THE TREASURER OF IUCN
ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION

(Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 1 July 2019, decision B/XVI)

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented here to guide IUCN members in the nomination process and Council’s Nominations Committee.

1. Election

The Treasurer of IUCN is elected by the World Conservation Congress. Regulation 32 provides the following guidance:

"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."

Guidance for nomination of the Treasurer

The nomination process for the Treasurer should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment. It should also contribute to promote a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people representation.

2. Term of Office

The term of office of the Treasurer extends from the close of the World Conservation Congress at which the Treasurer is elected to the close of the next ordinary session of the Congress.¹ (Statutes, Article 41)

The Treasurer, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities of the Treasurer

General

(a) To, as member of Council, serve first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN’s governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union’s world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

Specific

(b) The Treasurer’s role is non-executive, advisory and consultative; overall responsibility for financial management lies with the Director General under the oversight of the Council assisted by its Finance and Audit Committee

(c) To contribute to the efficient governance of the Union by advising the Director General, the Council and its standing committee on Finance and Audit, as appropriate, on finance related matters including those related to the implementation of the IUCN Programme, and on fundraising in general.

¹ Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.
(d) To, with the Director General, submit to each ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress, a report, on the consolidated accounts of IUCN for the intersessional period, together with the auditors' reports for the relevant years. (Article 88 of the Statutes)

(e) To review and provide comments to the World Conservation Congress on the IUCN Programme for the next intersessional period together with the related estimates of income and expenditure. (Article 88 of the Statutes)

(f) To maintain an overview, on behalf of the IUCN Council, of the financial situation of the Union in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress

(g) To review and provide comments to the Council on annual budgets and to agree with or object on financial grounds to any amendments to the budget that may be submitted to Council (Articles 88 and 89 of the Statutes)

(h) To be consulted on financial policies and procedures, acceptance of grants, donations and other payments (Regulation 88)

(i) To advise on the designation of the banks in which the funds of IUCN will be kept and on the investment of funds (Regulations 88 and 89)

(j) To be consulted on the risk and reserve management, and compliance with the legal requirements in all States where IUCN is operating (Regulations 88)

(k) To confer with the external auditors each year on the annual audit of the financial statements of IUCN (Regulation 90)

(l) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes.

4. **Qualifications**

The IUCN Treasurer should:

**General**

(a) have previous governance/Board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization

(b) be committed to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development

(c) have a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities

(d) commit to serve Council in one of its standing committees

(e) have the capacity to work in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

(f) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

**Specific**

(g) have outstanding financial management credentials

(h) be knowledgeable about finance, accounting, investment and fundraising of international organizations or large regional organizations

(i) be familiar with Swiss financial practices, aided by the Secretariat on the technical aspects of Swiss law and accounting standards

(j) have investment experience
(k) be able to advise on fundraising strategies

Requirements
i. Avoid conflict of interest situations;
ii. Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups
iii. Have substantial time available to devote to the Union

Desirable
i. Support at institutional/employment base
ii. Experience from regional and/or international networking
iii. Prior IUCN involvement

5. Expenses

The position of Treasurer of IUCN is a voluntary position. However, IUCN covers the cost of travel and subsistence for meetings of the Council and any expenses incurred in the execution of the Treasurer's duties for the Union, in accordance with the standards approved for Councillors.

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of Council, the composition and structure of Council. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook, the Code of Conduct for IUCN Councillors as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.