



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

**Report to the World Conservation Congress
by the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer**

1. At its 111th Meeting on 16 May 2024, the IUCN Council appointed the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer for the 2025 World Conservation Congress in accordance with Regulation 28(b), in addition to confirming the Terms of Reference governing these positions.¹ Hereafter, all references to the “Election Officer” in this document encompass both the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer.²
2. In accordance with Regulation 37, by letter dated 12 December 2024 (transmitted via email dated 16 December 2024), the Director General invited all Members eligible to vote in Categories A, B and C to submit online nominations of candidates for Councillors elected from the Regions (i.e., Regional Councillors). Pursuant to Regulation 38, the Council determined 7 February 2025, 13:00 GMT/UTC to be the deadline for these nominations. Unlike the previous Congress, the IUCN Secretariat did not send IUCN Members any reminders about this deadline.
3. Nominations submitted by Members were received for 21 candidates for all 28 Regional Councillor positions at the time of the deadline (7 February 2025, 13:00 GMT/UTC), in addition to three (3) nomination for Indigenous Councillor.
4. On 8 February 2025, following a recommendation by the Election Officer of an across the board extension of the nominations deadline further to ¶ 2(d) of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer of the 2025 World Conservation Conference Terms of Reference (hereafter “Election Officer’s ToR”), the IUCN Council extended the nomination deadline for the position of Treasurer and additional nominations for Councillors elected from the Regions, but only for statutory regions where fewer complete and validated nominations were received than there are available seats by the initial deadline of 7 February 2025: (a) Africa; (b) East Europe, North and Central Asia; (c) Oceania; and, (d) North America and the Caribbean.³

¹ IUCN Council decision C111/12, adopted on 16 May 2024.

² “The Deputy Election Officer is appointed by the IUCN Council to . . . provide support to the Election officer to ensure the integrity of the elections. [] When acting in the place of the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer will have the same obligations and responsibilities of the Election Officer specified in the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and will be accountable to the Congress or, prior to the session of the Congress, to the IUCN Council. [] The Deputy Election Officer shall have full access to all information and documents pertaining to the election, be copied on all correspondence, and be invited to attend all meetings that the Election Officer is part of, so that such officer is able to start working immediately as Election Officer, in the event that the Election Officer is unable to act.” Bureau of the Council of IUCN Decision (B/75/1), endorsed by the IUCN Council (C/95/2) in October 2018, revised by the Bureau (B90/2) in January 2021 and by the Bureau (B12/4) in March 2024.

³ The Election Officer initially recommended an across-the-board extension as the most equitable approach based on receipt of less than half the minimum number of completed nominations for Regional Councillor positions; however, the Council instead chose to rely on past practice by limiting the extension to statutory regions for which complete and validated nominations were received by the original deadline.



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5. The nominations process closed 21 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT, by which time the Elections Team received 51 nominations for proposed candidates seeking election to the 28 Regional Councillor positions compared with the total of 40 nominations submitted in 2019. In six (6) of the eight (8) regions, there are more nominees than seats; in two (2) regions there are as many nominees as there are seats. Notwithstanding the Election Officer's encouragement of gender balance as reflected in the Council's Guidance for nominations of Councillors from the Regions (decision B/VII, 18 August 2024), thirty eight percent (38%) of the remaining validated candidates are women compared with sixty two percent (62%) men.
6. On 22 February 2025, the Election Officer transmitted a Courtesy Interim Report to IUCN Council on Status of Nominations Process for the positions of Councillor elected from the Regions and Treasurer. The purpose of the report was to inform the IUCN Council as a courtesy, regarding the status of the Nominations Process in advance of the Report called for in ¶ 2(e) of the Election Officer's ToR.
7. The Elections Officer reviewed the information submitted by each nominator and nominee through the online platform and assessed their validity considering the requirements stated in the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. Not all nominations could be considered complete and/or valid. Some errors were detected, including the following:
 - a. nomination by entities which are not Members or not Members in Categories A, B or C;
 - b. nomination by Members who do not belong to the Region of the candidate they propose;
 - c. nomination by Members who have not paid their dues for up to and including 2024; and
 - d. nomination received after the deadline.
8. One validated candidate who provided written notice of their desire to withdraw pursuant to Rule 77, and seven (7) other potential candidates from the total of the fifty-three (54) nominees considered, could not be validated for the following reasons:
 - a. Two nominations for Indigenous Councillor were not supported by five Members eligible to vote (Regulation 38*bis* requires in relevant part that "Nominations for indigenous persons for candidates for the Indigenous Councillor position shall be made by five Members eligible to vote");
 - b. Three (3) nominations for Councillor elected from the Regions were not supported by five (5) Members eligible to vote in the respective Regions (Regulation 38 requires in relevant part that "Nominations for candidates from a Region for election as Councillor elected from the Regions shall be made by five Members eligible to vote");



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- c. a nominee acknowledged that they are a national of a State that is not located in the Region for which they were nominated (Regulation 38 requires in relevant part that “Candidates for election as Councillor elected for the Regions shall be nationals of a State in the Region concerned”);
 - d. a nominee declined, or was unable, to demonstrate compliance with the nomination requirements by the 21 February 2025 deadline despite notification to the individual of a three-week extension of time to provide the evidence allowed under Regulation 40, followed by repeated requests for clarification of evidence and argument submitted in support of a claim to be “resident in” the Region for which they were nominated (Regulation 39 requires in relevant part that “Candidates for election as Councillor elected from the Regions . . . shall be resident in that Region”).
9. In accordance with IUCN Regulation 38, “[n]ominations for candidates from a Region for election as Councillor elected from the Regions shall be made by five (5) Members eligible to vote or ten per cent (10%) of all such Members in that Region, whichever is lower, in both cases drawn from more than one State.” Regulation 38 further states that “[f]or the purpose of nomination, an international non-governmental organization whose constituency covers more than one Region shall be regarded as being located in the Region where it’s principal office is located.”
10. The Elections Officer issued multiple (sometimes repeated) requests for additional information from nominees during the nominations and validation process to ensure compliance with the eligibility requirements stated in the regulations. The Election Officer diligently processed all nominations received, including review of additional information submitted by nominees and, each time, ensuring review of statutory and regulation requirement in addition to equal and fair treatment of all nominations in accordance with the rule of law.
11. The Election Officer made rulings and determinations on three (3) substantive issues requiring a legal opinion, in addition to careful review of available (albeit very limited) precedent alongside the IUCN Statutes and present Regulations as well as generally accepted principles and practice of law where appropriate; the level of effort required to meet these demands amounted to substantially more than twenty-four (24) volunteer work hours weekly.
12. The nominations process for Regional Councillor was automated for the second time through the Congress Portal. Notwithstanding issuance of a [Guidance note on the Nominations platform and the Process for nominating candidates for the position of Councillors elected from the Regions, and the Indigenous Councillor](#), numerous issues arose—including technical issues that could not be addressed by the technical staff r—consuming substantial staff time and slowing down the validation process. Although many of these issues were resolved, this



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experience will be included in the overall nominations process “lessons learnt” document and for the 2029 Congress.

13. As shown in the list on the next page previously [posted](#) on the Congress portal, candidates in seven (7) of the eight (8) Regions required five (5) valid nominations in order to be on the ballot list, while candidates in the Oceania Region only needed four (4) valid nominations.

Number of Nominations required for Each Candidate
(based on the Total of Members Eligible to Vote in the Region)

IUCN Regions	Number of Members Eligible to Vote (November 2024)	Number of nominations required per candidate (November 2024)
i) Africa	133	5
ii) Meso and South America	140	5
iii) North America and the Caribbean	167	5
iv) South and East Asia	204	5
v) West Asia	46	5
vi) Oceania	37	4
vii) East Europe, North and Central Asia	52	5
viii) West Europe	309	5

14. The candidates who did not receive the required number of five (5) valid nominations were notified and given the opportunity to object to the proposed decision not to put them on the ballot list. No candidate availed of that opportunity.
- 15 Pursuant to Regulation 40, the Election Officer communicated nominations of candidates (i.e. name, photo and biographical information) to Members via the Congress Portal as and when they were declared by the Election Officer to be “validated,” that is, determined to have met all the requirements laid out in the IUCN Statutes and present Regulations. The profiles of nominees remain accessible to all IUCN Members and are also now open to the public on the Congress web site.
16. The names of all candidates for Regional Councillor are listed hereafter in annex I (Nominations for Indigenous Councillor and Councillor elected from the Regions) in accordance with Regulation 40. Candidates for each Region will appear on the Congress



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ballot list, in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random (per Regulation 40) as shown in annex I.

17. In addition to our functions related to the nomination of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor, the Election Officer also discharged their function to receive all proposals for persons to be nominated by Council as candidates for election as President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs pursuant to Regulation 30, and transmitted on 26 March 2025 to Council's Nominations Committee the proposals that met all the requirements of the Statutes and present Regulations in accordance with Regulation 35. The report is included as annex II. (Subsequent to the Council's 113th meeting held 7-9 May 2025: one of the two candidates for CEESP Chair provided written notice of their intent to withdraw pursuant to IUCN Rule of Procedure 77; the sole candidate for WCPA Chair also provided documentation in support of their request to be listed as a United Kingdom national.)
18. Pursuant to paragraphs 2(a) and 2(m) of the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer,⁴ annex III contains recommended improvements to the IUCN election process on the basis of our experience.

⁴ IUCN Council's decision C111/12 adopted on 16 May 2024.

Report to the World Conservation Congress by the Election and Deputy Election Officer
Annex I: Nominations for Indigenous Councillor and Councillor elected from the Regions

The figures below in brackets after the name of each candidate and their State of nationality, indicate the number of valid nominations received for the candidate.

1. Members submitted validated nominations involving a single candidate for Indigenous Councillor:

Onel MASARDULE, Panama (9)

2. Candidates for **Councillor elected from the Regions** are listed: by Region along with the number of seats to be filled and the total number of candidates for that region; and, in accordance with Regulation 40, in alphabetical order of surnames starting at the letter “T” chosen by the Election Officer (via random letter generator).

(i) CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLORS ELECTED FROM THE REGION for AFRICA—four (4) seats to be filled, eight (8) candidates:

Gloria UJOR, Nigeria (6)
Caroline AGUTI Mugisha, Uganda (5)
Brian CHILD, South Africa (5)
Mamadou DIALLO, Senegal (5)
Charlotte KARIBUHOYE SAID, Guinea Bissau, Burundi (8)
Imen MELIANE, Tunisia (9)
Joseph Daniel ONOJA, Nigeria (6)
Hoinsoudé SEGNIAGBETO, Togo (6)

(ii) CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGION for MESO and SOUTH AMERICA (four (4) seats to be filled, four (4) candidates):

Maria Cecilia WEY DE BRITO, Brazil (8)
Ana DI PANGRACIO, Argentina (8)
Oscar MORA ALTAMIRANO, Costa Rica (12)
Ramon PEREZ GIL, Mexico (12)

(iii) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for North America and the Caribbean—three (3) seats to be filled, five (5) candidates:

John TOBIN-DE LA PUENTE, United States of America (7)
James BARTRAM, Canada (7)
Jim BRENNAN, Canada (6)
Katy GWIAZDON, United States of America (10)
Fernando LLOVERAS SAN MIGUEL, United States of America/Puerto Rico (6)

- (iv) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for South and East Asia—five (5) seats to be filled, seven (7) candidates:

Atsuhiro YOSHINAKA, Japan (8)
Roshani ADHIKARI PATHAK, Nepal (10)
Binod Chandra CHOUDHURY, India (8)
Yinfeng GUO, China (6)
Amran HAMZAH, Malaysia (9)
Roomi HAYAT, Pakistan (11)
Lima ROSALIND, India (5)

- (v) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for West Asia—three (3) seats to be filled, six (6) candidates:

Matrah AL-MUTAIRI, Kuwait (5)
Simon AWAD, Palestine (5)
Raed BANI HANI, Jordan (5)
Fadi GHANEM, Lebanon (7)
Khaled MARAFI, Jordan (5)
Zaher REDWAN, Lebanon (5)

- (vi) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for Oceania—three (3) seats to be filled, three (3) candidates:

Catherine IORNS, New Zealand (4)
Isoa KOROVULAVULA, Fiji (5)
Erica McCREEDY, Australia (7)

- (vii) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for East Europe, North and Central Asia—three (3) seats to be filled, five (5) candidates:

Carl AMIRGULASHVILI, Georgia (5)
Diana GARLYTSKA, Ukraine (5)
Ruben KHACHATRYAN, Armenia (9)
Vilmos KISZEL, Hungary (5)
Samad-John SMARANDA, Romania (5)

- (viii) CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for West Europe—three (3) seats to be filled, seven (7) candidates:

Sebastian WINKLER, Germany (9)
Craig BENNETT, United Kingdom (7)
Sonia CASTAÑEDA, Spain (6)
Willem FERWERDA, The Netherlands (10)
Ann-Katrine GARN, Denmark (5)
Maud LELIÈVRE, France (33)
Chris MAHON, United Kingdom (6)

Supplement to Annex I
Background Information on Candidates
For the Indigenous Councillor, and Councillors Elected from the Regions⁵

⁵ Pursuant to Regulation 38*ter*, each candidate for Indigenous Councillor, and Councillor elected from the Regions directly submitted the background information provided to the Congress presented here per IUCN Regulation 40.

CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION AS INDIGENOUS COUNCILLOR—one (1) seat to be filled, one (1) candidate

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Onel MASARDULE ARIAS			Indigenous Councillor	I have dedicated more than 30 years to biodiversity conservation initiatives, strengthening and protecting indigenous knowledge and defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples. I have experience in leading debates and group work, having been Co-chair of the working group on article 8j of the CBD, Co-chair of the Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in the UNFCCC, focal point for protected areas at the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (FIIB), in addition to Co-chair of the FIIB. I am currently the Mesoamerican focal point of IUCN's IPO members. I am currently Co-chair of the Voluntary Carbon Market Indigenous Peoples Forum. I have also carried out consultancies and case studies on various topics related to biodiversity conservation, climate change, coastal marine resources, invasive species, indigenous knowledge and other related topics. All this experience will allow me to contribute to strengthening and improving all IUCN initiatives.	I have participated in IUCN Congresses, Regional Forums and Leaders' Forum in 2023 and 2024, which has allowed me to learn about the initiatives led by IUCN globally. I currently represent IUCN IPOs in the IUCN Urban Alliance.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLORS ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for AFRICA—four (4) seats to be filled, eight (8) candidates

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Gloria UJOR		Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team - Director	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	<p>I am a native of my sub-region of West and Central Africa, where I live and work. I have carried out most of my studies in my sub-region. This goes to indicate that my awareness with respect to my sub-regional concerns on the environment and conservation issues is high.</p> <p>In addition, I have been relating with IUCN activities and IUCN members in the sub-region for about 20 years. During this period, I have served in the Board or Executive committee of the sub-regional committee, then known in French as ‘Comitee de Membres de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (CMAO) for eight years, as Vice President and later President for the period of four years each. Thus, I am up to date with the activities of the IUCN members in the sub-region. I can also interface freely with the members either in English or French, thus language comprehension has not been a barrier.</p> <p>I have reached out, through some travels, to various geographic locations in my sub-region, and I am generally familiar with the ecologies presented in my sub-region, including the desert, the sahel, other various savannas, the forest and the coastal vegetations. In addition, I am also familiar with the prevailing environmental challenges these ecologies face.</p> <p>I am available from my statutory work to voluntarily take up assignments that concern further development of interventions that will ameliorate the different environmental crises faced by the region of Africa from time to time.</p>	<p>My early professional career was in forestry tree nurseries and plantation establishment. Conserving aspects of flora and fauna and phenological observations exposed me to ecosystems and habitats challenges of species in the wild. Involving in protected Areas work in my country and my sub-region, updated me with the conservation issues and protected. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, form part of daily work locally in Nigeria. And opportunities exist to interface with communities on adaptation projects and sustainable livelihoods. Activities on these cut across the ecological and cultural divides in the country. Further activities are, addressing other various environmental challenges like land degradation (soil erosion/ soil contamination due to oil exploration). Others are poor waste management, deforestation, occasional drought and poor coastal zone management. In all these interventions, the special cases of gender and other vulnerable groups are always considered.</p>

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Caroline AGUTI Mugisha		Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development - Assistant Commissioner Health, Safety and Environment	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	<p>Working experience in the field of environment, biodiversity, sustainable development, economic and social development for over 25 years in various countries Ghana, Australia, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, China and Germany.</p> <p>Governance experiences spanning over two decades on various boards both national and international, strong commitment to conservation, equity and Justice and sustainable development, working with the IUCN on energy transition and application of the tools, nature-based solutions. Experience handling finance and fundraising. Gender and social inclusion and Policy experience.</p> <p>Widely respected and outstanding personality belonging and working with various networks. Understand the governance structure of IUCN and the relevant policies. Ability to serve in any standing committee based on the experience working in both Government and civil Society.</p> <p>Competent in climate change, social development, gender, biological diversity with expertise in herpetology, and can ably contribute to the six commissions with the extensive experience gained over time in negotiation and development of the important birds, Ramsar sites and species in the works with NatureUganda. Experience in climate change, chemicals, waste, biological diversity, land through the engagements with various conventions of the United Nations and works with People Empowering People Africa an international civil society organization.</p>	<p>Experience in nature-based solutions, key biodiversity areas, species survival, biodiversity offset, World Heritage sites, biodiversity conservation and restoration, participated in the development of the IUCN red list for Uganda through the work in herpetology, finance, Policy, design and implementation of programmes and domestication of international Conventions on climate change, land and desertification, chemicals, social development. Experience in species conservation and science, freshwater ecosystems and alien species and protected area conservation and sustainable development supporting the Ngo Coalition activities on the third Social Development Summit.</p> <p>Implementation of the Post 2020 Global biodiversity framework initiatives with IUCN and the Minamata Convention developing targets and indicators for the energy and extractive industry. Worked on BIODIV II and III identifying key drivers to biodiversity degradation and policy reforms for biodiversity conservation.</p>
Brian CHILD		University of Florida - Professor	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	<p>I have 20-years field experience managing parks, community and private conservation, followed by 20-years as a Professor, educator and researcher specializing in wildlife economy, governance and community. This includes chairing and participating in the IUCN-Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist group for many years, as well as serving on the GEF (4 years) and as IUCN Councilor (4 years). My strength is that I spend substantial periods working with grassroots communities and private conservation in Africa, and link these to academia and to IUCN. These direct rural roots enable me to keep IUCN's</p>	<p>As a Councilor, I have advocated that IUCN's core business is Nature including species, protected areas and private/community conservation (30x30) through inclusive IPLCs. As an institutional specialist, I am advocating that IUCN can only scale up if it first scale's down to fully involve, utilize and empower its unique membership, serving to critically empower the people who live with nature and are best placed to conserve it. This reflects my career working with communities and</p>

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				grounded, and my skills align directly with IUCN core business, namely protected areas and community/private conservation, supported by unique skills in economics, institutions and governance that are invaluable as IUCN takes on ever more complex global challenges. I have been associated with IUCN since the 1990s, understand the strengths and weaknesses of the organization, and advocate for African communities and conservation in which I am deeply embedded. My goal is to accelerate IUCN's current upward trajectory under a strong President and DG by recognizing that IUCN's power lies in its diverse commissions and memberships much more than HQ. I add competency in protected area economics, community conservation, and the economics and institutional economy of conservation, which is vital for addressing drivers like agriculture, climate change that IUCN is beginning to focus on.	farmers in Africa (and my commitment to them. I back this up with academic credibility as a Professor with multiple scientific publications, books, and a network of students around the world. I have specialized knowledge in protected area economics and finance, as well as conservation and community governance. As an agricultural economist I bring to IUCN skills in wildlife economy (complementary to publicly funded nature) and economic restructuring including feeding the world without destroying nature.
Mamadou DIALLO		Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature - Secrétaire Général	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	Being an elected IUCN Councillor means first of all being available, and I will put all my time, my efforts, my skills and my experience at the service of the Union and its components. Although coming from a region, I will work for the Global Union without bias, without conflict of interest, with respect for equity, gender, differences and admissibility.	Experience in the field of natural resource and environmental management, combating climate change and global warming, improving living environments through sustainable waste management, promoting ecotourism. He is a member and Secretary General of the Senegalese Association Amis de la Nature du Senegal (Friends of Nature, Senegal), an NGO Member of IUCN. Mr. Diallo was IUCN Regional Councillor from September 2012 to September 2021. Previously, from 1998 to 2006 Mr DIALLO chaired the Regional Committee of IUCN Members in West Africa. Afterwards, he chaired the destinies of CREMACO, the Regional Committee of IUCN Members in Central and West Africa. As such, he has worked and continues to contribute to the promotion of IUCN as well as to the achievement of its mission in this region.

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Charlotte KARIBUHOYE SAID		Interface pour la Nature - CEO & Founder	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	I have known the IUCN for over 30 years, worked with IUCN member organizations, and commissions, and closely collaborated with the secretariat. As a WCPA member, I acted as regional vice-chair for Central and West Africa for 12 years and contributed to strengthening the IUCN and the commission's constituency and visibility in the region. I actively supported some of IUCN flagship programme components, including through my engagement as a panel member of the IUCN World Heritage and the Green List. I am involved in several board and consultative committees for organizations working on conservation and sustainability issues in Africa and beyond. A native of Burundi and living in Guinea-Bissau, I have led major conservation programs and built a valuable network across Africa, with local, national, regional, and international key players, including policy decision-makers, civil society organizations, and philanthropic and public funders. I am fluent in English, French, Portuguese, and German and have a basic level of Spanish. I am a supporter of the One Programme approach and believe that I can contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN, further promote the work of the Union in the regions, and bring perspectives from the Africa region to the Council.	I bring more than three decades of work experience in biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management, with a focus on protected and conserved areas management and governance, threatened species conservation, mainstreaming conservation in development policy and planning, and sustainable conservation funding. Working at the grass-roots, regional, and international level allowed me to get a robust understanding of conservation issues and to be able to interact with local as well as regional and global stakeholders. As regional program coordinator for the Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin and then Director of the West Africa program for the MAVA foundation, I led the implementation of strategic conservation partnerships in West Africa in the coastal and marine realm, aiming at linking conservation science with practice, institutional strengthening of national conservation organizations, and policy influence for sustainable development in the region.
Imen MELIANE		Consultant	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	I have an extensive knowledge of IUCN having initially worked as a member of the secretariat based in three regional offices and served as a member of SSC, CEESP and WCPA. I have also worked for a member organization of IUCN. I am currently a member of the IUCN Council and have served and chaired several groups and committees in the Council. My experience in different roles in the IUCN family enables me to understand the real opportunities and challenges of IUCN's structure and capabilities. In addition, I had the opportunity to work closely with many IUCN members throughout the world.	I am an international expert with over 20 years' experience that has spanned over five continents and focused on biodiversity conservation particularly the marine and coastal environment, adaptation to climate change, and protected areas. In addition to my scientific and technical knowledge, I have a strong experience in interacting with, informing and advising decision-makers and planners at national and local levels, having worked with over 80 countries. My work often focused on the interface between

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				My work at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making often focused on addressing the interface between conservation climate change, social equity and economic development. I bring a strong experience with and a deep understanding of multilateral environmental agreements (CBD, CITES, UNFCCC, RFMOs etc.) and the role IUCN can play in influencing their evolution and implementation. I also have a deep knowledge the climate finance architectures and the opportunities that IUCN could tap into. I am fluent in all three IUCN official languages, as well as Arabic.	science and policy. I led multidisciplinary teams to design initiatives quantifying the contribution of ecosystem services to resilient economic development; and shaping economic incentives for their sustainable management. I also have established and maintained several partnerships with other NGOs, UN and donor agencies as well as the private sector. More recently, I worked on shaping novel opportunities and instruments for countries to access climate finance.
Joseph Daniel ONOJA		Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) - Director General/CEO	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	I bring huge experience in biodiversity conservation, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy, positioning me well for the role of IUCN Regional Councillor. As Director General of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), the leading IUCN member in Nigeria, I have led conservation initiatives, including the IUCN Niger Delta Biodiversity Action Group (ND-BTAG) project on oil spill remediation. My leadership in this project demonstrates my ability to drive collaborative environmental solutions at the regional level. I have played a pivotal role in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) work as the Assistant Regional Focal Point for West Africa, training CSOs to establish KBA NCGs and strengthen conservation governance. Additionally, I am at the final stage of becoming an IUCN Certified Red List Assessor, equipping me with expertise in species conservation assessment and evidence-based decision-making. As NCF is a BirdLife International partner in Nigeria, I will leverage this position to encourage more BirdLife partners to join IUCN, strengthening conservation network in the region. Furthermore, as a member of the National Council on Climate Change in Nigeria and other boards, I have the influence to advocate for the establishment of a National IUCN Committee in Nigeria and support efforts to renew Nigeria's IUCN membership. With my experience in policy, conservation action, and regional collaboration, I am committed	I have extensive experience in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, climate action, and environmental governance, which align with IUCN's core priorities. Before I became the DG of NCF, I implemented projects on habitat restoration, species conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. Currently under my leadership, NCF has strengthened partnerships and implemented conservation initiatives that address biodiversity loss and environmental sustainability. I am a member of the IUCN World Commission on protected Areas and Species Survival Commission which the recently established Nigerian Species Specialist Group (NgSSG) falls under.

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				to advancing IUCN's mission and strengthening its impact in PACO.	
Hoinsoudé SEGUIAGBETO		University of Lomé (Togo) and AGBO-ZEGUE ONG - Lecturer and Scientific Advisor of AGBO-ZEGUE NGO	Councillor elected from the Region – Africa	<p>With over two decades of experience in conservation science, policy, and governance, I possess the expertise and leadership required for the role of Regional Councillor for Africa. As Director Adjunct of the Laboratory of Ecology and Ecotoxicology at the University of Lomé, I have led research and training programs that address biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and climate resilience.</p> <p>My role as National Focal Point for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Coordinator of the CITES Scientific Authority in Togo has strengthened my ability to bridge science, policy, and community action. I have extensive experience engaging governments, NGOs, and local communities to implement regional conservation strategies.</p> <p>As an active member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (Marines Turtles, Amphibians, Crocodiles, Freshwater and Terrestrial Tortoises) and expert evaluator for the Green List of Protected Areas, I contribute to international conservation governance. My experience in fundraising and securing project financing equips me to support IUCN Members in accessing funding for conservation initiatives.</p> <p>I am committed to equity, youth engagement, and gender mainstreaming, ensuring inclusive decision-making. My strategic vision, leadership, and deep knowledge of the region's conservation challenges will enable me to effectively represent and support IUCN's mission at the regional and global levels.</p>	<p>I have extensive experience in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and environmental governance. As Director Adjunct of the Laboratory of Ecology and Ecotoxicology at the University of Lomé, I lead research on species conservation, protected areas, and climate resilience.</p> <p>As National Focal Point for UNESCO-IOC and Coordinator of the CITES Scientific Authority in Togo, I contribute to biodiversity policies and species protection. I also serve as an IUCN Green List evaluator and Species Survival Commission member, fostering multi-stakeholder conservation strategies.</p> <p>With expertise in securing conservation funding and promoting youth and gender inclusion, I am committed to advancing IUCN's mission in Africa.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for MESO and SOUTH AMERICA (four (4) seats to be filled, four (4) candidates)

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Maria Cecilia WEY DE BRITO		Instituto Ekos Brasil - Director Institutional Relations	Councillor elected from the Region – Meso and South America	With more than 35 years of uninterrupted work in the socio-environmental area, I believe that my experience, engagement, qualifications and network meet IUCN Council demands. Throughout my professional life I worked with great leaders in the socio-environmental area and was able to participate in the construction and negotiation of part of Brazilian and international environmental policy, as well as implementing them on the various fronts they cover. I've been involved in cutting-edge discussions in the socio-environmental area in Brazil. When serving at governments (federal and state) and NGOs I experienced working with different types of councils, and technical groups composed by professionals from different backgrounds and countries. I know IUCN from a long time and worked at some projects coordinated by the organization. Since 2022 I am president of the Brazilian Members Committee at IUCN, and member of the South American Committee. I was able to participate in some important Network activities such as the World Congress in Barcelona (2008), remotely the World Congress in Marseille (2021) and the Latin American Park Congresses in Colombia (1997) and Peru (2019). I represented the Ministry of Environment of Brazil, the state of São Paulo, and the state of SP Ekos Institute in 4 Conferences of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (1998 Slovakia, 2006 Brazil, 2008 Germany and 2024 Colombia), besides other related events.	Since the beginning of my professional journey, I have been working with protected areas, biodiversity conservation and the development, monitoring and application of public environmental policies, areas of interest to IUCN. Specifically, I participated in studies and design to define priority areas for conservation and creation of new protected areas, surveying Protected Areas Downgrading, Downsizing and Degazettement (PADDD) processes, realized a desk job evaluation of some Brazilian Heritage sites, managing protected areas and protected areas systems, coordinating the red list of fauna species threatened with extinction in the state of São Paulo and coordinating the red lists of fauna and flora of the Brazilian government. Recently I am accompanying Green List discussions, Nature Based Solutions and Nature Positive initiatives in Brazil. Besides that, I am presiding Brazilian National Committee and accompanying the South American Committee

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Ana DI PANGRACIO		Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) - Deputy Director Biodiversity Director	Councillor elected from the Region – Meso and South America	<p>With over 18 years of experience in environmental law and policy, I have a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in conservation.</p> <p>As part of my involvement in IUCN, I have led governance reforms that strengthened democratic participation and positioned national committees as key voices in decision-making. My leadership in the South American Committee (2017–2019) facilitated the transition to direct voting, enhancing transparency and accountability.</p> <p>From 2015 to 2021, I coordinated the Argentine National Committee, establishing it as a key reference for government and civil society, driving impactful advocacy and policy change in socio-environmental issues at local and national levels. In 2021, I was honored to be elected as an IUCN Councillor, a role in which I have worked to foster a more cohesive Union through enhanced Council-Secretariat collaboration and increased member engagement.</p> <p>My approach is rooted in transparency, equity, and collective action. I prioritize inclusive governance, amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities while addressing the risks faced by environmental defenders, particularly women.</p> <p>Building on my experience as a Councillor over the last four years and guided by a 20-year vision and a renewed strategic program—developed through participatory processes—I remain committed to ensuring IUCN is an effective, just, and member-driven institution, staying relevant in an increasingly complex world.</p>	<p>I am an environmental lawyer with extensive experience in biodiversity law, governance, and advocacy at all levels. I am well-recognized for building collective movements and facilitating civil society engagement for greater impact.</p> <p>For nearly 15 years, I have been deeply engaged in IUCN across its diverse constituencies. The NGO I work for, which supports me in this endeavor, is a long-standing and committed IUCN member.</p> <p>I have collaborated with governments, NGOs, and academia to develop policies integrating environmental protection, human rights, and gender equality. IUCN must lead in elevating biodiversity in discussions to tackle the multidimensional world crises, translating global commitments into national action. My experience equips me to contribute meaningfully to this mission.</p> <p>IUCN’s mission must be implemented with fairness and impact, ensuring governance structures collaborate effectively while addressing the needs of those on the frontlines of conservation.</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Oscar MORA ALTAMIRANO		Municipalidad de Curridabat - Regidor Propietario	Councillor elected from the Region – Meso and South America	As Proprietary Councillor of the Curridabat City Council, Director of Companies, Member of Multiple Boards of Directors and Focal Point of IUCN, I meet the requirements to be a Regional Councillor, contributing more than 16 years of experience in political strategy and environmental protection. My contributions to the recognition of Curridabat as a Sanctuary City for Bees, Birds and Dust Free have demonstrated a deep commitment to the conservation of local biodiversity, which has positioned the canton as a benchmark in sustainability. I have demonstrated capacity in governance, leading to significant advances in environmental protection at the local level, including the incorporation of Curridabat to IUCN as the first Subnational Government accepted into this international organization. In addition, my focus on the leadership of highly trained commissions and my ability to generate training and leadership opportunities have been critical to the success of some environmental initiatives of the Government I represent. With over 33 years of volunteer experience, I acquired a unique sensitivity towards human rights, gender approach and regenerative development. My strategic, leadership, team coordination and negotiation skills have allowed me to strengthen the impact of my work both locally and regionally, positioning me as a key player in promoting a sustainable future for our communities.	Promoter of Curridabat as a Sanctuary City for Bees, Birds, Dust Free and the elaboration of a Municipal Strategic Plan 2023-2027 whose main dimension is Nature, 16 years of experience as a strategist in political spaces, skills for negotiation with governments and organizations which have generated advances in environmental protection. Promoted the incorporation of Curridabat to IUCN as the first Subnational Government accepted into this international organization. For more than 33 years he has dedicated part of his time to volunteering in various organizations and associations, understanding that social and community work is essential for sustainable development. Exhibitor and participant at IUCN World Conservation Congress Marseille 2021 Exhibitor and participant at IUCN Leaders Forum JEJU 2022 Participant at IUCN Leaders Forum Geneva 2023 Exhibitor and participant at IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Mexico 2024 Member of the IUCN Urban Alliance 2024
Ramón PEREZ-GIL		FAUNAM - President/ Researcher	Councillor elected from the Region – Meso and South America	I consider that I have the credentials to assume the position of Councillors once again. I have known IUCN since the 1970s. I praise myself of knowing its form of operation, its statutes and regulations and even, if I may, "the guts" of the organization. I have played 14 different roles within it, from membership and commissions, never within the secretariat (although I have been lucky enough to represent the IUCN as a whole on several occasions). I am a biologist with postgraduate studies and specialty both in Mexico and abroad, with almost 50 years of	I have been part of WCPA, even a member of the steering group for North America (with Dr. Bruce Amos). I have been part of the SSC and some specialist groups for several decades, I was part of its Steering Committee (with Dr. George Rabb), I am part of the SULi (<i>Sustainable Use and Livelihoods</i>) Specialists Group of the CEESP and SSC commissions. I have been actively involved in bringing about significant changes in IUCN in favour of the

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				experience in scientific research, and I have worked in non-governmental, business and philanthropic organizations, some of which I have constituted and directed. I am fluent in all three official languages of IUCN. I work equally with all sectors of society, with the private sector (entrepreneurs) and the social sector (rural communities and indigenous peoples), legislators, academia, national and foreign non-governmental organizations. I've done it and continue doing it in several countries, not just in my region. I have been part of the WCPA and the SSC and CEESP. I constituted the Mexican Committee and participated in the constitution of all the Central American and Mesoamerican Committees, I know and am known in the region. I am committed to continuing to drive the changes necessary for IUCN to maintain its global environmental leadership.	membership of our region (the change from ORCA to ORMA with Sir Martin Holdgate). I worked on formulating statutory changes for the recognition of committees within the IUCN organizational structure. I negotiated and coordinated the preparation of the RED BOOK, which, at the time, was IUCN's best-selling book. Some of the changes that our Union has experienced through remote voting were initiatives I worked on within the Council or in one of the working groups that were constituted in it.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for North America and the Caribbean—three (3) seats to be filled, five (5) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
John TOBIN DE LA PUENTE		Cornell University - Professor of Practice	Councillor elected from the Region – North America and the Caribbean	<p>Until the end of 2024, I was the chair of IUCN-US, a not-for-profit organization established to support the aims and objectives of IUCN within the United States, including facilitating the movement of financial support between IUCN supporters and funders in the United States and IUCN operations elsewhere; in this role I have worked closely with the IUCN Secretariat.</p> <p>In addition, through my participation in several past WCCs, IUCN Leaders Forums, and other IUCN events, prior membership in IUCN commissions, and my relationships with IUCN members in a variety of regions, I believe I have a strong and global view of IUCN, its operations, and its membership.</p> <p>I have 25 years of uninterrupted experience in board-level governance, strategy, and oversight of not-for-profit organizations in the United States and other countries; this has involved roles with a variety of organizations in the areas of environment, science, and education.</p> <p>Through my work as a finance lawyer, and later as an academic, I have developed not only financial literacy skills but deep familiarity with the area at the intersection of law, finance, and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>My entire career path, including my work as a tropical ecologist, a lawyer, a corporate sustainability manager, and an academic, is a direct result of my profound commitment to the protection of nature and my perception of what knowledge and experience will best help me contribute to that goal.</p>	<p>Extensive international experience: Although I currently live and work in the US, my entire career I have focused on international issues, particularly in developing economies, and have spent a large part of my career living outside the US, including 8 years in Switzerland.</p> <p>Diverse cultural perspective: I was raised in a bilingual and bicultural family in Lima, Peru, have lived in a number of countries, and have been exposed to work in a variety of cultures, both professionally and culturally. As a result, I have developed a culturally aware approach to negotiation that is effective and delivers results.</p> <p>Diplomatic skills: Being a member of a body as diverse and international as the IUCN Council requires, in order to strengthen relationships and optimize outcomes, an uncommon set of personal skills and cultural sensitivities. I believe I have those skills and would be honored to put them at the disposal of IUCN.</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
James BARTRAM		Independent Consultant - Director	Councillor elected from the Region – North America and the Caribbean	<p>My desire to pursue this opportunity is grounded in the belief that my experiences, expertise, and values are aligned with the Union, and I am in a personal position to commit the time and energy required of this critical role. I consider myself a servant leader who elevates and empowers others to make a difference for nature in our region. My extensive network, performance management approach and entrepreneurial spirit would serve Council well at this critical time on our journey.</p> <p>I have repeatedly developed and administered large high functioning teams that drive growth and impact. My work with Federal and Provincial Governments and national and international NGOs, includes building fundraising and executing aspirational strategic plans and growing leaders, both for terrestrial and marine conservation.</p> <p>I have relevant governance experience. I was a board member and Risk Management Chair for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Canada (a federated national organisation) and served six years (two as chair) on the board of the Canadian National Committee, during which time we greatly expanded membership, especially with young professionals.</p> <p>I have benefited from living and working in multiple communities and cultures this lived experience helps me to empathise with a diversity of perspectives and enhances my creativity. I am a hardworking and dedicated conservationists who believes in supportive structures, that enable collaboration and growth.</p>	<p>I have extensive experience serving the Union and its members in Canada. I am a member of CEC, WCPA and CEESP and have served on the board of the National Committee of Canada.</p> <p>I have repeatedly been asked to convene and facilitate for Canada's conservation priorities, including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening the 2019 Young Champions for Nature at the Montreal Nature Summit, • Member of the Ocean Literacy Delegation IOC Assembly 2019 • Designing and facilitating the 2022 CBD COP15 Mainstreaming Biodiversity with Climate Education dialogue, • Designing and facilitating the 2023 GEF Assembly, Environmental Literacy leaders dialogue • Contributing to the development and leadership of the KMGBF Pavilion Education Day at CBD COP16 2024 • Numerous national IUCN gatherings and events <p>My hope is to champion the Enablers for the Nature 2030 Plan to support closer collaboration between Commissions, National Committees, State Agencies and Secretariat towards our shared vision.</p>
James BRENNAN		Ducks Unlimited Canada - National Director, Industry &	Councillor elected from the Region – North America and the Caribbean	<p>I would fulfil the qualifications for a Regional Councilor in several ways:</p> <p>*Strong board and corporate governance experience: Nearly two decades of senior manager and executive level leadership in a national habitat conservation organization with close national and hemispheric collaboration with two other sister</p>	<p>*Direct hands-on conservation management/leadership: overall general manager of DUC's direct conservation program for the Province of Ontario (5-yrs).</p> <p>*Conservation public policy: lead of the national & international government relations program for</p>

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		Government Relations		<p>organizations</p> <p>*Strong executive-level leadership: National program lead for 10 years & member of a national executive management team. (CREA - 5 years, DUC 3-years)</p> <p>*International experience: Led organizational delegations to two UNCBD COPs (Montreal & Colombia); worked to build an International Housing Coalition with US NAR, Habitat for Humanity International and USAID ahead of the 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver.</p> <p>*Financial Literacy: MBA degree, education and experience in financial & management accounting, statistics, micro & macroeconomics.</p> <p>* Public policy development and advocacy: 32 years of experience in Canada, and in collaboration with international partners in the United States and Mexico.</p> <p>* Bilingual - English (native) & French (proficient)</p>	<p>Canada's largest land trust and wetland conservation organization - 13 years.</p> <p>*Volunteer lead & principal advocate/spokesperson for Canada's largest national conservation/environmental budgetary advocacy coalition (25 member organization (for 4 years) - the Green Budget Coalition.</p>
Kathryn	GWIAZDON	Center for Environmental Ethics and Law - Executive Director	Councillor elected from the Region – North America and the Caribbean	<p>My work is rooted in the roots and future growth of IUCN - its founding principles of ethics, peace, and justice, and alongside foundational leaders like Ron Engel (founder Ethics Working Group), George Rabb (former SSC Chair), and WCEL Chairs Nick Robinson, Sheila Abed, and Antonio Benjamin. My NGO, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, was founded to implement Res-20 (2004), Drafting a Code of Ethics for Biodiversity Conservation, advanced by Patrick Blandin (Comite francais). We created a methodology to raise the evidentiary value of the lived experience and address the gap between values and action (see Biosphere Ethics Initiative, adopted via Council and Res-4 (2012)). As Chair of the WCEL Ethics Specialist Group, and WCEL Member since 2005, I work locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally, across fields and sectors, and with Members and non-Members. In addition to work on decolonialism and inter-generational responsibility, the ESG is the only SG that explicitly addresses IUCN internal governance. With the USNC, I co-led the 2024 Annual Meeting, "Members at the Heart of IUCN" (and assisted NARO with the RCF), and am co-leading the first</p>	<p>My CV is available to give evidence to my expertise, so here I will emphasize my approach at the intersection of my work and IUCN. I always focus on how best to advance the mission of IUCN – and the incredible power and potential of its history since 1948 – as an organization of justice and science, and for sustainability for the entire community of life. And broad, diverse representation is key, but with a shared purpose. This is particularly important as we face increased crises, whose harms are not equally caused nor equally felt, and particularly as we expand our engagement with actors or industries that have caused these crises. We are a big tent organization, but with a common mission, and we must defend our individual and collective legitimacy as actors for just conservation. I take very seriously the act of an NGO, government, or Indigenous Peoples organization signing their name to IUCN, and the obligations we</p>

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				Strategic Plan, focusing on co-creation and co-ownership of our work, and strategic engagement with other regional and national committees. As ethics is Union-wide, I work Union-wide, often raising issues of Member concern to our leaders or at Congress, such as conflicts, accountability, access, transparency, and voice.	then owe to IUCN, and the obligations that IUCN then owes to us.
Fernando LLOVERAS SAN MIGUEL		Para la Naturaleza - President	Councillor elected from the Region – North America and the Caribbean	<p>I bring extensive experience in conservation leadership, governance, and policy development, aligning with the competencies required for a Regional Councillor.</p> <p>Leadership & Governance: As President of Para La Naturaleza and former President of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee, I have led conservation initiatives, strengthened governance frameworks, and built cross-sector partnerships to advance regional goals.</p> <p>Representation & Advocacy: As Vice President of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Council, I have represented Caribbean interests in global conservation discussions, ensuring regional priorities are integrated into IUCN strategies. I have also served on the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Land Trust Alliance boards, contributing to international policy development and advocacy.</p> <p>Engagement & Capacity Building: I have facilitated dialogue among IUCN members, commissions, and regional offices, promoting collaboration and knowledge-sharing. My leadership in reforestation, habitat restoration, and land conservation has strengthened community engagement and institutional capacity.</p> <p>Commitment to IUCN's Mission: My work aligns with IUCN's objectives, from ecosystem restoration to sustainable development advocacy. I am committed to fostering a more inclusive and resilient conservation network in the Caribbean while enhancing IUCN's regional impact.</p>	<p>As a conservation leader, I have dedicated over two decades to advancing biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and community-based ecological restoration, which are central to IUCN's mission. As President of Para La Naturaleza (PLN), I have led large- scale reforestation, habitat restoration, and conservation finance initiatives, integrating sustainability into public policy and governance. Securing Land Trust Alliance accreditation for PLN exemplifies my commitment to ethical and effective conservation management.</p> <p>As Vice President of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Council, I have strengthened regional collaboration, advocated for conservation policies, and supported capacity-building efforts among IUCN members. My experience serving on the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Land Trust Alliance Boards has allowed me to contribute to global conservation governance, aligning with IUCN's strategic priorities.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for South and East Asia—five (5) seats to be filled, seven (7) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Atsuhiro YOSHINAKA		Rakuno Gakuen University - Professor, Chairperson of Department of Environmental Sciences	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	<p>I have dedicated my entire professional career to nature conservation at national, local, and international levels. At the national level, I was an official of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan for a total of 23 years. In the Nature Conservation and Global Environment Bureaus, I contributed to policy-making and their implementation on, inter-alia, the NBSAP revision/implementation, biodiversity conservation on land and in the marine environment, WHC, Ramsar Convention, UNCCD, global warming, the G8 process, the Satoyama Initiative, ICRI, and relations with IUCN.</p> <p>At the local level, I worked for nature conservation in Hokkaido Prefecture in northern Japan including as a National Park Ranger and Head of a National Park Office. I have been advising environmental policy to the local governments of Hokkaido Prefecture and Sapporo City.</p> <p>At the international level, I was Global Coordinator at the CBD Secretariat, managing its capacity-building programmes. I also served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to UNEP and UN-HABITAT. Additionally, I contributed to various advisory panels and steering committees, including the Hokkaido Environment Council, CBD voluntary peer reviews, and the CBD informal advisory group on synergies.</p> <p>I am currently a Professor of Environmental Sciences at Rakuno Gakuen University, where I continue my research and teaching, focusing on integrating biodiversity conservation with policy and practice.</p>	<p>I directed the CBD Secretariat's capacity-building programs for developing countries, strengthening its operations mainly through the Japan Biodiversity Fund. I supported the planning, adoption, and revision of NBSAPs, leading to 190 CBD signatories completing them, with 140 revising theirs by 2018. I also led a global Eco-DRR project in collaboration with IUCN.</p> <p>During this period, I helped establish and expand the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) and supported the identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs).</p> <p>Additionally, I supported the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) from its inception in 2010, helping it become a key stakeholder in international biodiversity conferences. I also contributed to strengthening Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and the Traditional Knowledge (TK) programme, enhancing IPLCs' engagement in CBD processes and increasing references to IPLCs and TK in national reports.</p>

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Roshani ADHIKARI PATHAK		Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation - Board Member	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	<p>I am a seasoned communication professional and biodiversity conservation advocate with over two decades of experience in policy advocacy for environmental conservation. I have consistently raised awareness on environmental issues, sustainable development, gender justice, and media advocacy. I have held strategic roles at the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF), in the private sector, and with government entities, establishing extensive networks with media professionals and institutions both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>I am a graduate from Tribhuvan University majoring Sociology, specialization in Economics, Gender Study, Anthropology, Journalism and Mass Communication. I have also completed various media and gender training courses in Nepal and abroad. I am known for strong analytical abilities, team spirit, and capacity to manage multiple tasks simultaneously. Additionally, I excel in coordination across my networks and also proficient in both English and Nepali.</p>	<p>At the age of 17 years, I began my career in audio-visual production, focusing environmental issues. I have produced numerous environmental documentaries for national media, collaborating with both national and international partners. I have been actively involved in policy review, advocacy on environmental issues, sensitizing journalists through media workshops/ training sessions across Nepal.</p> <p>The work, I have accomplished covered a wide range of topics, including endangered species, indigenous knowledge, climate change, genetic resources, biodiversity conservation, and the rights of minorities. In 2024, for the first time, the NNC, IUCN organized the first NCF where I played the key role for its ultimate success.</p> <p>I was the elected first women President in the history of the NEFEJ after over two decades involvement. Currently, I am serving as a Board Member at the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) which is led by a young and energetic team.</p>
Binod Chandra CHOUDHURY		Wildlife Trust of India - Senior Advisor	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	<p>Being in the Conservation arena for the last 50 years and being a member of the IUCN SSC multiple species specialist groups have been contributing at national, regional and international level for the works of the IUCN. Also handled the IUCN India National Committee secretariat for almost 10 years. Have been responsible for setting up terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas. As a professional trainer was and is responsible in capacity building of conservation biologists and managers in the region covering India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Have been co ordinating the works of national and international NGOs in the conservation sector as well as Government</p>	<p>Have been a member of the IUCN SSC multiple specialist group.</p> <p>Have handled IUCN Indian National Committee secretariat.</p> <p>Have assisted organising the IUCN Regional Conference in New Delhi.</p> <p>Have participated in at least three IUCN Regional and World Congress.</p> <p>Have been an active member of the Zoo community as well as the PA development initiatives of the region.</p>

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				International agencies such as the USFWS and CSIRO. Have been contributing to the policy framework of National government as well as many of the International conservation NGOs and scientific societies for over three decades. Have been publishing academic peer reviewed papers in reputed journals on conservation related works on endangered species as well as spaces and serving as the editorial board member in some of the journals of repute.	Have constantly assisting in capacity building sector of the IUCNs sectors.
Yinfeng GUO		National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, China - Chief Expert, International Cooperation	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	I am a dynamic environmental governance and sustainability professional with 36 years of proven track record and skills in advancing ecosystem resilience, natural resources sustainability and livelihoods development, fostering regional and global blue partnerships, and implementing high-impact sustainability initiatives. My five-year membership in the management team of PEMSEA supporting 11 countries in implementation of regional sustainable development strategy for the seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), proficiency with operations in delivery of development programs worth of nearly 100 million US dollar in grant, and familiarity with rules and policies of international organizations such as UNDP and UNOPS, I will be able to constructively and professionally serve the standing committees of the Council on programs and operations, governance, compliance and organizational effectiveness. I am also a visionary leader, with proven records of contributing to establishing strategic partnerships, platforms and initiatives such as the Xiamen World Ocean Week, World Coastal Forum, PEMSEA Regional Blue Carbon Program, etc. These experiences will enable me to provide the needed guidance and direction to similar initiatives run by technical commissions and the Secretariat.	At national and regional levels, I have professionally delivered services in my service as Chief Technical Adviser for improved regional ocean governance, as Head of Strategic Partnership and Planning of PEMSEA in coordinating the implementation of SDS-SEA in 11 countries in East and South East Asia, as Program Manager in UNDP China and government agencies overseeing water and biodiversity portfolio. Threatened species are also covered in my career, with 13 years of work in Scientific Authority of CITES in China in fostering sustainable trade in species of concern. The experiences in policy and regulatory reforms, capacity development, knowledge management and advocacy will greatly help scale up actions towards species protection and sustainable use, area-based conservation, ecosystems restoration, and promotion of equity, rights and stewardship in the transformation areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, regenerative blue economy and water stewardship and security.
Amran HAMZAH		Universiti Teknologi Malaysia - Professor	Councillor elected from the Region –	Familiarity with complexity of IUCN based on previous experience as a Regional Councillor and active roles in the Commissions. Played an active role in the World Conservation Congress 2021 in	Co-Chair of the Congress Governance Committee during the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France in 2021. Instrumental in getting the game-changing Council Motion on Sub-National Government category approved through high level

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			South and East Asia	<p>Marseille as the Co-Chair of the Congress Governance Committee.</p> <p>Deep knowledge and vast experience plus wide network in South and East Asia in relation to nature conservation to effectively play an ambassadorial role for IUCN in the region.</p> <p>Up to date in terms of the priorities and IUCN Programme and able to cascade this to the regional and local levels.</p>	<p>negotiations.</p> <p>Vice Chair of the Programme and Policy Committee of the Council that provided guidance and oversight for corresponding policy and programme-related matters including the IUCN Nature 2030 Programme.</p> <p>Providing leadership in interpreting IUCN WCPA programmes especially in relation to protected and conserved areas management e.g. the Green List, OECMs and Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Played a key role in the initial negotiations with Sabah Parks to co-organise the 2nd Asia Parks Congress in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, as well as the planning and successful delivery of the event.</p> <p>An active founding member of the Asia Protected Areas Partnership since its official launch at the World Parks Congress in 2014.</p>
Roomi HAYAT		HRDN - Chairperson	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	<p>I have extensive experience in governance, sustainability, & policy, aligning closely with IUCN's mission. My engagement with IUCN spans multiple roles, including serving as Chairperson of the Pakistan National Committee of IUCN for 4 years, where I contributed to influencing conservation policies, facilitating member engagement, & strengthening environmental governance. As a Member of the IUCN CEC, I have promoted environmental awareness, education, & advocacy at national & regional levels.</p> <p>Currently, as Chairperson of the Climate Action Forum (CAF), a consortium of 15 national and international organizations, I am involved in multi-stakeholder initiatives focused on stakeholder engagement, climate action and sustainable development. As</p>	<p>Experience in the field of concern to IUCN:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership and Governance 2. Management and Planning 3. Climate and Environment 4. Education, Awareness, Advocacy and Research 5. Capacity Building 6. Liaising and outreach 7. Community Development 8. Professional Development 9. Policy Reforms

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				<p>Chairperson of HRDN & CEO of IRM, I managed large-scale projects, community-based environmental initiatives involving various SDGs. My role as Executive Director of the NRSP further enhanced my expertise in sustainable livelihoods, and policy-driven governance initiatives.</p> <p>Apart from that, I have rich experience of working on assignments with UN agencies, ILO and World Bank in countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Cambodia that has solidified my experience of the region and understanding of its dynamics.</p> <p>With decades of leadership in regional and international networks, experience in high-level governance, financial oversight, and strategic planning, I am fully committed to advancing IUCN's priorities.</p>	
Lima ROSALIND		Green Future Foundation - Director and Board Member	Councillor elected from the Region – South and East Asia	<p>Here are some key points that highlight my suitability:</p> <p>1. Leadership Experience: My role as National Head of Environment Education at WWF-India demonstrates my leadership abilities and experience in managing sustainability educational programs across various stakeholders</p> <p>2. Collaboration and Networking: My collaboration with IUCN and various international offices showcases my capacity to build partnerships, which is crucial for a Regional Councillor.</p> <p>3. Research and Conservation Insight: My work on the Black-necked Crane, Bengal Floricans, Andaman Wild Pig project, Bird Migration studies, illustrates my hands-on experience in conservation research and my understanding of local ecosystems and communities.</p> <p>4. Vision for Capacity Building: My commitment to encouraging societies to build capacity and access resources reflects a proactive approach to conservation, emphasizing sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	<p>My work on bird hazards, crane conservation, and research on floricans indicates a strong focus on protecting species and their habitats. Projects related to wildlife studies and habitat assessments highlight the importance of managing ecosystems effectively.</p> <p>Initiatives like the Ranthambhore National Park Livelihood Programme reflect efforts to balance conservation with community needs.</p> <p>My involvement in low-carbon practices including restoration of soil and degraded landscapes, Agro-ecology projects and climate change workshops for teachers, schoolchildren and practitioners addresses the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.</p> <p>Projects focused on conservation education and nature clubs emphasize the role of local communities in conservation efforts. Development of visitor centers and interpretation facilities promotes awareness and education about biodiversity. These areas reflect a comprehensive approach to</p>

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				<p>5. Understanding of IUCN Frameworks: My familiarity with IUCN statutes and frameworks positions me well to operate within the organization’s guidelines.</p> <p>6. Advocacy for Networking and Partnerships: My emphasis on creating forums for discussion and partnership aligns with the collaborative nature of conservation work at regional and global levels.</p> <p>Overall, my background and vision suggests I would be an effective advocate for conservation and a valuable asset to the IUCN as a Regional Councillor.</p>	<p>conservation, integrating ecological, social, and educational dimensions.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for West Asia—three (3) seats to be filled, six (6) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Matrah AL-MUTAIRI		Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research - Scientific Researcher	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	Dr. M. Al-Mutairi stands as a distinguished researcher in the field of conservation, rehabilitation, wildlife and ecosystem management, boasting an extensive and noteworthy research career spanning over 20 years. Her wealth of experience encompasses diverse roles, showcasing her expertise, leadership, and significant contributions to the field. As a testament to her capabilities, she has assumed the role of leader for many projects, where her responsibilities extended to overseeing the entire project life cycle and building capacity at the research. She also supervised the development and training of new and junior scientists in the previous fields. Additionally, she has been involved in four technical projects at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in collaboration with national and international organizations. Dr. Al-Mutairi is currently running huge projects in collaboration with UN to rehabilitate the damaged and polluted desert ecosystems at the State of Kuwait. Dr. Al-Mutairi was engaged as a member of IUCN since 2004 and was a member of the IUCN national committee since 2012. She also led the National committee of Kuwait and still an active member. She is the primary contact person and vote holder of her organization and is actively involved in collaboration activity of IUCN.	Dr. Matrah Al-Mutairi was engaged with IUCN activities since 2004 and have a wide network of activities and collaboration with other members. She is active in promoting the values and image of IUCN in the fields of conservation, international collaboration and revising laws to protect the environment. She helped other organizations and NGOs to join IUCN in the State of Kuwait. Networking and brainstorming for actions in the IUCN was also a major field that Dr. Matrah was focusing on. A strong support for Dr. Al-Mutairi is her over 25 years' experience in the fields of environmental conservation, rehabilitation and management for ecosystems where she provided the scientific basis and management plan to stakeholders and indigenous beneficiaries to manage and conserve their ecosystems. As a woman, she strongly supports the empowerment and rights of minority groups to express their capabilities and rights at the fields related to IUCN vision and goals.

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Simon AWAD		Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land - Executive Director and Chair of National Committee - Palestine	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	<p>As a seasoned environmentalist, I am well-qualified to serve as a Regional Councillor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). With over two decades of experience in governance, board management, and international organizational work, I can contribute significantly to IUCN's strategic directions. My commitment to conservation, equity, justice, and sustainable development is evident in my role as Executive Director of the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Palestine.</p> <p>I have successfully guided policy and project development at both regional and international levels. Fluent in English and Arabic, with a working knowledge of Hebrew, I am equipped to navigate diverse environments. My expertise in financial management, budgeting, and monitoring expenditures will enable me to make informed decisions as a Councillor. I am familiar with IUCN's Statutes and deeply understand the organization's goals.</p> <p>As Chair of the IUCN National Committee in Palestine and a board member of various international organizations, I bring important leadership and networking skills to represent the West Asia Region effectively. My background in advocacy, eco-justice, and biodiversity conservation will provide valuable insights. I am committed to supporting one of the standing committees and contributing to the Union's oversight and development. My strong educational background and research experience further affirm my capability as an effective Regional Councillor.</p>	<p>As Executive Director of the (EEC), my work aligns with the (IUCN). I am dedicated to environmental education, advocacy, and conservation, making significant contributions to eco-justice, biodiversity, and climate justice in Palestine.</p> <p>Key highlights of my experience include:</p> <p>Chairing the IUCN National Committee in Palestine, underscoring my commitment to collaborative conservation.</p> <p>Establishing the first bird ringing stations in Palestine, which enhance bird conservation and research.</p> <p>Aligning Palestinian environmental legislation with international conventions, showcasing my regulatory expertise.</p> <p>Authoring and co-authoring publications on biodiversity and environmental justice, demonstrating my commitment to evidence-based advocacy.</p> <p>Actively engaging in local, regional, and international networks, including the Working Group for Climate Change from the World Council of Churches, reinforcing my dedication to global cooperation in tackling climate challenges.</p>
Raed BANI HANI		Ministry of Environment - Retired - Secretary General Assistant	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	I bring a strong background in governance and strategic leadership, having served on several boards and committees, including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, IUCN, United Nations, GIZ, and several local and international NGOs, where I contributed to organizational decision-making, long-term planning, and conventions, including CBD and	I was previously a member of the National & Regional Committee of IUCN and later served as the Chair of the Committee. I was among the individuals involved in preparations for the 2000 IUCN Congress held in Amman, Jordan. My collaboration with IUCN began when the IUCN

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				UNCCD. My commitment to conservation, equity, and sustainable development is demonstrated through active involvement in projects that prioritize both environmental protection and social justice, such as NBSAB. With experience in regional and international networks, I am able to offer a global perspective on IUCN's goals and priorities, while advocating for regional needs. I also aim to foster partnerships between the IUCN West Asia office, regional NGOs, and governments to strengthen collaboration and drive impactful conservation initiatives. Also, I want to follow up on the challenges and obstacles faced by the members of the IUCN West Asia office and the regional members, ensuring their concerns are addressed and facilitating solutions. I also plan to facilitate the exchange of experiences between the members of the West Asia region to foster learning. My commitment to IUCN's mission is reflected in my readiness to devote the necessary time and energy to Council duties, including committee participation and outreach.	West Asia office was first established, working alongside IUCN through the Ministry of Environment. I have actively participated in the implementation and follow-up of several IUCN projects, including the HERD-Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development project. This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of IUCN's priorities, particularly in areas of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and environmental policy, and has allowed me to contribute to the organization's work in the region.
Fadi GHANEM		IUCN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF LEBANON - PRESIDENT	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	With extensive experience working at both regional and international levels, I have led and contributed to numerous conservation initiatives, fostering cross-border collaboration to address environmental challenges. My commitment to conservation, equity, justice, and sustainable development is reflected in my work with various organizations, where I have actively promoted sustainable policies, biodiversity protection, and community-driven conservation efforts. I uphold the highest ethical standards, ensuring transparency and integrity to avoid conflicts of interest, always prioritizing the mission and values of the organizations I serve. My global perspective aligns with IUCN's strategic directions, as I have worked on projects that integrate ecological sustainability with social and economic resilience. I am deeply engaged in shaping conservation strategies that are inclusive, science-based, and impactful. Serving in a personal capacity, I bring an independent and objective viewpoint, free from external affiliations, ensuring that	As an environmental advocate and conservation professional, I've devoted my career to safeguarding nature and promoting sustainable development. My expertise mirrors the priorities of the IUCN, focusing on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and climate change adaptation. I've actively supported initiatives to raise environmental awareness, shape conservation policies, and foster collaborations for measurable conservation results. My goal is to integrate ecological preservation with sustainable development, ensuring a flourishing coexistence of nature and communities for future generations. As Fadi Ghanem, I champion the IUCN's 30x30 initiative through media, advocating to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. Using storytelling, I strive to amplify global conservation

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				my contributions are guided solely by a commitment to IUCN's vision and mission. With a strong understanding of governance and policy frameworks, I am well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to the Union's priorities, advancing conservation efforts in a way that balances environmental stewardship with human well-being.	goals, inspire collective action, and pave the way for resilient ecosystems and sustainable development in harmony with nature.
Khaled MARAFI		The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia. - Director of projects directorate	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	<p>With over 25 years of experience in international cooperation dealing with different international donors, water management strategies, alternative livelihood and local community engagement, and as a member of IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) through my various positions, I can offer many things to IUCN body</p> <p>Leadership, inspiration, and be a motivator towards the required action or cause:</p> <p>Although the responsibilities and roles in which I gained through my work as a team leader for several project like: World Bank Project "Badia Ecosystem and livelihood Project (BELP) which was implemented in cooperation with HFDJB, coordinator with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) project "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Sylvo- Pastoral and Rangeland in the Sharah Agricultural Development Region of Southern Jordan". And implementation of payment of ecosystem services (PES) with cooperation with The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB).</p> <p>Good possess, communication skills that allow to be a better negotiator and conflict manager.</p> <p>North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO (2007, 2008), US Forest Services USFS (2015), University of Colorado, United State Department of Agriculture USDA (2008), JICA (2005), Sahara and Sahel Observatory OSS (2014,2015,2016) to provides a unique opportunity to consult and take decisions on security issues at all levels and in a variety of fields especially environmental.</p>	<p>Experience extending over 25 years in agriculture sector especially plant production, international cooperation, dealing with international donors, water management, and local community engagement.</p> <p>IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); member 2013-2016.</p> <p>IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); member 2018-2020.</p> <p>Expert in studies and international cooperation and key speaker in international conferences on environment and biodiversity such as: Key speaker in North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO (2007, 2008), US Forest Services USFS (2015), University of Colorado, United State Department of Agriculture USDA (2008), JICA (2005) , Sahara and Sahel Observatory OSS (2014,2015,2016) .</p> <p>Management and coordination of all activities of "Smart Informal Environmental Education project" which funded from Badia Restoration Program.</p> <p>National coordinator with the World Bank Project "Badia Ecosystem and livelihood Project (BELP)</p>

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Zaher REDWAN		Green Hand Organization - Chairman	Councillor elected from the Region – West Asia	<p>I have extensive governance and leadership experience through my role with Green Hand, an IUCN member organization, where I developed and implemented strategic frameworks at local, regional and international levels. My work integrates conservation, equity and sustainable development, aligning with IUCN's priorities.</p> <p>With a strong global perspective, I have led initiatives in agroforestry, environmental sustainability and humanitarian response, linking conservation with socio-economic resilience.</p> <p>Committed to serving on Council committees, I bring experience in policy development and strategic planning. Fluent in English and skilled in international collaboration, I work with UN agencies, EU bodies, and regional municipalities to ensure inclusive and impactful decision-making.</p> <p>As an active participant in international conservation networks, I understand IUCN's governance, statutes, and operational mechanisms. My background in policy advocacy, environmental conservation, and sustainable livelihoods positions me to contribute effectively to IUCN's policy development.</p> <p>My institutional affiliations provide strong regional and international networks that foster collaborations aligned with IUCN's mission. I uphold ethical governance, avoid conflicts of interest, and am fully committed to the time required for Council duties. My leadership, policy expertise, and dedication to conservation make me well-suited to serve as a Regional Councillor, advancing IUCN's mission globally.</p>	<p>Green Hand is an active IUCN member, advancing conservation, sustainable resource management and ecosystem restoration. Our initiatives integrate agroforestry, biodiversity conservation and ecological agriculture to support small farmers. We implement sustainable livelihood projects, promoting nature-based solutions that enhance environmental resilience. Our post-harvesting center strengthens value chains, reduces waste and aligns with circular economy principles. Additionally, we advocate for environmental policies and work on community-based conservation, water resource management and sustainable forestry. We also integrate local sustainable tourism and ecotourism, fostering economic growth while preserving natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Our partnerships with UNEP, the EU, and other global organizations reinforce our commitment to environmental goals. Through capacity-building programs, Green Hand empowers local communities, ensuring sustainable, inclusive environmental action.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for Oceania—three (3) seats to be filled, three (3) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Catherine IORNS		Victoria University of Wellington - Professor	Councillor elected from the Region – Oceania	<p>I am a Law Professor with 25 years’ experience in environmental law and indigenous rights, in domestic, comparative and international law. I have extensive board governance experience and have served one term on Council; this would be my second term. In that term I have served on the Council’s Finance and Audit Committee and am the Chair of the Council Taskforce on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. I have input extensively into Council work, particularly through commenting on the draft 20-year vision, developing the Finance strategy, and drafting the new Draft Strategy for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. I have made presentations in international fora for IUCN (such as at the French One Planet Polar Summit in Nov 2023*) and participated in Oceania regional activities with enthusiasm. I have also worked closely with IUCN commissions, particularly for the Antarctic Taskforce work. I have a much better grasp of the workings, breadth and benefits of the whole Union than when I stood for my first term as Oceania regional Councilor, and I am committed to fostering this so we all work together as a Union and as the voice for nature.</p> <p>[* “Protecting Ecosystems and Species in Antarctic and the Southern Ocean”, Plenary presentation at the One Planet Polar Summit, Paris, 10 Nov 2023. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBhRi3KxDqZgw5ezzzP6fkvTGHUI6l0ZG]</p>	<p>See CV for positions. Below is a list of substantive topics/fields of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental law, including biodiversity protection and climate change; - environmental futures; - Antarctica and the Southern Ocean; - earth laws, legal personhood, and rights for nature; - climate adaptation, including for species; - indigenous rights; - human rights to a healthy environment; - food sovereignty and citizenship; - pesticide and toxic chemicals regulation; - biophilia and reconnection with nature; - governance and management. <p>Some popular examples of my work are:</p> <p>1. podcast: https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/water/id1513854725</p> <p>2. Documentary: https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/05/22/1182421/the-power-of-water</p> <p>3. TV Interview on personhood for the Kaiwharawhara Stream, Te Ao with Moana, 22 Feb 2021: https://www.maoritelevision.com/shows/te-ao-moana/S03E003/te-ao-moana-series-3-episode-3</p> <p>4. TEDx talk, 2015. “Keeping New Zealand Green”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWKMavfi9i8 .</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Isoa KOROVULAVULA		Institute of Applied Sciences, Centre of Sustainable Futures, The University of the South Pacific - Acting Director	Councillor elected from the Region – Oceania	My work experience in environmental management, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation work has been over 25 years mainly in the Pacific region. This I believe is a huge asset in addressing the needs of the various Pacific Island communities in the areas of conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. I have continued to be involved in various aspects of Pacific based biodiversity and climate change adaptation through a number of applied research studies. This has helped me even to have a far deeper understanding of the root causes and underlying factors that has derailed some of the conservation and adaptation work in our region. Hence, findings of this applied research work would enable me to draw out appropriate and long-term solutions in the current problems experienced of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaption.	I have experience in networking with key stakeholders in biodiversity conservation. I am a trustee of the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA) and the Women in Fisheries Network in Fiji, WiFN-Fiji). Furthermore, I have wealth of experience in environmental and climate change adaptation. I have served as a Community Liaison Officer for the USAID Coastal Communities Adaptation Project (C-CAP). We worked in 10 Pacific Island States and 10 communities for each these countries. In addition, I was Fiji's Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Climate Change Adaptation project (RESCCUE) Coordinator, the project focused on community-based biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation which included rehabilitation of degraded coastal land areas. In both initiatives, Nature Based Solutions was applied.
Erica MCCREEDY		North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd - Chief Operations Officer	Councillor elected from the Region – Oceania	As the Chief Operations Officer for the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), the only Indigenous People Organisation (IPO) member for IUCN in Oceania, I have a strong understanding of multi-faceted approaches for successful conservation outcomes, including laws and governance, diverse knowledge bases and addressing global drivers of biodiversity loss. My background includes over fourteen years working in the Indigenous land and sea management sector across Australia and with Indigenous initiatives and networks globally. I have a comprehensive understanding of the IUCN, currently serving as a Director on the Australian Committee for IUCN; presented at and involved in the organisation of Stream 7 at the 2014 World Parks Congress; the key lead for NAILSMA's Indigenous Peoples Organisation work; and I am actively involved in the continuation of the Resource Mobilisation working group negotiations from COP16 with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity. I have high level experience and understanding of board and governance	I am currently the key lead for Oceania in developing and implementing the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative. This initiative directly addresses the biodiversity and climate challenges outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement. My involvement in these partnerships demonstrates my commitment to working at all levels, from local to global, to ensure that conservation efforts are both effective and equitable. My experience in the development and successful implementation of the Podong Indigenous Initiative provides direct insight into the challenges and opportunities that arise when implementing large-scale conservation efforts, ensuring coherent and effective policies and programs that respect and deliver regional priorities, advocating for the sound governance of IUCN. My passion for nature

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				processes and overall financial and administrative oversight of organisational operations, including financial accountability and tracking the effectiveness of financial investments.	conservation is focused on maintaining, enhancing, and restoring the integrity, connectivity, and resilience of globally significant biodiversity.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for East Europe, North and Central Asia—three (3) seats to be filled, three (3) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Carl AMIRGULASHVILI		Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia - Head of the Biodiversity and Forestry Department	Councillor elected from the Region – East Europe, North and Central Asia	I am highly suited to serve as a Regional Councillor at IUCN due to my strong background in environmental issues, leadership skills, and commitment to sustainable development. I have a deep understanding of the IUCN's mission and goals, along with the ability to engage diverse stakeholders in creating impactful conservation strategies. My experience working with local communities, NGOs, and governmental bodies enables me to navigate complex environmental challenges and advocate for policies that support biodiversity conservation. I am dedicated to fostering collaborative solutions that align with IUCN's vision and advancing conservation efforts in the region.	

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Diana GARLYTSKA		Sustainability Narrative Institute - Director	Councillor elected from the Region – East Europe, North and Central Asia	<p>From my very first job in Kyiv, Ukraine at a company working on Joint Implementation projects under the Kyoto Protocol to active participation in youth nature conservation organisations and roles (see below), to youth engagement in climate policy development and advocacy in UNFCCC processes, to establishing of an NGO in Lithuania dedicated to promotion of narratives for sustainability, to academic work with background in green economy and current PhD studies in Environmental Finance I have consistently committed to nature conservation in my areas of professional expertise.</p> <p>I speak 6 languages: among which Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Russian are languages spoken in the region, while English & Spanish are official IUCN languages. I have taught as a visiting lecturer in over a dozen of countries across Europe and Asia which along with my connectedness to international youth networks gives a broad overview on not only cultural and socioeconomic context, but also policy and conservation realities in the region.</p> <p>I served as a the Steering Committee Co-Chair (2019-2022) and Advisory Board member at CoalitionWILD (2022-present) as well as Board Member at the Federation for European Storytelling (2021-2022).</p> <p>I was a member of Stockholm+50 YouthTask Force (2022), UN MGCY Sustainable Consumption and Production Youth Platform Coordination Team Regional Facilitator for Europe (2022-2023) and RCOY Eastern Europe co-organizer (2023) under YOUNGO, UNFCCC etc.</p>	<p>I joined IUCN Commission on Education and Communication as a young professional in 2018 and since then actively engaged in contributing to its priorities as a member. From 2022 I serve as one of the CEC Regional Vice Chairs facilitating Commission member engagement in the work on CEC strategic priorities. With professional expertise of 10 years in academia I am also a member of IUCN Task Force on Nature-based Education.</p> <p>In 2024 I was appointed as a Chair to the newly established IUCN Youth Advisory Committee aimed to support the implementation of the IUCN Youth Strategy. This role entails partnerships engagement, youth mainstreaming within the Union (incl. motions, resolutions and general advisory to the Secretariat), youth engagement support in Regional Conservation Fora and World Conservation Congress etc.</p> <p>Both roles allowed me to build in-depth understanding of the Union's work globally as well as needs, challenges and priorities of various stakeholders in nature conservation.</p>
Ruben KHACHATRYAN		FPWC - Director	Councillor elected from the Region – East Europe,	As an IUCN Councilor, I will bring my extensive experience in conservation leadership, policy advocacy, and sustainable development to advance the Union's mission. With over two decades of dedication to environmental protection, I have led	I have been actively engaged with IUCN through multiple roles, contributing to its mission of global conservation and governance. As a Steering Committee member of ICENCA, I work

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			North and Central Asia	<p>large-scale conservation initiatives, fostered multi-stakeholder collaborations, and implemented community-driven solutions that balance biodiversity conservation with human well-being.</p> <p>My work as the Director of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) has been instrumental in shaping policy, expanding protected areas, and driving innovative conservation models in Armenia and beyond. I have successfully mobilized resources, built strong partnerships, and advocated for nature-based solutions to address pressing environmental challenges.</p> <p>As a Councilor, I will focus on strengthening IUCN's global impact by promoting inclusive governance, enhancing local engagement, and advocating for science-based conservation policies. My experience in bridging governmental, private, and civil society sectors will help translate IUCN's vision into effective action, ensuring that conservation efforts are sustainable, impactful, and aligned with global priorities.</p> <p>I am committed to upholding IUCN's values and fostering collaboration among members to drive meaningful change for nature and people worldwide.</p>	<p>to strengthen regional cooperation and conservation efforts. Under my leadership, FPWC hosted an ICENCA meeting in Armenia, fully financed by FPWC, providing a platform for strategic dialogue.</p> <p>As a member of the IUCN SSC, I have supported species protection strategies and helped expand IUCN membership, bringing four new members, including Yerevan Municipality. By the end of 2025, Armenia is set to join IUCN as a state member ahead of the Abu Dhabi Congress.</p> <p>I initiated the PPA model, focusing on the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR), now recognized globally. FPWC co-initiated the IUCN motion on PPAs, promoting diversified conservation strategies.</p> <p>My experience in bridging governments, NGOs, and communities will help strengthen IUCN's vision for sustainable and inclusive conservation worldwide.</p>
Vilmos KISZEL		Göncöl Foundation - President (chair of the board of trustees)	Councillor elected from the Region – East Europe, North and Central Asia	<p>qualifications of MScs Vilmos KISZEL</p> <p>Vilmos KISZEL has been a leading environmentalist & educator in Hungary for three decades. Well during the communist era, with his NGO challenged restrictive practices of the regime by launching grassroot environmental & social initiatives. His graduation is astronomer, planetary sciences & teacher, studied geo-sciences, biology & environmental law as well. President of Göncöl Foundation, IUCN member NG1233, since 1986. Held various academic positions, since 2017 Senior Researcher and at present lecturer National University of Public Service. He was member & chair of National Council on Environment between 1996-2006.</p>	<p>activities in IUCN of MScs Vilmos KISZEL</p> <p>Actively participated in the works of IUCN for two decades. Member of World Commission on Environmental Law since 1996 and World Commission of Protected Areas, since 2004. Established the National Committee for Hungary of IUCN in 2003 and chaired it as well. Regional Councillor from 2008 to 2012 of respective region, co-chair of Governance Standing Committee and member of Finance and Audit Standing Committee; and from 2021 to 2025, during these latter four years member of</p>

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				<p>Participated also in international projects; World Bank conservation expert in Black Sea nutrient reduction & hydropower, member of Steering Committee of UNEP/TEMATEA on CBD.</p> <p>Actively participated in the works of IUCN for two decades. Member of WCEL and WCPA. Regional Councillor 2008-2012 & 2021-25 of the respective region.</p> <p>During his councillorship has initiated & coached motions & decisions of strategic importance and contributed to several other essential matters.</p> <p>His objective is reinforcing direct democracy, empowering membership and providing enhanced co-operative works by offices and membership of Union together.</p> <p>These objectives can be implemented in harmony with principles, continuity, stability and full respect of IUCN's heritage, organisational strengths and achievements.</p>	<p>Program and Policy Standing Committee and Public Sector Engagement Taskforce.</p> <p>During his councillorship has initiated and coached motions to World Conservation Congresses, and prepared decisions of Council, several on governance, economic and ethical issues, and contributed to many other essential matters.</p>
Samad-John SMARANDA		Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests - Senior adviser	Councillor elected from the Region – East Europe, North and Central Asia	<p>I have worked in international biodiversity conservation for almost my entire professional career. In daily activities, I was involved in a wide range of biodiversity issues, starting with the process of strengthening protected areas network, national and international, implementation of Natura 2000 network, improving the context for the assessment of the ecosystem's services etc. I have a particular expertise in legal issues, being a promoter of a significant number of laws at national level, and providing feedback for other initiatives at international level. In the international context, I served as Focal Point for IPBES, CBD Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, MAB ICC and World Heritage National Contact for Nature. I have also worked closely with delegates at multiple intergovernmental fora (IPBES, Bern, Ramsar, CITES, AEWA, CBD, UNESCO). In addition, as part of my day-to-day job, I frequently interact with the EU and international institutions, as members of different working groups mainly related to biodiversity policies. In this respect, one of the most important tasks in 2019 was the coordination of the EU Member States' position on biodiversity. At the regional level, I have good</p>	<p>I have been associated with IUCN for over 20 years by promoting the IUCN governance system into national legislation. Since 2007, I have been the national coordinator of CDDA, as the base for WDPA. In addition, as national focal point for IUCN, I provided support for IUCN Red Lists, by regularly updating the national lists of protected species. I have been an active member of IUCN Council since my election in 2021, including being an engaged member of the Governance and Constituency Committee, the Motions Working Group. In addition to my role as Councillor, since 2022 I am acting as Chair of the European Policy Advisory Group advising the IUCN European Regional Office on policy matters. Currently, I am directly engaged in multiple intergovernmental fora, including IPBES, WHC, CBD, CITES, CMS, AEWA, and member of UNESCO MAB ICC. With a large experience in</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				knowledge of the biodiversity situation, mainly in EU and Western Balkans, but also from other countries from the region achieved through regular meeting or discussion with experts from the region, and with IPBES and CBD focal points or through personal observations on the ground.	IUCN matters, I am also committed to mentoring young professionals and scientists to find meaningful careers in conservation.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS COUNCILLOR ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS for West Europe—three (3) seats to be filled, six (6) candidates:

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Sebastian WINKLER		CIC- International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation - Director General	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	<p>Having worked for the IUCN Secretariat for more than a decade and having served on several international Boards, I ably fulfill the requirements as contained in Articles 37 & 46 of the IUCN Statutes in providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and program as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programs.</p> <p>With an office at the IUCN HQ and holding 4 nationalities (German, French, Swiss and Mexican) along with a diplomatic passport, I consider myself as being in a unique position to advance IUCN's vision - which I had the honour of drafting together with the IUCN Council in early 2000. Furthermore, I hold the following qualifications to be an exceptional Regional Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am fluent in the IUCN official languages, and with my passports, I can easily travel internationally to represent IUCN. • Fundraising skills, as evidenced by doubling the unrestricted core income of IUCN while I was the interim Head of Donor Relations and also as co-founder of the Conservation Finance Alliance to increase conservation funding at large. • A deep understanding of IUCN's network and policies while working for the IUCN Global Policy Division and supporting the establishment of the IUCN Brussels office. <p>Lastly, my current employer has provided their support in me dedicating the required time, as I will serve in a personal capacity to further IUCN's vision and mission.</p>	<p>Extensive working experience in the fields of concern to Union, which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 years with the IUCN Secretariat in the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Special Assistant to the DG, coordinating the campaign to obtain IUCN's UN General Assembly Observer Status o Senior Policy Advisor allowing for greater engagement of IUCN members in international policy processes such as CBD, CITES, UNFCCC, WTO. o Head of EU Policy & IUCN's Countdown2010 initiative, which led to a greater engagement of business and regional authorities within IUCN. • 7 years as Vice President of Program and Outreach with Global Footprint Network, • 5 years with the Business and Biodiversity Offset Program. • 7 years as VP Sustainability for a gold mining concern, where I advocated for setting new environmental standards for the extractive sector <p>I remain an active member within SSC's Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Group and work with former IUCN colleagues and members on projects which further the IUCN mission.</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Craig BENNETT		The Wildlife Trusts - Chief Executive	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	<p>I have a proven track record, over 25 years, of leadership, management and governance in complicated federations.</p> <p>Since 2020, I have been Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts, the UK's largest federated wildlife charity, consisting of 46 locally run organisations. Earlier in my career, I served on the Board of Friends of Earth International, and then also on the Board of Friends of the Earth Europe while Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth UK.</p> <p>This means I have an excellent understanding of the tensions that can sometimes exist between the member organisations of large federations and their coordinating secretariats, having experienced it from the perspective of a secretariat, a member organisation, and while serving on international boards. Most importantly, I have developed a sense of how to overcome these tensions, by driving greater strategic alignment and ensuring the different constituent parts of federations compliment rather than compete against each other.</p> <p>I have worked locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, and worked alongside people ranging from grassroots activists through to the CEOs of multinational companies, and world leaders.</p> <p>I am deeply committed to IUCN, having attended the last World Conservation Congress, all three IUCN Leaders Forums, and the World Protected Areas Leaders Forum 2024. I am an Elected Member of the IUCN National Committee UK, and my organisation hosts the IUCN UK Peatland Programme.</p>	<p>Over the course of my career, I have worked across a wide range of sustainability issues, including nature conservation and restoration, climate change, community organising, equity, justice, communications, education and policy.</p> <p>I have undertaken field research in the UK, Mongolia and Canada, undertaken undercover investigations into the illegal wildlife trade in India, campaigned alongside communities against damaging oil and gas developments, worked on UK and EU climate and nature policy, and been active at the UN Climate and Nature COPs.</p> <p>I have experience and knowledge of Ecosystem Management (especially in support of Nature Based Solutions), Protected Areas Management, and the linkages between the climate and nature crises. I am a member of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Advisory Commission, focusing on delivering a nature positive energy transition.</p> <p>I have long championed the need for much greater equality, diversity and inclusion in the global environment sector.</p>
Sonia CASTAÑEDA		Fundación Biodiversidad - Deputy Director	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	I contribute to nature conservation through the management of organizations and projects. My career has been a journey through different approaches to making a positive difference in the world, working as environmental lawyer, professor, activist, freelance,	During many years of interaction with IUCN I have serve in different roles related to Council, Commissions, Regional Offices and Spanish National Committee.

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				volunteer, advisor, executive director, high rank official or deputy director. For the last 20 years, I have worked, as Executive Director and Deputy Director, for the biggest donor for nature conservation in Spain, Fundación Biodiversidad, a public sector foundation which is part of the Spanish government, that collaborates with more than 300 projects per year. I work at the intersection of policy and projects, working in a diverse stakeholders environment. My work is also motivated by the strong connection between nature conservation and the way humans produce, consume, live, connect and relate with nature. I have experience at several international and national boards and juries and governmental consultancy bodies such as the National Parks Network Council or the Spanish Committee of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. I am also part of HB, a global network of women in STEMM that aims at ensuring the sustainability of the planet. My contribution has been recognized by the Cross of the Order of Civil Merit amongst others.	<p>I have been a member of IUCN Council since my election in 2021, including being part of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), the Congress Preparatory Committee, the Private Sector Taskforce and the Antarctic Taskforce.</p> <p>In addition I am a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law and of the European Policy Advisory Group advising the IUCN European Regional Office on policy matters and collaborate extensively with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. I also held the Vice-Presidency of the Spanish Committee, and I am still a member of its board as a spokesperson for green economy and employment. I had the opportunity to actively participate in the 2008 World Congress in Barcelona, organizing the activities held in the Spanish Government Pavillion.</p>
Willem FERWERDA		Commonland - Founder	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	After completing my studies in tropical ecology in the Netherlands and Colombia, I began working at the Dutch IUCN National Committee managing a Tropical Rainforest Grants Program, that supported grassroots organizations, Indigenous groups, and NGOs focused on rainforest conservation, legal land rights, and species protection. As Director of IUCN NL (2000–2012), I expanded membership and secured Dutch ODA funding for nature conservation. We also launched policy initiatives, engaging government and business, called Leaders for Nature, leading to a 2010 biodiversity agreement between industry leaders and IUCN members in the Netherlands. Driven by the need for a shared language on large-scale restoration, I developed the 4 Returns framework, inspired by the Ecosystem Approach. Founding Commonland in 2013, we piloted this in five countries, and today, it's being used by many actors worldwide. I have a deep appreciation for IUCN and bring in my experience as strategic visionary thinker and doer. At a time of rising	<p>(tropical) ecology and agriculture international conservation / restoration in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa ecosystem management stakeholder management (Theory U) convening fundraising experience with business, governments and NGOs strong supporter of bringing in indigenous knowledge in western thinking as we need to solve the environmental crisis, which is in fact a consciousness crises.</p>

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				polarisation, wars, and politicians ignoring the environmental challenges, I am convinced that we need a strong IUCN in its role as convener. Bringing together governments, businesses, and communities is more vital than ever before. What I will bring to IUCN's board is a supportive, neutral yet critical voice, with a strong focus on how we should support people on the ground to conserve, restore and sustainably manage nature because that is where real change happens.	
Ann-Katrine GARN		Copenhagen Zoo - Director of Conservation	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	I am well-qualified to serve as an IUCN Regional Councillor. I have had extensive experience and active involvement in conservation since 2002. With my leadership roles, committee and board experiences, involvement in IUCN Commissions and international collaboration, I have an extensive network in the global conservation community and a strong commitment to advancing the mission of IUCN. As Secretary of the IUCN Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development I am an active member contributing to the strategic planning and coordination of the group's initiatives. As Co-Secretary for the IUCN Interregional Committee for Europe North and Central Asia (ICENCA) I have facilitated cross-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing highlighting my ability to work effectively in international settings. As Chair of the National Committee of Denmark I have successfully led numerous conservation projects and fostered collaboration among IUCN members. This work has also improved Denmark's reporting and initiated international conservation commitments. As a member of the editorial board for the IUCN Member magazine, "Unite for Nature," I help disseminate important conservation information and success stories globally, ensuring that the magazine is a valuable resource for IUCN Members as well as the broader community of stakeholders. My career reflects my deep commitment to nature conservation, to fostering collaboration and to advancing the mission of the IUCN.	In my daily work as Conservation Director, I work with threatened species and protected area management nationally, regionally and internationally. I have facilitated cross-regional cooperation and knowledge sharing, enhancing global conservation efforts. My conservation journey began with a focus on species and habitats, but with over 25 years of experience, I have found that effective conservation is deeply rooted in people and collaboration. My work with IUCN reflects this understanding as I am actively engaged in initiatives aimed at strengthening the Union and building the relationships that are essential for our community to thrive. I have shown how fostering collaboration among IUCN members provides opportunities to connect, feel part of the Union, and develop joint solutions to conservation challenges. I am dedicated to making the IUCN a stronger, more united organisation, capable of addressing global conservation challenges through collective action.

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
Maud LELIÉVRE		Les Eco Maires - General Delegate	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	<p>Currently Regional Councillor for Western Europe, I am a candidate for a second term to continue my work to further promote the Union.</p> <p>Over the past four years, I have been deeply committed to the IUCN, participating in all Council meetings, organizing the Union's 75th anniversary, and representing the IUCN at the World Urban Fora in Poland and Egypt.</p> <p>As Vice-President of the Governance and Constituency Committee, I have been highly engaged in my role, participating in various task forces on working groups on topics such as "Private Sector" or "Impact of Armed Conflict on Nature". I chaired the Fees Task Force, leading a deep reflection to change the fees system, particularly for zoos and universities. I am continuing this work to better include indigenous people organisations and members facing temporary difficulties. I was also recently appointed as deputy chair for the Motion Working Group to prepare our next Congress.</p> <p>I worked closely with European members by participating in the national committees working group, attending the European Regional Conservation Forum and Workshops in Brussels. I worked bilaterally with our experts from the IUCN Species Survival Commission on issues related to combating such as illegal wildlife trade and wolf protection.</p> <p>President of the French Committee I helped to organize the 2021 Congress in Marseille. Finally, I worked to strengthen relationships among French-speaking members by organizing webinars to discuss international issues.</p>	<p>My candidacy is one of a nature protection activist, trained in environmental law, professionally engaged in national and international action.</p> <p>As President of the IUCN French Committee, Deputy Secretary of BirdLife France and Vice-President of the Jane Goodall Institute France, I gained strong expertise in key conservation topics like the IUCN Red and Green Lists.</p> <p>I am involved in the conservation of chimpanzees in Senegal, working with local communities.</p> <p>Nature conservation has been a focus of my various mandates as a local Councillor, notably in the city of Paris. Convinced by the role that subnational governments can play for conservation, I work closely with IUCN regions and cities.</p> <p>I have solid experience in international negotiations, having worked as a lawyer and French government representative to improve species and ecosystem protection, and participated in several COPs.</p> <p>I am committed to the fight against gender inequality by leading an international women's network.</p>
Chris MAHON		Chris Mahon Environment Ltd. - Managing Director	Councillor elected from the Region – West Europe	A 30-year career in the field of ecology has led me to work in the public, private and voluntary sectors, at local, national, regional and international levels. Love and appreciation of nature and care for the planet we share also plays a significant part in my personal life. This rich and multilateral experience, including at Board level, has culminated in working with IUCN Member Committees for the last 17 years. This has brought me a good	Other interactions within the IUCN framework include work with the Contributions for Nature platform and 'Unite for Nature' magazine, and my long-standing memberships of the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Commission on Education and Communication. Part of my day job at the National Committee, is

Name	Last Name	Current employment	Position	Particular qualifications	Experience in fields of concern to IUCN
				understanding of this complex organisation and the IUCN 'family' which comprises it. As a respected advocating contributor to, and practitioner of, the IUCN One Programme Charter since 2012, this has stimulated my creative and leadership roles in the Working Group for National Committee Development in Europe, North and Central Asia, the IUCN Interregional Committee for that 'super-region' and the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development. I have actively participated in the last three Regional Conservation Fora and their following three IUCN World Conservation Congresses, the last World Parks Congress and one of the IUCN Leaders Forums, plus other international meetings such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity. I only have English as my first language, but communication is very important to me in all of this work, finding connections, advocacy, problem-solving and helping things work better. I believe this knowledge and experience is of value to IUCN at this level.	applying, in a national context, IUCN's global guidance, standards, strategies and tools, through working groups of experts from the Commissions. I am co-author on how to apply IUCN guidance on Protected Area Management Categories and Governance Types in the UK. I have also published on World Heritage and River Restoration and Biodiversity. However, IUCN has many fields of concerns in an ever changing and turbulent world, requiring ever more challenging decision-making, which is why I have been such a strong supporter of the 20-year Strategic Vision. I have a broad, embracing world view as well as an informed institutional one, which I believe will assist the Council in its work.



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

26 March 2025

Peter Cochrane
Vice President,
International union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council
Chair, Nominations Committee

Re: (Revised) Transmission of Proposals and Nominations for the Positions of President,
Treasurer and Chairs of the Commissions

Dear Mr. Cochrane,

Following the Director General's invitation to the IUCN Members in Categories A, B and C regarding submission to the Election Officer¹ of proposals for persons to be nominated as President or Treasurer, or as a Chair of a Commission pursuant to IUCN Regulation 30, the Election Officer received the following proposals by the deadline of 21 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC.²

Election of President:	Sixty-seven (67) nominations for one (1) candidate: Razan Al Mubarak
Election of Treasurer:	Two (2) nominations one (1) for each of two (2) candidates: Bláthnaid Byrne Nihal Welikala
Election of Commission Chairs:	CCC (2): one (1) for each of two (2) candidates: Brendan Mackey Manuel Pulgar Vidal CEESP(1): Denise Okpala SSC (46): Vivek Menon WCPA (16): Madhu Rao

Additionally, pursuant to IUCN Regulation 30*bis*, the Election Officer received the following submissions regarding the Election of Commission Chairs from the Commissions Ad Hoc Committees.



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

Submissions received from the Commission Ad Hoc Committees

Nominee's Name	Country	Commission	Ad Hoc Committee Chair's name
Brendan MACKEY	Australian	CCC	Cathy Yitong LI
Margaret OTIENO	Kenya	CEC	Katalin Czippan
Vasanti RAO	India	CEC	Katalin Czippan
Ernesto HERRERA GUERRA	Mexico	CEESP	Ameyali Ramos
Melanie ZURBA	Canada	CEESP	Ameyali Ramos
Liette VASSEUR	Canada	CEM	Bernal Herrera-Fernández
Vivek MENON	India	SSC	Rima JABADO
Christina VOIGT	Germany	WCEL	Ayman CHERKAOUI
Madhu RAO	Singapore	WCPA	Andrew RHODES

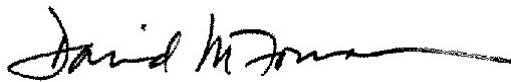
Having received all proposals for persons to be nominated by Council as candidates for election as President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs pursuant to Regulation 30 *et seq*, the Election Officer reviewed and manually processed the above nominations.

The Election Officer assessed for validity the information received for each proposed and/or nominated candidate. Each of the proposals and/or nominations meet the requirements of the IUCN Statutes and the present Regulations for the referenced positions. Pursuant to Regulation 35, the Election Officer received each proposal and/or nomination along with a curriculum vitae of the candidate and a written declaration of willingness to serve (or its equivalent) if elected.

David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

Thanking you in advance for your good offices, we hereby transmit to the Nominations Committee under your leadership as Chair, the enclosed proposals and/or nominations in alphabetical order along with their respective abbreviated curricula vitae in accordance with Regulation 35.

Sincerely,



David M. Forman
Election Officer



Claudia S. de Windt
Deputy Election Officer

Enclosures

- 1. (2 pages) Annex I: Proposals for President, Treasurer, and Commission Chairs (Members, Commission members and Ad Hoc committees under Reg 30bis) that meet the statutory requirements**
- 2-14. (14 total) Abbreviated Curricula Vitae**

¹ All references to the Election Officer in this communication encompass the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer. "The Deputy Election Officer is appointed by the IUCN Council to . . . to provide support to the Election [O]fficer to ensure the integrity of the elections . . . The Deputy Election Officer shall have full access to all information and documents pertaining to the election, be copied on all correspondence, and be invited to attend all meetings that the Election Officer is part of, so that such officer is able to start working immediately as Election Officer, in the event that the Election Officer is unable to act." When acting in the place of the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer will have the same obligations and responsibilities of the Election Officer specified in the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and will be accountable to the Congress or, prior to the session of the Congress, to the IUCN Council. See Bureau of the Council of IUCN Decision (B/75/1), endorsed by the IUCN Council (C/95/2) in October 2018, revised by the Bureau (B90/2) in January 2021 and by the Bureau (B12/4) in March 2024.

² Following advice from the Election Officer, the IUCN Council on 8 February 2025 decided to "extend the deadline until 21 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC in order to allow proposals for persons to be nominated as Treasurer and additional nominations of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions only for Statutory regions for which, by the initial deadline of 7 February 2025, fewer complete and validated nominations have been received than there are seats on the Council." The Election Officer proceeded to draft a notice shared with all members and posted on the IUCN Website accordingly communicating the agreed upon extension of the deadline for nominations.



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

Annex I: Proposals for President, Treasurer, and Commission Chairs (Members, Commission members and Ad Hoc committees under Reg 30bis) that meet the statutory requirements

LISTED BY POSITION IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

President

- Razan Khalifa Al MUBARAK (proposed for nomination by 67 members)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve

Treasurer

- Bláthnaid BYRNE (proposed by Dermot O’Gorman, WWF-Australia)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve
- Nihal WELIKALA (proposed by Sean Southey, Canadian Wildlife Federation)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve

Commission Chairs

- **CCC (via Cathy Yitong Li et al.)**
Ad Hoc C’ee (rec.): Brendan MACKEY (nominated by Alanna Smith)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve
- **CEC (via Katalin Czippan et al.)**
Ad Hoc C’ee (rec.): Margaret OTIENO (nominated by Meg Beckel)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve**Ad Hoc C’ee (rec.):** Vasanti RAO (nominated by Luis Camargo)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve
- **CEESP (via Ameyali Ramos et al.)**
Ad Hoc C’ee (rec.): Ernesto HERRERA GUERRA
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve**Ad Hoc C’ee (rec.):** Melanie ZURBA
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

- **CEM (via Bernal Herrera, Peter Smith & Partaif Tchenfo)**
Ad Hoc C'ee (prioritized candidate): Liette VASSEUR
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve

- **SSC (via Rima Jabado et al.)**
Ad Hoc C'ee (prioritized candidate): Vivek MENON (proposed by 28 members)
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve

Note: an additional proposal for Mr. MENON came from someone NOT registered as an SSC member and, thus, was not counted.

- **WCEL (via Ayman Cherkaoui et al.)**
Ad Hoc C'ee (prioritized candidate): Christina VOIGT
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve

- **WCPA (via Andrew Rhodes et al.)**
Ad Hoc C'ee (rec.): Madhu RAO
 - Abbreviated CV
 - Declaration of Willingness to Serve



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

Report to the World Conservation Congress by the Election and Deputy Election Officer¹

Annex III: Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Pursuant to paragraphs 2(a) and 2(m) of the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer,² this annex to the Election Officer's report presents recommendations for future improvements to the IUCN election process. The Election Officer wishes to acknowledge and express deep appreciation for the hard work of the election support team led by Sarah Over and for the guidance and consultation provided by Luc De Wever and Sandrine Friedli Cela, as well as three former Election Officers: Professors Nilufer Oral and Denise Antolini, along with Justice Michael Wilson.

This annex focuses on six areas for future improvement:

- 1. Knowledge Management and Record Keeping.**
- 2. Access to Information and Confidentiality.**
- 3. Regulatory Requirements**
- 4. Grievance Guidance**
- 5. Timetable and Deadlines in Nominations Process**
- 6. Nomination Portal Technical Specifications**

1. Knowledge Management and Record Keeping

An initial recommendation concerns Knowledge Management and Record Keeping. Knowledge management is defined by IUCN as the set of disciplined and systematic actions that an organization takes to derive the greatest value from the information it acquires, creates, stores, shares and uses. Although the IUCN Knowledge Management Strategy focuses upon knowledge products and services that may not be directly compatible with the knowledge obtained and precedent issued during the elections process (e.g., regarding substantive interpretations and application of the IUCN Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Procedures), the background and criteria applied under the Knowledge Management Maturity Model appear to be pertinent in this context.³ More specifically, concerning how information obtained and decisions taken by previous Election Officers are structured/organized, integrated, accessible, and visible through an effective virtual teamwork platform.

The duties performed by future Election Officers can at least benefit if not be greatly enhanced by consolidating relevant information in an easily accessible format, perhaps including an indexed compilation of statutory and regulatory provisions, past Election Officer reports, relevant legal opinions as well as guidance, in addition to other documents such as adjudicative decisions. Potential options might include a secure shared drive (to the extent that such documents may



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

contain unredacted confidential information),⁴ a compilation updated after every Congress for transmission to the next Election Officer, or other alternatives that are likely to be more efficient than relying on ad hoc institutional memory. This recommended approach supports both adherence to due process rights as well as consistency in the Election Officer's decisions.

The Election Officer strove to utilize the nominations2025@iucn.org email address as much as possible when communicating with Members, to support efforts to build institutional memory regarding the election process. However, efforts to follow up on this recommendation should take into consideration applicable data protection laws—i.e., determining whether portions of these documents should be redacted or, alternatively, omitted in favor of summaries that exclude confidential information.

2. Access to information and Confidentiality.

A second recommendation regards Access to Information and Confidentiality. We recommend that the online portal include options for nominators and nominees to indicate whether (and to what extent) they may be willing to waive confidentiality for a variety of election purposes. Among other reasons, multiple IUCN Members inquired whether confidentiality applies to the names of Members who nominate candidates.⁵ This recommendation is accordingly based on the Election Officer's independent legal analysis and determinations made in the course of their duties, involving the [IUCN Council's Policy on Transparency](#) (C/88/7, April 2016) ("Transparency Policy"), as well as the IUCN's [Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics](#) (June 2023) ("Code"). For example, the IUCN's Transparency Policy seeks to "strike an appropriate balance between, on the one hand, the need to ensure transparency and, on the other hand, the need to . . . **protect the confidentiality** of certain information." (Emphasis added.) The Code further defines "[c]onfidential information" in relevant part, as "[a]ll information disclosed, conveyed or otherwise made accessible to a Staff Member, either directly or indirectly, in any form, whether in writing, oral, visual, electronic or otherwise, . . . that the Staff knows, or has reason to know, is confidential or sensitive or **not generally available to the public**, including the fact that such information has been delivered to IUCN or the Staff. It includes, **but is not limited to**, records relating to internal deliberative processes, such as internal notes, memoranda, and correspondence (including e-mails) among Staff." (Emphasis added.)

Relevant IUCN Core Values set forth in the Code that should be integrated into the nominations and election processes, include the following:

"Standards of conduct: . . . Refrain from disclosing privileged or confidential information to unauthorised parties." *Ibid.* § 4.1.1 ("Integrity, trustworthiness and accountability") (explaining that staff "are responsible for exercising utmost care and judgement to ensure that assets . . . entrusted to the IUCN are not misused



David M. Forman, Election Officer
Claudia S. de Windt, Deputy Election Officer

These assets include, but are not limited to, . . . information and documentation . . .
.”).

“Standards of conduct: . . . Respect privacy and protect confidential information.”
Ibid. § 4.1.2 (“Transparency”) (explaining that the IUCN’s transparency policy is
“subject to relevant obligations of confidentiality and privacy protection”).

“Staff shall exercise the utmost discretion with regard to matters of official business
and adhere to the requirements of any IUCN policy regarding . . . confidential . . .
information. They shall not . . . disclose to any unauthorized person or entity any
confidential . . . information known to them by reason of their function in IUCN.”
Ibid. § 4.2.5 (“Tact, reserve, and discretion”).

“Staff must handle all confidential . . . information with the greatest care and in
accordance with applicable IUCN policies on the handling and use of information,
and data protection. Staff are responsible for coding information as confidential . . .
as warranted, in order to protect it from intentional or inadvertent disclosure.” *Ibid.* §
4.3.8 (“Protection of confidential information . . .”).

3. Regulatory Requirements

A third recommendation broadly involves clarification of regulatory requirements to reinforce the Election Officer’s need for appropriate documentation. Discrepancies identified while attempting to validate nominations concerned information required to verify the nominees’ compliance with regulatory requirements that they be “nationals of” and “resident in” the concerned Region, in addition to other requirements establishing general, specific and desirable qualifications of nominees for the positions of President,⁶ Treasurer,⁷ Commission Chair,⁸ Councillor Elected from the Regions,⁹ and indigenous Councillor.¹⁰

In the former category, some nominees expressed reluctance (at least initially and, in one instance, ultimately declining) to provide information requested by the Election Officer to demonstrate that the nominee met the requirements under Regulation 39 that they be “nationals of a State in the Region concerned, and shall be resident in that Region.”¹¹ While it is understandable that some nominees would choose not to reveal information that might otherwise reliably establish this fact in their abbreviated CV for publication on the portal, exchanges with multiple Members suggested a lack of appreciation for the Election Officer’s obligation under TOR paragraph 6 to maintain independence while applying their legal background and experience with governance matters, in the diligent performance of their appointed duties. In this regard, the issues underlying the previous two recommendations appear to have overlapped each other in the context of efforts establish whether



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two nominees met the requirement under Regulations 39 and 40 that they be “resident in” the Region for which they were nominated to serve as Councillor elected from the Regions “at the time of the deadline.” The Secretariat repeatedly advised the Election Officer that they could recall no instance of said issue being raised in the past three Congresses. Whether a consequence of past adherence to confidentiality obligations, or otherwise, this advice turned out to be mistaken (although certainly provided in good faith).

Two nominees independently, and repeatedly, argued that “practice or precedent” dictated determinations that they respectively met the requirements set forth in Regulation 39. One of these nominees eventually disclosed an email from a previous Election Officer concerning the nominee’s past fulfilment of these provisions. However, the nominee failed to appreciate that facts demonstrating their satisfaction of the regulatory requirement at the time of the election deadline for a *prior* Congress did not necessarily establish the equivalent status at the time of the deadline for *this* Congress.¹²

Although the second nominee apparently was unable or unwilling to provide similar documentation, the Election Officer independently obtained correspondence from another Election Officer to similar effect. In this instance, however, the nominee eventually (albeit reluctantly) provided additional information responsive to one of the alternatives the Election Officer suggested to facilitate validation of their candidacy. A third nominee more graciously acknowledged their misinterpretation of Regulation 39, i.e., unduly focusing on their undisputed status as a long-term “resident in” the Region concerned. This nominee eventually acknowledged the propriety of the Election Officer’s decision to reject their nomination because they were not in fact “nationals of a State in” that Region.

In the latter category, another example involved a box for “Financial Literacy” included in the Nominee Form consistent with item 4(e) on page 3, of the [Guidance, qualifications and requirements for various positions](#) (B/VII, 18 August 2024). The Election Officer initially did not have access to the Detailed Qualifications provided by the nominee for the purpose of pre-assessment by the Secretariat for inclusion on the list of nominees awaiting formal validation via the Congress portal.

The examples shared above are illustrative of how the supporting documentation nominees are required to submit is not necessarily consistent with the regulatory requirements, or conducive to the Election Officer’s duty to verify certain requirements under Regulation 38—e.g., that Members from more than one State who are eligible to vote have nominated a potential candidate in a particular region, or that an international non-governmental organization whose constituency covers more than one Region has its principal office located in that Region. Likewise, the reference to an abbreviated curriculum vitae for each candidate, supplied by that candidate is arguably



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ambiguous to the extent it does not specify a means for the Election Officer to verify financial literacy, competence in chairing meetings, understanding of IUCN's Statutes Requirements, or employer support among other requirements.

Based upon these experiences, this third recommendation suggests a comprehensive review of the documentation that may be required regarding the statutory requirements for each position and the provision of **guidance** to Members regarding acceptable forms of information to facilitate validation of each requirement for election purposes—particularly, although not exclusively, given the sensitive nature of personal data appropriate to establishing that the nominee is a national of and resident in the region. To reinforce the Election Officer's need for such information, the guidance note should specifically identify applicable regulatory provisions generating the need for requested information.

In other words, **more explicit language** should be included in the guidance provided to Members regarding the nomination process and regulatory requirements.

Multiple nominators and nominees apparently failed to understand that merely submitting an initial nomination with a list of additional nominators prior to the deadline would be sufficient. Some nominees argued further that they were misled by the following two paragraphs appearing before the image on page 9 of the [Guidance Note on the Nominations platform and the Process for nominating candidates for the position of Councillors elected from the Regions, and the Indigenous Councillor](#):

Once you click on the "Submit" button, a summary page will be displayed and a confirmation email will immediately be sent to you, as Nominator, and the main IUCN contacts of your organization. The main IUCN contacts of the other Nominator Members selected will also receive an email asking them to confirm that they do nominate the person you have named as a proposed candidate. The nomination confirmation should be made by email to the Elections officer at nominations2025@iucn.org before the deadline (7 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT)

As soon as a nomination is validated by the Election Officer, the nominee will receive an email informing them of the nomination accompanied by guidance on the next steps in the process, including the submission of an abbreviated CV, and their willingness to serve declaration.

(Emphasis added.)¹³ One individual asserted that the process for submission of nominations often changes from Congress to Congress and the Members (and candidates) tend to follow the Guidance note. Arguably, inclusion of the plural "nomination confirmation[s]" and replacing "should" with



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“must” in the underlined sentence would have made the guidance more clear—particularly absent any reference to a deadline for the nominee to submit their abbreviated CV and declaration in related [guidance](#) on filling out the Nominee Form. Accordingly, the Election Officer provided the following notification:

nominees in any of the eight (8) regions for whom sufficient nominations were submitted prior to the 7 February 2025 deadline in accordance with IUCN Regulation 38 and, thus, received a notification asking them to complete the Nominee Form in addition to providing both an abbreviated *curriculum vitae* and Declaration of Willingness to Serve pursuant to Regulation 38~~ter~~, are requested to do so as soon as reasonably possible ahead of the extended deadline.

4. Grievance Guidance

A fourth recommendation concerns the inclusion of guidelines in the event that any eligible Member wishes to pursue a grievance regarding the election process. Council decision [C98/6 \(Feb. 2020\)](#) adopted the Nominations Committee’s prior recommendation that the Council give consideration to, inter alia, “improv[ing] the Terms of References [TOR] for the Election Officer and the Nominations Committee by providing clear guidelines on how to deal with any complaints by candidates or Members regarding the Elections process.” However, such guidelines were not included in either the TOR for the Election Officer or the Nominations Committee. In fact, a further limitation in the approved TOR -paragraph 2(d)- is that the functions of the Nominations Committee do not encompass the overall nominations process: “*The task of the Nominations Committee is to assist the Council in identifying suitable candidates for the positions of **President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions** for submission by Council to the World Conservation Congress for election in October 2025.*” (Emphasis added.)

Absent such guidance, the Election Officer engaged in extensive consultation with the IUCN Secretariat regarding **due process** considerations associated with arguable ambiguities in the Statutes, Regulations, and Rules including with regards to regulatory requirements for validation of nominees. The Secretariat ultimately concluded that language in Regulation 40 regarding the Election Officer’s “definitive decision to reject a nomination” renders such determinations “final” and unappealable, compared with express¹⁴ provisions regarding appeals from:

- Council decisions on the admission of applicants for admission to the IUCN (Article 10)¹⁵;
- decisions by the Chair of a World Congress refusing to recognize a speaker (Rule 37);
- decisions by the Chair of a World Congress forbidding a speaker from further contributing to debate (Rule 37);
- other rulings by the Chair of a World Congress (Rule 44);



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- Council decisions (Rule 46);
- decisions by the Motions Working Group or Resolutions Committee concerning proposed amendments to a motion (Rule 55);
- decisions by the Motions Working Group concerning classification, exclusion or amendments, in addition to referral of a motion to electronic vote prior to the Congress (Rule 62ter).¹⁶

However, the Election Officer believes that due process would be better served by more precise delineation of the appropriate scope (i.e., standards of review), appropriate time limits, and

designated forum for IUCN Members to raise concerns, bring complaints, or otherwise seek additional information regarding any statutory or regulatory interpretations by the Election Officer. In this sense, the initial Knowledge Management and Record Keeping Recommendation above is pivotal, in addition to the advisability of establishing a focal point within the Secretariat for this purpose. Multiple queries were posed to the Election Officer regarding incomplete or belated nominations by Members who indicated that they were considering the possibility of submitting an appeal through the General Counsel and or the Director General, via their National Committee Chair.

5. Timetable and Deadlines in Nominations Process

A fifth recommendation that emerged from the Election Officer's experience with this process, is to select **Wednesday deadlines** rather than Friday deadlines. This choice can help facilitate responsive action during the work week, where necessary to more timely address unanticipated issues in advance of the weekend. Consideration should also be made regarding time differences in the various IUCN regions.

6. Nomination Portal Technical Specifications

A final suggestion concerns the online platform for elections. The Election Officer experienced numerous technical and logistical difficulties that unnecessarily delayed the performance of their duties. Some of these difficulties "could not be replicated" by the Technology team and remain a mystery. However, the following suggestions should be taken into consideration by the Secretariat to help improve efficiency for future Election Officers.

We propose including **drop-down menu options** related to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions (including but not limited to Regulation 39), which nominators and nominees can select to designate how they meet the respective requirements. For example:



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- Membership category
- Membership status
- Whether a particular nomination satisfies Regulation 38 based on:
 - either (i) “five Members eligible to vote” or (ii) “ten percent of all such Members in that Region”;
 - whether the nominator is “an international non-governmental organisation whose constituency covers more than one Region” and, if so, whether its principle office is located within the Region concerned; and
 - whether the nominee is “resident in dependent territories as defined in Article 40 of the Statutes” and, if so, whether the nomination is being made by (i) “five Members eligible to vote . . . in the Region . . . where the dependent territory is located” or (ii) “ten percent of all such Members in the Region . . . where the dependent territory is located[.]”
- Whether the nominee is “part of a Region covered by a recognized Regional Committee, other than that of their State” for the purposes of Article 40(a) and Regulation 39.
- Whether the nominee is considered a youth and/or an indigenous person (including nominees for Councillor elected from the Region) to help assess compliance with applicable IUCN policies in addition to gender balance.

This concludes the Election Officer’s recounting of lessons learned and recommendations for implementation in advance of the next World Conservation Congress.

¹ All references to the “Election Officer” in this document encompass both the Election Officer and the Deputy Election Officer. “The Deputy Election Officer is appointed by the IUCN Council to . . . provide support to the Election officer to ensure the integrity of the elections. [] When acting in the place of the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer will have the same obligations and responsibilities of the Election Officer specified in the Terms of Reference of the Election Officer and will be accountable to the Congress or, prior to the session of the Congress, to the IUCN Council. [] The Deputy Election Officer shall have full access to all information and documents pertaining to the election, be copied on all correspondence, and be invited to attend all meetings that the Election Officer is part of, so that such officer is able to start working immediately as Election Officer, in the event that the Election Officer is unable to act.” Bureau of the Council of IUCN Decision (B/75/1), endorsed by the IUCN Council (C/95/2) in October 2018, revised by the Bureau (B90/2) in January 2021 and by the Bureau (B12/4) in March 2024.

² IUCN Council’s decision C111/12 adopted on 16 May 2024.

³ Background to the IUCN Knowledge Management Strategy. Companion Document to the IUCN Knowledge Management Strategy (December 2005), <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/Rep-2005-013.pdf>.

⁴ The IUCN Council’s Policy on Transparency (C/88/7, April 2016) (“Transparency Policy”), seeks to “strike an appropriate balance between, on the one hand, the need to ensure transparency and, on the other hand, the need to . . . protect the confidentiality of certain information.” (Emphasis added.)



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The IUCN's Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics (June 2023) ("Code") defines "[c]onfidential information" in relevant part, as "[a]ll information disclosed, conveyed or otherwise made accessible to a Staff Member, either directly or indirectly, in any form, whether in writing, oral, visual, electronic or otherwise, . . . that the Staff knows, or has reason to know, is confidential or sensitive or not generally available to the public, including the fact that such information has been delivered to IUCN or the Staff. It includes, but is not limited to, records relating to internal deliberative processes, such as internal notes, memoranda, and correspondence (including e-mails) among Staff." (Emphasis added.) Relevant IUCN Core Values set forth in the Code include the following:

- "Standards of conduct: . . . Refrain from disclosing privileged or confidential information to unauthorised parties." Ibid. § 4.1.1 ("Integrity, trustworthiness and accountability") (explaining that staff "are responsible for exercising utmost care and judgement to ensure that assets . . . entrusted to the IUCN are not misused . . . These assets include, but are not limited to, . . . information and documentation . . .").
- "Standards of conduct: . . . Respect privacy and protect confidential information." Ibid. § 4.1.2 ("Transparency") (explaining that the IUCN's transparency policy is "subject to relevant obligations of confidentiality and privacy protection").
- "Staff shall exercise the utmost discretion with regard to matters of official business and adhere to the requirements of any IUCN policy regarding . . . confidential . . . information. They shall not . . . disclose to any unauthorized person or entity any confidential . . . information known to them by reason of their function in IUCN." Ibid. § 4.2.5 ("Tact, reserve, and discretion").
- "Staff must handle all confidential . . . information with the greatest care and in accordance with applicable IUCN policies on the handling and use of information, and data protection. Staff are responsible for coding information as confidential . . . as warranted, in order to protect it from intentional or inadvertent disclosure." Ibid. § 4.3.8 ("Protection of confidential information . . .").

⁵ The Guidance note on the Nominations platform and the Process for nominating candidates for the position of Councillors elected from the Regions, and the Indigenous Councillor (B/XIII, 28 August 2024) ("Guidance note") specifies that emails requesting confirmation of a particular candidate's nomination will be sent to (i) the Member that nominates each candidate, (ii) the main contacts of the organisation that nominates each candidate, and (iii) the main contacts of selected Supporting Members. Consistent with provisions of the Transparency Policy and the Code detailed above, these emails do not disclose the name of the Initial Member that nominates a candidate or any of the additional Members selected as Supporting Members beyond the designated recipient.

⁶ THE PRESIDENT OF IUCN ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION (Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII), <https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/1bis - PRESIDENT - TORs 2025 - Annex 1 EN.pdf>.

⁷ THE TREASURER OF IUCN ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION (Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII), <https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/2bis - TREASURER - TORs - Annex 1 EN.pdf>.

⁸ IUCN COMMISSION CHAIRS ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION (Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII), [3bis - COMMISSION CHAIRS - TORs - Annex 1 EN.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/3bis - COMMISSION CHAIRS - TORs - Annex 1 EN.pdf).

⁹ COUNCILLORS ELECTED FROM THE REGIONS ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED (Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII), https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/4_bis - COUNCILLORS ELECTED FM THE REGIONS - TORs Annex 1 EN.pdf.

¹⁰ INDIGENOUS COUNCILLOR ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED (Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024, decision B/VII), https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/5_bis - INDIGENOUS COUNCILLOR - TORs - Annex 1 EN.pdf.



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¹¹ Member reactions to the Election Officer's requests with assurance that the information would be kept confidential in accordance with IUCN policies in addition to applicable law ran the gamut from prompt cooperation allowing validation (and, in one instance, rejection) of the nomination to refusal (also resulting in rejection of a nomination).

¹² The Election Officer undertook an independent analysis of the regulatory provision accounting for the possibility of conflicting standards in diverse jurisdictions across the globe (in addition to potential linguistic differentiation) to reach a legal interpretation as a general matter, which the Legal Adviser subsequently confirmed as general matter. Despite providing the nominee with several alternatives that would satisfy the regulatory requirement and carefully considering other forms of information provided by the nominee, the Election Officer eventually determined that the prior ruling was clearly distinguishable because of changed circumstances.

¹³ Although the Secretariat initially informed the Election Officer that this guidance was identical to the version issued in connection with the Marseilles Congress, this representation was incorrect. The Election Officer recognizes that the last sentence on this page of the guidance is misleading to the extent that it suggests that the nominee's receipt of an email from the Election Team informing them of the nomination and providing guidance on next steps (including submission of their abbreviated CV and willingness to serve declaration) came only after the Election Officer had already validated the nomination.

¹⁴ The Election Officer further understands the interpretation that generic reference to the World Congress' function "to decide appeals" under Article 20(l) must be read in conjunction with the express provisions listed in the text that follows this endnote.

¹⁵ See *also* Regulation 19 (specifically limiting the period for such appeal to "within six months of notification of the Council's decision").

¹⁶ Regarding the latter category of decisions, this rule expressly states that "the only permissible ground for appeal is that an error was made in not classifying the motion for consideration at the Members' Assembly" and specifically limits the period for receipt of such appeal to "no later than two weeks following the date of publication of the motions." Rule 62*ter*; see *also* Rule 62*quarto* (excluding Council members along with individuals personally involved with the motions process from the appeals body).