



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

Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress is invited to CONSIDER and ADOPT the proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations to adapt the objectives of IUCN to the 20-year Strategic Vision, align the IUCN Statutes with Swiss Law and clarify the nominations process submitted by the Council under Article 105 of the IUCN Statutes. If adopted, they will become effective at the close of the 2025 Congress in conformity with Article 107 of the Statutes.

DRAFT MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

Adopts the following amendments to the Statutes and Regulations of IUCN: (*cf. Table attached hereafter as Annex 1*)

[...]

Amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations

Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes, RoP or Regulations	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
Proposal 1: Adapting the objectives of IUCN in line with the IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision to ensure that conservation efforts are inclusive, just and respect human rights		
Article 2 of the Statutes The objectives of IUCN shall be to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.	Article 2 of the Statutes The objectives of IUCN shall be to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable <u>in a manner that is inclusive and respects human rights</u> .	Article 2 of the Statutes The objectives of IUCN shall be to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable in a manner that is inclusive and respects human rights.
Article 3 of the Statutes To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...] (m) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources; and [...]	Article 3 of the Statutes To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...] (m) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources <u>in a manner that is inclusive, and respects human rights</u> ; and [...]	Article 3 of the Statutes To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...] (m) takes any other appropriate action which will promote the conservation of nature and natural resources in a manner that is inclusive and respects human rights; and [...]
Explanatory memorandum: This proposal intends to give effect to the IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision prepared for submission to the 2025 Congress for adoption. The IUCN Council proposes to adapt the objectives of IUCN (Art. 2 and 3 of the Statutes) in order to ensure that conservation efforts are inclusive, just and respect human rights including respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples, gender equality and the rights of local communities and people in vulnerable situations.		

Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes, RoP or Regulations	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
Proposal 2: Strengthening the alignment of IUCN Statutes with Swiss law		
Article 107 of the Statutes Unless otherwise decided, amendments to the Statutes proposed in accordance with Articles 105 and 106, shall become effective at the close of the session of the World Congress at which they are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined.	Article 107 of the Statutes <u>(a)</u> Unless otherwise decided, amendments to the Statutes proposed in accordance with Articles 105 and 106, shall become effective at the close of the session of the World Congress at which they are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined. <u>(b) Amendments to the Statutes may also be referred to electronic ballot between sessions of the World Congress in conformity with Article 94 only if explicitly requested by the World Congress. [In such a case, a majority of Members in Category A and a majority of Members in Categories B and C combined, who have participated in the vote¹ shall constitute a quorum.] Amendments to the Statutes shall become effective at the close of the electronic ballot.</u>	Article 107 of the Statutes (a) Unless otherwise decided, amendments to the Statutes proposed in accordance with Articles 105 and 106, shall become effective at the close of the session of the World Congress at which they are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Category A and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in Categories B and C combined. (b) Amendments to the Statutes may also be referred to electronic ballot between sessions of the World Congress in conformity with Article 94 only if explicitly requested by the World Congress. [In such a case a majority of Members in Category A and a majority of Members in Categories B and C combined, who have participated in the vote ² shall constitute a quorum.] Amendments to the Statutes shall become effective at the close of the electronic ballot.
Article 20 of the Statutes The functions of the World Congress shall be <i>inter alia</i> : [...] (d) to receive the auditors' report and to approve the audited accounts;	Article 20 of the Statutes The functions of the World Congress shall be <i>inter alia</i> : [...] (d) to receive the auditors' report and to approve the audited accounts <u>for the full fiscal years since the last session of the World Congress</u>	Article 20 of the Statutes The functions of the World Congress shall be <i>inter alia</i> : [...] (d) to receive the auditors' report and to approve the audited accounts for the full fiscal years since the last session of the World Congress

¹ Participating in the vote means choosing one of the voting options as per Regulation 94 e.

² Participating in the vote means choosing one of the voting options as per Regulation 94 e.

	<u>including the year in which the last session of the World Congress was held;</u>	including the year in which the last session of the World Congress was held;
Explanatory note for IUCN Members: This proposal intends to codify the IUCN Members' will in an unambiguous way in order to strengthen alignment with Swiss law on a limited number of issues raised in recent years, such as: - can the IUCN Statutes be amended by electronic vote of IUCN Members between sessions of the Congress as has been practiced from time to time at the request of Congress? Unless otherwise specified in the Statutes, Swiss law provides that amending the Statutes is the exclusive authority of the four-yearly Congress; - unless specified otherwise in the Statutes, Swiss law provides that the approval of audited financial statements of the previous fiscal year needs to be given by the IUCN Members on an annual basis while the practice in IUCN is to submit to Congress for approval the audited financial statements of the last four fiscal years.		

Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes, RoP or Regulations	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
Proposal 3: Clarifying the nomination and election procedures; abolishing the "third track" (Regulation 30) and strengthening the independence and impartiality of the Commissions' ad hoc committees (Regulation 30bis); guidance about campaign activities		
Article 46 of the Statutes	Article 46 of the Statutes	Article 46 of the Statutes
The functions of the Council shall be <i>inter alia</i> :	The functions of the Council shall be inter alia:	The functions of the Council shall be inter alia:
[...]	[...]	[...]
(q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and a Motions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and	(q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and <u>Deputy Election Officer, and</u> a Motions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and	(q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer, and a Motions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and
[...]	[...]	[...]
Regulation 28 (b)	Regulation 28 (b)	Regulation 28 (b)
At least one year before the date set for the opening of a session of the World Congress, the Council shall:	At least one year before the date set for the opening of a session of the World Congress, the Council shall:	At least one year before the date set for the opening of a session of the World Congress, the Council shall:
[...]	[...]	[...]

(b) appoint an Election Officer who shall not be a candidate for election nor a member of the Secretariat.	(b) appoint an Election Officer <u>and Deputy Election Officer</u> who shall not be a candidate for election nor a member of the Secretariat.	(b) appoint an Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer who shall not be a candidate for election nor a member of the Secretariat.
Regulation 30 At least four months prior to a meeting of the Council taking place not less than four months before the date set for the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress, the Members in Categories A, B and C shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, proposals for persons to be nominated as President or Treasurer, or as a Chair of a Commission. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions in office who are eligible and willing to accept re-election. Proposals for persons to be nominated as President shall be made by Members eligible to vote representing at least 1% of the global membership of IUCN. Commission members shall be invited at the same time to make their proposals for the Chair of their Commission.	Regulation 30 At least four months prior to a meeting of the Council taking place not less than four months before the date set for the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress, the Members in Categories A, B and C shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, proposals for persons to be nominated as President or Treasurer, or as a Chair of a Commission. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions in office who are eligible and willing to accept re-election. Proposals for persons to be nominated as President shall be made by Members eligible to vote representing at least 1% of the global membership of IUCN. Commission members shall be invited at the same time to make their proposals for the Chair of their Commission.	Regulation 30 At least four months prior to a meeting of the Council taking place not less than four months before the date set for the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress, the Members in Categories A, B and C shall be invited by the Director General to submit to the Election Officer, proposals for persons to be nominated as President or Treasurer, or as a Chair of a Commission. Such invitation shall be accompanied by a list of the President, Treasurer and Chairs of Commissions in office who are eligible and willing to accept re-election. Proposals for persons to be nominated as President shall be made by Members eligible to vote representing at least 1% of the global membership of IUCN.
Regulation 30bis With the purpose of identifying qualified candidates in a transparent process, the Steering Committee of each Commission shall form from among its members an ad hoc committee, who are not candidates themselves, and excluding the Chair, and invite Commission members to submit names to be considered for Commission Chair, at least one month prior to the date indicated in Regulations, 30. With prior endorsement by the Steering Committee concerned, a list of up to two prioritized candidates determined through qualification criteria established by the Steering	Regulation 30bis With the purpose of identifying qualified candidates in a transparent process, the Steering Committee of each Commission shall form from among its members <u>and other members of the Commission</u>, an ad hoc committee, who are not candidates themselves, and excluding the Chair, and invite Commission members to submit names to be considered for Commission Chair, at least one month prior to the date indicated in Regulations, 30. <u>The Steering Committee shall ensure as much diversity as possible in the membership of the ad hoc committee.</u> With prior	Regulation 30bis With the purpose of identifying qualified candidates in a transparent process, the Steering Committee of each Commission shall form from among its members and other members of the Commission, an ad hoc committee, who are not candidates themselves, and excluding the Chair, and invite Commission members to submit names to be considered for Commission Chair, at least one month prior to the date indicated in Regulations, 30. The Steering Committee shall ensure as much diversity as possible in the membership of the ad hoc committee. With prior

Committee, shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to Council.	endorsement by the Steering Committee concerned, a list of, up to <u>preferably</u> , two prioritized candidates determined through qualification criteria established by the Steering Committee, shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to Council. <u>Ad hoc committees may also consider for candidate Commission Chair individuals who meet the qualities and requirements required for election without being a member of the Commission concerned.</u>	endorsement by the Steering Committee concerned, a list of, preferably, two prioritized candidates determined through qualification criteria established by the Steering Committee, shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to Council. Ad hoc committees may also consider for candidate Commission Chair individuals who meet the qualities and requirements required for election without being a member of the Commission concerned.
Regulation 40	Regulation 40	Regulation 40
Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Councillors elected from the Regions from that Region as well as nominations received for election as Indigenous Councillor shall be communicated via the IUCN intranet as and when they are declared by the Election Officer as meeting the requirements established in the Statutes and the present Regulations. Before taking a definitive decision to reject a nomination, the Election Officer shall allow the individuals whose nomination does not meet the requirements a period of three weeks following the deadline in case they wish to bring evidence that the nomination(s) received were valid at the time of the deadline. Nominations that meet the requirements shall be submitted by the Election Officer with appropriate background information to each ordinary session of the World Congress. The Election Officer shall list the candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random, with an indication of the number of nominations received per candidate.	Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Councillors elected from the Regions from that Region as well as nominations received for election as Indigenous Councillor shall be communicated <u>en bloc</u> via the IUCN intranet as and once the final nomination when they are <u>will have been</u> declared by the Election Officer as meeting the requirements established in the Statutes and the present Regulations. Before taking a definitive decision to reject a nomination, the Election Officer shall allow the individuals whose nomination does not meet the requirements a period of three weeks following the deadline in case they wish to bring evidence that the nomination(s) received were valid at the time of the deadline. Nominations that meet the requirements shall be submitted by the Election Officer with appropriate background information to each ordinary session of the World Congress. The Election Officer shall list the candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random, with an indication of the number of nominations received per candidate.	Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Councillors elected from the Regions from that Region as well as nominations received for election as Indigenous Councillor shall be communicated <i>en bloc</i> via the IUCN intranet once the final nomination will have been declared by the Election Officer as meeting the requirements established in the Statutes and the present Regulations. Before taking a definitive decision to reject a nomination, the Election Officer shall allow the individuals whose nomination does not meet the requirements a period of three weeks following the deadline in case they wish to bring evidence that the nomination(s) received were valid at the time of the deadline. Nominations that meet the requirements shall be submitted by the Election Officer with appropriate background information to each ordinary session of the World Congress. The Election Officer shall list the candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random, with an indication of the number of nominations received per candidate.
	Insert (new) RoP 75bis	Insert (new) RoP 75bis

An individual proposed for President, Treasurer or Commission Chair becomes a candidate once nominated by Council. Until then, any campaign activities or attempts to persuade Council members to nominate an individual may lead to withdrawal of the proposed individual by the Nominations Committee from the list of nominees provided to the Council. Candidates for President nominated in conformity with Article 27 of the Statutes may start campaign activities from the moment their candidacy is received by the Director General in conformity with Regulation 32. Candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor may undertake campaign activities once the final nomination has been validated by the Election Officer, posted in IUCN's intranet in conformity with Regulation 40 and all candidates will have been notified thereof.

An individual proposed for President, Treasurer or Commission Chair becomes a candidate once nominated by Council. Until then, any campaign activities or attempts to persuade Council members to nominate an individual may lead to withdrawal of the proposed individual by the Nominations Committee from the list of nominees provided to the Council. Candidates for President nominated in conformity with Article 27 of the Statutes may start campaign activities from the moment their candidacy is received by the Director General in conformity with Regulation 32. Candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor may undertake campaign activities once the final nomination has been validated by the Election Officer, posted in IUCN's intranet in conformity with Regulation 40 and all candidates will have been notified thereof.

Explanatory note:

Article 46 of the Statutes and Regulation 28 (b):

When Council, in 2021 and again in 2024, appointed a Deputy Election Officer in addition to an Election Officer, it clarified in their ToR that the Deputy Election Officer was to “*act in the place of the Election Officer whenever the latter is unable to act as Election Officer, in case of a conflict of interest, or if the Election Officer has the same nationality as any of the presidential candidates, and to provide support to the Election officer to ensure the integrity of the elections*”. However, based on experience, the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer working as a team should be empowered to distribute the workload amongst them and to take decisions and sign letters on the understanding, of course, that the Deputy Election Officer always acts under the authority of the Election Officer. To recognize that, it is proposed to mention the Deputy Election Officer in the Statutes and Regulations.

Regulation 30:

One of the recommendations of the previous Council 2016–2021 (decision C98/6, February 2020) was “to amend Regulation 30 by abolishing the possibility established for Commission members to nominate candidates thereby bypassing the Commissions ad hoc committee’s selection process”. Back in 2020, the Council considered the so-called “third track” an unnecessary sign of mistrust in the ability of the Commissions to organize a proper process of selecting qualified candidates for election as Commission Chair. In addition, it presented the Council and its Nominations Committee with the challenge of having to assess the individuals proposed by Commission members with the same standards and process as the Commission’s ad hoc committee.

Regulation 30bis:

Based on the quality of work delivered by the Commissions' ad hoc committees during this year's nominations process, the Nominations Committee decided to recommend to Council that it amends Regulation 30 by removing the "third track" and to codify in the Regulations the few additional measures which Council had approved in May 2024 on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee in order to strengthen the ad hoc committees' independence and impartiality. (cf. decision C111/13)

About the terms "*two prioritized candidates*", it is worth noting that in March 2019, at the recommendation of its Governance and Constituency Committee, the Council specified in the *Procedure for the in-Commission selection process of candidates for Commission Chair* (paragraph 8) that "The prioritization by the ad hoc committee serves only the purpose of making a recommendation to Council's Nominations Committee and does not imply a ranking of the candidates".

Regulation 40 and Rule 75bis:

Pending codification of lessons learnt from the 2024–2025 nominations process, Council's *Guidance for election candidates*, adopted by decision B/XIII on 28 August 2024, were modified to address a recommendation made by the previous Council 2016–2021 (decision C98/6) that the Rules of Procedure needed to clearly state that a proposed individual becomes a candidate for President, Treasurer and Commission Chair once nominated by Council and that, until then, any campaign activities may lead to disqualification. It addressed the issue that some individuals proposed and/or the Members and Commission members acting on their behalf, had started campaigning or tried to influence Council before it took its decision about whom to nominate for any of these positions. The role of Council is to assess all proposed names against the required qualifications and make a selection based on merit as opposed to popularity.

However, before they are nominated by Council, prospective candidates as well as IUCN Members and Commission members may obviously contact and discuss with each other, e.g. during the Regional Conservation Forums, for the purpose of identifying qualified candidates and proposing them to Council. Considering that the same should apply to the candidates for *Councillor elected from the Regions* and for *Indigenous Councillor*, the IUCN Council approved a similar provision for them in the *Guidance for 2025 election candidates*.

Council also defined the term "campaign activity" and included it in the Council's *Guidance for 2025 election candidates* as follows: any action (such as electronic or postal mail, social media, physical or virtual meetings, blogs and other web-based platforms or publications) undertaken in support of (or against) a candidate duly nominated for election by the candidate her/himself or IUCN Member(s) on the candidate's behalf.

Based on experience during this year's nominations process, the Council felt that it was fairer for all nominations for Councillor elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor to be published in the Union Portal at the same time instead of the moment the Election Officer confirmed the validity of their nomination which was different for every candidate, so that all candidates would also be empowered to begin their campaign activities at the same time. Regulation 40 is therefore amended to clarify that the nominations will all be published *en bloc* once the Election Officer will have validated the final nomination. Rule 75bis clarifies that all candidates may start campaign activities once the final nomination has been validated by the Election Officer, posted in IUCN's intranet in conformity with Regulation 40 and all candidates will have been notified thereof.

Existing provisions of the Statutes	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
Proposal 4: Establishing an appeals process against definitive decisions of the Election Officer		
Article 46 of the Statutes	Article 46 of the Statutes	Article 46 of the Statutes

The functions of the Council shall be <i>inter alia</i>: [...] (q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer and a Motions Working Group in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and [...]	The functions of the Council shall be <i>inter alia</i>: [...] (q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer, and a Motions Working Group and a <u>Nominations Appeals Body</u> in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and [...]	The functions of the Council shall be <i>inter alia</i>: [...] (q) to appoint a Preparatory Committee, Election Officer, a Motions Working Group and a Nominations Appeals Body in preparation for each session of the World Congress; and [...]
Existing provisions of the Rules of Procedure	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
<u>Nominations</u> Article 75 of the Rules of Procedure [...]	<i>Insert a new Article 74bis as follows in the section with the title "Nominations":</i> <u>Nominations</u> <u>Article 74bis of the Rules of Procedure</u> <u>The Nominations Appeals Body established by Council in conformity with Article 46 (q) of the Statutes shall decide any appeal from persons proposed for nomination by Council as President, Treasurer or Chair of a Commission and from nominees for election as Councillors elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor against the definitive decision of the Election Officer to reject their proposal or nomination as prescribed in the Regulations.</u>	<u>Nominations</u> Article 74bis of the Rules of Procedure The Nominations Appeals Body established by Council in conformity with Article 46 (q) of the Statutes shall decide any appeal from persons proposed for nomination by Council as President, Treasurer or Chair of a Commission and from nominees for election as Councillors elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor against the definitive decision of the Election Officer to reject their proposal or nomination as prescribed in the Regulations.
Existing provisions of the Regulations	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	New text as amended (all track changes 'accepted')
<u>Elections: Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor</u> [...]	<u>Elections: Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor</u> [...]	<u>Elections: Councillors elected from the Regions and Indigenous Councillor</u> [...]

	<i>Insert, after Regulation 40, a new section with the title “Appeal against the decision of the Election Officer” and a new Regulation 40bis as follows:</i> <u>Appeal against the decision of the Election Officer</u> <u>Regulation 40bis</u> <u>An appeal against the decision of the Election Officer under Rule 74bis shall be received by the Nominations Appeals Body no later than two weeks following the date of the notification of the definitive decision of the Election Officer to reject their proposal or nomination.</u> <u>The Nominations Appeals Body shall consist of five members of the Council including at least one Vice President. Members of the Council who are from the same Region of the nominee(s) for Councillor elected from the Regions or, who have themselves been nominated for any elected position, shall not be eligible to serve on the Appeals Body.</u>	<u>Appeal against the decision of the Election Officer</u> Regulation 40bis An appeal against the decision of the Election Officer under Rule 74bis shall be received by the Nominations Appeals Body no later than two weeks following the date of the notification of the definitive decision of the Election Officer to reject their proposal or nomination. The Nominations Appeals Body shall consist of five members of the Council including at least one Vice President. Members of the Council who are from the same Region of the nominee(s) for Councillor elected from the Regions or, who have themselves been nominated for any elected position, shall not be eligible to serve on the Appeals Body.
Explanatory memorandum: The discussion initiated in Council meeting C113 (May 2025) on the question of whether an appeals process should be established to review the decisions of the Election Officer continued beyond the meeting with the facilitation of the Bureau of the Council B14 (June 2025). On 7 July 2025, the IUCN Council approved the above proposals establishing the appeals process. <i>Background</i> Under Article 46 (q) of the IUCN Statutes and Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress (the “Rules”), the Election Officer is appointed by the Council to supervise the elections. This includes: • Monitoring the accuracy of the electronic voting system (Rules 63 and 77bis), • Ensuring that proposals for nominations for President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs (Rule 35) as well as nominations for Regional Councillors, and Indigenous Councillor (Rule 40) meet statutory and regulatory requirements.		

Until now, decisions by the Election Officer have been definitive. While the Council has exercised oversight over the work of the Election Officer by receiving reports on the nominations process and the reasons why certain proposals or nominations may have been rejected, this does not constitute a formal appeals process.

Council's proposal

Council proposes to introduce a formal right of appeal for individuals affected by decisions of the Election Officer. This right applies specifically to cases where a proposal or nomination for an elected position is rejected on the grounds that it does not meet the requirements set out in the Statutes and Regulations.

The addition of a new Article 74**bis** in the Rules of Procedure intends to establish the principle of the appeals process, while the procedural details – such as the composition of the appeals body and the deadlines for submitting appeals – are set out in the new Regulation 40**bis**. The proposed appeals body, referred to as the “Nominations Appeals Body,” will be empowered to make binding decisions on such appeals, representing a significant shift from the current framework in which the Election Officer’s decisions are definitive.

To support this change, the proposed amendment to Article 46 (q) of the Statutes clarifies the authority of the Council to appoint this appeals body.

Since the appointment of the Election Officer and the scope of their authority to supervise elections are defined in the Statutes and Rules respectively, it is essential that the appointment and the authority of the body empowered to review and potentially overturn such decisions is also formally established in both.