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 December 2023

(including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, last amended on 13 December 2023)

AND REGULATIONS

revised on 22 October 1996 and
last amended on 16 September 2025

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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iucn_congress_brand_guidelines_english_updated_2021_.pdf

Traditionally, the book of Statutes and Regulations bears the logo of the Congress at which the Statutes were last amended.

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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 organisation 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 organisations;

Recalling that, for these reasons, the governments, public services, organisations, 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[1]:

   (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 to support its Members and components;

[1] As a consequence of the amendment to Article 3 of the Statutes adopted by the 2021 World Conservation Congress inserting a new paragraph (g), all subsequent paragraphs have been renumbered accordingly.

(g) provides scientific and other authoritative information, including traditional ecological knowledge, in the form of assessments, analysis, and advice on the status and trends of nature and natural resources, including on threats, human behaviour, conservation measures and future scenarios;

(h) prepares and disseminates statements on conservation, drawing on the expertise of its Members and components;

(i) influences national and international legal and administrative instruments so that societies are enabled to enjoy the benefits provided sustainably by nature and natural resources;

(j) makes representations to governments and international agencies so as to influence environmental policies;

(k) assists in the development of mechanisms for debating and resolving international environmental issues;

(l) contributes to the preparation of international agreements relevant to the conservation of nature and natural resources and encourages States to adhere to these agreements;

(m) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources; and

(n) implements the provisions of these Statutes.

3*bis*. In working towards the objectives outlined in Article 3 (g) of the Statutes, the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions are required to uphold high standards of scientific work and other knowledge systems and will be free from undue influence or conflict of interest in this regard.

Part III - Members

Categories

4. The Members of IUCN shall be:

Category A: (a) States, government agencies and subnational governments;

(b) political and/or economic integration organisations;

Category B: (c) national non-governmental organisations;

(d) international non-governmental organisations;

Category C: (e) indigenous peoples' organisations; and

Category D: (f) affiliates.

5. In these Statutes[2]:

(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 Statute of the International Court of Justice;

(b) government agencies shall be organisations, 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) subnational governments are governmental entities at the state, provincial, local, territories or regional level that have been elected and have:

(i) competences to adhere to the Statutes of IUCN;

(ii) effective decision-making authority in the field of conservation of nature; and/or

(iii) competences to provide for the equitable and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;

(d) political and/or economic integration organisations shall be organisations constituted solely by States to which those States have conferred legal competence in respect of matters within the objectives of IUCN;

(e) national non-governmental organisations shall be institutions and associations incorporated within a State;

[2] As a consequence of the amendment to Article 5 of the Statutes adopted by the 2021 World Conservation Congress inserting a new paragraph (c), all subsequent paragraphs have been renumbered accordingly.

(f) international non-governmental organisations shall be institutions and associations organized in two or more States;

(g) indigenous peoples' organisations shall be institutions and associations established by indigenous peoples for the advancement of indigenous communities; and

(h) Affiliate Members shall be government agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations, which are not in Categories A, B or C.

Admission

6. States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall become Members of IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year's membership dues.

7. Government agencies, subnational governments, national and international non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations 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 has as one of its central purposes the achievement of IUCN's objectives and a substantial record of activity in the conservation of nature and natural resources;

(c) the objectives and track record of the applicant embody to a substantial extent:

(i) the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature; and, either or both:

(ii) the aim to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

(iii) dedication to influencing, encouraging and assisting societies to meet the objectives of IUCN;

(d) the applicant does not pursue objectives or carry out activities that conflict with the objectives or activities of IUCN; and

(e) the applicant meets the other qualifications for membership as prescribed in the Regulations.[3]

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.[4]

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.[5] 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 in Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined.

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;

[3] See Regulations 4 to 6
[4] See Regulations 4 to 20
[5] See Regulation 19

(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, B and C 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 Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor;

(iv) to submit motions to the World Congress;

(v) to vote in sessions of the World Congress; and

(vi) to vote between sessions of the World Congress by mail or electronic ballot as prescribed in Article 94.

(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[6]; and

(iv) to provide to IUCN such information as is required for the calculation of their dues.

[6] See Regulations 22 through 26

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 organisation or a State Member, by at least two State Members;

(ii) in the case of any other Member in Category A or in the case of any Member in Categories B or C, by at least ten Members in both Categories B and C combined, including a minimum of five Members in the same Category as the Member proposed for suspension or exclusion; and

(iii) in the case of a Member in Category D, 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 not later than three months, 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 not later than three months 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, Category B or Category C, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined; in the case of a Member in Category D, 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 organisation or of a State Member; and

(iv) except as provided in (iii) above, only Members in Category A may vote on a proposal for suspension or expulsion of a Member in Category A, and only Members in Categories B and C may vote (combined) on a proposal for suspension or expulsion of a Member in Category B or C.

(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. (a) States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall re-join IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year's membership dues.

(b) Any Government agency, sub-national government, national and international non-governmental organisation, indigenous peoples' organisation and affiliate meeting the qualifications for membership

may be readmitted by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations.[7]

Part IV - Organisation

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[8]. No State may be transferred between Regions without the approval of the World Congress.

[7] See Regulation 26
[8] See Regulation 36 and Annex to the Regulations

Part V - The World Conservation Congress

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

Format and 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, B and C shall constitute, respectively, the governmental, non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organisation Categories of the World Congress.

19*bis*. The World Congress meeting in ordinary or extraordinary session shall have a hybrid format. It shall be held at a physical location (the "venue") whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members shall have the right to:

a) participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights by attending either on site or remotely by using electronic means;

b) participate in the World Conservation Forum events either on site or, to the extent this option is available, remotely by using electronic means.

19*ter*. (a) In exceptional circumstances, an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress may be held in a fully virtual format, whereby all duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members participate in the Members' Assembly and exercise their rights exclusively by electronic means. The principles of non-discrimination and freedom of expression set forth in Articles 21, as well as Article 23 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The Council shall decide whether it is possible to organize World Conservation Forum events entirely remotely.

(b) A fully virtual session of the World Congress meeting in ordinary session shall be held in conformity with the Rules of Procedure applied *mutatis mutandis*, either

(i) if requested by at least one-fifth of the Members of either Category A or Categories B and C combined, or

(ii) if the Council considers it necessary by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

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 organisations in any matter related to the objectives of IUCN;

(c) to receive and consider the reports of:

(i) the Director General on the activities and the financial affairs of IUCN during the period since the preceding session of the World Congress;

(ii) the Treasurer;

(iii) the Chairs of the Commissions; and

(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, Councillors elected from the Regions, Indigenous Councillor 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, whether attending on site or remotely by electronic means, shall have the right to access all sessions of the World Congress and associated meetings and to express themselves freely in these sessions and meetings, without discrimination;

(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 Categories B and C combined; 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.[9]

28. The Councillors elected from the Regions and the Indigenous Councillor shall be elected by the World Congress in accordance with Article 39 and the Regulations.[10]

Rules of Procedure

29. (a) The Rules of Procedure of the World Congress are annexed to these Statutes. [11]

    (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;

[9] See Regulation 32

[10] See Regulations 36 through 40

[11] The Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress annexed to these Statutes, were amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 5 May 2012; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 14 September 2012; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 April 2015; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2016; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 March 2019; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2021; and by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023.

(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, B and C shall have the right to vote.

30*bis*. Votes from Members in Category B and votes from Members in Category C will be counted together to produce a combined voting result (combined vote).

31. Unless provided otherwise in these Statutes, decisions of the World Congress shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast in Category A and in Categories B and C combined.

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) Subnational Government Members within a State shall collectively have one vote, regardless of whether or not they are from a State which is a State Member;

(d) Where one or more member States of a political and/or economic integration organisation, and that organisation itself are Members of IUCN, the organisation 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 organisation.

35. Non-governmental Members shall have voting rights as follows:

(a) National non-governmental organisations shall each have one vote; and

(b) International non-governmental organisations shall each have two votes.

35*bis*. Indigenous peoples' organisation Members shall each have one vote.

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 Categories B and C combined 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 or electronic ballot if, not later than three months 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

Responsibility and Role

37. Subject to the authority, direction and policy of the World Congress:

(a) the Council shall have responsibility for the oversight and general control of all the affairs of IUCN; and

(b) the roles of the Council, with specific functions elaborated in Article 46 and other relevant provisions of these Statutes, shall be to:

(i) set strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union;

(ii) provide oversight and guidance on the performance of the components of the Union as a whole and of the Director General in particular, encouraging coherence among its component parts;

(iii) fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities to the Members of the Union and render account to them on the achievement of the Union's objectives; and

(iv) support the Director General in communicating IUCN objectives and policy, and IUCN Programme to the world community.

Composition

38. The members of the Council are:

(a) the President;

(b) the Treasurer;

(c) the Chairs of the Commissions;

(d) other Councillors as follows:

(i) Councillors elected from the Regions;

(ii) the Indigenous Councillor;

(iii) 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 Councillor from the concerned Region; and

(iv) one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.

39. There shall be a total of twenty-eight Councillors elected from the Regions. The number of elected Councillors for each Region shall be as follows: four (4) for Africa; four (4) for Meso and South America; three (3) for North America and the Caribbean; five (5) for South and East Asia; three (3) for West Asia; three (3) for Oceania; three (3) from West Europe, and three (3) from East Europe, North and Central Asia.

40. (a) Each Region shall have no more than one Councillor elected from the Regions from any one State. This does not preclude a Councillor elected from the Regions from the same State resident in a dependent territory of her/his State from being elected as Councillor elected from the Regions for a Region other than that of her/his State, or that s/he is elected for the same Region as her/his State but nominated by Members of part of a Region in which the dependent territory is located. There shall however be no more than two Councillors elected from the Regions from any State including their dependent territories in Council.

(b) No more than two Chairs of Commissions shall be from the same State.

41. The terms of office of the President, Treasurer, Councillors elected from the Regions, Indigenous Councillor 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 Councillor 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. For the purpose of this Article, the time served to fill the balance of the term of a Council member following a vacancy occurring in Council, shall not be counted.

43. The Council may fill any vacancies for the President, Treasurer, Chairs of Commissions and other Councillors 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 provide strategic direction, in consultation with the Membership, in relation to the development of, and to approve the quadrennial draft IUCN Programme for submission to the Congress;

(d) to report and make recommendations to the Members of IUCN and the World Congress on any matter relating to the activities of IUCN;

(e) to approve the programme and budget for the following year and to review regularly the implementation of the programme;

(f) to review the work of the Commissions;

(g) 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;

(h) to recognize National and Regional Committees and to consult with them and their members;

(i) to admit Members and transfer Members of IUCN from one Category of membership to another;

(j) to elect from among its members, up to four Vice-Presidents, chosen with due regard to geographical distribution and gender balance;

(k) to appoint, and evaluate the work of, the Director General;

(l) to nominate candidates for President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions having considered any proposals by Members of IUCN;

(m) to appoint a Deputy Chair and Steering Committee of each Commission on receipt of nomination by that Commission's Chair and to confirm or otherwise change, upon proposal of the Commission Chair, the membership of the Steering Committee before the end of the second full calendar year following Congress;

(n) to select the appointed Councillor;

(o) to appoint the Legal Adviser;

(p) to report to the Members of IUCN on decisions taken which substantially affect the programme or the budget of IUCN;

(q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and a Motions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and

(r) 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 Category A or in Categories B and C combined, responding not later than three months 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, the Finance

and Audit Committee and the Governance and Constituency 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.[12]

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

[12] See Regulations 51, 48 (c) and 88

member of the Council may accept no more than the number of proxies prescribed in the Regulations.[13]

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 organisations.

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

[13] See Regulation 56

member of the Council so requests not later than one month 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.[14]

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.[15]

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 organisation. 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.

[14] See Regulations 61 to 63

[15] See decision C/69/54 adopted by the IUCN Council at its 69th Meeting (March 2008)

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. Councillors elected from the Regions 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. Each Commission may nominate an official representative of the Commission, resident in such a State or Region who may attend, and speak at, meetings of the governing bodies of the National and Regional Committees, without a right to vote.

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 organisation, activities and financial management of the Commissions and procedure for the appointment of their members shall be as prescribed in the Regulations.[16]

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.

[16] See Regulations 71 to 84

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; and

(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 organisation. 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.[17]

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[18], 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;

[17] See Regulation 85
[18] See Regulation 85

(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) 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;

(f) submit each year to the Council the annual programme and budget for approval; and

(g) in the event of unforeseen expenses and important variations from the projected income inform the Council and, if necessary, submit amended budgets to the Council for approval.

89. The Treasurer shall:

(a) provide advice on the financial affairs of IUCN and report to the World Congress and the Council as described in the Regulations;

(b) be kept informed by the Director General about IUCN's financial situation between sessions of the Council.

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.[19]

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.

[19] See Regulation 92 (d)

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 and Electronic Ballots

94. All matters within the competence of the World Congress may be decided by mail or electronic ballot between sessions of the World Congress as prescribed in the Regulations[20]. Such a mail or electronic ballot shall take place at the request of the Council or at least one fifth of the total voting rights of Members eligible to vote in either Category A or in Categories B and C combined. If urgent circumstances require it, the Council may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, apply shorter deadlines than those prescribed by the Regulations for electronic ballots.

95. All matters within the competence of the Council may be decided by mail or electronic ballot. Unless otherwise provided in the Statutes, such a mail or electronic ballot shall take place at the request of the President or at least ten members of the Council.

96. Decisions by mail or electronic ballot shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*[21], 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 organisations, 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

[20] See Regulation 94
[21] See Regulation 94 for the procedure

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. (a) The Regulations implementing these Statutes, adopted by the World Congress, may be amended by Council following communication of proposed amendments to Members for comments or objections as provided for in Article 102.

(b) 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. No amendment to the Regulations shall modify the character and the objectives of IUCN (Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Statutes), the nature and categories of the membership (Articles 4 and 5 of the Statutes), admission criteria for Members (Articles 6 and 7 of the Statutes) and related Members' rights.

(c) 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. (a) Any proposed amendment to the Regulations shall be separately communicated to the Members within 6 weeks after its adoption at the first of the two consecutive periodic meetings of the Council.

(b) The communication to Members shall clearly alert Members to the proposed change and include the complete text of the proposed amendment(s) together with a full explanation of the reasons which led Council to propose the amendment(s) as well as any clarification of its content.

(c) Members shall be given three months to submit comments or objections, following which the Council at the second of two consecutive meetings may adopt, modify or withdraw the proposed amendment(s) in light of the comments or objections received.

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 at the second of the two successive periodic meetings, provided that the request is made not later than three months of the Council's communication of the adoption of the amendment. Pending such review, the effectiveness of the amendment shall be suspended.

Part XVIII - Amendment of the Statutes[22]

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 six months 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 Categories B and C combined, provided that such proposals are received by the Secretariat not less than six months 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 three months prior to the date set for the opening of an ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress, any amendment to these

[22] These Statutes, adopted by the 1996 IUCN World Conservation Congress, have been amended by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 24 November 2004 (Bangkok, Thailand), on 13 October 2008 (Barcelona, Spain) and on 14 September 2012 (Jeju, Republic of Korea); by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2016 (Hawai'i, United States of America); by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2021 (Marseille, France); and last amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023.

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 Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined.

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 four months 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 Category A and of three-quarters of the votes cast by Members in Categories B and C combined.

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.

112*bis*. 1. For purposes of interpretation and application of IUCN's Statutes, Rules of Procedures and Regulations:

(a) The term "year," following or preceding a given date shall mean, respectively, the period between such given date and:

(a) the same date of the subsequent year, inclusive, or

(b) the same date of the preceding year, inclusive.

(b) The term "month" following or preceding a given date shall mean, respectively, the period between such given date and:

(a) the same date of the subsequent month, inclusive, or

(b) the same date of the preceding month, inclusive.

(c) The term "week" following or preceding a given day shall mean, respectively, the period between such given day and:

(a) the same day of the subsequent week, inclusive, or

(b) the same day of the preceding week, inclusive.

2. If, in the application of the provisions in preceding paragraph 1, the relevant date of the following or preceding year or month is absent, then the next-available date shall apply.

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[23], 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.

[23] Amended by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 24 November 2004 (Bangkok, Thailand), on 13 October 2008 (Barcelona, Spain) and on 14 September 2012 (Jeju, Republic of Korea); by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2016 (Hawai'i, United States of America) and on 10 September 2021 (Marseille, France); and last amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023. The Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress annexed to these Statutes, were amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 5 May 2012; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 14 September 2012; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 April 2015; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2016; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 March 2019; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2021; and by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023.

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 events to consider major thematic areas of the IUCN Programme and to facilitate the sharing of information and experience. To the extent possible, some Forum events may be open for attendance on site or remotely by electronic means. Members of the public may register to attend specific Forum events that are open to the public.

Members' Assembly

3. The Members' Assembly shall 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. Any Member wishing to exercise its rights in sessions of the Congress, whether by participating on site or remotely by electronic means, shall nominate a Head of Delegation through a duly authorized representative.

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 organisations 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.

[Note: Rule 11 was removed following an amendment adopted by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 5 May 2012]

Credentials

12. Delegates from Member and observer organisations/institutions are duly accredited in accordance with, respectively, Article 19 of the Statutes and Rule 8, if they are duly registered to the Congress and if the Head of Delegation has been designated by the duly authorized representative of the organisation/institution.

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 organisation 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 Motions 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, including the electronic platform and related

services to enable Members attending onsite and remotely to exercise their rights as defined in the Statutes. It shall be responsible for preparing, receiving, translating and circulating the official documents of the meetings by electronic means 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 or disruptive, the Chair may call the speaker to order. In the event of persistent irrelevance or disruption, 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; or

    (c) a personal statement or explanation.

40. The Director General shall provide the electronic system enabling each delegation, each affiliate, each member of the Council, each Commission Deputy Chair and any other observers as the Council shall decide to exercise their right to speak. Observer delegations from recognized National or Regional Committees may each request to be provided the same means to speak on behalf of the Committee in accordance with Regulation 66 (e).

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 three months before the start of the World Congress. The draft agenda shall be submitted for adoption at the first sitting of the World Congress.

45*bis*. The draft agenda shall focus, and reserve adequate time during the Members' Assembly for discussion and voting, on:

(a) The IUCN Programme and Financial Plan for the period until the next ordinary Congress and related Member proposals which have not been incorporated in the draft Programme or Financial Plan submitted to Congress;

(b) The mandates of the IUCN Commissions and related Member proposals which have not been incorporated in the draft mandates submitted to Congress;

(c) A limited number of motions which, in the opinion of the Motions Working Group,

i) warrant debate at the global level during the Congress because they are of significant importance for conservation and for the IUCN and its Members; or

ii) have been the subject of such debate and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial that it is not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote prior to Congress; and

(d) Motions pertaining to the governance of IUCN including amendments to the IUCN Statutes and Rules of Procedure, if any are proposed.

45*ter*. With the purpose of increasing the time available for discussion, the Council may decide that contact group meetings may be convened by electronic means for a first discussion of any of the topics listed in Rule 45*bis* (a) (b) and (d), in the three weeks preceding the Opening of the Congress.

45*quarto*. At or before the time Members are invited to submit motions in accordance with Rule 49, the Council shall publish a report on the status of implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations of the previous Congress. The report shall be tabled for discussion during the Members' Assembly.

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.

48*bis*. Consistent with Article 20 (a) and (b) of the Statutes, the purpose of the motions is to define the general policy of IUCN and to influence the policies or actions of third parties, or to address the governance of IUCN, within the parameters of IUCN's objectives as set forth in Articles 2 and 3 of the Statutes.

49. (a) Motions may be proposed by the Council, or by any Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least five other eligible Members from at least two Regions. Motions shall normally be submitted to the Director General by a date set by Council which shall not be later than six months before the opening of the next session of the World Congress.

(b) The same process and requirements shall apply for motions, which have been deferred to the following session of the World Congress as per Rule 56.

(c) The Secretariat shall circulate all accepted motions which are received by it, to all Members, at least three months 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. Such motion shall be co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member from the Region with which the motion is concerned.

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. Members shall be invited to submit proposals to modify the draft IUCN Programme and proposals regarding the mandates of the IUCN Commissions, online, at the same time as they are invited to submit motions in accordance with Rule 49. 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 Motions 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.

51*bis*. National Committees, Regional Committees and Regional Fora, when convened, are encouraged to provide a forum for motions that warrant discussion at a local and/or national level for the purpose of identifying solutions such as regional programmatic cooperation, that might address the underlying issues in addition to or instead of submitting a motion.

52. Motions may be submitted at the World Congress
(a) either by the Council, or by
(b) a Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least ten other Members eligible to vote from at least two Regions; and
(c) only if the Congress Resolutions Committee determines that they meet the requirements of Rule 54 with the exception of paragraphs (b) viii. and ix. and that the subject of the motions is new and urgent according

to the following criteria and on that basis authorizes their distribution to delegates:

i. "New" means that the issue which is the subject of the motion has arisen or has been subject to developments occurring after the closing of the deadline for the submission of motions and, at that time, could not have been foreseen; and

ii. "Urgent" means that the issue is of such importance that it requires an immediate response from the Union in the form of a Resolution or Recommendation.

53. Motions meeting the criteria of Rule 52 shall be submitted from one week prior to the opening of the Congress until the end of the plenary sittings on the first day of the Members' Assembly. Motions received after such deadline shall be admitted only with the consent of the President.

54. Motions shall be accepted only upon determination by the Motions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee that they are consistent with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* and meet the following requirements:

(a) <u>related to content</u>:

i. Propose or modify IUCN's general policy and only to the extent necessary and subject to the full application of Rule 51, specify the activities required to implement the policy;

ii. Contributions from Members and/or components of IUCN, if called for in the motion, are reasonable and achievable;

iii. Contain technically sound and coherent arguments;

iv. Be precise in what they aim to achieve;

v. Propose aspirational goals that are reasonable;

vi. Do not merely repeat the content of Resolutions and Recommendations previously adopted; and

vii. When focusing on local, national or regional issues, state, with the proponent providing evidence at the moment of submission, that (1) the matter covered by the motion has been engaged at local, national and/or regional instances and that the desired result has not been achieved; and (2) the Members and relevant Commission members

as well as other stakeholders in the geographic area in question have been consulted; and

(b) related to process and format:

viii. Be submitted before the deadline established in Rule 49;

ix. Be proposed and co-sponsored by Members eligible to vote, in accordance with Rules 49 or 49*bis*;

x. The proponent specifies a) which of the Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties, which the motion calls upon to undertake action have been consulted or have collaborated in the development of the motion, b) which Members or components of IUCN have been consulted with a view to identify solutions that might address the underlying issues and c) the actions and resources required to implement the motion and the contributions which proponents and co-sponsors intend to make towards its implementation;

xi. For motions concerning issues arising in a State or States outside the State or Region of the proponent, be co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member from the Region with which the motion is concerned in accordance with Rule 49*bis*; and

xii. Use the template to be approved by Council.

55. Except for appeals referred to in Rule 62*ter*, the Steering Committee shall decide any appeal from a proposer and co-sponsors against the amendment of a draft motion by the Motions 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. (a) The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or *ad hoc* contact group of delegates from accredited Members, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. It may also propose that motions whose arguments are not technically sound or coherent and require further development or motions which are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by the Members' Assembly, be deferred to the next session of the World Congress.

(b) The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group.

(c) When meeting during the World Congress, contact groups shall have a fully virtual format.

(d) With the purpose of increasing the time available for discussion and to reduce the number of contact groups held in parallel due to the limited window of opportunity during the Congress, the Motions Working Group may decide that contact group meetings be convened exclusively by electronic means for a first reading of motions in the three weeks prior to the Opening of the Congress.

(e) Commission members, representatives of recognized National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may take part in contact groups only in a technical advisory and support capacity, without prejudice to the application of Rule 66 (c).

(f) For issues that prove hard to resolve in contact groups, the Resolutions Committee or the facilitator of a contact group may set up one or more drafting groups that balance the spectrum of views on the motion, for the purpose of achieving a consensus text. Should a consensus remain impossible, the drafting groups may decide to present minority views as amendments. Drafting group meetings may also be convened in a fully virtual or hybrid format.

(g) The reports of such contact groups or drafting 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. (a) 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.

(b) Ordinarily, all amendments shall be transmitted to the Resolutions Committee or, in the case of motions for which a contact group has been established, to the relevant contact group.

(c) 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.

<u>Online discussion and electronic vote of motions prior to ordinary sessions of the Congress</u>

62*bis*. (a) The Motions Working Group shall have the authority to submit the motions to an online discussion to be held prior to Congress. The Motions Working Group shall specify which motions that warrant debate at the global level during the Congress will continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Members' Assembly, and which motions will be put to an electronic ballot prior to Congress subject to Rule 62*quinto*.

(b) The online discussion of motions shall be open to all IUCN Members during a period of at least two months following the date of publication of the motions in accordance with Rule 49.

(c) The Motions Working Group shall ensure that the online discussion of motions is transparent and will adhere to the greatest possible extent to

the procedure for discussion and amendment of motions during Congress.

(d) Commission members, representatives of recognized National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may take part in the online discussion of motions only in a technical advisory and support capacity.

(e) As part of the online discussion, the Motions Working Group may convene contact groups exclusively by electronic means, with the view to advance the discussion of motions or specific aspects thereof. The outcomes of such contact group meetings must be posted online, visible to all Members.

62*ter*. The Congress Preparatory Committee established by Council in conformity with Article 46 (p) of the IUCN Statutes shall decide any appeal from a proponent and cosponsors against the classification, exclusion or amendment by the Motions Working Group of a motion referred to the electronic discussion and vote prior to the World Congress. In the case of an appeal against the decision to refer a motion to the electronic vote prior to Congress, the only permissible ground for appeal is that an error was made in not classifying the motion as qualifying for consideration at the Members' Assembly. Any appeals under this Rule shall be received by the Congress Preparatory Committee by no later than two weeks following the date of the publication of the motions.

62*quarto*. The Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body will include individuals representing the common interests of Members but who are not themselves members of the Council or personally involved with the motions process. The Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body shall be chaired by one of its members who is not the Chair of the Congress. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair of the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body may cast the deciding vote.

62*quinto*. Following the close of the online discussion the Motions Working Group will

(a) submit each motion, as amended during the online discussion or together with proposed amendments, as appropriate, to an electronic vote of the IUCN Members eligible to vote with the exception of the motions that warrant debate at the global level during the Congress which will continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Members' Assembly. The electronic vote shall be opened and closed on

dates prior to the opening of Congress to be determined by Council. Paragraphs c. to g. of Regulation 94 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic vote on motions; or

(b) refer to the Members' Assembly for continued debate and vote, motions which have been the subject of such discussion and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial that it is, in the opinion of the Motions Working Group, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote prior to Congress.

62*sexto*. Rules 58 to 62 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the process of amending motions during the online discussion and the vote on amendments proposed during the online discussion, it being understood that the Motions Working Group will have the same authority that the Resolutions Committee or the Chair of the Congress exercise under these Rules.

62*septimo*. Motions adopted by electronic ballot by Member Category A and by Member Categories B and C combined shall have the same validity as motions adopted during sittings of the Members' Assembly. The Members' Assembly will 'record' *en bloc* the adoption of motions through an electronic ballot prior to Congress but shall not, however, re-open the discussion or the vote on any of them. The motions whose adoption by electronic vote is so recorded by decision of the Members' Assembly shall be effective as of the date of such decision.

Part VIII - Methods of Voting

Electronic Voting System

63. Voting on motions and elections shall be conducted with the use of an electronic voting system, the accuracy of which shall be monitored by the Election Officer.

64. The electronic voting system shall be programmed with the number of votes to which each Member is entitled by the Statutes. The votes yes, no and abstention on motions shall be tallied in accordance with Articles 30 to 35*bis* of the Statutes and the votes on elections in accordance with Rules 78 to 81. The votes of Category A Members are recorded separately; and the votes of Categories B and C Members are recorded separately and combined for a combined voting result. The Chair shall announce the results by displaying them on a screen visible to all delegates.

65. The electronic voting system shall be accessible to the Heads of Delegation or those authorized to cast the vote on behalf of their delegation via their own devices connected to the internet, regardless of whether they are participating on site or remotely.

65*bis*. If the Member's Assembly is interrupted due to technical issues related to the electronic system enabling delegates to speak and vote which affect all delegates and cannot be solved immediately, the Assembly shall be adjourned until the technical issue has been solved. The disruption shall be recorded in the proceedings. If the technical issue cannot be solved within a reasonable timeframe and matters remaining on the agenda cannot be addressed before the close of the Congress, the Steering Committee, after considering what is feasible under the prevailing circumstances, shall take a decision on the way to proceed, which may include, but not be limited to, extending or reconvening the Members' Assembly or referring all remaining matters to an electronic discussion and vote in accordance with Article 94 of the Statutes. Decisions taken by the Members' Assembly prior to the occurrence of the technical issues shall remain valid.

Methods of Voting

66. (a) Only the Head of Delegation or her/his replacement as defined in Rule 6 may vote and speak on behalf of that Member.

(b) No delegate may speak or vote for another delegation without the valid proxy of the delegation in question as described in Rule 66 (e).

(c) A Member eligible to vote may give a proxy to a delegation of another Member eligible to vote or to an accredited representative of a recognized National/Regional Committee of the country/region of the Member delegation giving the proxy. In order for the proxy to be validly recorded in the electronic voting system, it shall be provided at minimum one day before the Opening of the World Congress in order for it to apply for the duration of the World Congress and on the day before the specific sitting or before the specific day it is meant to apply.

(d) A Member shall not transfer proxy of its own vote while holding other proxies and shall not transfer another Member's proxy without prior authorization of the proxy giver. A Member shall not accept more than ten proxies.

(e) In order to be valid, all proxies shall be recorded in the electronic voting system within the deadline set in Rule 66 (c).

(f) Proxies shall not be allowed for elections under Rule 77*bis* or when all Members vote exclusively online. [24]

67. Except for votes on the final text of a motion under Rule 48 [25] and the vote for elections under Rules 77*bis* to 81, all votes shall be held instantly.

68. For votes on the final text of a motion under Rule 48, the voting period shall be extended to one hour. The Chair shall announce the time at which the vote will open and the vote will close automatically after one hour, without further announcement. During the extended voting time, the Members' Assembly shall continue its business. After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting, no delegate shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

[Note: Rule 69 has been removed by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023]

70. A secret ballot may be held at the request of delegates from ten Members eligible to vote. The electronic voting system shall be programmed so as to guarantee the anonymity of all votes.

71. Except for (a) secret ballot votes under Rule 70 and (b) votes for elections at the World Congress under Rules 74-81, the complete voting record of each IUCN Member at the Members' Assembly shall be made available, within 24 hours or as soon as the voting system permits after each sitting, to all Members.

*[Note: Rule 71 has been removed and Rule 71*bis *has become Rule 71 as a result of the electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023]*

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.

[24] E.g. in case of a fully virtual Congress (Article 19 of the Statutes).
[25] This excludes amendments under Rules 58 to 62 and procedural motions under Rules 41 to 44.

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

75. Nominations by a Member in Category A, B or C 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 interact with all candidates and receive information on them, online and, where feasible during the World Congress, in person. National and Regional Committees are encouraged to create equal opportunities for Member interaction with all election candidates prior to and during the Congress.

77. Once placed on the list of candidates before the World Congress, a name may only be withdrawn by the candidate in writing.

Method of Voting in Elections

77*bis*. Elections shall be held during the World Congress exclusively by electronic means enabling all IUCN Members eligible to vote to cast their vote during a given period of time which shall not be less than twenty-four hours. The Election Officer shall monitor the accuracy of the electronic voting system.

78. The elections of the President, the Treasurer, each of the Chairs of the Commissions and the Indigenous Councillor shall be conducted separately and as follows:[26]

    (a) 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 Members eligible to vote in Category A and in Categories B and C combined, the post shall be filled by the World Congress or, failing a decision by the closure of the session, by the new Council; and

    (b) where there is more than one candidate for any of these posts a vote shall be taken in accordance with Rule 81.

[26] Paragraph (a) was removed and all subsequent paragraphs renumbered as a result of the electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023.

79. Should a sole candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer, Chair of Commission or Indigenous Councillor 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.

79*bis*. 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 Councillors elected from the Regions 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 Members eligible to vote in Category A and in Categories B and C combined, the position of the Councillor elected from the Regions shall be filled by the new Council.

81. Where there is more than one candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer, Councillor elected from the Regions, Indigenous Councillor or Commission Chair:

(a) the electronic voting system 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, Chair of a Commission or Indigenous Councillor, the vote shall be cast by selecting the name of the preferred candidate;

(c) where three or more persons are to be elected from among four or more candidates to serve as Councillors elected from the Regions for a Region, the vote shall be cast by selecting the names of preferred candidates up to the maximum number of the candidates to be elected for that Region. Where more than one candidate is nominated from the same State, only the candidate receiving the greater number of votes may be elected. This does not apply to candidates from the same State resident in dependent territories as defined in Article 40 of the Statutes. Where more than one candidate has been nominated from the same State and the same dependent territory, only the candidate receiving the greater number of votes may be elected.

(d) abstention shall be an option for each elected position;

(e) electronic votes 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 votes and for the votes of Categories B and C combined. The rankings so obtained for Category A shall then be added to those of Categories B and C combined 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 votes cast by Categories B and C combined 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 vote totals of Categories B and C combined and the candidates ranked in order of the combined vote so obtained;

(h) the highest ranked candidate or candidates shall be elected, except for the election of the President to which paragraph (i) of the present Rule shall apply;

(i) in order to be elected for the post of President, the candidate must obtain the absolute majority of the votes (more than 50% of the votes) in Category A and in Categories B and C combined in the first round. If none of the candidates has received the absolute majority of the votes in Category A and in Categories B and C combined in the first round, a second round of voting is held between the two candidates who obtained the highest combined rankings in the first round in accordance with Rule 81 (f).

In the second round of voting, the candidate obtaining the highest combined ranking shall be elected. In the event that the combined ranking is the same for both candidates in the second round, Rule 81 (g) shall apply and the candidate with the highest number of combined votes shall be elected; and

(j) 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 organisation 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.[27]

[27] See Article 29 of the Statutes. The Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress were amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 5 May 2012; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 14 September 2012; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 April 2015; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2016; by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 27 March 2019; by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2021; and by the electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023.

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 organisations, international organisations, 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.

2*bis*. The Council, the Commissions, the National and Regional Committees, the Secretariat, and the Members whose organisational priorities and capacities permit them to align with the IUCN Programme, shall work together for coherent delivery of the IUCN Programme which enables and leverages the capacities of IUCN's Members and statutory components and delivers conservation results optimally, effectively and efficiently.

Part III - Members

Admission

3. States and Political and/or Economic Integration Organisations

(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 organisation 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 organisation, on becoming a Member, shall designate its liaison with the IUCN Secretariat.

4. Government Agencies and Subnational Governments

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

5. National Non-Governmental Organisations

(a) Subject to (b) below, any national non-governmental organisation 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 a board that is autonomous and independent; and

(iv) have a governance structure which is transparent, accountable and representative.

(b) Any duly accredited university, similar institution of higher learning, specialized centre or research institute, 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.

5*bis*. Indigenous Peoples' Organisations

Any national or international indigenous peoples' organisation seeking admission as a Member shall, in addition to the requirements of the Statutes:

(a) be a not-for-profit entity which conforms with the law of the State where its seat is located;

(b) have been in existence for at least three years;

(c) be autonomous in administration and governance; and

(d) have, as its primary constituency, indigenous peoples.

6. International Non-Governmental Organisations

Any international non-governmental organisation 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 a substantial record of activity in two or more States and out posted or country offices reporting back to Headquarters;

(d) have a governing body open to nationals from at least two States;

(e) have a governance structure which is transparent, accountable and representative; and

(f) have a board that is autonomous and independent.

Admission Process

7. Government agencies, subnational governments, national and international non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations 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 organisation.

8. Applications shall include such information relating to the agency or organisation, its objectives, membership, funding and activities, as may be

required by the Council to decide on admission. The applicant shall document its activities in conservation of nature and natural resources over at least a three-year period.

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.

12. Deadlines for membership applications to be received by the Director General are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December of each year. During the admission process, all communications may be made by electronic means.

[Note: Regulation 13 was removed by the 81st Meeting of the IUCN Council and confirmed by the 82nd Meeting of the IUCN Council in 2013]

14. The Director General shall mail notice of the applications together with the appropriate information on the applicants, to the Members of IUCN.

15. When a Member exercises its right to object to an application, such objection must reach the Director General within four weeks from the Director General's notification referred to in Regulation 14.

16. Such objection shall only be on grounds that the applicant does not meet the requirements of membership provided in the Statutes[28] or prescribed in the Regulations.[29] 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 within three weeks from the Director General's notification of the objection to the applicant.

18. The Council, and if not in session, the Bureau, shall take a decision on membership applications within a reasonable time following quarterly application deadlines. The Bureau shall seek Council's advice in a case where there is controversy associated with an application.

[28] See Articles 5 and 7 of the Statutes
[29] See Regulations 4 to 6

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 three months 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 Members in Category A shall be established by the World Conservation Congress and be calculated for the period until the next World Congress on the basis of the latest available percentage assessed for States concerned in the budget of the United Nations. The Council may establish groups for the setting of dues. In cases where a Category A Member of IUCN is not, or is not located in, a member of the United Nations as such but is, or is located in, a member of any of the United Nations Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, such a Member will be assigned to the dues group having a similar Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as indicated in the list used by the United Nations.

23. Dues for Members in Categories B, C and D 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 Government agency, subnational government, a national and international non-governmental organisation, an indigenous peoples' organisation or an affiliate, 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 one year 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; and

    (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 Motions Working Group of not fewer than three persons likely to become delegates to the World Congress, including individuals in their expert/personal capacity representing the common interests of Members and reflecting the diversity of IUCN's Members and components, together with the Director General ex officio, to guide the Members on the submission of motions, receive such motions, prepare them for the online discussion prior to Congress or for submission to the Resolutions Committee and the World Congress, facilitate discussion between Members on motions in advance of the World Congress, and such other tasks as described in Part VII of the Rules of Procedure. Consolidated motions may be put forward by the Motions Working Group.

Elections: President, Treasurer and Chairs of the Commissions

30. At least four 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, B and C shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, 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. Proposals for persons to be nominated as President shall be made by Members eligible to vote representing at least 1% of the global membership of IUCN. Commission members shall be invited at the same time to make their proposals for the Chair of their Commission.

30*bis*. With the purpose of identifying qualified candidates in a transparent process, the Steering Committee of each Commission shall form from among its members an ad hoc committee, who are not candidates themselves, and excluding the Chair, and invite Commission members to submit names to be considered for Commission Chair, at least one month prior to the date indicated in Regulations, 30. With prior endorsement by the Steering Committee concerned, a list of up to two prioritized candidates determined through qualification criteria established by the Steering Committee, shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to Council.

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, B and C, 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, B and C. Nominations for President may also be made directly by Members as provided for in the Statutes[30], provided that such nomination is received by the Director General not less than two months 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.

[30] See Article 27 of the Statutes

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, B and C, 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. The Election Officer shall transmit all nominations meeting the requirements to the Nominations Committee of the Council. Candidates nominated for elections shall be submitted with an abbreviated *curriculum vitae* to the World Congress in alphabetical order.

Elections: Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor

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, B and C shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, the names of candidates for election as Councillor elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor in office, indicating those who are eligible for re-election.

38. Nominations for candidates from a Region for election as Councillor elected from the Regions 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. Nominations for candidates resident in dependent territories as defined in Article 40 of the Statutes, shall be made by five Members eligible to vote or ten per cent of all such Members in the Region for which they wish to be elected, where the dependent territory is located, whichever is lower, drawn from more than one State. For the purpose of nomination, an international non-governmental organisation whose constituency covers more than one Region shall be regarded as being located in the Region where its principal office is located.

38*bis*. Nominations of indigenous persons for candidates for the Indigenous Councillor position shall be made by five Members eligible to vote of which at least two are Members of Category C, drawn from more than one State.

38*ter*. 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 Councillor elected from the Regions shall be nationals of a State in the Region concerned, and shall be resident in that Region. Candidates for election as Councillors elected from the Regions for a Region, or part of a Region covered by a recognized Regional Committee, other than that of their State, referred to in Article 40 of the Statutes, shall be resident in the Region concerned and be nationals of the State to which the dependent territory belongs.

40. Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Councillors elected from the Regions from that Region as well as nominations received for election as Indigenous Councillor shall be communicated via the IUCN intranet as and when they are declared by the Election Officer as meeting the requirements established in the Statutes and the present Regulations. Before taking a definitive decision to reject a nomination, the Election Officer shall allow the individuals whose nomination does not meet the requirements a period of three weeks following the deadline in case they wish to bring evidence that the nomination(s) received were valid at the time of the deadline. Nominations that meet the requirements 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.

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.[31]

[31] See also Regulation 76

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

Council's strategic objectives and priorities

44*bis*. At the latest at the second ordinary meeting following the World Conservation Congress, the Council shall approve strategic objectives and priorities for its work, together with a work plan and a proper monitoring mechanism to be reviewed and adjusted, as required, on an annual basis.

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) one (1) additional Councillor, selected with due regard to the need to maintain an appropriate balance of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills;

(b) a Councillor from Switzerland, chosen after consultation with the Swiss authorities, if a Councillor elected from the Regions from Switzerland has not been elected;[32]

(c) up to four Vice-Presidents; and

(d) the Legal Adviser.

45*bis*. Council may appoint members of Council as IUCN Council Global Focal Persons, for a period up to the end of the term for which s/he has been elected, with the purpose of:

(a) increasing the understanding in Council on a specific matter and the inclusiveness of its deliberations;

(b) contributing to raise the profile of IUCN's work with key stakeholders;

[32] See also Article 38 (d)(iii) of the Statutes

(c) promoting a strong focus and coherent body of work across IUCN on the issue concerned by liaising with the Secretariat, the Commissions and Members; and

(d) bringing her/his perspective and advice to the Council trough the relevant committee of the Council, including policy, governance, and resourcing implications.

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[33] 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) Council members shall maintain an effective relationship with the Director General and, through him/her, the Secretariat staff in view of enabling them to work to the same purpose through clarity of and respect for the authority and responsibilities of Council and the Director General, respectively, and with the highest professional and ethical standards.

(c) Consistent with all the duties assigned to them under the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations of IUCN, the Vice-Presidents shall:

[33] See Article 43 of the Statutes in combination with Regulations 38 and 39, and Council decision C97/8 (October 2019) "Harmonized procedure for filling vacancies for Treasurer, Commission Chair and Regional Councillor"

(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 the additional Councillor pursuant to Article 38(f) of the Statutes;

(iii) prepare and submit to Council a written synthesis of Councillors' self-assessments;

(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; and

(v) together with the President, constitute the evaluation committee of the Director General.

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 organisations 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 six weeks 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 five weeks 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 one month 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 one month 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.

Secretary to Council

56*bis*. With the approval of the Council, the Director General in consultation with the President shall appoint a member of the Secretariat staff as the Secretary to Council who shall be responsible for providing independent advice and support to the Council and the President in the exercise of their duties as defined in the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure and the Regulations. The Secretary to Council shall ensure that the provisions of the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure and the Regulations related to the Council and its subsidiary bodies including the Bureau are adhered to.

Functions and Composition of the Bureau

57. The Bureau shall act on behalf of Council on any matters that Council may assign to it from time to time and any matters that may arise under Article 46 (b) to (q)[34] of the Statutes.[35] In addition, the Bureau shall decide directly on those specific matters assigned to it by the Council as provided for in the list annexed to the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau. The list shall be reviewed from time to time by Council and may be modified.

(a) The Bureau shall consist of the President as Chair, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, one Commission Chair, two Councillors elected from the Regions, and the Chairs of the Programme and Policy Committee, the Finance and Audit Committee and the Governance and Constituency 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 Councillors elected from the Regions shall serve only through the first half of the term, and for the

[34] Changed from (p) to (q) as a consequence of the amendment to Article 46 of the Statutes adopted by the 2016 World Conservation Congress inserting a new paragraph (c) and renumbering all subsequent paragraphs accordingly.
[35] See also Article 49 of the Statutes

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 communication or facsimile within one week 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 communication or facsimile their objection to the Bureau decision within one week 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, Working Groups and Task Forces

59. (a) Committees and working groups may be established by the Council. A committee shall be a standing body including but not limited to the standing committees referred to in Article 50 of the Statutes, with terms of reference more limited than those of the Council. A working group shall be a temporary body with a specific and limited mission which shall submit its report to Council, as the case may be, with recommendations. A task force shall be a temporary body established by a committee and shall submit its report to the committee, as the case may be, with recommendations.

(b) 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 and, in the case of task forces, by the committee concerned. The terms of reference of working groups shall explicitly require a new decision of the Council or, in the case of task forces, of the committee concerned, in order to renew or extend their mandate. Once established, working groups or task forces may alter their composition provided this has no adverse impact on the approved budget.

(c) The Council may only delegate authority to any committee or working group to act on its behalf for specific purposes, when the majority of

the members of the committee or working group are members of the Council.

(d) The committees, and if necessary the working groups, will meet prior to the plenary sessions of the Council. The committees and working groups will transmit their recommendations and proposed decisions to the Council prior to the Council plenary sessions, specifying the issues, if any, they wish to see debated by the full Council. Council members will have until the close of the business on the first plenary day of the Council meeting to express a desire to reopen the debate regarding any proposed decisions from the committees and working groups. In all other cases, the Council will adopt the proposed decisions of the committees and working groups without debate.

(e) Committees and working groups may also hold meetings (either physically subject to the Council approved budget or electronically) between meetings of the Council. Recommendations and proposed decisions resulting from these meetings shall be sent to the Council or the Bureau, as appropriate, electronically for decision.

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.

64*bis*. If the IUCN Members of a National or Regional Committee dissolve the Committee, the IUCN Members in that State or Region shall inform the Council, through the Director General.

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; and

(h) invite the Director General to attend or be represented at their meetings.

66*bis*. When preparing to operate outside of its own State or Region, a National or Regional Committee shall follow the Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees[36] 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.

66*ter*. In the context of the development of motions referred to in Rules 48 to 62, the National Committees, Regional Committees and Regional Fora, when convened, are encouraged to provide a platform for discussion and negotiation of motions emanating from their country or region, in particular those that warrant discussion at a local, national or regional level, for the purpose of identifying solutions that might address the underlying issues.

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

[36] Adopted by Council at its 76th Meeting (May 2011), decision C/76/32; amended by Council at its 98th Meeting (February 2020), decision C98/24; and by Council at its 113th Meeting (May 2025), decision C113/22.

(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 six months prior to the ordinary session of the World Congress concerned.

Commission Members

71. A Commission shall consist of individual members and, where appropriate, organisational 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. Once appointed, members of the Commission are part of the Commission until they resign or are removed. Commission members may resign at any time and will be reminded of this possibility following the adoption of new Commission mandates by the World Conservation Congress. The bylaws of each Commission shall prescribe the process and conditions of appointment to and removal from the Commissions' membership.

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.

73*bis*. Before the end of the second full calendar year following Congress, the Chair of each Commission shall, in consultation with the Commission's Steering Committee, propose to Council that it either confirm the membership of the Steering Committee or that it otherwise change it in accordance with the Chair's proposal.

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 removal of the members of the Commission. Any delegation of this responsibility within the Commission shall be prescribed in the Commission's by-laws.

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 organisations 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 respective Commission Chair, when exercising their duty under Article 46(f)[37] of the Statutes, shall, after presenting to Council their proposal on the Commission Operation Fund for their respective Commission, refrain from participating in the subsequent discussion, unless the President rules otherwise, and recuse her or himself from voting on the matter. The same protocol will be followed for the Council decisions concerning approval of draft Commission mandates.

(c) The Commission Chairs are accountable to the President. The President, in the presence of the Director General, shall undertake an annual appraisal of the performance of each Commission Chair in relation to the annual work plan and the mandate of that Commission.

78*bis*. The Commissions are accountable to the Council between sessions of the Congress. In line with Article 77 of the Statutes, the Commissions through the Chairs present an annual report to the Council on outputs, outcomes, impact and resources raised against the Commission's work plan approved by Council at the beginning of each term.

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.

[37] Changed from (e) to (f) as a consequence of the amendment to Article 46 of the Statutes adopted by the 2016 World Conservation Congress inserting a new paragraph (c) and renumbering all subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

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 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 Swiss francs for all transactions in other currencies at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of transaction;

(c) ensure that there is proper authorization of all transactions for IUCN's worldwide activities, and that all assets are managed and inventoried; and

(d) confer with the Treasurer and external auditors each year on the annual audit of the financial statements of IUCN.

The Treasurer

90*bis*. (a) The Treasurer shall provide advice and report to the World Congress, in particular on the financial health of IUCN, the audited financial statements and the draft financial plan.

(b) The Treasurer shall assist the Council in its oversight function regarding the financial affairs of IUCN and in particular, shall:

(i) provide advice and comments to the Council on the draft annual budget submitted by the Director General for approval;

(ii) provide advice on reserves and risk management strategies;

(iii) confer with the 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 Swiss francs;

(c) relate the proposed programme of activities to the estimates of income;

(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 - Electronic Ballot

94. Where a mail ballot is required under the Statutes[38], an electronic ballot shall be carried out in accordance with the following procedure:

a. The Director General shall transmit a first formal notice of the electronic ballot together with the proposal(s) on which to vote and the background documentation, to the Members of IUCN, inviting comments or amendments either by electronic communication or through an online discussion forum. The length of the online discussion shall not be less than four weeks.

b. The Council may decide to convene one or more meetings of a contact group, exclusively by electronic means and open to all IUCN Members eligible to vote, with the purpose of producing a consensus text that can be put to the vote. These fully virtual contact groups should be held during the online discussion and the outcomes of such

[38] See Article 94 of the IUCN Statutes

contact group meetings must be posted online, visible to all Members, before the end of the online discussion.

c. Following the close of the online discussion, the Council will:

   i. submit each proposal, as amended during the online discussion or together with proposed amendments, as appropriate, to the electronic vote of the IUCN Members eligible to vote and, if appropriate, ask the Members if they want to refer the matter to the next session of the World Congress; or

   ii. refer to the World Congress for continued debate and vote on the floor, motions which have been the subject of such discussion and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote, with the exception of electronic votes that have been requested by IUCN Members pursuant to Article 94 of the Statutes.

d. A second formal notice of the electronic ballot, together with the proposal(s) as amended during the online discussion or together with the proposed amendments, as appropriate, shall be circulated by the Director General of IUCN via electronic communication to the Members of IUCN who are eligible to vote, three weeks in advance of the date/time of the opening of the electronic ballot. The notification shall specify the closing date/time of the electronic vote which will not be sooner than two weeks as of the date/time of the opening of the vote.

e. The voting options shall be: 'yes', 'no', 'abstain', or where appropriate 'refer to the next session of the World Congress'. Any Member who is unable to log in and cast its vote may contact the Secretariat for assistance via electronic communication and the Secretariat will send via electronic communication to the Member a ballot form which the Member may use to cast its vote and must return via electronic communication prior to the date and time of the closing of the particular ballot.

f. The IUCN Legal Adviser shall monitor and ensure the accuracy of the electronic voting process, except for the vote on motions prior to Congress pursuant to Rule 62*quinto* (a) which shall be monitored by the Election Officer when the electronic system used is the same as during the Congress.

g. Consistent with the requirement under Rule of Procedure 71*bis*, the complete voting record of each IUCN Member shall be made available to all IUCN Members within two weeks following the close of the electronic ballot. Consistent with the requirement under Rule of Procedure 72, this voting record shall also include the written statements of any Members explaining their vote, which the Secretariat shall have received by electronic communication before the closing date/time of the electronic ballot.

h. In accordance with Article 94 of the Statutes, if urgent circumstances so require, the Council may, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, apply shorter deadlines than those established in the previous paragraphs.

i. Electronic ballots shall be scheduled to open in the third week of May or in the third week of November, except if urgent circumstances require the Council to determine another date.

95. Where an electronic ballot is conducted by other components of IUCN, the same format as specified in Regulation 94 e. shall 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.[39]

Part XIII - Final Clause

98. Upon adoption by the 1st World Conservation Congress meeting in Montreal from 13 to 23 October 1996, these Regulations[40] shall be effective

[39] See Articles 101 to 103 of the Statutes

[40] 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 12 March 2008, by the World Conservation Congress on 13 October 2008, by Council at its 74th Meeting on 2 June 2010, at its 76th Meeting on 25 May 2011, at its 77th Meeting on 16 November 2011, at its 78th Meeting on

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.

15 February 2012, by electronic ballot of IUCN Members on 5 May 2012, by the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 14 September 2012, by Council at its 82nd Meeting on 27 November 2013, at its 83rd Meeting on 21 May 2014, by electronic vote on 26 January 2015 concluding the deliberations of its 84th Meeting (November 2014), at its 85th Meeting on 13 May 2015, at its 86th Meeting held by telephone on 30 September 2015, at its 87th Meeting on 21 October 2015, at its 89th Meeting held by telephone on 17 August 2016, at its 92nd Meeting on 9 February 2017, at its 95th Meeting on 8 October 2018, at its 96th Meeting on 31 March 2019, at its 98th Meeting on 11 February 2020, by the World Conservation Congress on 10 September 2021, by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023, by Council at its 111th Meeting on 16 May 2024, by Council at its 113th Meeting on 9 May 2025 and by Council at its 114th meeting on 16 September 2025.

ANNEX

(As per Regulation 36)

Members of the United Nations, members of its Specialized Agencies, or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice. [42]

AFRICA

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia (Republic of The)
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya (State of)
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

MESO AND SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina
Belize
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador

El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

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
Pakistan
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
Palestine
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
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Tajikistan
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
Türkiye
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[42] The list is regularly updated in function of the membership of the United Nations, of its Specialized Agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and with the names as published on the respective websites of these institutions.

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 6th General Assembly (Athens, Greece)
1960 Amended by the 7th General Assembly (Warsaw, Poland)
1963 Amended by the 8th General Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)
1969 Amended by the 10th General Assembly (New Delhi, India)
1972 Amended by the 11th General Assembly (Banff, Canada)
1977 Revised by the 13th Extraordinary General Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)
1978 Amended by the 14th General Assembly (Ashkhabad, USSR)
1990 Amended by the 18th 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)
2012 Amended by the World Conservation Congress (Jeju, Republic of Korea)
2015 Amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 October 2015
2016 Amended by the World Conservation Congress (Hawai‘i, United States)
2021 Amended by the World Conservation Congress (Marseille, France)
2023 Amended by electronic ballot of the IUCN Members on 13 December 2023

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 999 0000
Fax +41 22 999 0002
www.iucn.org
www.iucn.org/resources/publications