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

Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress is invited to CONSIDER the proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and IUCN Regulations to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position submitted by the Council under Article 105 of the IUCN Statutes.

DRAFT MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

Adopts the following amendments to the IUCN Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, and Regulations: (cf. Table attached hereafter as Annex 1)

[...]

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Background

1. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016, the IUCN Members’ Assembly adopted a landmark decision for indigenous peoples and conservation. Members voted to create a new category of IUCN membership for Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations (IPO), strengthening the recognition of their rights, participation, voice and role in IUCN (WCC-2016-Res-004). The establishment of this new category marked a milestone in the 70-year history of IUCN, since for the first time IUCN reformed its membership structure and did so especially to recognize the specific situation and role of IPOs.

2. As a distinct and mobilized constituency within IUCN, IPO Members developed a self-determined strategy identifying joint priorities for advancing indigenous rights and issues in conservation and at IUCN.

3. The IPO Member strategy includes the objective set by IPO Members to increase indigenous participation in IUCN’s governance and, in particular, ensuring indigenous representation on IUCN’s Council, as key priorities. The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress and is tasked with setting strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union, subject to the authority, direction and policy of the World Conservation Congress. As such, IUCN IPO Members consider it essential for clear indigenous representation on Council from the new IPO Member Category.
4. The current Council appointed to Council an indigenous representative, Mr Francisco Ramiro Batzin Chojoj, under Article 38(f) of the Statutes regarding the composition of Council (Council decision C94/20, May 2018):

   “one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.”

5. Past Councils have had representation from indigenous peoples with the appointments of Mary Simon from 1994–1996 (Inuit, Canada), Henrietta Rasmussen from 1997–2000 (Inuit, Greenland, Denmark), and Aroha Mead from 2001–2008 (Maori, New Zealand) and as Chair of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) from 2009–2016. While Aroha Mead served on Council for 16 years, her first two terms were as an indigenous appointed Councillor and her last two were as Chair of CEESP where, until September 2016, she also brought an indigenous perspective to Council. Throughout this time, however, IUCN Statutes have never been amended to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position.

6. Given the new Member Category, IPO Members request the Members’ Assembly to amend IUCN Statutes to allow for the creation of an elected Indigenous Councillor position. An elected Indigenous Councillor position would:

   - ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples;
   - support and advance IUCN’s significant indigenous mandate;
   - facilitate reporting on the implementation of the IPO Member strategy;
   - improve regional and global coordination with current and potential IPO Members and partners; and
   - make visible and help to effectively apply the wealth of traditional and indigenous knowledge and systems for the use, management and conservation of natural resources, IUCN strategies and actions at the regional and global level.

7. The proposal to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position was presented by members of Council to all Regional Conservation Forums (RCF) held in 2019, and posted online for comments until 15 September 2019.

8. The proposal has been prepared as proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations (Annex 1) by a small working group of the IUCN Council’s Governance and Constituency Committee led by Councillor Ramiro Batzin, taking into account the comments received from IUCN Members.

9. If the motion related to the modification of the term “Regional Councillor” is adopted in the form as proposed by the IUCN Council, articles 12, 20, 28, 38 and 41 of the Statutes; Rule 81; and Regulations 37, 38 and 40, amongst others, will present additional changes which are not shown in Annex 1.

Entry into effect

10. Unless decided otherwise by the 2020 Congress, the proposed amendments, if adopted, will come into effect at the end of the 2020 Congress.
### Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the IUCN Regulations regarding the establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position

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Rights and Obligations of Members  
Article 12 of the IUCN Statutes  
(a) Members shall have the right *inter alia*: […]  
(b) Members in Categories A, B and C shall also have the right:  
(i) to propose to the Council candidates for President, Treasurer and Chairs of the Commissions to be elected by the World Congress;  
(ii) to nominate candidates directly to the World Congress for election as President;  
(iii) to nominate to the World Congress candidates for election as Regional Councillors;  
(iv) to submit motions to the World Congress; and  
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(d) the Regional Councillors;
(e) a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, appointed by the Council, provided that one from that State has not been elected Regional Councillor; and
(f) one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.

5. Article 41 of the IUCN Statutes:
The terms of office of the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and Chairs of Commissions shall extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Congress. The appointed Councillor shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the other Councillors are elected.

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The elections of the President, the Treasurer and each of the Chairs of the Commissions shall be conducted separately and as follows:  
(a) the President and the Treasurer may be elected by acclamation;  
(b) where a vote is required and there is only one candidate for a post, if that candidate does not receive a simple majority of votes cast by Members eligible to vote in Category A and in Categories B and C combined, the post shall be filled by the World Congress or, failing a decision by the closure of the session, by the new Council; and  
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Nominations of indigenous persons for candidates for the Indigenous Councillor position shall be made by five Members eligible to vote of which at least two are Members of Category C, drawn from more than one State.

**Regulation 38ter**

All nominations shall be submitted together with an abbreviated curriculum vitae for each candidate, supplied by that candidate. Each candidate shall declare in writing a willingness to serve if elected. The deadline for nominations shall be determined on each occasion by the Council.

**Article 40 of the Regulations**

Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Regional Councillors from that Region 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.

3.

**Article 40 of the Regulations**

Nominations received from Members within a Region for election as Regional Councillors 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.
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