



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

116th Meeting of the IUCN Council (C116)¹

Abu Dhabi, 16 October 2025

Decisions

Approval of the Agenda

COUNCIL DECISION C116/1

The IUCN Council,
Adopts the Agenda of its 116th Meeting. (Annexe 1)

Appointment of the Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland)

COUNCIL DECISION C116/2

The IUCN Council,
Appoints Mrs. Martine Rohn-Brossard as Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat.

Appointment of Deputy Chairs and members of the steering committees of the IUCN Commissions (Regulations 46 and 73)

COUNCIL DECISION C116/3²

The IUCN Council,
In accordance with Regulation 73, with the purpose of enabling the Commissions to be functional as soon as possible following the end of the Congress, pending additional nominations to be made by the Chairs for approval at the first ordinary meeting of the Council (117th meeting to be held in the first quarter of 2026) taking into account criteria such as technical qualification, geographic representation and gender equity,
On the recommendation of the respective Commission Chair,
Appoints the following individuals as:

1. World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL):

Deputy Commission Chair: Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui (Morocco)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (Tanzania)
- Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote (Kenya)
- Ms. Maria Muavesi (Fiji)
- Dr. Nilufer Oral (Turkey)
- Prof. Dr. Agnès Michelot (France)
- Assoc. Prof. Claudia de Windt (Dominican Republic)
- Prof. David Forman (USA)
- Ms. Christina Pak (USA)
- Dr. John Scanlon (Australia)
- Prof. Nicholas Robinson (USA, *ex officio*)
- Dr. Sheila Abed (Paraguay, *ex officio*)
- Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin (Brazil, *ex officio*)

¹ First meeting of the Council members elected on 15 October 2025 by the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

² The Chair of the Climate Action Commission (CAC) expressed the wish to make his nominations for Deputy Chair and members of the Steering Committee at the 117th Council meeting. In the meantime, in accordance with Regulation 73, *“until the Council appoints their successors, the incumbent Deputy Chair and Steering Committee members shall continue in office”*.

- Ms. Sandrine Friedli Cela (Switzerland, *ex officio*)
- Prof. Dr. Amanda Kennedy (Australia, *ex officio*)

2. World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA):

Deputy Commission Chair: Andrew Rhodes Espinoza (Mexico)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Lucy Emerton (Sri Lanka - UK, *Sustainable Finance*)
- Alfred DeGemmis (USA, *World Heritage*)
- Brent Mitchell (USA, *Global PCA Policy*)
- Erika Vaida-Bela (Romania, *Regional*)
- Florence Palla (Cameroon, *Marine/Regional*)
- Harriet Davies-Mostert (South Africa, *Regional*)
- Helen Tugendhat (UK, *Governance, Equity, and Rights*)
- Mike Appleton (UK, *Capacity*)
- Mohamed Imam Bakarr (Sierra Leone, *Multilateral Agency*)
- Sandra Valenzuela (Colombia, *Regional*)
- Yang Rui (China, *Regional*)
- Carl Amirgulashvili (Georgia, *Regional*)

3. Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM):

Deputy Commission Chair: Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães (Mexico)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Professor Ian Convery (UK)
- Dr. Peter Lawrence Smith (Australia)

4. Commission on Education and Communication (CEC):

Deputy Commission Chair: Margaret (Meg) Beckel (Canada)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Hanying Li (*Regional Vice Chair -East Asia*)
- Alex Zavarzin (*Regional Vice Chair - Eastern Europe; Citizen and Community Science*)
- Jason Pitman (*Regional Vice Chair - Oceania*)
- Katalin Czippan (*Strategic Advisor*)
- Sean Southey and Luis Camargo (*Nature Based Education Co-Chairs*)
- Ana Valeria Mandri (*Reimagining Communications*)
- Cheryl and Vasanti Rao (*Natureforall Co-Chairs*)

5. Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP):

Deputy Commission Chair: Melanie Zurba (Canada)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Raquel Jimenez Acosta (Mexico)
- Jessica Campese (USA)
- Neil Dawson (UK)
- Fatima El-Aarabi (Morocco)
- Luc Bas (Belgium)
- Veefeni Ingaveuya Priscilla Mundilo (Namibia)

6. Species Survival Commission (SSC):

Deputy Commission Chair: Dr. Rima Jabado (Lebanon)

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Masha Vorontsova (*Regional Vice Chair: Eastern Europe and Central Asia*)
- Pat Awori (*Regional Vice Chair: East and Southern Africa*)
- Greg Mueller (*Conservation Committee Chair: Fungi*)
- Paul Smith (*Conservation Committee Chair: Plants*)
- Axel Hochkirch (*Conservation Committee Chair: Invertebrates*)
- Domitilla Raimondo (*Conservation Committee Chair: National Species*)
- Topis Contreras Macbeath (*Conservation Committee Chair: Freshwater*)
- Luigi Boitani (*Conservation Committee Chair: Red List Technical and Scientific Committee*)
- Jenny Gray
- Simon Stuart

- Sonja Luz
- Aroha Mead
- Ibukun (Ibukunoluwa) Balogun
- Norbert Baerlocher
- Russ Mittermeier

Expenditure authorization for the first quarter of 2026

COUNCIL DECISION C116/4

The IUCN Council,

On the proposal of the Secretariat, pending the approval of the IUCN Budget 2026 during the 117th Council meeting,

Decides to grant its provisional approval of expenditure authority to the Director General for the first three months of 2026 not exceeding CHF 58m.



116th Meeting of the IUCN Council ¹

Abu Dhabi, UAE - 16 October 2025 from 9.00 to 13:00 local time

Draft Agenda

Preliminary notes:

- The present Draft Agenda has been prepared by the Secretary to Council taking into account the usual agenda of the first Council meeting held immediately following the close of the World Conservation Congress.
- Council Members not present in person will be offered the possibility to connect remotely
- Simultaneous interpretation will be provided onsite in the three official languages of IUCN (English, French and Spanish)

09:00-09:30	Agenda Item 1: Introduction by the President and approval of the agenda Including roundtable of all participants briefly introducing themselves	DEC
09:30-09:35	Agenda Item 2: Appointment of the Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland) Council will be invited to consider for approval a proposal from the Government of Switzerland to appoint an individual as Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, in accordance with Article 38 (d)(iii) of the IUCN Statutes and 45 (b) of the IUCN Regulations.	DEC
09:35-09:50	Agenda Item 3: IUCN's information technology relevant for Council members Presentation by François Jolles, Director, Global Information Systems Group about the IUCN's IT infrastructure relevant for Council members and specifically on security/safety of usage. IMPORTANT NOTICE: from 13:00 to 15:00 IUCN's Information Systems team will be available to assist all members of the IUCN Council 2025-2029 accessing their iucn.org mailbox and installing the authenticator required to access IUCN systems. Please bring your laptop and smartphone for this purpose.	INF
09:50-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:00	Agenda Item 4: Meeting with the members of the outgoing Council 2021-25 as required by 2008 Congress Resolution 9 ² The outgoing Council members will be invited for this agenda item (only) in order to present their recommendations for the incoming Council.	INF
11:00-11:05	Break	
11:05-11:35	Agenda Item 5: Appointment of Deputy Chairs and members of the steering committees of the IUCN Commissions (Regulations 46 and 73) As soon as they will have been elected during the Congress, the Chairs of the Commissions will be invited to submit the name of the candidate they propose to Council for appointment as Deputy Chair of their Commission and, as the case may be, as members of the steering committee of their respective Commission. They may also submit the candidates (or additional candidates) for the Steering Committee at the next	DEC

¹ First meeting of the new IUCN Council 2025-2029 elected by the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (Abu Dhabi, 9-15 October 2025)

² "CALLS ON IUCN's Council, beginning with the 5th Session of the World Conservation Congress (2012), to schedule a meeting at each Session of the World Conservation Congress to be attended only by all current and newly elected Councillors, to review and discuss Council's obligations and responsibilities to the membership, as well as major issues facing the new Council."

	Council meeting in 2026. The Secretary to Council will distribute the proposals received as much as possible in advance of the Council meeting.	
11:35-11:50	Agenda Item 6: Expenditure authorization for the first quarter of 2026 It is standard practice in a Congress year to prepare after Congress the draft Work Plan and Budget for the following fiscal year. The Secretariat will prepare the draft for consideration by Council at its first ordinary meeting (C117) convened for March 2026. In the meantime, the Director General proposes that Council grants its provisional approval of expenditure authority for the first three months of 2026 not exceeding the average monthly operating budget of the previous year +10%. A similar approach was followed in 2016 and 2021.	DEC
11:50-12:00	Agenda Item 7: Registre du Commerce To satisfy a requirement of Swiss Law, personal data about the Council members must be recorded at the Registre du Commerce (company register). IUCN's Legal Adviser, Sandrine Friedli Cela will explain.	INF
12:00-12:50	Agenda Item 8: Date and place of the first ordinary meeting of the Council following the 2026 Congress (C117) In order to ensure appropriate hotel accommodation, the Secretariat has made tentative bookings of hotel space for a meeting to be held at the IUCN Conservation Center in Gland, Switzerland, in w/c 5 March 2026. The meeting will include induction of Council members to Council's role, structure and procedure.	DIS
12:50-13:00	Agenda Item 9: Any other business	
13:00	Lunch	
13:00-15:00	Set-up IUCN account with Microsoft 2-step authentication on individual Council members' electronic devices	