



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

**Proposed amendments to Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure
of the World Conservation Congress**

Criteria for accepting motions

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress, on the proposal of the IUCN Council under Article 29 of the Statutes, is invited to **CONSIDER AND TAKE A DECISION** on the proposed amendments to Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress regarding the criteria for accepting motions. If adopted, these amendments should become effective at the close of the 2025 Congress.

Proposed amendments to Rule 54

In the discussion of the Task Force (TF) and the experience of this cycle of motions review and appeal processes, members of the TF were in agreement that the root cause for many of complaints by IUCN Members is the potential for subjectivity and lack of clarity or potential different interpretations of the Motion criteria as outlined in Rule 54. Members of the TF were also in agreement that it is necessary to amend Rule 54 to enhance the clarity of the criteria and reduce the potential of subjectivity in interpretation. However, members of the TF had different views on whether initial amendments should be presented to be discussed and agreed by IUCN Members in this Congress or if Council should propose a process for the next Council to establish a more consultative process for proposing amendments to Rule 54 (and potentially the broader motions process) to be voted upon intersessionally between the 2025 and the 2029 IUCN Congress.

The TF drafted the amendments below and reverted to Council to decide on whether or not to submit them to congress, understanding that these amendments would be presented for discussion in a contact group before being voted upon, unlike the other proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure which would be voted upon in the first sitting.

As a reminder, any one IUCN Member can propose amendments to the Rules of Procedure to be voted upon during the same Congress.

Rule 54

Motions shall be accepted only upon determination by the Motions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee that they are consistent with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* and meet all the following requirements:

(a) related to content:

- i. Propose or modify IUCN's general policy, influence the policies and actions of third parties, or address the governance of IUCN, and only to the extent necessary and subject to the full application of Rule 51, ~~specify the activities required to implement the policy;~~

(Rationale: to ensure coherence with Rule 48 and 48bis. Note: what constitutes IUCN policy may need to be defined.)

- ii. ~~Contributions from Members and/or components of IUCN, if~~ Actions called for in the motion, are specific, reasonable and achievable;

(Rationale: should not only be limited to contributions from Members, but all actions called for by the Motion.)

- iii. Contain ~~technically sound and coherent~~ precise arguments;

(Rationale: technically sound and coherent is open to subjectivity.)

- iv. ~~Be precise in what they aim to achieve;~~

- v. ~~Propose aspirational goals that are reasonable;~~

(Rationale: these are now included in ii.)

- vi. Do not ~~merely~~ only repeat the content of Resolutions and Recommendations previously adopted; and

(Rationale: merely is more open to interpretation and subjectivity.)

- vii. When focusing on local, national or regional issues, state, with the proponent providing evidence at the moment of submission, that (1) the matter covered by the motion has been

engaged at local, national and/or regional instances and that the desired result has not been achieved; and (2) the Members and relevant Commission members as well as other stakeholders in the geographic area in question have been consulted; and

(b) related to process and format:

- viii. Be submitted before the deadline established in Rule 49;
- ix. Be proposed and co-sponsored by Members eligible to vote, in accordance with Rules 49 or 49bis;
- x. Can either be a recommendation or resolution and should not contain actions related to both IUCN and third parties;

(Rationale: experience from appeals show that when a motion contains actions directed to both IUCN and third parties it can be confusing. This amendment would enhance alignment with Rule 48.)

- ~~x.i.~~ The proponent specifies a) ~~which-if of the~~ Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties, which the motion calls upon to undertake action have been consulted or have collaborated in the development of the motion; and b) ~~which-if~~ Members or components of IUCN have been consulted with a view to identify solutions that might address the underlying issues ~~and c) the actions and resources required to implement the motion and the contributions which proponents and co-sponsors intend to make towards its implementation;~~

(Rationale: Consultation is encouraged but not a requirement, proponents and co-sponsors do not own a motion, once adopted a motion is of the entire Union.)

- ~~xii.~~ For motions concerning issues arising in a State or States outside the State or Region of the proponent, be co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member from the Region with which the motion is concerned in accordance with Rule 49bis; and
- ~~xiii.~~ Use the template to be approved by Council.