

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
9–15 October 2025, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Draft Agenda of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Action Requested: The IUCN World Conservation Congress is invited to CONSIDER and APPROVE the Draft Agenda of the IUCN World Conservation Congress proposed by the IUCN Council in conformity with Rule 45. (Annex 1 hereafter).

PRELIMINARY NOTES

1. First sitting of the Members' Assembly

The first sitting of the Members' Assembly will be held on Congress day 1, 9 October 2025, in the afternoon following both the openings of the Forum and the Exhibition. This sitting is primarily intended to:

- a) Formally table all decision items (including amendments to the Rules of Procedure, motions referred to Congress by the Motions Working Group, governance motions submitted by Council, urgent and new motions) for discussion in Contact Groups, that can then be spread over seven days instead of the 3-day Members' Assembly;
- b) Establish the Congress Committees so that its members can prepare themselves and start their work;
- c) Fully explain and test the new hybrid format of the Members' Assembly;
- d) Fully explain the elections process.

2. Voting for Elections during the IUCN Congress

Voting for the IUCN Council elections will take place online by those Members eligible to vote. The vote on elections for President, Treasurer, Commission Chairs, the Indigenous Councillor and Councillors elected from the Regions will take place during the Members' Assembly. If a second round for the election of the President is needed in accordance with Rule 81, paragraph (i.), an additional online vote will be opened for 24 hours during the Members' Assembly in time for the results to be announced before the closing of the Congress.

The online vote will be held under the supervision of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer. The online voting system will allow elections to be held during Congress in the most secure way possible and under conditions that apply equally to all IUCN Members worldwide.

Use will be made of IUCN's online voting system which is familiar to IUCN Members as they know it from votes that have taken place since 2023 and will be used for the vote on motions (August/September 2025). Authorised Vote Holders (AVH)/Heads of Delegation of all IUCN Members eligible to vote, whether or not they are present onsite in Abu Dhabi, will receive the URL to cast their vote online. As with previous practice, Members will have an opportunity to designate their AVH and, if they so wish, may designate their Head of Delegation at Congress as the AVH for the online vote on elections.

The IUCN Secretariat will organise webinars for IUCN Members ahead of the Congress to help them familiarise themselves with the platform and process.

3. The presentation of candidates for Treasurer, Commission Chairs, the Indigenous Councillor and Councillors elected from the Regions

There will be no formal candidate presentations during the Members' Assembly for the positions of Treasurer, Commission Chairs, the Indigenous Councillor and Councillors elected from the Regions. However, opportunities for engagement with Members will be provided through dedicated networking sessions scheduled as part of the Regional meetings.

The Regional meetings will be held at different times over the days leading up to the Members' Assembly to allow candidates sufficient time to attend multiple sessions and interact with the membership.

Candidates are also encouraged to actively use their dedicated candidate pages on the IUCN Congress website to share information about their candidacy and engage with IUCN Members in advance of the elections.

Election results will be announced before the end of the Members' Assembly on 15 October 2025. They will also be published on the Congress website immediately after their announcement during the Members' Assembly.



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Preliminary Meetings

8 October 2025

Commission Steering Committee meetings

114th Meeting of the IUCN Council (14:00-17:00)

Forum and Exhibition¹

All forum events and details of Congress Themes are available for viewing on the [Congress website](#).

Day 1 – 9 October 2025

Opening Ceremony of the World Conservation Congress (09:00-11:00)

Forum Opening (11:15)

Exhibition: (13:30-19:00)

1st Sitting Members' Assembly: 14:00-17:00 (see details below)

Congress Reception (19:00)

Contact Groups²/Social events

Day 2 – 10 October 2025

Forum: 09:00-19:00

Exhibition: 10:30-21:00

Regional Member meetings³ (incl. presentation of election candidates)

Contact Groups/Social events

Day 3 – 11 October 2025

Forum: 09:00-19:00

Exhibition: 10:30-21:00

Regional Member meetings (incl. presentation of election candidates)

Contact Groups/Social events

Day 4 – 12 October 2025

Forum: 09:00-17:00 – Closing ceremony: 17-18:00

Exhibition: 10:30-21:00 (except 17:00-18:00 for Forum closing ceremony)

Regional Member meetings (incl. presentation of election candidates)

Contact Groups/Social events

Day 5 – 13 October 2025

Exhibition: 10:30-18:00

Members' Assembly (see below)

¹ Exhibition and Forum will not run in parallel

² Contact groups will be established as required and scheduled to meet virtually during the Forum and the Members' Assembly days. Please note that the actual timetable of the contact groups will be communicated by the Motions Working Group prior to Congress. Rule 56 (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.*

³ Regional Members' meetings will take place 9–12 October 2025 (timings to be confirmed).

Members' Assembly

All documents of the Members' Assembly listed per agenda item can be viewed on the [Congress website](#).

All motions adopted by the IUCN Members by electronic vote ending on 10 September 2025 can also be viewed on the [Congress website](#).

Day 1 – 9 October 2025

14:00-17:00 1st Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 1.1. Opening remarks by the IUCN President
- 1.2. Adoption of ToRs, appointment and first report of the Congress Credentials Committee
- 1.3. Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.4. Approval of amendments to the Rules of Procedure regarding the motions process during Congress (for immediate application)
- 1.5. Adoptions of ToRs and appointment of the Resolutions, Finance and Audit, Governance, Programme and Steering Committees of the Congress
- 1.6. First report of the Resolutions Committee and recording *en bloc* the adoption of motions through the electronic ballot prior to Congress. Presentation about the schedule of Contact Groups for all motions to amend the Statutes and other IUCN governance issues, about the process for motions on urgent and new topics, and submission for adoption of the Procedures and Code of Conduct for Contact Groups

Day 5 – 13 October 2025

08:30-12:30 2nd Sitting of the Members' Assembly

Election voting opens⁴

- 2.1. Presidential candidates' debate
- 2.2. Report of the Election Officer (followed by launch of elections for IUCN Councillors elected from the Regions, Indigenous Councillor, President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs)
- 2.3. Report of the Director General on the work of the Union
- 2.4. Report of the Council, presented by the IUCN President
- 2.5. Presentation, discussion and adoption of draft 20-year Strategic Vision
- 2.6. Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress of the discussions in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

14:00-18:15 3rd Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 3.1. Presentation of the Draft IUCN Programme and Financial Plan 2026–2029
- 3.2. Reports of the following IUCN Commissions including Awards established by these Commissions: CCC, CEC, CEM, CEESP

19:30-21:00 4th Sitting of the Members' Assembly

⁴ If a second round for the election of the President is needed in accordance with Rule 81, paragraph (i.), an **additional online vote** will be opened for 24 hours during the Members' Assembly in time for the results to be announced before the closing of the Congress.

- 4.1. Report on the meeting of all recognised National and Regional Committees⁵
- 4.2. Reporting back on Summits (45 minutes)
- 4.3. Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

Day 6 – 14 October 2025

08:30-12:30 5th Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 5.1. Discussion of the Draft IUCN Programme, Report of the Congress Programme Committee, followed by the adoption of the IUCN Programme
- 5.2. Report of the Congress Governance Committee and vote on motions on IUCN governance including amendments to the Statutes
- 5.3. Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

14:00-18:15 6th Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 6.1. Reports of the following IUCN Commissions including Awards established by these Commissions: SSC, WCEL, WCPA
- 6.2. Adoption of the Commission mandates
- 6.3. Report of the Director General on the Finances of IUCN 2021–2024
- 6.4. Report of the Treasurer
- 6.5. Report of the Congress Finance and Audit Committee and approval of the audited financial statements for the years 2021–2024
- 6.6. Appointment of the external auditors
- 6.7. Discussion of the draft IUCN Financial Plan 2026–2029, Report of the Congress Finance and Audit Committee, followed by the adoption of the IUCN Financial plan 2026–2029
- 6.8. Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

19:30-21:00 7th Sitting of the Members' Assembly – Awards Ceremony

Day 7 – 15 October 2025

08:30-12:30 8th Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 8.1. Report of the Credentials Committee and approval of the membership dues 2026–2029 and of the list of Members in arrears with the payment of dues and whose rights are rescinded
- 8.2. Final report of the Congress Governance Committee and vote on motions of IUCN governance including amendments to Statutes that have not yet been voted on
- 8.3. Final report of the Resolutions Committee on progress of the discussions in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions (if required)

14:00-16:30 9th Sitting of the Members' Assembly

- 9.1. Election results

⁵ A global meeting of the National and Regional Committees will be held as requested by Resolution WCC-2012-Res-005. According to Article 20 of the IUCN Statutes, the Congress shall receive and consider, among others, the reports of recognised Regional Committees and Fora. As was the case in previous Congresses, this reporting obligation will be fulfilled by offering all National and Regional Committees space on the IUCN Congress website to publish their reports.

- 9.2. Report from the Election Officer on the results of all elections
- 9.3. Recognition of outgoing members of the IUCN Council
- 9.4. Message from the President elect

16 October 2025

Council meeting (C115): 9:30-13:00