IUCN COMMISSION CHAIRS
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 below to guide the nomination process and Council’s Nominations Committee.

1. Election

The Chairs of the IUCN Commissions are elected by the World Conservation Congress. Regulation 34 to the IUCN Statutes provides the following guidance:

“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.”

Guidance for nomination of Commission Chairs
The nomination process for Commission Chairs 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. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Chairs of Commissions extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.¹ (Statutes, 41)

The Chairs of Commissions, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, 42)²

3. Responsibilities of Commission Chairs

General
(a) To 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) To provide strategic, creative, dynamic and visionary leadership for the activities of the Commission to enable it to fulfill their functions as defined in article 75 of the Statutes and their mission as defined in the mandate adopted by the World Conservation Congress and contribute its part of the IUCN Programme and in the One Programme Approach.

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.

² Article 42 of the IUCN Statutes: “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.”
(c) To serve as the lead representative for the Union in the substantive field of expertise of the Commission.

(d) To maintain and motivate a network of Commission members and be responsive to their inquiries and concerns.

(e) To ensure the work of the Commission is well organized and effectively managed.

(f) Within the preceding, to ensure that the Commission works closely with the other IUCN Commissions, IUCN’s membership, its National and Regional Committees and the Secretariat to further the objectives of IUCN and its integrated programme.

(g) To raise financial resources, supplementary to the budget of the Union’s Secretariat for the activities of the Commission, in close coordination with the Strategic Partnerships Unit, the Regional Programmes and other thematic programmes of the Secretariat.

(h) To represent the Commission at national and international fora directly related to the implementation of the Commission’s programme of activities.

(i) To propose to Council, a candidate for appointment as Deputy Chair of the Commission and candidates for membership of the Commission Steering Committee taking into account gender, regional balance, and the inclusion of the youth and indigenous people.

(j) Be responsible for the appointment or re-appointment of the members of the Commission and the assessment of their performance.

(k) To ensure effective and accountable management of all Commission funds and appropriate reporting to Council and Commission members.

(l) To present a written report at each ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress and to report regularly to Council through written and oral reports, as requested, but not less than once a year.

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

4. Qualifications and requirements

Commission Chairs should have the following attributes:

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) financial literacy

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

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

These qualifications and requirements are completed by additional commission-specific qualification criteria (attached herewith as Appendix A), which the Steering Committee of three Commissions (WCEL, WCPA and CEM) have adopted in accordance with Regulation 30bis and the Procedure for the in-Commission selection process of candidates for Commission Chair approved by Council in March (C/96/16 - Annex 9).
(g) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

**Specific**
(h) outstanding, widely respected expert within the work of the Commission
(i) good knowledge of IUCN
(j) network of contacts around the world and proven networking skills
(k) practical experience within the work of the Commission
(l) ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south
(m) leadership qualities - able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration
(n) effective chair of meetings
(o) proven strategic planning and organizational management skills
(p) good communicator
(q) experience with the concerned Commission

**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) time available for the full discharge of the Commission Chair's duties as defined in Section 3 above;

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

5. **Secretariat support for the work of the Commission**

Commission Chairs may expect to receive from the Secretariat, reasonable support for the work of their Commission in accordance with IUCN Regulation 81.

6. **Expenses**

The position of Commission Chair is a voluntary position. Commission Chairs may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses within the framework of the financial support provided by the Secretariat to the Commission and in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors (Council Handbook).

7. **Additional Reference Material**

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Commission Chairs (Section 7, §64-72). Prospective candidates are invited to consult the IUCN Council Handbook as well as the IUCN Statutes and Regulations.
Additional criteria approved by the Steering Committees of the IUCN Commissions in accordance with Regulation 30bis

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

- The candidate must demonstrate substantial contribution to advancing environmental law through WCEL for at least five years [Examples such as attending the Congress, engaging in Specialist Group, and contributing to the work of the Commission in other ways], and
- In professional and legal work, the candidate has made a recognized contribution to environmental law. [The 1st and 2nd criteria are cumulative - have to show both (not alternative)]
- Willingness and ability to invest substantial time (at least 16 hours a week, on average) to be Chair of the Commission, including preparing for, attending, and managing WCEL participation in two Council meetings a year, four Steering Committee meetings a year, the WCEL Congress, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- Knowledge and experience of fundraising and proven capacity to raise funds or in-kind contributions.
- Demonstrated record of organizing events, colloquia, technical meetings, projects, and activities.
- Established record that demonstrates strong and recognized commitment to nature conservation values, ecological ethics, and professional integrity.

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Criteria for selection of candidates for Chair of the Commission:

- Candidates for the position of Chair should confirm that they would have sufficient time and financial resources to perform the responsibilities of the Chair of the Commission (See application procedures below).
- In addition, candidates should:
  A. Be an active member of the Commission, an outstanding, widely respected expert within the work of the Commission, and practical experience within the work of the Commission;
  B. Have knowledge and/or experience that qualifies them to lead the Commission, with particular attention to:
     1. High-level scientific work and expertise in the range of activities supported by the Commission,
     2. IUCN’s structure and process as well as international organizations’ procedures and remits,
     3. Inclusive leadership (strategic planning and organizational management skills) and transparency in actions/communication (able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration);
  C. Be aware of the political requirements of the position;
  D. Be effective chair of meetings
  E. Have experience in leading and motivating a volunteer network to harness and optimize the contributions of a largely volunteer organization;
  F. Understand the Commission’s work and how it contributes to IUCN’s “One Programme” Charter;
  G. Have a network of contacts around the world and networking skills
  H. Be good communicator and experienced at communicating with broad-based scientific networks and ability to tell the Commission’s story to a wide variety of audiences;
  I. Have the ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south
J. Have the time available for the full discharge of the Commission Chair's duties and institutional support for the discharge of the Commission Chair’s duties (see Appendix)

K. Have the capacity to work in English and if possible at least one of the other official languages

**World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**

- Experience and standing in a specific area relevant to protected areas such as planning, management, science or policy
- Strong knowledge and experience of protected area policy at international level
- Preferably some experience in both developed and developing nations

**Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)**

The Commission does not have additional criteria.

**Species Survival Commission (SSC)**

The Commission does not have additional criteria.

**Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**

The Commission does not have additional criteria.