

## **Including Subnational Governments in IUCN membership**

*Proposal of the Working Group established pursuant to WCC-2016-Res-003, approved by the IUCN Council (decision C/96/15, March 2019) for the purpose of consulting the IUCN Members online and during the Regional Conservation Forums to be held in 2019*

**The proposal is to create a new (third) sub-category for Subnational Governments within the “Government House” (Category A), in addition to the State Members and the Government Agency Members.<sup>1</sup>**

### **Definition**

Subnational Governments are all levels of government with mandate and authority below the national level in any given country that is, or can be, a State Member of IUCN.

### **Individual voting rights**

State Members maintain 3 votes as per (current) Article 34 (a) of the IUCN Statutes.

Instead of maintaining a single collective vote for all Government Agency Members within a State, each Government Agency Member also has one vote, whether or not they are from a State that is a State Member of IUCN.

Each Subnational Government Member has one vote.

The voting rights within membership Categories B and C remain unchanged.

### **Balancing the voting power within Category A**

The total number of votes expressed in each of the three sub-categories of membership Category A (Government House) continue to be added together when counting the votes so that one voting result for Category A is shown.

However, in order to prevent State Members being outvoted by either one of the other two sub-categories in the Government House (the Government Agency Members and the Subnational Government Members), a ratio of 3:1:1 will be maintained by using a mathematical formula. No matter how many votes are cast in each of the three sub-categories of membership Category A, the mathematical formula will be applied to ensure that the voting weight of each sub-category respects the ratio 3:1:1. The ratio is based on the understanding that “3” represents the weight of the State Members, and “1” represents the weight of each of the two other sub-categories (Government Agency Members and Subnational Government Members).

### **No change in the overall balance of the separate voting structure of IUCN based on a Government House and a Non-Governmental House**

This proposal in no way affects the voting power or influence of the Non-Governmental house (INGOs/NGOs/IPOs). Decisions in IUCN continue to be taken by a majority of votes cast in Category A and in Categories B and C combined. In other words, a majority in both “Houses” is required to adopt motions and other decisions. Both Houses vote independently of each other and one cannot influence the outcome of the other.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that, to date, there are no Members in the sub-category “political and / or economic integration organisations” of membership Category A. (Article 4 of the IUCN Statutes)

