

**IUCN
Membership
Relations and
Governance**

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Membership Policy Guidelines

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IUCN
The World Conservation Union

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**Membership
Policy Guidelines
and a Compilation of
Provisions of the Statutes
and the Regulations**

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Membership Policy Guidelines that have been drafted by the Membership Committee of Council. The Committee has responded to their difficult mandate in the context of an evolving Union, its intricate relations, as well as our common philosophy and mission.

The Guidelines touch on the “raison d’être” of the Union: its members. I have always believed in the fundamental value derived from IUCN membership. The spirit embedded in this policy document reinforces the principal reason for which most members join – to be an active part of an unequalled united global force of the conservation movement.

I regard this document as a heritage to the Union from my predecessors, the IUCN Council and particularly Council’s Membership Committee in close collaboration with all of you. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation for their collective wisdom, devotion and perseverance to make this document a reality.

We know that the secret of all policies lay in their implementation. This is precisely what I want to concentrate on over the year to come. We need to build on the policy statements made in this document and together with Management define the actions, lead responsibilities and costs of making the guidelines an integral part of the daily operation of the Union.

The Directorate for Corporate Strategy, Partnerships and Communication – which we are currently creating – will devote its efforts to implementing the strategy and through it contribute significantly to a much needed intensified contact between IUCN members, Commission members, Councillors and the Secretariat. It will include engaging members actively in the Secretariat’s work and increasing good examples of joint activities and project work in the spirit of our mission.

I view such collective action as imperative to enabling IUCN to be much more than the sum of its parts. Together, we can deliver on our agreed Programme and represent a unified voice in leading the world towards sustainability. I hope that you can provide your full support to make this happen.

Achim Steiner
IUCN Director General

A. INTRODUCTION

These *Membership Policy Guidelines*, which were formally noted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), grew from extensive consultation within the Union in 1999. They also take account of relevant discussions during the Statutes Review (1994–1996), questions on membership issues dealt with through National and Regional Committees, and experience built up across IUCN over many years.

The *Guidelines* reflect the directions emerging from strategic debate about IUCN's objectives and role and consequently the profile of its membership. They specifically take into account the Union's Strategic Plan, adopted by the 19th Session of the General Assembly in 1994, and are based on the revised IUCN Statutes and Regulations adopted at the 1st World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996). The document also fully reflects the ongoing process of regionalization of the Union and consolidates former occasional policy positions on various aspects of membership.

In developing the *Guidelines*, the Council has been guided by the provisions of the Statutes as supplemented by the Regulations. Indeed, the *Guidelines* include excerpts from, and explanations of, those parts of the Statutes and the Regulations that directly affect the Union's membership. However, it should be stressed that the explanations and interpretations given here do not in any way amend or vary either the Statutes or the Regulations (the former of which takes precedence in case of any doubt or possible conflict).

'Established practice' of the Union is also given weight in interpreting certain obligations relevant to the admission of members. Thus, when Article 7 of the Statutes requires that an applicant must share and support the 'objectives' of IUCN (as spelt out in Article 2) the Council can look to the corpus of the Union's past practice, duly reflected in deliberations of the World Conservation Congress (and formerly of the General Assembly), the IUCN Council and the IUCN Commissions (listed in hierarchical order).

In particular, the IUCN *Membership Policy Guidelines* seek to:

- clarify the desired profile for the IUCN membership and encourage the development of a strong and unified membership which fully identifies with, and actively contributes to, achievement of the IUCN objectives as set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Statutes¹;
- build consensus on matters relating to the profile of membership, criteria for admission, and the rights, obligations and expectations of members. Such clarification will help indicate the direction for membership development and give more coherence within IUCN in the pursuit of its objectives;

- deepen the engagement of members in the governance of IUCN, its policy setting and advocacy processes, and the development and implementation of its programme. This is especially important in light of the progress made in recent years with regionalization of the Union’s programme and operations; and
- clarify what members may expect from and what they can contribute to various components of the Union, in order to achieve the objectives and smooth functioning of the organization.

IUCN seeks to be mission-led and counts on members both for discharging their obligations and exercising their rights. In commending this document to the attention of members, Council hopes that its provision of clear and accessible information about the implications of IUCN membership will lead to an even stronger and more effective World Conservation Union.

¹ The Statutes Part II, 2 reflect the IUCN Mission Statement in the IUCN Strategy approved by the 19th General Assembly as objectives: “The Objectives of IUCN shall be to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.” In this document the term ‘objectives’ is consequently used to mean the ‘Mission statement’.

B. MEMBERSHIP POLICY GUIDELINES

Subject at all times to the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations, the Council has decided that the *Membership Policy Guidelines* shall have the following elements:

I. MEMBERSHIP

(1) Profile of the IUCN Membership – scope, diversity and unity

The Statutes provide for various categories of members, the scope of which envisages a diversified membership. This could include: States and government agencies; political and/or economic integration organizations; national non-governmental organizations; international non-governmental organizations; and as affiliate members, government agencies and national and international NGOs not included in the categories listed above.

Effective pursuit of IUCN’s objectives requires unity of purpose among its members. IUCN will thus seek to develop a diverse membership, unified in its pursuit of IUCN’s objectives.

Activities of IUCN members could be in the fields of research, practice, policy guidelines, social and economic analysis, advocacy, public awareness or education. Irrespective of the field of specialization, all IUCN members will be expected to share and support the objectives of IUCN and to operate in a manner consistent therewith.

(2) Size

Council will not place a limit on the size of the membership. The worldwide scope and complexity of IUCN’s objectives require many entities to be unified in that purpose; moreover, the dynamic nature of the conservation movement requires that IUCN be able to respond positively to the potential for membership growth. Council will, however, keep under review the administrative workability and financial implications of an expanding membership, in order to ensure balance between the rate of expansion of the membership, and the capacity and resources available to maintain a service to members.

(3) Distribution – geographic and category spread and balance

IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world. To achieve this, IUCN will seek a worldwide spread of membership. It will also seek to ensure that it has within its membership as many governments as possible, and a large, diverse and influential body of governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations working in line with the Union’s objectives.

To achieve this world-wide spread and geographical balance, IUCN will formulate

and apply an approach to the recruitment of members that complements the geographical origin of applicants, and that seeks to ensure that IUCN membership is strong in all Regions.

Special efforts will be made to maximize the number of State members and Government Agency members in the Union given their significance in the social, economic and political order within societies, and their responsibilities for managing the policy-making processes. At the same time, IUCN will encourage and support efforts of its civil society members to contribute to policy-making and standards setting.

(4) Recruitment

IUCN will seek to ensure that there is a strong membership in every category in order to widen its influence and strengthen its capacity to work towards its objectives.

In order to achieve the desired profile, size and distribution in the membership, IUCN will embark on an active process of recruitment. In this process, all members and components of IUCN will be encouraged to play a part in “growing” the Union’s membership where it is most needed.

(5) Admission

As per Article 7, an applicant may only be admitted to IUCN if it **“shares and supports the objectives of IUCN”** and **“has as one of its central purposes the achievement of IUCN’s mission.”** As a first test, applicants must therefore subscribe to IUCN’s objectives and mission, as defined in Article 2. This would mean that the objectives of the applicant would include the following:

- (i) the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature;
- (ii) the aim to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable; and
- (iii) the dedication to influencing, encouraging and assisting societies for the above purposes.

The second test under Article 7 states that **“the applicant has a substantial record of activity in the conservation of nature and natural resources.”** To be successful, the applicant must be determined to have a record of conservation activity. In the case of national non-government organizations, international non-government organizations and affiliates, they would additionally be required to show such activity over a period of time being at least three years. Further, that activity must be substantial. “Activity” can take many forms, including field action, community involvement, research in the natural and social sciences, policy development and advocacy, legal activities, education and public awareness, and fundraising where

these are for purposes in line with the mission of IUCN. While determining the relative importance of an activity is necessarily to some extent subjective, it is here considered that “substantial” can be assessed in terms of the applicant’s programme and projects, resource allocations, organizational structures and outputs.

The third test relates to the section of Article 7 which states that: **“the applicant does not pursue objectives or carry out activities that conflict with the objectives or activities of IUCN.”** Council must determine that the applicant does not engage in activities that are incompatible with IUCN’s mission and objectives. This means that an applicant who otherwise meets the criteria for admission may be disqualified if it engages in activities that run contrary to the letter and spirit of IUCN’s mission and objectives. While this last test must also to some extent involve a subjective assessment, it is important in that it enables Council to determine that all applicants to IUCN, both in their approach and in their actions, share the values implied in IUCN’s mission and objectives to a considerable extent.

To assist in applying this test, IUCN intends to compile a “case law” of decisions in relation to membership applications.

The final test relates to the characteristics of an applicant organization with respect to its operational and its governance structure(s). Council must determine that the applicant meets the criteria for the category according to the Regulations.

II. MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS

(1) Participation and Influence

The Statutes provide the right to members to participate in the World Conservation Congress, and, for those in good standing, to vote on a number of matters, including Resolutions, and to elect the Officers and Council of the Union (voting rights are not accorded to Affiliate members). Council will seek to ensure that members have the opportunity to be involved in the governance of the Union by making appropriate preparations for the functioning of the Congress and the engagement of members in that process. Since it is neither possible nor practical for all members to attend the Congress, Council and the Director General will also seek to maximize members’ involvement in the preparatory process and in the follow-up of the Congress Resolutions.

Through the World Conservation Congress, members help to shape IUCN policies, programme and budget. Council will facilitate the enjoyment of this right by consulting with members on major issues of policy, programme and budget that are being formulated for consideration by Congress. Members will be consulted on key policy issues in advance of sessions of the Congress, and will be encouraged to engage in the programming preparations for the Congress through National and

Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Council will guide the Secretariat in establishing processes for informing, consulting and involving members in the work of the Union.

(2) Organization of Intermediate Structures

Council will encourage its members to form National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora, as provided by the Statutes. Such Committees are mechanisms for interaction among members on shared interests and concerns in their country/Region. They also facilitate, within an expanded membership, participation by members in the overall governance and programme of the Union.

IUCN National and Regional Committees may develop their own policies and programmes in order to extend the reach and influence of IUCN, provided these are fully consistent with the policies and objectives of IUCN.

The Secretariat will, in keeping with capacity and means, support the operation of National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora and will facilitate members' participation in these. The Director General oversees the nature and extent of such support, and will make Headquarters' commitments on the basis of budgetary and other considerations.

National and Regional Committees recognized by Council may establish and operate through sub-national and sub-regional committees. Such sub-committees enable IUCN to expand its effective constituency within a country or region, working under the aegis and responsibility of the respective National/Regional Committee.

(3) Use of IUCN Name and Logo

Only National and Regional Committees formally recognized by Council may use the IUCN name, trademarks and logo in keeping with the Statutes and Regulations. Its use shall be in accordance with resolution 2.12 adopted by the Amman Congress, and procedures issued by the Director General.

III. MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

(1) Payment of Dues

Members have an obligation to respect the essential requirement to pay their membership dues to the Union.

The Statutes require members to provide information for the calculation of membership dues. From time to time the Director General will advise members on what information is required.

The Director General will ensure that adequate administrative processes are in

place for the efficient discharge of these obligations.

Membership dues are normally payable in Swiss Francs or any other freely convertible currency. However, the Director General may consider special circumstances under which payment of dues can be made in local currency or in kind. Such consideration will be given principally to State members in Least Developed Countries as currently listed by the United Nations, provided that the Director General is satisfied that the contribution can replace the need for payment for such services from IUCN's budgetary sources. Regulation 25 to the Statutes provides the necessary guidance.

(2) Facilitation

The Statutes require members to support and facilitate the objectives, activities and governance of the Union. This is achieved partly through their active participation in the World Conservation Congress and in the intermediate structures, and partly through activities which are undertaken as a specific contribution to meeting IUCN's objectives.

(3) Providing Information

The obligation of members to provide information in support of IUCN's activities gives them an opportunity to contribute to the work of the Union, and to share their experience among the membership as a whole. In this way, members bring incremental value to their own efforts and outputs, and help to create a membership-driven Union.

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE UNION

(1) Council

Between sessions of the World Conservation Congress, Council represents the collective membership in its policy-making functions and has responsibility for the oversight of the affairs of the Union. The Statutes detail the provisions and functions for Council.

All Councillors serve the interests and needs of the global Union. Members of Council serve IUCN in their personal capacities rather than as representatives of their respective States or organizations.

Regional Councillors are expected to bring to the work of the IUCN Council an overall knowledge of conservation issues, policies, priorities and programmes in their own region. They may also serve as channels of communication between the

membership in their regions (including National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora) and other components of the Union, especially the Council and the Secretariat.

Commission Chairs, as members of Council, are expected to bring to the work of IUCN expertise and knowledge from their volunteer networks.

Appointed Councillors bring to Council an appropriate balance of diverse qualifications, interests and skills.

(2) Secretariat

The Secretariat, under the authority of the Director General, carries out the following functions in keeping with its statutory functions and within available resources.

(a) Governance-related

- initiate and carry out actions to facilitate the work of Congress and Council;
- discharge the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations;
- implement the policies of the Union;
- manage the finances of the Union;

(b) Programme-related

- obtain and integrate inputs from members into IUCN's Programme and policies;
- collaborate with members in the implementation of the IUCN Programme at the global, regional and national levels;
- disseminate knowledge on the science, policy and practice of conservation, and the ecologically sustainable and equitable use of resources;
- advocate IUCN policies and positions in international fora relevant to the objectives of IUCN;

(c) Membership-related

- facilitate engagement of members in the governance of the Union;
- facilitate the exchange of information and experience among members;
- support recruitment of new members;
- support the establishment and functioning of National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora;
- connect members with the IUCN Commissions.

The international character of the responsibilities of staff of the Secretariat is defined in Article 82.

Where members are involved directly in implementing elements of the IUCN

Programme, expectations and obligations will be defined in contractual terms between the Secretariat and those members. This approach will clarify the required performance and responsibility of members where they are operating as implementing agencies and ensure that the Secretariat has overall accountability for resources which they manage.

(3) Commissions

IUCN members can link their work with that of IUCN Commissions. For example, members may invite Commissions (or their individual members) to make direct inputs into their programmes and activities. The working mechanisms of National and Regional Committees may be the most effective way to do so. Arrangements and terms for such involvement will be worked out directly with the Commissions or their members. For their part, Commissions will, within available resources, seek to involve IUCN members in programmes for which they have the lead and invite members' participation in appropriate events.

Members of IUCN may also access expert information generated by Commissions, and contribute to the information and knowledge base of Commissions (through publications, electronic sources, Secretariat focal points, formalized information flows, or ad hoc communication). This is an additional way in which members may derive benefits from their involvement in IUCN, while contributing to achieving policy and programme coherence within the Union.

C. PROVISIONS OF THE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS¹

I. MEMBERSHIP

(1) Categories

Article 4. The members of IUCN shall be:

Category A: (a) States and government agencies;
(b) political and/or economic integration organizations;

Category B: (c) national non-governmental organizations;
(d) international non-governmental organizations; and

Category C: (e) affiliates.

(2) States / Political and/or economic integration organizations

(a) Explanation of the category

Article 5(a) States shall be those which are members of the United Nations or any of its Specialized Agencies, or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or parties to the Statutes of the International Court of Justice;

Article 5(c) Political and/or economic integration organizations shall be organizations constituted solely by States to which those States have conferred legal competence in respect of matters within the objectives of IUCN;

(b) Admission

(i) Article 6. States or political and/or economic integration organizations shall become members of IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes.

(ii) Regulation 3.

(a) The notification of adhesion to the Statutes by a State shall be made by or on behalf of the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

¹The references to Articles are to the Articles of the Statutes. The references to Regulations are to the Regulations of the Regulations.

- (b) The notification of adhesion to the Statutes by a political and/or economic integration organization shall be made by its duly authorized representative and shall be accompanied by a statement declaring the extent of its competence with respect to the matters provided in the Statutes.
- (c) A State or political and/or economic integration organization, on becoming a member, shall designate its liaison with the IUCN Secretariat.

(3) Government Agencies / National Non-Governmental Organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations and Affiliates

(a) Explanation of Categories

Article 5.

- (b) Government agencies shall be organizations, institutions and, when applicable, government departments, which form part of the machinery of government in a State, including those agencies of the components of federal States or of States having an analogous structure;
- (d) National non-governmental organizations shall be institutions and associations incorporated within a State;
- (e) International non-governmental organizations shall be institutions and associations organized in two or more States; and
- (f) Affiliate members shall be government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations, which are not in Categories A or B.

(b) Admission

Article 7. Government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and affiliates shall become members of IUCN when the Council has determined that:

- (a) the applicant shares and supports the objectives of IUCN;
- (b) the applicant does not pursue objectives or carry out activities that conflict with the objectives or activities of IUCN;

- (c) the applicant has as one of its central purposes the achievement of IUCN's mission and a substantial record of activity in the conservation of nature and natural resources; and
- (d) the applicant meets the other qualifications for membership as prescribed in the Regulations.

Regulation 4. Government Agencies

A government agency seeking membership of IUCN shall submit an application for admission to the Director General supported by a statement by the head of the agency, setting forth its competence to adhere to the Statutes.

Regulation 5. National Non-Governmental Organizations

- (a) Subject to (b) below, any national non-governmental organization seeking admission as a member shall, in addition to the requirements of the Statutes:
 - (i) be a not-for-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) have an autonomous and independent board, recognizing that governmental financial support to the organization shall not on its own indicate a lack of independence; and
 - (iv) have a legal structure which requires periodic election or appointment of its officers.
- (b) Any duly accredited university, similar institution of higher learning, and its specialized centre(s) and research institute(s), organized within a State, seeking admission to this Category shall:
 - (i) be a not-for-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.

Regulation 6. International Non-Governmental Organizations

Any international non-governmental organization seeking admission as a member of IUCN shall, in addition to the requirements of the Statutes:

- (a) be a not-for-profit entity which conforms with the laws of the State where its seat is located;
- (b) have been in existence for at least three years;
- (c) have as members duly constituted organizations or individuals, or a combination of organizations and individuals, with defined rules governing the admission of such members, and shall include members from at least two States;
- (d) have a substantial record of activities in two or more States;
- (e) if an organization consisting of organizational members, function in two or more States and have not less than five members;
- (f) if an organization consisting of individual members, have functioning branches or significant programmes in two or more States;
- (g) have a governing body open to nationals from at least two States; and
- (h) have a legal structure which requires periodic election or appointment of its officers.

(c) Procedure

Article 8. Before admitting an applicant the Council shall:

- (a) notify members of the application and consider any objection raised; and
- (b) follow the procedure and criteria prescribed in the Regulations.

Article 9. The Council shall admit the applicant by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Regulation 7. Government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and affiliates shall submit an application to the Director General using the application form provided by the Secretariat and stating the Category of membership sought. The application shall be signed by the duly authorized head of the agency or organization.

Regulation 8. Applications shall include such information relating to the agency or organization, its objectives, membership, funding and activities, as may be required by the Council to decide on admission.

Regulation 9. The applicant shall submit, together with its application, a written statement to the effect that it endorses the objectives of IUCN.

Regulation 10. Applications shall be accompanied by a deposit equal to the first year's dues. This sum is returnable in the case of non-admission.

Regulation 11. Once admitted, the new member shall undertake to publicize its association with IUCN.

(d) Admission Process

Regulation 12. Applications for membership shall reach the Director General at least six months before they are considered by the Council.

Regulation 13. The applicant shall document its activities in conservation of nature and natural resources over at least a three-year period.

Regulation 14. The Director General shall mail notice of an application together with the appropriate information on the applicant, to the members of IUCN eligible to vote at least one hundred and forty days before the application is considered by the Council.

Regulation 15. When a member eligible to vote exercises its right to object to an application, such objection must reach the Director General at least seventy five days before the meeting of the Council at which the application is to be considered.

Regulation 16. Such objection shall only be on grounds that the applicant does not meet the requirements of membership provided in the Statutes or prescribed in the Regulations. The objection shall give specific grounds and particulars on which the objection is based.

Regulation 17. The applicant shall be given an opportunity to respond to the objection. Such response shall be received at least forty five days before the meeting of the Council at which the application is to be considered.

Regulation 18. The Council having considered an application and any objections, and response thereto, may admit an applicant by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Regulation 19. An appeal against any decision of the Council in respect of the admission shall be made within six months of notification of the Council's decision.

Regulation 20. A member shall promptly inform the Director General of any important change in the particulars supplied in support of its application for membership of IUCN which may affect its eligibility for such membership or for the Category of such membership.

(e) Appeals

Article 10. Any decision of the Council on admission of an applicant may be appealed by ten members eligible to vote acting within the period prescribed in the Regulations. The World Conservation Congress (hereinafter referred to as "the World Congress"), on such an appeal, shall have the right to reverse the Council's decision by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by each Category of member eligible to vote.

(f) Reapplications

Article 11. An applicant denied admission by the Council shall not reapply for admission for a period of three years. An applicant whose appeal against denial of admission by the Council has been rejected by the World Congress shall not reapply for admission for a period of five years. If an applicant whose membership has once been rejected by the World Congress again applies and Council recommends admission, then such re-application shall be submitted to the World Congress for decision.

(4) General Provisions Applicable to All Categories

(a) Payment of Dues

Article 12(c) Members shall have the obligation *inter alia*:

- (iii) to pay membership dues as prescribed in the Regulations;

Regulation 22. Dues for State members shall be calculated on the basis of the percentage assessed for member States in the budget of the United Nations. The Council may divide State members into groups for the setting of dues.

Regulation 23. Dues for other members shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council.

Regulation 24. Membership dues shall become payable on the first day of each calendar year.

Regulation 25. 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.

(b) Readmission

Article 14. Any former member of IUCN meeting the qualifications for membership may be readmitted by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations.

Regulation 26. If a former member, which is deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN, seeks readmission to membership within three years of its withdrawal, all membership dues outstanding shall be paid before the member is readmitted. Applications for admission three years or more after withdrawal shall be treated in the same way as new applications for membership.

(c) Rights of Membership

Article 12

- (a) Members shall have the right *inter alia*:
 - (i) to participate in the World Congress;
 - (ii) to participate as appropriate in National and Regional Committees or in Regional Fora of members;
 - (iii) to express an opinion on application for admission as new members;
 - (iv) to be informed regularly about the budget and activities of IUCN;
 - (v) to communicate their views to the components of IUCN;
and

- (vi) to receive, on request and for a reasonable fee, copies of IUCN publications and a record of the official meetings of IUCN other than closed meetings.
- (b) Members in Categories A and B shall also have the right:
 - (i) to propose to the Council candidates for President, Treasurer and Chairs of the Commissions to be elected by the World Congress;
 - (ii) to nominate candidates directly to the World Congress for election as President;
 - (iii) to nominate to the World Congress candidates for election as Regional Councillors;
 - (iv) to submit motions to the World Congress; and
 - (v) to vote in sessions of the World Congress or by mail ballot.

(d) Obligations of Membership

Article 12

- (c) Members shall have the obligation *inter alia*:
 - (i) to support and facilitate the objectives, activities and governance of IUCN;
 - (ii) to provide to IUCN, upon request, readily available information regarding their activities in support of IUCN's objectives;
 - (iii) to pay membership dues as prescribed in the Regulations; and
 - (iv) to provide to IUCN such information as is required for the calculation of their dues.

(e) Suspension, Rescission, Expulsion and Withdrawal

Article 13

- (a) 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 which may rescind all the remaining rights of the member concerned. Such rescission shall be on such terms as the World Congress may determine;

- (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;
- (c) Should any member act persistently in a manner seriously inconsistent with the objectives of IUCN, the suspension or expulsion of that member may be proposed to the Council:
 - (i) in the case of a political and/or economic integration organization or a State member, by at least two State members;
 - (ii) in the case of any other member in Category A or any member in Category B, by at least ten members in the same Category; and
 - (iii) in the case of a member in Category C, by at least ten members eligible to vote;
- (d) By a two-thirds majority of votes cast, the Council may:
 - (i) request the member concerned to present within ninety days, the reason why suspension or expulsion is not justified; and
 - (ii) decide, after considering any response from the member, to inform that member of Council's intention to submit the proposal to a vote by the World Congress;
- (e) If within ninety days of notification of the Council's decision, the member does not indicate to the Director General its wish that a vote be conducted, the member shall be considered to have withdrawn from IUCN;
- (f) If the member concerned requests a vote:
 - (i) the Director General shall submit the proposal for suspension or expulsion, together with any explanations of the member, to the members eligible to vote;
 - (ii) the vote shall take place at the next session of the World Congress and the decision taken, in the case of a member

in Category A or Category B, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the relevant Category and in the case of a member in Category C, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast of all the members eligible to vote;

- (iii) only State members may vote on a proposal for suspension or expulsion of a political and/or economic integration organization or of a State member; and
- (iv) except as provided in (iii) above, only members in the same Category may vote on a proposal for suspension or expulsion of a member in Category A or Category B.

(f) Voluntary Withdrawal

Article 13 (g) Any member may withdraw at any time from membership of IUCN by giving notice in writing to the Director General to that effect. The member withdrawing shall not be entitled to any refund of membership dues paid.

(g) Transfer between Membership Categories

Regulation 21. On request or after due notice, the Council shall transfer a member to another group of membership if, in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of the Council, that member is incorrectly classified. The members of IUCN shall be notified of the transfer, together with the reasons. If within ninety days following this notification an objection is lodged by the member in question or another member eligible to vote, the transfer shall be submitted to the World Congress for ratification.

II. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL FORA

(1) National and Regional Committees

Article 66. Members of IUCN within a State, a Region or a part of a Region may organize committees restricted to members of IUCN or their representatives to facilitate cooperation among members, coordination of the components of IUCN, and participation of members in the programme and governance of IUCN. A proposal to create such National or Regional Committees shall be made in accordance with the Regulations.

Article 68. Between sessions of the World Congress, a Regional Forum of members may be held for each Region, or part of a Region, *inter alia*, to enable members to participate in the preparation and evaluation of the programme and strategies of IUCN and to prepare for the next session of the World Congress. Either the members, or the Council, may convene a Forum.

All members of IUCN in the Region have the right to be invited to and participate in a Forum. A Forum may determine its own organization. The Rules of Procedure of the World Congress shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such Regional Fora.

Article 69. A National or Regional Committee shall not undertake substantial financial obligations until it has established its own legal personality or procedures in a form acceptable by the Council.

Article 70. Every IUCN member has the right to join the respective National Committee of its State and participate in the election of only one Regional Committee. If an IUCN member belongs to a State with territory located in more than one IUCN Region, it may participate in the Regional Committee in the IUCN Region to which the State belongs or to the Region, or part of the Region, in which the member is geographically located.

Article 71. National and Regional Committees:

- (a) may have their own separate legal personality distinct from that of IUCN in a form acceptable to the Council;
- (b) shall be self-governing and shall not impose financial obligations or liabilities upon IUCN, which shall not be responsible for commitments entered into by a Committee unless these have prior authorization of the Council; and
- (c) shall work in partnership with the Secretariat and the Commissions to formulate, coordinate and implement the Programme of IUCN within their State or Region.

Article 72. Regional Councillors and other members of the Council resident in a State or Region where such Committees and Regional Fora have been established, shall be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the corresponding National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Members of the Commissions resident in such State or Region, may be invited to participate in meetings and activities of the National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora.

Regulation 63. The Director General shall be informed of any proposal to establish a Committee and of its proposed chair, rules of procedure and address and shall:

- (a) advise the Committee on the conformity of these proposals with these Regulations; and
- (b) once satisfied of that conformity, inform the Council at its next meeting of the establishment of the Committee so that the Council may consider recognition.

Regulation 68. The Director General shall nominate a Secretariat official responsible for liaison with each Committee and shall:

- (a) keep the Committee informed of IUCN activities;
- (b) consult the Committee on applications for IUCN membership, on mechanisms for participation in the IUCN Programme and on the implementation of the decisions of the World Congress relevant to that State or Region;
- (c) involve the Committee in preparations for sessions of the World Congress, regional meetings and other important events;
- (d) consult with the Committee about the development of IUCN initiatives in its State or Region;
- (e) inform the Committee when IUCN has been consulted on issues of importance to the State or Region; and
- (f) inform the Committee as appropriate of forthcoming official visits by officers and senior staff of IUCN.

(2) Recognition of National and Regional Committees

Article 67. The Council shall recognize only one National Committee for a State, and one Regional Committee for a particular Region or a part of the Region.

Regulation 61. To be eligible for recognition by the Council, National Committees shall:

- (a) open their membership to all IUCN members in their State; and
- (b) comprise the majority of members in their State.

Regulation 62. To be eligible for recognition a Regional Committee shall be constituted through a process in which all IUCN members in the Region or part of the Region are entitled to participate on equal terms.

Regulation 65. Each Committee recognized by the Council may use the IUCN name and logo in conjunction with the respective name of its State, Region or part of a Region as prescribed by the Council.

Regulation 66. Committees recognized by the Council shall:

- (a) elect their own Chairs and establish their own procedures;

- (b) be solely responsible for any funds they raise and any debts and legal obligations incurred;
- (c) determine the dates and venues of their meetings, informing their members and the Director General of these meetings in advance;
- (d) send a report on their activities to the Director General and the Council once a year;
- (e) accept the right of any member to dissociate from any decision of the Committee and if requested, clearly indicate that dissociation;
- (f) endeavour to ensure the full participation of their members;
- (g) cooperate with the Secretariat and the Commissions to advance the work of IUCN; and
- (h) invite the Director General to attend or be represented at their meetings.

Regulation 67. Committees recognized by the Council may:

- (a) adopt and pursue their own policies consistent with the policies and objectives of IUCN;
- (b) be authorized by the Council to undertake activities in the name of IUCN;
- (c) establish and operate through sub-national or sub-regional committees;
- (d) invite participation of IUCN members from other States or Regions, as appropriate;
- (e) invite others to participate as observers;
- (f) have or adopt their own constitution and by-laws;
- (g) exchange views on conservation issues within their States or Regions;
- (h) participate in the formulation of the IUCN Programme for their respective State or Region; and

- (i) issue statements relevant to the objectives of IUCN, provided that such statements, or actions taken pursuant to them, shall be solely on behalf of the Committee and shall not commit IUCN to any financial, legal or policy obligations.

(3) Withdrawal of Recognition

Regulation 64. Should a Committee act inconsistently with the objectives of IUCN, and should all reasonable efforts fail to resolve such problems, the Director General may recommend that the Council withdraw recognition from that Committee. Before taking a decision, the Council shall give the Committee due notice and an opportunity to respond to the allegations made.

Note: The authoritative text of the *Membership Policy Guidelines* is in the English language.

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 980 members in all, spread across some 141 countries.

As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The World Conservation Union builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

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