



**Statutes**, including  
Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress,  
**and Regulations**





# STATUTES

of 5 October 1948, revised on 22 October 1996 and  
last amended on 13 October 2008

(including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress,  
last amended on 5 October 2008)

# AND REGULATIONS

revised on 22 October 1996 and  
last amended on 2 June 2010

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# ***STATUTES***

## ***Preamble***

Recognizing that:

- conservation of nature and natural resources involves the preservation and management of the living world, the natural environment of humanity, and the earth's renewable natural resources on which rests the foundation of human civilization;
- natural beauty is one of the sources of inspiration of spiritual life and a necessary framework for the needs of recreation, made ever more essential by humanity's increasingly mechanized existence;
- civilization has achieved its present high standard by finding ever more effective means for developing and utilizing these resources, and that consequently soils, water, forests and vegetation, wildlife, wilderness areas maintained intact, and characteristic landscapes are of vital importance for economic, social, educational and cultural purposes;
- the increasing impoverishment of natural resources will inevitably result in a lowering of human standards of living but that this trend need not be irreversible provided that people fully come to recognize their close dependence upon these resources and to the recognition of the need to preserve and manage them in a way that is conducive to the peace, progress and prosperity of humanity;

Convinced that since protection and conservation of nature and natural resources are of vital importance to all nations, a responsible international organization primarily concerned with the furthering of these aims will be of value to various governments, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and other interested organizations;

Recalling that, for these reasons, the governments, public services, organizations, institutions and associations concerned with these matters, meeting at Fontainebleau, on 5 October 1948, established a Union now known as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as "IUCN") and governed by Statutes adopted first at the time of its foundation;

The Members of IUCN, meeting in Montreal from 13 to 23 October 1996, renewed their commitment to these ends and adopted these revised Statutes for the governance of IUCN.

## ***Part I - Legal Status***

1. IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (also known as International Union for Conservation of Nature) is constituted in accordance with Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code as an international association of governmental and non-governmental members. Therefore it has legal personality and may perform any act in conformity with its objectives.

## ***Part II - Objectives***

2. 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.
3. To attain these objectives, IUCN:
  - (a) mobilizes its Members, components and partners to build alliances for conservation;
  - (b) strengthens the institutional capacity of its Members to conserve biological diversity and safeguard ecological life-support processes at global, regional, national and local levels;
  - (c) promotes enhanced cooperation between its governmental and non-governmental Members to strengthen the capacity of its Members and partners;
  - (d) encourages research related to the conservation of nature and natural resources and disseminates information about such research;
  - (e) provides a forum for discussion of conservation issues, including their scientific, educational, legal, economic, social and political dimensions, at global, regional, national and local levels;
  - (f) develops expert networks and information systems to support its Members and components;
  - (g) prepares and disseminates statements on conservation, drawing on the expertise of its Members and components;

- (h) influences national and international legal and administrative instruments so that societies are enabled to enjoy the benefits provided sustainably by nature and natural resources;
- (i) makes representations to governments and international agencies so as to influence environmental policies;
- (j) assists in the development of mechanisms for debating and resolving international environmental issues;
- (k) contributes to the preparation of international agreements relevant to the conservation of nature and natural resources and encourages States to adhere to these agreements;
- (l) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources; and
- (m) implements the provisions of these Statutes.

### ***Part III - Members***

#### Categories

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.

5. In these Statutes:

- (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;
- (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;

- (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;
- (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.

#### Admission

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

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.

#### Rights and Obligations of Members

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.

- (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.

### Suspension, Rescission, Expulsion and Withdrawal

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;
- (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.

### Readmission

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

***Part IV - Organization***

15. The components of IUCN are:
  - (a) the World Conservation Congress;
  - (b) the Council;
  - (c) the National and Regional Committees, and Regional Fora of Members;
  - (d) the Commissions; and
  - (e) the Secretariat.
  
16. The Regions of IUCN shall be:
  - (a) Africa;
  - (b) Meso and South America;
  - (c) North America and the Caribbean;
  - (d) South and East Asia;
  - (e) West Asia;
  - (f) Oceania;
  - (g) East Europe, North and Central Asia; and
  - (h) West Europe.
  
17. The States included in these Regions shall be listed in the Regulations. No State may be transferred between Regions without the approval of the World Congress.

## ***Part V - The World Conservation Congress***

18. The World Congress shall be the highest organ of IUCN.

### Composition

19. The World Congress shall consist of the duly accredited delegates of the Members of IUCN meeting in session. The delegates of the Members in Categories A and B shall constitute, respectively, the governmental and non-governmental Categories of the World Congress.

### Functions

20. The functions of the World Congress shall be *inter alia*:

- (a) to define the general policy of IUCN;
- (b) to make recommendations to governments and to national and international organizations in any matter related to the objectives of IUCN;
- (c) to receive and consider the reports of:
  - (i) the Director General on the activities of IUCN during the period since the preceding session of the World Congress;
  - (ii) the Director General with the Treasurer on the financial affairs of IUCN;
  - (iii) the Chairs of the Commissions;
  - (iv) recognized Regional Committees and of Fora;
- (d) to receive the auditors' report and to approve the audited accounts;
- (e) to consider and approve the programme and financial plan for the period until the next ordinary session of the World Congress;
- (f) to determine the dues of Members of IUCN;
- (g) to determine the number of the Commissions and their mandates;
- (h) to elect the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and Chairs of Commissions;
- (i) to elect such honorary officers as it deems appropriate;

- (j) to appoint one or more auditors;
- (k) to decide the suspension and expulsion of Members of IUCN;
- (l) to decide appeals;
- (m) to provide a public forum for debate on how best to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable; and
- (n) to perform such other functions as may be conferred by these Statutes.

#### Venue of the World Congress and Responsibility of Host State

21. The World Congress shall convene in Switzerland or in another State that agrees to host a session of the World Congress provided that:
- (a) all persons entitled to attend the World Congress shall be admitted to that State without discrimination;
  - (b) all participants in the World Congress shall have the right of free expression in sessions of the World Congress and associated meetings;
  - (c) every effort shall be made to facilitate entry and return of material and equipment necessary for the World Congress; and
  - (d) all other provisions necessary for the functioning of the World Congress shall be provided in accordance with the terms of a written understanding between IUCN and the host State.
22. The venue shall be selected with a view toward holding the sessions of the World Congress in as wide a variety of Regions as possible.

#### Sessions

23. The Council shall, after considering suggestions of Members, determine the date and venue of each ordinary and extraordinary session of the World Congress. The decision of Council shall be communicated to the Members of IUCN by the Director General, with a provisional agenda, at least nine months in advance of each session.
24. The World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year. Each ordinary session shall include the World Conservation Forum and the Members' Assembly.
25. An extraordinary session of the World Congress shall be convened:

- (a) if requested by at least one-fifth of the Members of either Category A or Category B; or
  - (b) if the Council considers it necessary.
26. The President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at sittings of the World Congress. No persons shall preside over sittings involving elections in which they are candidates.

### Elections

27. The President, the Treasurer and the Chairs of the Commissions shall be elected by the World Congress on the nomination of the Council. Nominations for the President may also be made by forty Members eligible to vote from at least three Regions, within the period prescribed in the Regulations.
28. The Regional Councillors shall be elected by the World Congress in accordance with Article 39 and the Regulations.

### Rules of Procedure

29. (a) The Rules of Procedure of the World Congress are annexed to these Statutes.
- (b) Any Member eligible to vote may submit to the Steering Committee of the World Congress a motion to amend the Rules of Procedure, and if prior to a session of the World Congress, to the Council. The Steering Committee or Council shall recommend to the World Congress that the motion be:
- (i) accepted in its original form;
  - (ii) accepted in an amended form; or
  - (iii) rejected.
- (c) The Council may propose a motion for amendment of the Rules of Procedure.
- (d) Any amendment to the Rules of Procedure shall require a decision of the World Congress taken by simple majority.
- (e) The World Congress shall, when amending the Rules of Procedure, determine the effective date of such amendment.

### Voting

30. Only Members in Categories A and B shall have the right to vote.
31. Unless provided otherwise in these Statutes, decisions of the World Congress shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast in each Category.
32. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.
33. Multiple choice elections shall be as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure.
34. Governmental Members shall have voting rights as follows:
  - (a) each State Member shall have three votes, one of which shall be exercised collectively by the Government Agency Members, if any, of that State;
  - (b) Government Agency Members of IUCN within a State which is not a State Member of IUCN shall collectively have one vote;
  - (c) where one or more member States of a political and/or economic integration organization, and that organization itself are Members of IUCN, the organization and its member States shall decide on the mode of exercising their voting rights which shall not in total exceed those of the State Members of IUCN belonging to that organization.
35. Non-governmental Members shall have voting rights as follows:
  - (a) National non-governmental organizations shall each have one vote;
  - (b) International non-governmental organizations shall each have two votes.

### Review of Decisions

36. Any decision of the World Congress taken in circumstances where:
  - (a) fewer than half of the total votes in either Category A or B were represented at that session of the World Congress, or
  - (b) the matter was not on the agenda distributed to Members before the World Congress,shall be subject to confirmation by mail ballot if, not later than ninety days after the distribution of the decisions of the World Congress, so requested by a minimum of forty Members eligible to vote from at least three Regions. Pending such confirmation the decision of the World Congress shall be suspended.

## *Part VI - The Council*

37. Subject to the authority of the World Congress, the Council shall have responsibility for the oversight and general control of all the affairs of IUCN.

### Composition

38. The members of the Council are:
- (a) the President;
  - (b) the Treasurer;
  - (c) the Chairs of the Commissions;
  - (d) the Regional Councillors;
  - (e) a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, appointed by the Council, provided that one from that State has not been elected Regional Councillor; and
  - (f) up to five additional appointed Councillors, chosen by the Council on the basis of diverse qualifications, interests and skills.
39. There shall be a total of twenty-four Regional Councillors. Three Regional Councillors shall be elected from each Region.
40. Only one Regional Councillor, and only two Chairs of Commissions, shall be from the same State.
41. The terms of office of the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and Chairs of Commissions shall extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Congress. The appointed Councillors shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the other Councillors are elected.
42. Members of the Council shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms.
43. The Council may fill any vacancies for the President, Treasurer, Councillors and Chairs of Commissions that may occur, for the balance of the term concerned.
44. The Deputy Chairs of Commissions shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the Council. They shall be entitled to vote in the place of the Chair of their Commission when that Chair is absent.

45. The Council may invite observers to its meetings.

### Functions

46. The functions of the Council shall be *inter alia*:

- (a) within the general policy of IUCN laid down by the World Congress, to give rulings on policy and to determine complementary policy guidelines;
- (b) to adopt and publicise statements on important issues concerning the objectives of IUCN;
- (c) to report and make recommendations to the Members of IUCN and the World Congress on any matter relating to the activities of IUCN;
- (d) to approve the programme and budget for the following year and to review regularly the implementation of the programme;
- (e) to review the work of the Commissions;
- (f) to approve the annual report of the Director General together with an account of income and expenditure and a balance sheet as at the end of the year;
- (g) to recognize National and Regional Committees and to consult with them and their members;
- (h) to admit Members and transfer Members of IUCN from one Category of membership to another;
- (i) to elect from among its members, up to four Vice-Presidents, chosen with due regard to geographical distribution and gender balance;
- (j) to appoint, and evaluate the work of, the Director General;
- (k) to nominate candidates for President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions having considered any proposals by Members of IUCN;
- (l) to appoint a Deputy Chair and Steering Committee of each Commission on receipt of nomination by that Commission's Chair;
- (m) to select the appointed Councillors;
- (n) to appoint the Legal Adviser;
- (o) to report to the Members of IUCN on decisions taken which substantially affect the programme or the budget of IUCN;

- (p) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and a Resolutions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and
  - (q) to perform such other functions as may be conferred on it by the World Congress and these Statutes.
47. The Council may establish fees for participation in IUCN events.
48. In exceptional circumstances, the Council may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, take measures that by Statute are prerogatives of the World Congress. In such cases, the Members of IUCN eligible to vote shall be notified promptly of these measures. If a majority of the Members eligible to vote in either Category, responding within ninety days of the date of the notice, signifies its disapproval, the measures shall be rescinded.

#### Bureau

49. The Council shall establish a Bureau which shall act on behalf, and under the authority of the Council between meetings of the Council.

#### Committees and Working Groups

50. (a) The Council may appoint committees and working groups, including but not limited to the Programme and Policy Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee, and in any such appointments it shall seek to reflect the geographic and other diversity of IUCN.
- (b) The Chairs of such committees and working groups will be elected for the first half of the term of Council and will be re-eligible at mid term.

#### Meetings

51. The Council shall meet at least once a year. The President may convene a meeting of the Council whenever necessary and shall do so if requested by one-third of the members of the Council. If the President is incapable of convening a meeting of the Council, one of the Vice-Presidents may do so.
52. The President shall preside at meetings of the Council. In the President's absence, or in case of a conflict of interest, one of the Vice-Presidents or a member of the Council selected by those members of the Council present, shall preside.
53. The rules of procedure of the Council and the duties of the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer shall be as prescribed in the Regulations.

#### Quorum and Voting

54. Half of the members of the Council, whether present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not present at a duly convened meeting of the Council, draft decisions may be prepared by those present and circulated to all members of the Council for decision by mail ballot on each item.
55. Unless provided otherwise in these Statutes, decisions of the Council shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. Each member of the Council shall be entitled to one vote, and in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting may cast the deciding vote.
56. In voting at the Council, abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.

#### Proxy

57. If unable to attend a meeting of the Council, members of the Council may empower other members of the Council by written proxy to speak and vote on their behalf, complying with the instructions contained in the proxy. A member of the Council may accept no more than the number of proxies prescribed in the Regulations.

#### Transparency

58. The work of the Council shall be conducted with transparency. The minutes shall be available to the Members of IUCN and a report on decisions shall be communicated to them. Discussions in closed meetings may be confidential as the Council may decide.

#### Duties of Members of the Council

59. The members of the Council shall have a fundamental obligation to serve IUCN with diligence and integrity.
60. The members of the Council shall disclose to the Council any potential conflict of interest on matters under consideration by the Council and refrain from participating in the discussion and voting on these matters.
61. No member of the Council may vote on any matter in which that member or a close relative has any legal or financial interest.
62. Members of the Council shall serve IUCN in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their respective States or organizations.
63. No member of the Council shall receive any remuneration from IUCN. Expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties may be reimbursed.

#### Vacation of Office

64. The office of a member of the Council shall *ipso facto* be vacated if that member is absent for three consecutive meetings of the Council without leave of absence from the Council.

#### Suspension and Expulsion of a Member of the Council

65. Should a member of the Council act in a manner seriously inconsistent with that member's duties, any two members of the Council and the President or a Vice-President may propose that the Council suspend that member. The member shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the allegations made. Taking into account both the allegations and the response, the Council may suspend the member by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. If the suspended member of the Council so requests within thirty days of the decision, the Council's decision to suspend shall be referred to the Members of IUCN for confirmation by mail ballot. If there is no such request, or if the Council's decision is confirmed, the member of the Council shall be deemed expelled. If the mail ballot does not confirm the Council's suspension, then the member shall be reinstated.

### ***Part VII - The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora***

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.
67. The Council
- (a) shall recognize only one National Committee for a State, and one Regional Committee for a particular Region or a part of the Region; and
  - (b) may recognize Interregional Committees for defined purposes and on such terms as it considers appropriate.
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.

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.
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.
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 and any in-country National or Regional Committees to formulate, coordinate and implement the Programme of IUCN.
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.

### ***Part VIII - The Commissions***

73. The Commissions shall be networks of expert volunteers entrusted to develop and advance the institutional knowledge and experience and objectives of IUCN.

### Composition

74. The World Congress shall establish the Commissions and determine their mandates, which shall be within the IUCN Programme. The Council may propose to the World Congress the creation, abolition, or subdivision of a Commission, or amendment of a Commission's mandate. The Council may establish a provisional Commission, pending a decision by the next ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress, provided that its mandate does not encroach on that of an existing Commission.

### Functions

75. The functions of the Commissions shall be to fulfil their missions as defined in their mandates, including:
- (a) to analyse issues and prepare assessments, reports, action plans, criteria and methodology and undertake research and other scientific and technical work;
  - (b) to undertake tasks assigned to them within the integrated programme of IUCN;
  - (c) to provide advice on any matter within their fields of competence;
  - (d) to broaden knowledge and competence on matters relating to their mandates;
  - (e) to work with Members and the Secretariat to develop activities within the various Regions, and to support Members and components of IUCN with necessary expertise; and
  - (f) to undertake such other responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the World Congress and the Council.
76. The organization, activities and financial management of the Commissions and procedure for the appointment of their members shall be as prescribed in the Regulations.
77. The Chair of each Commission shall present a report at each ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress and each year to the Council.

***Part IX - The Secretariat***

78. The Secretariat shall consist of the staff of IUCN. The Director General shall be the chief executive of IUCN and the head of the Secretariat. The Director General shall be subject to the authority of the Council.
79. The Director General shall be:
- (a) appointed by the Council according to the highest standard of merit for such period and under such terms and conditions as the Council may determine;
  - (b) responsible for the implementation of the policy and the programme of IUCN as established by the World Congress and the Council;
  - (c) responsible for the finances and accounting of IUCN;
  - (d) responsible for coordinating the work of the Secretariat with all other components of IUCN;
  - (e) authorized to issue statements in the name of IUCN;
  - (f) authorized to sign all obligations on behalf of IUCN and to delegate such authority;
  - (g) the head of the secretariat for the World Congress.
80. The Director General or the Director General's representative shall have the right to participate in, and speak at, meetings of the components of IUCN or any committee thereof, without the right to vote.
81. The Director General shall appoint the staff of the Secretariat in accordance with staff rules formulated by the Director General and approved by the Council. Staff selection shall be on the basis of merit, equal opportunity, gender equity and geographic balance, and be without discrimination on grounds of race or creed.
82. In the performance of their duties, the Director General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any source external to IUCN. They shall refrain from any action incompatible with their position as staff members of an international organization. Each Member of IUCN shall respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Director General and the staff, and not seek to influence them unduly in the discharge of their responsibilities.
83. The Director General shall submit to the Council an annual report on the activities of IUCN, together with an account of the income and expenditure and a balance

sheet as at the end of the year and proposals for future activities. When approved by the Council, this report shall be communicated to the Members of IUCN.

84. The Director General shall prepare for presentation to each ordinary session of the World Congress, a report on the work of IUCN since its last session. The report shall be submitted by the Director General to the Council and presented to the World Congress with such comments as the Council may decide to make.

### ***Part X - The Legal Adviser***

85. The Legal Adviser shall provide legal advice to the World Congress, the Council and the Secretariat, and to such other components of IUCN as may be prescribed in the Regulations.
86. The Legal Adviser shall have the right to participate in, and speak at, sessions of the World Congress, meetings of the Council or any committees thereof and such other components of IUCN as the Regulations may prescribe, but without the right to vote.

### ***Part XI - Finance***

87. The income of IUCN shall be derived from membership dues, contracts, grants, donations, investments and from any other sources approved by the Council.
88. The Director General shall:
- (a) cause true and accurate accounts to be kept of all monies received and expended by IUCN;
  - (b) regulate all income and expenditure in accordance with the budget and establish internal controls, including internal audits, to enhance the effective and efficient use of the resources of IUCN;
  - (c) ensure that the accounts of IUCN are examined each year by the auditors appointed by the World Congress and that their written report is circulated to all Members of IUCN together with any comments of the Council;
  - (d) with the Treasurer, submit to each ordinary session of the World Congress, a report on the consolidated accounts of IUCN together with the auditors' reports for the relevant years;

- (e) submit to each ordinary session of the World Congress for approval, a draft programme and financial plan for the period until the next ordinary session of the World Congress, together with the comments of the Treasurer and the Council;
  - (f) submit each year to the Council the annual programme and budget for approval; and
  - (g) keep the Treasurer informed of unforeseen expenses and important variations from the projected income and, if necessary, submit amended budgets to the Council in agreement with the Treasurer.
89. The Treasurer may object on financial grounds to any proposed alteration of the budget, and shall inform the Council of such objection.
90. The Council may establish or approve endowment funds for IUCN dedicated exclusively to the support of IUCN, its objectives and programme. These funds shall be under the control of the Council, as may be prescribed in the Regulations.

### ***Part XII - Limitation of Financial Liability and Indemnity***

91. The liability of a Member of IUCN shall be limited to the payment of its dues.
92. Notwithstanding Article 15(c), IUCN shall be liable only for its own financial undertakings and, subject to Article 71(b), not for those of any National or Regional Committee. The Council may establish procedures for indemnification of IUCN by any National or Regional Committee.
93. IUCN shall indemnify members of the Council, to the extent permitted by law, against claims arising from the normal exercise of their functions.

### ***Part XIII - Mail Ballot***

94. All matters within the competence of the World Congress may be decided by mail ballot. Such a mail ballot shall take place at the request of the Council or at least one fifth of the total voting rights in either Category of Member eligible to vote.
95. All matters within the competence of the Council may be decided by mail ballot. Unless otherwise provided in the Statutes, such a mail ballot shall take place at the request of the President or at least ten members of the Council.

96. Decisions by mail ballot shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the provisions on voting at the World Congress and at the Council.

#### ***Part XIV - External Relations***

97. The Director General, with the consent of the Council, may establish appropriate working relations between IUCN and governments and organizations, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental.
98. The Director General, with the consent of the Council, shall have the authority to take appropriate steps to obtain, in accordance with the laws of each State in which IUCN is to undertake activities, such legal status as may be necessary to carry out those activities.

#### ***Part XV - Seat***

99. The seat of IUCN shall be in Switzerland.

#### ***Part XVI - Official Languages***

100. The official languages of IUCN shall be English, French and Spanish.

#### ***Part XVII - Regulations***

101. The Regulations implementing these Statutes, adopted by the World Congress, may be amended by Council. The Regulations shall conform to these Statutes, and neither limit nor expand the rights of the Members to exercise control on any matter governed by these Statutes. Any proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda of one of the periodic Council meetings and shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at each of two successive periodic meetings of the Council.
102. Any amendment to the Regulations shall be communicated to the Members as soon as possible after it is adopted.

103. The World Congress shall review, at the request of a minimum of forty Members eligible to vote, an amendment to the Regulations adopted by the Council, provided that the request is made within one hundred and eighty days of the Council's communication of the amendment. Pending such review, the effectiveness of the amendment shall be suspended.

### ***Part XVIII - Amendment of the Statutes***

104. Any Member of IUCN may propose an amendment to these Statutes for the consideration of the Council. Such proposed amendments shall be received by the Secretariat not later than one hundred and eighty days before the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress. The Council shall inform the Member as to whether it proposes to lay the amendment before the World Congress, and if so, in what form.
105. Amendments to these Statutes may be proposed to the World Congress:
- (a) by the Council, which may incorporate in the proposals suggestions received from Members of IUCN under Article 104; or
  - (b) by any five Members in Category A or fifty Members in Category B, provided that such proposals are received by the Secretariat not less than one hundred and eighty days prior to the opening of an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress.
106. The Director General shall communicate to the Members of IUCN, not less than one hundred and twenty days prior to the date set for the opening of an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress, any amendment to these Statutes proposed by the Council or by Members of IUCN under Article 105. Such communication shall include an explanation of the proposals and any comments of the Council.
107. Unless otherwise decided, amendments to the Statutes proposed in accordance with Articles 105 and 106, shall become effective at the close of the session of the World Congress at which they are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in each of the Categories A and B.
108. Whenever the Statutes of IUCN are amended, and the functions of various existing components of IUCN are affected, the existing components shall carry out the new duties under the amended Statutes during any transition period occasioned by the amendments.

### ***Part XIX - Dissolution***

109. The World Congress may only resolve on the dissolution of IUCN on the basis of a written motion to be sent to all the Members of IUCN at least one hundred and twenty days prior to the date scheduled for the opening of the session of the World Congress at which it is to be considered. Adoption of such a motion shall require a majority of three-quarters of the votes cast by Members in each of the Categories A and B.
110. Upon dissolution, the assets of IUCN shall be distributed to an institution with objectives similar to those of IUCN, in accordance with the law of Switzerland.

### ***Part XX - Interpretation***

111. The English, French and Spanish texts of these Statutes shall be equally authentic.
112. Authentic texts in other languages may be adopted by the World Congress.

### ***Part XXI - Final Clause***

113. These Statutes, adopted by the Members of IUCN, meeting at the 1st World Conservation Congress in Montreal from 13 to 23 October 1996\*, shall entirely replace and substitute for the previous Statutes with effect from 24 October 1996, provided that nothing herein shall affect the validity of decisions taken under the previous Statutes.

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\* Amended on 24 November 2004 by the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, Thailand and on 13th October 2008 by the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain.

## ***Annex***

# ***RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS***

### ***Part I - Legal Status***

1. These Rules of Procedure govern the conduct of the World Conservation Congress (hereinafter referred to as “the World Congress”) and shall be read in conjunction with the Statutes and the Regulations of IUCN.

### ***Part II - Structure of the World Conservation Congress***

#### World Conservation Forum

2. Following the opening of the World Congress, the World Conservation Forum shall be held, consisting of sittings to consider major thematic areas of the IUCN Programme and to facilitate the sharing of information and experience. Some sittings on major issues related to the conservation of nature and natural resources may be open to the public.

#### Members’ Assembly

3. Following the World Conservation Forum, the Members’ Assembly shall sit and deal with the business and policy of IUCN, in accordance with the Statutes.

#### Associated Meetings

4. The Council may authorize and schedule time for workshops, technical and other meetings held in conjunction with a session of the World Congress.

### ***Part III - Delegates and Observers***

#### Delegates

5. Members of IUCN may be represented at the World Congress by up to three delegates. If a Member eligible to vote is represented by more than one delegate, it shall nominate a Head of Delegation.
6. Any Head of Delegation who is unable to attend a sitting of the World Congress may be replaced by another delegate duly authorized to that effect by such Head of Delegation or by a duly authorized representative of the Member or, in the case of a State Member, in accordance with this State's procedures.
7. No member of the Secretariat of IUCN shall be appointed as a delegate or an observer to the World Congress.

#### Observers

8. Non-Member States and organizations with which IUCN has formal working relationships may be represented at the World Congress by observers at the invitation of the Council.
9. Members of Commissions, Honorary Members and Patrons may attend the World Congress as observers.
10. Members of formally-established working groups of IUCN, and other persons having similar working relationships with IUCN who are not members of a delegation, may attend the World Congress as observers at the invitation of the Director General.

#### Number of Representatives

11. Prior approval of the Director General shall be required before any Member, notwithstanding Rule 5, or any observer institution, may be represented at the World Congress by more than three persons.

#### Credentials

12. A written statement of credentials designating representatives shall be submitted by each Member and observer institution. Such statement shall be signed by the responsible official of the Member or observer concerned who has the necessary authority. Such officials may authorize their own service as representatives. The statement shall be either on a form provided by the Director General, or shall provide all the particulars called for in that form. It shall be returned to the Director General before the World Congress opens and shall bear an official seal or be accompanied by an official letter.

### ***Part IV - Committees of the World Conservation Congress***

13. The World Congress shall establish Steering, Resolutions, Credentials and Finance and Audit Committees and such other committees as it may consider necessary for the conduct of its business, and shall define their terms of reference.
14. Each such committee shall regulate its own business and shall appoint a Rapporteur.

#### Steering Committee

15. The Preparatory Committee appointed by the Council to make preparations for the World Congress together with the President, Vice-Presidents and Director General shall comprise the Steering Committee which shall be charged with the general duty of forwarding the business of the World Congress.
16. The President, a Vice-President or other member of the Council shall preside over the Steering Committee.
17. All matters concerning the organization of the World Congress shall be referred to the Steering Committee.
18. The Steering Committee shall meet as necessary during the World Congress and shall invite concerned individuals as necessary to join in its meetings.

#### Resolutions Committee

19. The World Congress shall elect a Resolutions Committee.
20. The Resolutions Committee shall include the members of the Resolutions Working Group appointed by the Council.

#### Credentials Committee

21. The World Congress shall elect a Credentials Committee, composed of members nominated by the President and including the Director General or the Director General's representative *ex officio*. The Credentials Committee shall examine credentials and other matters within its terms of reference as defined by Council, and report to the World Congress. The report shall include the number of votes to be exercised by each delegation in accordance with the Statutes.

### ***Part V - Secretariat of the World Conservation Congress***

22. The Director General shall be the head of the secretariat for the World Congress.
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 and for arranging interpretation.

### ***Part VI - Debates***

#### Order and Discipline

24. The President, or one of the Vice-Presidents or a member of the Council, shall take the Chair at sittings of the World Congress.
25. The duties of the Chair shall be:
  - (a) to open, suspend and close sittings of the World Congress;
  - (b) to announce, at the end of each sitting, the date, time and agenda items for the next sitting;
  - (c) to guide the debates of the World Congress;
  - (d) to maintain order, call on speakers, limit interventions, close debates, put questions to the vote and announce the results of votes; and
  - (e) unless other arrangements have been made, to submit the proposals of the Council to the World Congress.
26. The Chair shall call to order any participant who causes a disturbance during the proceedings or otherwise contravenes these Rules of Procedure.
27. In the event of persistent disturbance or contravention of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair may propose that the offender be excluded for the remainder of the sitting. The World Congress shall decide on this proposal forthwith and without debate.

### Participation in Sittings

28. Participation in the Members' Assembly shall be restricted to delegates, to observers and others who may be invited for specific purposes, and to members of the Council, members of the Commissions, the Director General and the Secretariat Staff.
29. The sittings of the World Conservation Forum shall be open to all delegates, observers, members of the Council and of the Secretariat staff, members of the Commissions, special invitees and representatives of the press accredited by the Director General, unless the Members' Assembly decides otherwise for the next World Conservation Forum.
30. Participation in selected sittings of the World Conservation Forum and in any workshop or technical meeting held in conjunction with the World Congress may be open to the public on such terms as specified by the Council, including registration fees.

### Right to Speak

31. The Chair shall recognize all participants who request the floor, and shall as far as possible call on them in that order, allowing diverse view points to be heard.
32. Participants may speak only if called upon by the Chair.
33. The Director General may at any time with the permission of the Chair, make oral or written statements to the World Congress on any question brought up for discussion.
34. Where a motion is debated, the Chair shall, where appropriate, alternately call speakers for and against the motion.
35. The Chair may prescribe a time-limit for speakers and limit interventions accordingly.
36. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. The speaker may, however, with the permission of the Chair, give way during a speech to allow any other delegate or observer to request elucidation on a particular point in that speech.
37. If a speaker is irrelevant, the Chair may call the speaker to order. In the event of persistent irrelevance, the Chair may forbid the speaker to speak for the remainder of the debate. The speaker concerned may appeal in writing to the Steering Committee against exclusion from the debate. Participants who consider that they have been denied the right to speak because they have not gained recognition may also appeal. The Steering Committee shall report on the appeal to the World

Congress at the beginning of its next sitting and the World Congress shall vote on the matter unless the Chair annuls the Chair's earlier decision.

38. A participant who wishes to make a personal statement or explanation or exercise a right of reply shall be heard at the Chair's discretion.
39. No speaker may speak for more than five minutes on any of the following:
  - (a) an explanation of votes;
  - (b) any question of procedure; and
  - (c) a personal statement or explanation.
40. The Director General shall issue one recognition card for the right to speak to each delegation, each affiliate, each member of the Council, each Commission Deputy Chair and to any other observers as the Council shall decide.

#### Procedural Motions

41. A participant shall have prior right to speak in order to:
  - (a) call the attention of the Chair to a point of order or an abuse of the Rules of Procedure;
  - (b) move the adjournment of the debate (which motion may be moved not more than once in the course of a debate);
  - (c) move the closure of a debate at the end of an intervention; and
  - (d) move that the sitting be closed.
42. The above matters shall take precedence over the main question, debate on which shall be suspended whilst they are considered.
43. In debate on motions for adjournment, for closure of a debate, and that the sitting be closed, only the following may be heard: the proposer, one speaker against and the Chair or Rapporteur of the committee or committees concerned. The Members shall then take a decision.
44. An appeal by a voting delegate against a ruling by the Chair shall be made to the Steering Committee. The Chair shall announce the decision of the Steering Committee to the World Congress which may confirm or change that decision.

## ***Part VII - Agenda and Motions***

### Agenda

45. The Director General, in consultation with the Council, shall prepare a draft agenda conforming with the tentative agenda previously circulated according to the Statutes, for each session of the World Congress showing, so far as circumstances permit, at which sittings particular matters will be debated. The draft agenda and documents originating with the Council or the Secretariat and relating to matters requiring the approval of the World Congress shall be circulated to the Members of IUCN not later than one hundred and fifty days before the start of the World Congress. The draft agenda shall be submitted for adoption at the first sitting of the World Congress.
46. Any appeals against Council decisions shall be placed on the agenda.
47. Once adopted, proposals to add to or otherwise to alter the agenda may only be submitted to the World Congress by the Steering Committee.

### Motions

48. For the purpose of these Rules of Procedure, a motion means a draft in writing of any decision which the World Congress is requested to take. Such motion may take the form of a resolution, recommendation, expression of opinion or proposal. Resolutions are directed to IUCN itself. Recommendations are directed to third parties, and may deal with any matter of importance to the objectives of IUCN.
49. Motions may be proposed by the Council, or by any Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least five other such Members. Motions shall normally be submitted to the Director General no later than one hundred and twenty days before the opening of the next session of the World Congress. The Secretariat shall circulate all accepted motions which are received by it, to all Members, at least sixty days in advance of that session of the World Congress.
- 49*bis*. Members proposing a motion concerning an issue arising in a State or States outside of their own Region shall make best efforts to secure factual information substantiating their proposal, and present such evidence upon request (a) at the time the proposal is submitted to the Director General and (b) at the World Congress.
50. An explanatory memorandum of a maximum of five hundred words, in any of the official languages, may be appended to the text of a motion, and circulated as submitted, but shall not form part of the motion or be put to the vote.

51. Discussion of the draft Programme or proposed mandate of a Commission shall take into consideration any motion or part of a motion affecting these documents, and all such motions shall be dealt with as proposed amendments to the Programme or mandate. All such motions shall be remitted by the Resolutions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee to the 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.
52. Motions may only be submitted at the World Congress either by the Council, or by a Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least ten other Members eligible to vote, and if the subject of the motions is new, urgent, could not have been foreseen, arises out of deliberations of the World Congress or responds to matters on the agenda. The text of such motions shall be distributed to delegates by the Secretariat only if the Resolutions Committee has accepted them as meeting a minimum of any three of the following criteria:
  - (a) "New" means that the issue which is the subject of the resolution or recommendation has arisen within ninety days before the start of the session of the World Congress;
  - (b) "Urgent" means a matter in respect of which developments are about to take place soon after the World Congress and upon which a resolution or recommendation of the World Congress may reasonably be expected to have an impact;
  - (c) "Could not have been foreseen" means a matter which, while not itself new, has been the subject of developments within ninety days before the start of the session of the World Congress which call for action by the World Congress;
  - (d) "Arises out of the deliberations of the World Congress" means a matter which has been discussed at any officially scheduled meeting during the World Congress, including business and conservation sittings, technical meetings, Commission meetings, meetings of working groups or associated meetings;
  - (e) "Responds to matters on the agenda" means any matter scheduled for discussion at any of the meetings referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph, but which has not yet been discussed by that meeting at the time when the resolution or recommendation was submitted.
53. Motions meeting a minimum of any three of the above criteria shall be submitted by deadlines set by the Steering Committee. Motions received after such deadlines shall only be admitted with the consent of the President.
54. Motions shall only be accepted if they are consistent with the objectives of IUCN. Motions may repeat the decisions of a prior session of the World Congress only if

the underlying issue has not been resolved and there remains a need for further action.

55. The Steering Committee shall decide any appeal from a proposer and co-sponsors against the exclusion or amendment of a draft motion by the Resolutions Working Group or Resolutions Committee. The Chair shall announce the decision of the Steering Committee and the World Congress may confirm or change that decision.
56. The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or *ad hoc* contact group of delegates, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group. The reports of such contact 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.
57. When the consideration of a text of a motion has been concluded, a vote shall take place on the text as a whole. Before that vote takes place, explanations of the text may be given, if the World Congress so decides.

#### Amendments to Motions

58. Any delegate may propose amendments to any motion.
59. Amendments shall relate directly to the text which it is sought to alter. They shall be signed by their author and, unless proposed in the course of a debate, submitted in time for them to be distributed before they are debated. Ordinarily, all amendments shall be transmitted to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee, or in special circumstances when an amendment is proposed in the course of a debate, the Chair, shall decide whether an amendment is in order.
60. Amendments shall have priority in debate over the original text to which they relate and shall be put to the vote before that text.
61. If two or more amendments relate to the same part of a motion, the amendment which differs most from the text which it is sought to amend shall be put to the vote first. If it is agreed to, other contradictory amendments to the same part shall be considered as having thereby been negated. If the amendment is not agreed to, the amendment next in priority shall be put to the vote, and the same procedure shall be followed for each of the remaining amendments. In case of doubt as to the degree of priority, the Chair shall give a ruling.
62. The Resolutions Committee or, in special circumstances when an amendment is proposed in the course of a debate, the Chair, may propose that amendments should be debated or voted upon together. They may propose that the text together with the proposed amendments be referred to a contact group.

## ***Part VIII - Methods of Voting***

### Voting Cards and Electronic Voting Cards

63. Voting cards marked to distinguish the session of the World Congress concerned and, if required under Rule 67, electronic voting cards shall be distributed to delegates by the Secretariat in accordance with the report of the Credentials Committee.
64. The voting cards given to delegates of Category A Members shall be white; those to Category B Members shall be green. In the case of electronic voting, the electronic voting card shall be programmed so as to ensure that the votes of Category A Members and the votes of Category B Members shall be recorded separately.
65. White or green voting cards will each equal one vote and shall be distributed according to the number of votes to which the Member is entitled by the Statutes. In the case of electronic voting, the electronic voting card shall be programmed with the number of votes to which the Member is entitled by the Statutes.

### Methods of Voting on Motions

66. Only an accredited representative of a delegation may vote and speak on behalf of that Member. No delegate may use the voting card, electronic voting card or speaking rights of another delegation without the express prior written permission of the delegation in question.
67. Voting shall normally be carried out by delegates holding up the voting cards or, in the alternative, by inserting electronic voting cards into machines as provided for specifically in Regulation 40*bis* (informal vote). The result of the vote shall be announced by the Chair.
68. If the Chair thinks it necessary or if any delegate so requests, a vote that was carried out by delegates holding up the voting cards shall be repeated, the voting cards for each Category being counted separately by at least two tellers (formal vote). In the case of electronic voting under Rule 67, the vote shall simply be repeated.
69. On a request by delegates from at least ten Members eligible to vote, the vote shall be taken by roll call. The roll shall be called in each Category separately for each delegation in the order of the printed membership list beginning with a country chosen at random. Voting shall be expressed by "yes", "no", or "abstain". Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.

70. A secret ballot may be held at the request of delegates from ten Members eligible to vote. In this case, when voting is carried out by delegates holding up voting cards, ballot papers bearing only the letters "A" or "B", shall be distributed by the Secretariat on presentation of the voting cards on the basis of one paper per card. The ballot paper shall provide for a "yes", "no" or "abstain" vote. Ballot papers may be used only for one ballot. If a further ballot is taken, the ballot papers must be marked with an identifying number corresponding to the ballot for which they are valid. In the case of electronic voting, the Election Officer shall confirm that the system is programmed so as to guarantee the anonymity of all votes.
71. The Chair shall be responsible for appointing tellers, counting the votes and announcing the results.
72. The Director General shall keep a register of the written statements of any Member explaining its vote and shall reflect these statements in the volume of the Proceedings, or that of the Resolutions and Recommendations of the World Congress.
73. The Chair may exercise a vote, if a voting delegate. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall not have a further vote and the motion shall be considered to have failed.

### ***Part IX - Elections***

#### Election Officer

74. The Election Officer appointed by the Council under the Statutes shall be responsible for supervising the elections at the World Congress and the counting of the votes.

#### Nominations and Method of Voting in Elections

75. Nominations by a Member in Category A or B made before the World Congress shall be communicated by the Council to the Members.
76. Prior to the election, the Secretariat shall arrange for Members to meet candidates and receive information on them.
77. Once placed on the list of candidates before the World Congress, a name may only be withdrawn by the candidate in writing.
78. The elections of the President, the Treasurer and each of the Chairs of the Commissions shall be conducted separately and as follows:

- (a) the President and the Treasurer may be elected by acclamation;
  - (b) where a vote is required and there is only one candidate for a post, if that candidate does not receive a simple majority of votes cast by each Category of Member eligible to vote, the post shall be filled by the World Congress or, failing a decision by the closure of the session, by the new Council; and
  - (c) where there is more than one candidate for any of these posts a vote shall be taken in accordance with Rule 81.
79. Should a sole candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer or Chair of Commission withdraw or become ineligible, the Council shall meet in extraordinary session and, having considered the views of the Members of IUCN, shall propose a new candidate to the World Congress.
- 79bis. Where three or more candidates from the same State, each nominated for a different Commission Chair post, receive the highest number of votes or the highest ranking for the respective posts for which they were nominated, only the two candidates who receive the highest percentage of the votes in the voting for their respective Commission Chair posts shall be elected. With regard to each of the remaining candidates who received the highest number of votes or the highest ranking for the posts for which they were nominated, the vote on each such candidate *ipso facto* shall be vacated by the election of the two candidates who received the highest percentage of votes, and the vacant post of Commission Chair for such candidate's Commission shall be filled as follows:
- (a) If there was a runner-up candidate from a different State who received at least eighty percent (80%) of the votes received by the candidate for whom the vote was vacated, then such runner-up shall be elected to the vacant post of Commission Chair.
  - (b) If there was no runner-up from a different State who received at least eighty percent (80%) of the votes received by the candidate for whom the vote had been vacated, then the post of Commission Chair for that Commission shall be filled by the new Council.
80. Where the number of candidates for Regional Councillors is the same or less than the number of vacancies in the Region for which they are nominated, each candidate shall be voted on individually. Should a candidate not receive a simple majority of votes cast by each Category of Member eligible to vote, the position of the Regional Councillor shall be filled by the new Council.
81. Where there is more than one candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillor or Commission Chair:

- (a) the ballot paper shall list candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random;
- (b) where one person is to be elected from two or more candidates for the post of President, Treasurer or Chair of a Commission, the vote shall be cast by placing an 'X' against the name of the preferred candidate;
- (c) where three persons are to be elected from among four or more candidates to serve as Regional Councillors for a Region, the vote shall be cast by placing an 'X' against the names of up to three preferred candidates. Where more than one candidate is nominated from the same State, only the candidate receiving the greater number of votes may be elected;
- (d) abstentions shall be indicated by being marked zero against the name of the candidate;
- (e) ballot papers not completed in accordance with sub-paragraphs (b) or (c) shall not be counted;
- (f) the number of votes cast for each candidate shall be totalled and the candidates ranked in order of the votes cast, this being done separately for Category A and Category B votes. The rankings so obtained for Category A shall then be added to those of Category B to produce a combined ranking;
- (g) in the event that the combined ranking is the same for two or more candidates the rankings shall be recalculated as follows: the Category A votes for each candidate required to fill the posts involved shall be multiplied by a constant factor being the number of Category B votes cast divided by the number of Category A votes cast for all candidates in that balloting; these adjusted Category A vote totals shall then be added to the Category B vote totals and the candidates ranked in order of the combined vote so obtained;
- (h) the highest ranked candidate or candidates shall be elected; and
- (i) the results of the elections, including the voting figures, shall be made available at the World Congress.

## ***Part X - Languages and Proceedings***

### Official Languages

82. Speeches made in one official language shall be interpreted into the others. If a speaker wishes to speak in a non-official language, the speaker shall be responsible for arranging and paying for interpretation into one of the official languages. A speaker may also be permitted to arrange for an interpretation into the speaker's own language.
83. All official documents shall be presented in one of the official languages and shall be translated into the others.

### Official Reports

84. Motions adopted at each sitting of the World Congress shall be recorded as decisions and the texts in the official languages distributed as soon as possible to all delegates and observers present.
85. After each World Congress, the minutes including the decisions taken shall be published in the official languages, in accordance with the language policy of IUCN. The Director General shall distribute them to all Members of IUCN and to the participants in the meeting. The minutes shall give an account of the proceedings and debates of the World Congress, showing in particular how the World Congress disposed of motions and amendments thereto, and the results of votes.

### Official Documents

86. The official documents of each World Congress shall include the following:
  - (a) the agenda of the session;
  - (b) motions and amendments proposed;
  - (c) reports and other papers from the President, Treasurer, Auditors, the Council, the Steering Committee, the Commissions, the Director General, and Committees of the World Congress;
  - (d) memoranda submitted on behalf of Members or observers on matters pertaining to the organization of the World Congress, if approved by the Steering Committee, or on all other matters, if approved by the Council; and
  - (e) decisions of the World Congress.
87. Each official document shall be numbered.

***Part XI - Amendment of Rules of Procedure***

88. These Rules of Procedure may be amended in accordance with the Statutes.

## **REGULATIONS**

### ***Part I - Legal Status***

1. These Regulations are made pursuant to the Statutes, and shall be read in conjunction with those Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress (hereinafter referred to as “the World Congress”) annexed to the Statutes.

### ***Part II - Programme***

2. IUCN shall pursue its objectives through an integrated programme of activities, formulated, coordinated and implemented by the Members and components of IUCN. The Programme shall be adopted by the World Congress and be reviewed annually by the Council. The Programme shall *inter alia*:
  - (a) examine how species and ecosystems function, how they might be sustained by conservation practice, and how to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;
  - (b) monitor and assess what biological diversity exists, under what conditions, identify the threats to its conservation, and develop an enhanced capacity to define priorities for conservation action;
  - (c) develop, test and demonstrate sound practices for the conservation and sustainable use of species and ecosystems, including through cooperative field projects;
  - (d) develop tools likely to be most effective in compensating for or correcting damaging impacts;
  - (e) examine how human behaviour, institutions, value and knowledge systems, social policy, development approaches and economic activities relate to and may affect conservation, sustainable use and equitable access to natural resources;
  - (f) increase public awareness of the conservation of nature and natural resources through education and the wide dissemination of information;

- (g) promote the continuing training and education of conservationists at all levels, and encourage their involvement with local communities worldwide in the development of sustainable ways of living;
- (h) assist in the development and improvement of legislation relating to the conservation of nature and natural resources;
- (i) prepare draft international agreements relating to the conservation of nature and natural resources, and encourage governments to adhere to and implement agreements once concluded;
- (j) strengthen the Members of IUCN and their national and regional structures;
- (k) pursue programmes of mutual interest at international, regional, national and local levels with governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, aid agencies and others; and
- (l) collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information, including by the preparation, publication and distribution of documents, legislative texts, scientific studies and other information.

### ***Part III - Members***

#### Admission

#### 3. States and Political and/or Economic Integration Organizations

- (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.
- (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.

#### 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.

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.

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;

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- (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.

### Applications for Membership

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.
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.
9. The applicant shall submit, together with its application, a written statement to the effect that it endorses the objectives of IUCN.
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.
11. Once admitted, the new Member shall undertake to publicize its association with IUCN.

### Admission Process

12. Applications for membership shall reach the Director General at least six months before they are considered by the Council.
13. The applicant shall document its activities in conservation of nature and natural resources over at least a three-year period.
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.

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

#### Transfers between Membership Categories

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.

#### Membership Dues

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.
23. Dues for other Members shall be established by the World Congress on the proposal of the Council.
24. Membership dues shall become payable on the first day of each calendar year.
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.

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.

### Publications

27. Members shall receive the IUCN annual report and bulletin and/or other appropriate newsletter published periodically in the official languages of IUCN. Other publications of IUCN shall be made available to the Members, subject to any charges for particular documents.

## ***Part IV - The World Conservation Congress***

### Preparation

28. At least twelve months before the date set for the opening of a session of the World Congress, the Council shall:
  - (a) appoint a Preparatory Committee to make the necessary preparations, including a representative of the Host State;
  - (b) appoint an Election Officer who shall not be a candidate for election nor a member of the Secretariat;
29. At least six months before the date set for the opening of a session of the World Congress, the Council shall also appoint a Resolutions Working Group of not fewer than three persons likely to become delegates to the World Congress, together with the Director General *ex officio*, to guide the Members on the submission of motions, receive such motions, facilitate discussion between Members on motions in advance of the World Congress, and prepare them for submission to the Resolutions Committee and the World Congress. Consolidated motions may be put forward by the Resolutions Working Group.

Elections: President, Treasurer and Chairs of the Commissions

30. At least six months prior to a meeting of the Council taking place not less than four months before the date set for the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress, the Members in Categories A and B shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Council, proposals for persons to be nominated as President or Treasurer, or as a Chair of a Commission. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions in office who are eligible and willing to accept re-election. Commission members shall be invited at the same time to make their proposals for the Chair of their Commission.
31. The Council shall establish criteria for the qualities required for the positions of President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions. These shall be made available to Members in Categories A and B, and, in the case of Chairs of Commissions, to the Steering Committees of the Commissions.
32. 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 and B. 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 sixty days prior to the opening of the session of the World Congress.
33. The Council shall ensure that nominations made to the World Congress of candidates for President, take account of the background of the current Director General and reflect the diversity of IUCN.
34. 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 and B, 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.
35. All proposals and nominations shall be submitted with a *curriculum vitae* of the candidate and a written declaration of willingness to serve if elected. The deadline for nominations shall be determined on each occasion by the Council. Candidates nominated for elections shall be submitted with an abbreviated *curriculum vitae* to the World Congress in alphabetical order.

Elections: Regional Councillors

36. The list of States by Region is set forth in the Annex to these Regulations.

37. At least nine months before each ordinary session of the World Congress the Members in Categories A and B shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, the names of candidates for election as Regional Councillors. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the Regional Councillors in office, indicating those who are eligible for re-election.
38. Nominations for candidates from a Region for election as Regional Councillors shall be made by five Members eligible to vote or ten per cent of all such Members in that Region, whichever is lower, in both cases drawn from more than one State. For the purpose of nomination, an international non-governmental organization whose constituency covers more than one Region shall be regarded as being located in the Region where its principal office is located. All nominations shall be submitted together with an abbreviated *curriculum vitae* for each candidate, supplied by that candidate. Each candidate shall declare in writing a willingness to serve if elected. The deadline for nominations shall be determined on each occasion by the Council.
39. Candidates for election as Regional Councillors shall be nationals of a State in the Region concerned, and shall be resident in that Region.
40. Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Regional Councillors from that Region shall be submitted by the Election Officer with appropriate background information to each ordinary session of the World Congress. The Election Officer shall list the candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random, with an indication of the number of nominations received per candidate.
- 40bis When voting is normally carried out by delegates holding up voting cards under Rule 67 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, the voting may be conducted by delegates electronically by inserting into a machine each Member's voting card. Votes for/against/abstain are tallied electronically by computer and the results of the tally announced to the World Congress by the Chair through displaying the tally on a screen visible to all delegates, with government votes and non-government votes reported separately as required under Articles 34 and 35 of the Statutes. Members who choose not to cast a vote electronically shall be declared to have abstained. The Election Officer shall monitor and ensure the accuracy of the electronic voting system.

#### Honours and Awards

41. The World Congress, on the recommendation of the Council, may confer Honorary Membership on any individual who has rendered outstanding service to conservation of nature and natural resources.
42. Eminent individuals able to contribute to advancing the mission of IUCN may be nominated by the Council for election by the World Congress as Patrons of IUCN.

43. Awards for outstanding service to conservation may be made by the Council. The Commissions may, upon notice to the Council, also make awards.
44. Honorary Members and Patrons shall be entitled to attend sessions of the World Congress and participate in its discussions and shall receive the IUCN annual report and bulletin and such other privileges as the Council may decide.

## ***Part V - The Council***

### Appointments and Vacancies

45. The elected members of the Council shall appoint as soon as practicable after their election, and for a term to run concurrently with their own:
  - (a) up to five additional Councillors, selected with due regard to the need to maintain an appropriate balance of diverse qualifications, interests and skills;
  - (b) a Councillor from Switzerland, chosen after consultation with the Swiss authorities, if a Regional Councillor from Switzerland has not been elected;
  - (c) up to four Vice-Presidents; and
  - (d) the Legal Adviser.
46. The Council shall appoint a Deputy Chair and Steering Committee for each Commission. The appointments shall be made after considering proposals from the Chair of each Commission who shall take into account any suggestion made by the members of that Commission and seek to reflect the geographical and other diversity of IUCN. The Deputy Chair of each Commission shall act in the place of the Chair whenever the latter is unable to act as the Chair.
47. In the case of a vacancy in the Presidency of IUCN, the Council shall fill this vacancy from among the Vice-Presidents of IUCN. In filling other vacancies, the Council shall follow, whenever possible, the procedures and conditions provided for in the Statutes for the election or appointment to the post in question.

### Duties of Council Members

48. (a) No member of Council shall serve as a consultant to IUCN, nor receive remuneration from any component of IUCN, during their service as a member of Council.

- (b) Consistent with all the duties assigned to them under the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations of IUCN, the Vice-Presidents shall:
  - (i) Assist the President in improving the transparency and accountability of Council;
  - (ii) Constitute the Nominating Committee for the election of members of the Bureau and of Council Committees and for the appointment of additional Councillors pursuant to Article 38(f) of the Statutes;
  - (iii) Prepare and submit to Council a written synthesis of Councillors' self-assessments; and
  - (iv) Assist the President, on request, in the management of Council, including the facilitation of resolution of conflicts between Councillors and of questions of ethics, should they arise, and accept any other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time.

48*bis*. In order to ensure the best possible performance of Council collectively and of members of Council individually, Council shall adopt the *Council Handbook and Performance Tools (the "Handbook")*, which shall provide Council members with guidance to the effective interpretation and application of the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations of IUCN, as these apply to the performance of Council members. Candidates for Council shall receive the *Handbook* at the time of acceptance of their nomination. The *Handbook* and its annex(es) may be amended by Council from time to time, at its discretion and in accordance with its rules of procedure, and shall always be and remain subject to the provisions of the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations of IUCN.

#### Observers

49. International organizations with which IUCN has formal working relations, may send up to two representatives to meetings of the Council. Such observers shall have the right to speak.

#### Meetings of the Council

50. Notice of ordinary meetings of the Council, with draft agenda, shall be circulated to those entitled to be present at least forty five days in advance of the meeting. A special meeting of the Council may be convened at any time during sessions of the World Congress by the President or, in the absence of the President, a Vice-President.

51. The Chair of each meeting of the Council shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting. The Chair shall preside over the discussions, ensure the observance of the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. Any member of Council may

request that a question be submitted in writing before a decision is taken. The Chair shall rule on points of order and shall control the conduct of the meeting, subject to the right of any member of the Council to challenge a ruling of the Chair. This challenge shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast to prevail.

52. Summary minutes of each meeting of the Council, including written questions, shall be prepared by the Director General and submitted to the members of the Council as soon as possible after the meeting. Participants in the Council meetings may give the full or abridged text of any of their statements to the Secretariat for inclusion in the summary minutes. If no objections are received within forty days of the date of despatch, the minutes shall constitute a correct record of the meeting. Any objection to the minutes shall be referred to the Council for decision by mail ballot or, at the discretion of the President, brought forward for consideration at the next meeting of the Council. If an objection is made to the wording of a decision, this shall not become effective until so confirmed.
53. Any of the official languages of IUCN may be used at meetings of the Council. Interpretation from one official language to another shall be made whenever a member of the Council so requests. Notification of such requests must be received by the Secretariat at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Members of the Council may also speak in any language other than one of the three official languages but they must themselves provide for interpretation into one of the official languages.
54. A decision of the Council concerning a matter which was not on the draft agenda circulated in advance is binding unless five members of the Council attending the meeting are opposed, or unless five members of the Council notify their opposition to the Director General within thirty days of mailing of the minutes of the meeting.
55. A vote is cast at meetings of the Council when delivered by a member of the Council 'participating in the vote' and 'voting'. Participating shall mean present, or represented by proxy. 'Voting' shall mean submitting an affirmative or negative vote; abstentions shall not count as votes cast.
56. A member of the Council may accept no more than two proxies. A member of the Council holding a proxy shall deposit it with the Chair of the meeting at which the proxy may be used.

#### Functions and Composition of the Bureau

57. The Bureau shall act on behalf of Council on any matters that Council may assign to it and any urgent matters that may arise under Article 46 (b) to (p) of the Statutes.

- (a)\* The Bureau shall consist of the President as Chair, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, one Commission Chair, two Regional Councillors, and the Chairs of the Programme and Policy Committee, the Finance and Audit Committee, the Constituency Committee and the Governance Committee.
  - (b) The Commission Chairs shall elect their representative to the Bureau at the beginning of the term of Council and again at midterm, it being understood that any such representative who served for the first half of the term will be re-eligible at midterm.
  - (c)\* The two Vice-Presidents and two Regional Councillors shall serve only through the first half of the term, and for the second half of the term shall be replaced by Councillors from other Regions and the two other Vice-Presidents.
  - (d) Should a vacancy occur, the Council shall appoint a replacement.
  - (e) The Council shall define the rules of procedure of the Bureau.
58. Decisions of the Bureau shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast and shall be reported in full to the Council. All decisions shall be transmitted to Council members via electronic mail or facsimile within seven days of having been made. If a minimum of five Council members who have not participated in the decision, transmit to the Director General via electronic mail or facsimile their objection to the Bureau decision within fourteen days after the decision was initially transmitted by the Bureau, the decision shall be submitted to the Council together with objections raised, for voting. In all other cases, the Bureau decision shall become effective as of the date it was made.

### Committees and Working Groups

59. Committees and working groups may be established by the Council. A committee shall be a temporary or standing body with terms of reference more limited than

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\* Paragraphs (a) and (c) will become effective as of the beginning of the second half of the Council term of office 2009-2012, i.e. as of 1 January 2011 (Council Decision C/74/4 of the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council, June 2010). Until 31 December 2010, the former version of paragraphs (a) and (c) apply as follows:

- (a) The Bureau shall consist of the President as Chair, the Treasurer, one Commission Chair, four other Councillors each from different Regions, and the Chairs of the Programme and Policy Committee, the Finance and Audit Committee, the Governance Committee and the Constituency Committee.
- (c) The four Councillors elected at the beginning of the term of Council shall serve only through the first half of the term and for the second half of the term shall be replaced by Councillors from other Regions.

those of the Council. A working group shall be a temporary body with a specific and limited mission. In general, the subject matter of a committee or working group shall not be within the mandate of a Commission. The terms of reference, leadership, composition and duration of committees and of working groups shall be determined by the Council. Once established, working groups or task forces may alter their composition provided this has no adverse impact on the approved budget. The Council may only delegate authority to any committee to act on its behalf for specific purposes, when the majority of the members of the committee are members of the Council.

60. When establishing committees and working groups, the Council shall seek to reflect the geographical balance of IUCN as well as the necessary balance of expertise. The membership of the committees and working groups may be drawn from both within IUCN and outside.

### ***Part VI - The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora***

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.
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.
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.
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.

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.
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; and
  - (g) cooperate with the Secretariat and the Commissions to advance the work of IUCN;
  - (h) invite the Director General to attend or be represented at their meetings.
- 66bis.* When preparing to operate outside of its own State or Region, a National or Regional Committee shall follow the Code of Conduct for National and Regional Committees working outside their State or Region and must first consult with the relevant IUCN regional and/or country office and any relevant National or Regional Committees and ensure that any proposed activities are consistent with the IUCN Programme, including any agreed regional or national programmes or work plans.
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.
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.

## ***Part VII - The Commissions***

### Mandate

69. The mandate of each Commission, including name, mission and terms of reference, shall be established by the World Congress.
70. Prior to each ordinary session of the World Congress, the Council shall review the terms of reference and the activities of each Commission. Any proposals by an IUCN Member concerning the mission and terms of reference for any Commission shall be communicated to the Members of IUCN at least one hundred and twenty days prior to the ordinary session of the World Congress concerned.

### Commission Members

71. A Commission shall consist of individual members and, where appropriate, organizational associates chosen because of their competence to develop and advance the institutional knowledge and experience and objectives of IUCN within the mandate of the Commission.
72. The terms of appointment of Commission members, shall continue for ninety days after the close of the ordinary session of the World Congress following their appointment, or until reappointments are made, whichever is sooner.
73. The Chair of each Commission shall propose to the Council at its first meeting after the conclusion of an ordinary session of the World Congress, a candidate for appointment as Deputy Chair and shall propose candidates for appointment as members of the Commission Steering Committee no later than the second Council meeting after that session of the World Congress. The proposals of the Chair shall be made after a process of appropriate consultation including inviting nominations from within the Commission's membership. The selection of the members of the Steering Committee shall reflect consideration of technical qualification, of geographic representation, diversity of points of view, and gender equity. Until the Council appoints their successors, the incumbent Deputy Chair and Steering Committee members shall continue in office.
74. A Commission Chair may appoint officers in addition to the Deputy Chair and Steering Committee.
75. The Chair of each Commission shall be responsible for the appointment or reappointment of the members of the Commission. Candidates shall be selected through a process of appropriate consultation with the members of the Commission especially the Commission Steering Committee, to provide a wide coverage of subjects and opinions as well as geographical areas. The Council and Members of IUCN may propose candidates to the Commission Chair. Where a

nominee is denied membership of a Commission, the nominator may appeal the decision to the Council within the term of the Commission.

76. The Chair of a Commission, with the support of the Commission Steering Committee may, with notice to the Council, nominate a small number of persons or organizations for the conferment of awards.

### Commission Operations

77. The Commissions shall work with each other, IUCN's membership, its National and Regional Committees and its other components to further the objectives of IUCN and its integrated programme.
78. (a) Each Chair, assisted by the Steering Committee, shall lead the activities of the Commission. The Chair is entitled to act in the name of the Commission and may delegate specified responsibilities to the Deputy Chair, to members of the Steering Committee or to other members of the Commission.
- (b) Consistent with Article 60 of the Statutes, the Chairs of the Commissions, when exercising their duty under Article 46(d) of the Statutes, shall refrain from participating in the discussion and voting on the Commissions Operation Fund.
- (c) The President and each Commission Chair, in the presence of the Director General, shall undertake an annual appraisal of the performance of each Commission and its Chair in relation to the annual work plan and the mandate of that Commission.
79. The Commissions may establish specialist groups of their members and other invited experts. The objectives and policies of such groups shall be consistent with those of IUCN.
80. Each Commission Steering Committee shall adopt, and may revise, that Commission's by-laws; the by-laws shall conform to the Statutes and the Regulations of IUCN.
81. The Director General shall ensure that the Secretariat provides reasonable support to the work of each Commission.
82. The Chair of each Commission shall ensure that there is proper authorization of expenditure for Commission activities and operations and that there is proper accounting of all Commission funds.
83. The Council shall adopt financial rules for the Commissions to facilitate their capacity to raise funds and manage these with autonomy. IUCN shall incur no

liability in respect of funds raised in this way, nor for the application of such funds, including employment of staff.

84. Staff working directly for the Chair of a Commission and those working in the Secretariat in collaboration with the same Commission, shall follow a work plan agreed between the Director General and the Chair of the Commission.

### ***Part VIII – The Legal Adviser***

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 *lex specialis*; (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.
86. The Director General shall establish the office of the Legal Adviser, and recruit one or more legal counsel to serve in this office, to assist the Legal Adviser in the provision of such legal services as may be required.
87. The Director General shall recommend to the Council, an individual to be appointed the Union's Legal Adviser, and Council shall ensure that the Legal Adviser is duly appointed.

### ***Part IX - Finance***

#### **Financial Powers of the Director General**

88. The Director General, in consultation with the Treasurer, shall:
- (a) as necessary, establish detailed financial policies and procedures, which may differ according to the requirements of the States in which IUCN is operating;
  - (b) have the power to accept grants, donations and other payments on behalf of IUCN, subject to any instruction by the Council;
  - (c) designate the banks in which the funds of IUCN shall be kept;

- (d) be responsible for ensuring that the legal requirements of business operation are met in all States where IUCN is operating;
  - (e) maintain an appropriate level of reserves; and
  - (f) implement appropriate risk management strategies.
89. The Director General may:
- (a) make non-speculative short-term investments of funds and prudent longer-term investments of funds held in Trusts or special funds; and
  - (b) within policy guidelines laid down by the Council, accept from individual or corporate supporters, funds or other forms of support for the work of IUCN.
90. In keeping IUCN accounts and controlling expenditure, the Director General shall:
- (a) keep separate accounts for each restricted grant and each cost centre and fund;
  - (b) account in Euros\* for all transactions in other currencies at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of transaction; and
  - (c) ensure that there is proper authorization of all transactions for IUCN's worldwide activities, and that all assets are managed and inventoried.
  - (d) confer in person with the Treasurer and external auditors each year on the annual audit of the financial statements of IUCN.

#### Periodic and Annual Programmes and Budgets

91. The financial plan, necessary to implement the Programme of IUCN, submitted to each ordinary session of the World Congress, shall:
- (a) normally commence on 1 January following the session of the World Congress at which it was adopted and end on 31 December of the year of the next session of the World Congress;
  - (b) be in Euros;
  - (c) relate the proposed programme of activities to the estimates of income;

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\* The change of accounting currency from Swiss francs to Euros, as referenced in paragraphs 90(b) and 91(b), will be implemented as soon as IUCN's electronic financial accounting system will allow, at which point paragraph 25 will be modified accordingly.

- (d) present proposed allocations and expenditure which balance the estimated restricted and unrestricted income; and
  - (e) specify the projected growth or reductions in elements of the Programme, staff and administrative costs and changes in the geographical distribution of IUCN's activities.
92. The annual budget for the period from 1 January to 31 December shall:
- (a) estimate unrestricted and restricted income from all sources, indicating which sums are confirmed, which are assumptions based on proposals under consideration by donors, and which are to be sought during the year;
  - (b) allocate unrestricted income, first to maintain activities mandated under the Statutes, and second, to the approved Programme or to the reserves;
  - (c) indicate the projected expenditure by the principal elements composing the budget of IUCN, and the extent to which that expenditure is to be met from unrestricted and restricted sources; and
  - (d) indicate specifically any request by the Director General for the Council to approve the designation of unrestricted funds for special purposes not foreseen in the financial plan.

#### Audit

93. The Director General shall ensure that the auditors have free access to all documentation and other information concerning the accounts and that there is no interference in their work.

### ***Part X - Mail Ballot***

94. Where a mail ballot is required under the Statutes, the ballot form shall be distributed to all Members of IUCN eligible to vote. The voting options shall be: “yes”, “no”, “abstain”, or where appropriate “refer to the next session of the World Congress”.
95. Where a mail ballot is conducted by other components of IUCN, the same form should be used *mutatis mutandis*.

### ***Part XI - Language Policy***

96. The Council shall adopt a policy on the use of languages by IUCN and periodically review it thereafter.

### ***Part XII - Amendments***

97. These Regulations may be amended in accordance with the Statutes.

### ***Part XIII - Final Clause***

98. Upon adoption by the 1st World Conservation Congress meeting in Montreal from 13 to 23 October 1996, these Regulations\* shall be effective from 24 October 1996, and entirely replace and substitute for the previous Regulations, provided that nothing herein shall affect the validity of any decision taken under the previous Regulations.

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\* Amended by Council at its 51st Meeting on 8 February 2000, at its 56th Meeting on 29 May 2002, at its 61st Meeting on 16 November 2004, at its 69th Meeting on 12th March 2008, at the World Conservation Congress on 13th October 2008 and by Council at its 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 2 June 2010.

## ANNEX

State Members of the United Nations, members of its Specialized Agencies, or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or parties to the Statutes of the International Court of Justice.

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List of States by Region, as per Articles 16 and 17 of the Statutes and Regulation 36 of the Regulations:

### AFRICA

Algeria  
Angola  
Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius

Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan  
Swaziland  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

### MESO AND SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina  
Belize  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Guyana

Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Suriname  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

**NORTH AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Canada  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Grenada  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines  
Trinidad and Tobago  
United States of America

**SOUTH AND EAST ASIA**

Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea

India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Philippines  
Republic of Korea  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Viet Nam

**WEST ASIA**

Afghanistan  
Bahrain  
Iran, Islamic Republic of  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen

**OCEANIA**

Australia  
Cook Islands  
Fiji

Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia, Federated States of  
Nauru  
New Zealand  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu

**EAST EUROPE, NORTH AND  
CENTRAL ASIA**

Albania  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Georgia  
Hungary  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Montenegro  
Poland  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Tajikistan  
The former Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia  
Turkmenistan

Ukraine  
Uzbekistan

**WEST EUROPE**

Andorra  
Austria  
Belgium  
Cyprus  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Holy See  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Liechtenstein  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Portugal  
San Marino  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland

### *Historical Note*

- 1948 Adoption of the Statutes of IUCN (then named the International Union for the Protection of Nature) on 5 October 1948 (Fontainebleau, France)
- 1958 Amended by the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Athens, Greece)
- 1960 Amended by the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Warsaw, Poland)
- 1963 Amended by the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 1969 Amended by the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (New Delhi, India)
- 1972 Amended by the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Banff, Canada)
- 1977 Revised by the 13<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary General Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)
- 1978 Amended by the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Ashkhabad, USSR)
- 1990 Amended by the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Perth, Australia).
- 1996 Revised by the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, Canada)
- 2004 Amended by the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2008 Amended by the World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, Spain)