Preliminary Brief: Exploring Indigenous led & Collaborative Stewardship in the Context of IUCN (Document C114/5/2)

Recognizing that IUCN is well placed to take a leading role in advancing accountability and justice within the conservation sector, and - where appropriate - in promoting dialogue and practice toward reconciliation across the sector.

Acknowledging that reconciliation in conservation must be forward-looking, fostering new paradigms that value Indigenous leadership while strengthening unity across the Union.

Noting that Council’s present decision is intended to support continued dialogue and learning on this subject, based in the mandate in Resolution 119 without prejudging the outcome of any motion relating to this topic submitted for consideration of the upcoming 2025 World Conservation Congress, such as motion 138 entitled “*Recognising unequivocally and effectively supporting the crucial*”

conservation role of territories of life and their custodians” or any other related motion to this topic; and further noting that if adopted, such motion(s) will inform subsequent actions by the next Council or Secretariat

Decides to:

- Invite IUCN Members to share with the new IUCN Council reflections and input on pathways for reconciliation and co-stewardship based on the two documents submitted for the C114 Council meeting (C114/5/1 and C114/5/2), in line with Resolution 119 and any resolutions that may emerge from the 2025 Congress connected to this topic.
- Invite the Council to consider the following when implementing any Resolutions adopted by the Members’ Assembly related to truth and reconciliation.
 - Advance dialogue and collaborative work on developing an Indigenous-led co-stewardship framework, guided by the leadership and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities¹, based on IUCN’s approach to truth and reconciliation and shared governance.
 - Encourage the Secretariat to support across Headquarters, Regional, and Country Offices, so that reconciliation processes – where applicable – help ensure that they are coherent, aligned, and responsive to regional realities; and
 - Undertake a participatory review of existing mechanisms for grievance and redress, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations, practitioners, and the Secretariat, taking into account international standards and alignment with IUCN’s principles of inclusivity and accountability.

Membership of the 2025 Congress Committees

COUNCIL DECISION C115/4

The IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC),

Approves the proposed names for the membership of the 2025 Congress Committees.

(Annexe 3)

Observers to Congress

COUNCIL DECISION C115/5

The IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC), and pursuant to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedures of the World Conservation Congress and Council Decision C113/13,

Invites the Ārramāt organization to be represented by Observers at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

¹ Formulation recommended by the Resolutions Committee of the 2025 Congress issued on 9 October 2025

in person, Abu Dhabi, 8 October 2025, 14:00-17:00 local time
Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Hall 4B and 4C

In this agenda, INF means for information, no discussion/decision required unless Council decides otherwise; DIS means for discussion in view of providing feedback or guidance; DEC means a decision is required

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Existing provisions of the IUCN Regulations	Proposed amendment (with track changes)	Provision as amended (all track changes accepted)
Regulation 85 The Legal Adviser shall be responsible for the provision of legal advice and services to all components of IUCN, and in particular shall advise IUCN regarding (a) the interpretation of the IUCN Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the World Congress, as <i>lex specialis</i>; (b) the status and interests of IUCN under public international law; (c) the legal interests of IUCN under the laws of the nations where the Union operates, through analysis and application of comparative law and private international law; (d) the legal aspects of the relationships established through IUCN's contracts, trademarks, licenses, human resources agreements, service agreements, and other such undertakings.	Regulation 85 The Legal Adviser shall be responsible for the provision of legal advice and services to all components of IUCN, and in particular shall advise IUCN regarding (a) the interpretation of the IUCN Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the World Congress, as <i>lex specialis</i>; (b) the status and interests of IUCN under public international law; (c) the legal interests of IUCN under the laws of the nations where the Union operates, through analysis and application of comparative law and private international law; (d) the legal aspects of the relationships established through IUCN's contracts, trademarks, licenses, human resources agreements, service agreements, and other such undertakings. <u>The Council shall, ordinarily, be assisted on all legal matters by the Legal Advisor. The Council may request legal advice, as necessary and appropriate, and subject at all times to the guidelines adopted by the Council on the modalities and procedures, including the conditions and circumstances therefore, from other qualified legal specialists within the Union, including the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), or from outside counsel.</u>	Regulation 85 The Legal Adviser shall be responsible for the provision of legal advice and services to all components of IUCN, and in particular shall advise IUCN regarding (a) the interpretation of the IUCN Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the World Congress, as <i>lex specialis</i>; (b) the status and interests of IUCN under public international law; (c) the legal interests of IUCN under the laws of the nations where the Union operates, through analysis and application of comparative law and private international law; (d) the legal aspects of the relationships established through IUCN's contracts, trademarks, licenses, human resources agreements, service agreements, and other such undertakings. The Council shall, ordinarily, be assisted on all legal matters by the Legal Advisor. The Council may request legal advice, as necessary and appropriate, and subject at all times to the guidelines adopted by the Council on the modalities and procedures, including the conditions and circumstances therefore, from other qualified legal specialists within the Union, including the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), or from outside counsel.

Composition of the Congress Committees as proposed by Council

I. Programme Committee

- Madhu Rao, *Council* (Proposed Chair)
- Lolita Gibbons, *Council*
- Bibiana Sucre, *Council*
- Healy Hamilton, *Sustainable Forestry Initiative, USA*
- Cathy Li, *Birdlife International, UK*
- Maulidi Mwinyikai, *Kishoka Youth Organisation, Kenya*
- Ly Nguyen, *Center for Environment and Community Research, Viet Nam*

II. Governance Committee

- Vivek Menon, *Council* (Proposed Chair)
- Sixto Inchaustegui, *Council*
- Gloria Ujor, *Council*
- Gustavo Alanis, *CEMDA, Mexico*
- Ahmed Alharrasi, *Al ain Zoo, UAE*
- Salek Aouissa, *Réseau Association Kniffis, Morocco*
- Simon Stuart, *Arocha, UK*

III. Finance and Audit Committee

- Rick Bates, *Council* (Proposed Chair)
- Marco Cerezo, *Council*
- Catherine Iorns, *Council*
- A Khurshid Bhatti, *AHD, Pakistan (online)*
- Endashaw Mogessie Tiruneh, *PHE Consortium, Ethiopia*
- Jorge Oviedo, *FIAES, El Salvador*
- San Win, *FREDA, Myanmar*

IV. Resolutions Committee

- Jon Paul Rodriguez, *Council* (Chair)
- Maud Lelievre, *Council* (Deputy Chair)
- Ana Di Pangracio, *Council*
- Samad-John Smaranda, *Council*
- Kazuaki Hoshino, *Council (for Brian Child)*
- Kathryn Gwiazdon
- Jan Olov Westerberg *(remotely)*
- Jessica Woroniak *(remotely)*
- Congress Document CGR-2025-1.5-1 Annex 6
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V. Steering Committee – for information

- Razan Al Mubarak (Chairperson)
- Imèn Meliane
- Ramiro Batzin Chojoj
- Sonia Castañeda Rial
- Peter Cochrane
- Said Damhoureyeh
- Hilde Eggermont
- Ali Kaka
- Susan Lieberman
- Ramon Perez Gil
- Kristen Walker Painemilla
- Nihal Welikala
- Grethel Aguilar Rojas
- Ahmed Al Hashemi, Executive Director Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector (EAD) – *Host Country Representative*