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

PRELIMINARY NOTES

The Draft Agenda of the IUCN World Conservation Congress published on 11 March 2020 had to be adjusted following the 2nd postponement of the Congress and IUCN Members’ adoption by electronic vote on 10 February 2021 of a number of decision items included in the agenda of the Congress such as the IUCN Programme and the Mandates of the IUCN Commissions 2021–2024. For details regarding the electronic vote of IUCN Members that took place in January/February 2021, refer to the ‘decisions for e-vote prior to Congress’ page on the Congress website.

The revised version that follows hereafter also takes into account that, as a result of the electronic vote, it was agreed with the Host Country to shorten the duration of the Members’ Assembly from 4 to 3 days.

The purpose of the present Preliminary Notes is to explain how key agenda items will be dealt with during the Members’ Assembly.

1. Impact of the “hybrid” Congress format on the Members’ Assembly

The entire Members’ Assembly will be live-streamed and the recordings of each plenary sitting made available for delayed viewing soon after they close. This means that Members will be able to view and follow remotely the live plenary sittings as well as access the recordings after each sitting, but with no possibility to ask for the floor, raise points of order or vote. In accordance with Rule 66 (d), a Member entitled to vote but unable to attend the World Conservation Congress, or a delegation unable to attend a particular sitting of the Members’ Assembly, may give a proxy to an accredited delegation of a Member entitled to vote or to an accredited representative of the recognised National or Regional Committee of the country or region of the delegation of the Member giving the proxy, to speak and/or vote on their behalf.
2. First sitting of the Members’ Assembly

A short first sitting of the Members’ Assembly of 45 minutes, will be held on Congress day 2, i.e. on 4 September 2021, in the morning just before the official opening of the Forum. This sitting is primarily intended to:

   a) table all decision items (including motions referred to Congress by the Motions Working Group, governance motions submitted by Council, urgent and new motions, and the Addendum to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024) for discussion in Contact Groups, that can then be spread over 7 days instead of the 3-day Members’ Assembly;

   b) establish the Congress Committees so that its members can prepare themselves and start their work.

3. Discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union

During the 2012 Congress and through the external evaluation, the membership voiced a concern that the next Members’ Assembly should reserve ample time for in-depth discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union. This was implemented for the first time in Hawai’i in 2016, where the Council settled on three topics on conserving nature in the face of industrial agriculture; preserving the health of the world’s oceans; and building constituencies for nature. To enable this, the majority of motions had been discussed online and voted on electronically prior to the Congress. While confirming the importance of the strategic discussions, the 2016 Congress participants felt they should have been more interactive and linked to the IUCN Programme.

The Agenda allocates 4.5 hours during the forthcoming Members’ Assembly for the discussion of three topics (90 minutes per topic) that will contribute to achieving the goals of the IUCN Programme by enabling all constituent parts to better understand current conditions and dynamics, clarify IUCN’s role, strengthen their capacity, and mobilise and engage support from internal and external audiences. The three topics have been strengthened by adding a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on conservation.

A variety of methodologies will be applied across all three strategic discussions, ensuring interaction with the Members’ Assembly participants, using electronic communication tools where appropriate. In addition, each discussion is expected to result in a small number of concrete action points.

The three strategic discussion topics are as follows:

   a) Structuring economies in a post COVID-19 world

Short description:

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, nations and the global community face choices on how to stimulate national economies, provide public finance, generate jobs, and subsidise public and private sectors. Many countries are facing high burdens of debt repayment, and efforts will be made to promote economic growth, and build tax and wealth bases. In the attempt to recover from the pandemic, governmental subsidies might emphasise getting back to ‘business as usual’ by expanding grey infrastructure (e.g., roads, mining and hydropower), or stimulating the production of food, fibre, and energy.
However, short-term recovery should not undercut long-term sustainability. The World Economic Forum ranks environmental stresses and biodiversity loss as one of the top risks facing humanity. The response to COVID-19 provides an opportunity to build back in a more sustainable and equitable way. Incorporating nature, including its role as the foundation for economy and human well-being, and into economic planning and stimulus packages. Implementing Nature-based Solutions at scale would allow for more effective management and stewardship of ecosystems and the biosphere in the long-term. Being guided by the Sustainable Development Goals would allow nations to tackle economic and social inequalities, invest in environmentally sustainable jobs, and address the multiple divides, including generational, geographic, ethnic and gender, which have been amplified by the response to the pandemic. How can IUCN influence these decisions, and especially the policy and regulatory framework supporting Nature-based solutions? What role should IUCN play and how?

b) Building a culture of conservation through new alliances and strengthening the agency of key actors

Short description:
The COVID-19 pandemic exposes humanity and its relationships to diverse challenges. It demonstrates societies' shortcomings, not only in how we engage with nature but also in how we engage with each other. It reinforces the potential that still exists to mend our relationship with nature and, in doing so, to revitalise humanities' sense of shared endeavour. We are presented with a choice to collaborate together to address the planetary crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and human insecurity or to stand apart and witness the acceleration of environmental loss.

To achieve the scale of change needed, as evident in this historical moment, we must promote a new 'culture of conservation' in which distinct, and often disparate, groups come together to put the well-being of our world and its inhabitants centre stage. Such a shift requires that we collectively step back from narratives that exclusively focus on wealth acquisition, conspicuous consumption and economic growth and give much greater emphasis to issues such as sustainability, social equity and human well-being. New partnerships and collaboration also demand that all have their voice heard, that different values are acknowledged and respected and different types of agency recognised and encouraged.

Young people and indigenous people are at the forefront of demanding such change. It is critically important that we recognise the agency and leadership of these constituencies and foster new partnerships that can initiate and drive needed change. Engaging with sectoral interests, including local and national governments, business, finance, and health, will also be needed to frame these changes and establish new pathways.

This session will explore the synergies, conflicts, contradictions among different actors and different ways in which decisions are made, and behaviour is being shaped, with attention to intrinsic values, biocultural values, human rights, sustaining livelihoods, well-being, and economic development. The session will zone in on current challenges in the climate emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic to draw lessons to support IUCN be more effective as it seeks to influence governments and other decision makers, citizens, corporates, thinkers, and social movements, at local, national, regional levels and globally to bringing about needed change.
c) The influences of biodiversity loss and climate change on public health

Short description:
There is increasing evidence that climate change and the biodiversity crisis are inextricably interlinked (Diaz et al., 2019) and together they present significant challenges to human health, livelihoods and well-being (UNEP, 2021). The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climate events, such as heat waves, droughts or flooding, impact on food production and water security and leave communities more vulnerable to disease and natural disasters. Land degradation, habitat loss and fragmentation are linked to loss of traditional medicines and the spread of zoonoses. The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need for improved environmental management, better land and water management and the need for coordinated actions across multiple sectors (IPBES, 2020).

Biodiversity and healthy natural ecosystems, supported by protected areas in and around cities, can provide ecosystem benefits and services that support human health and help communities to cope with climate change. The risk of floods can be reduced, air pollutants filtered, and supply of clean drinking water made more reliable. Ecosystem services can help to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases and respiratory disorders. Furthermore, access to nature offers many other direct health benefits, including opportunities for physical activity, reduction of developmental disorders and improved mental health. These benefits become increasingly important in a world facing increasing climate change and urbanisation. Economic valuations have found that nature provides billions of dollars in cost savings for health services.

The growing recognition of the importance of biodiversity’s contribution to human health offers great potential for maximizing synergies between public health, climate change adaptation and nature conservation. Partnerships between conservationists, planners, health authorities and others are critical to maximize these synergies to advance human health policy, practices and systems. They offer an unprecedented opportunity to value and conserve nature, to work across sectors to achieve environmental objectives in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, and contribute to furthering goals that are essential to human health and well-being. IUCN, with its diverse membership and Commission networks, is well placed to promote a stronger Nature-Health agenda emphasising the linkages between healthy ecosystems and healthy people, as part of nature-based recovery strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

4. The presentation of election candidates

Through the 2016 participants’ survey report, Members requested a more engaging way to present the election candidates. While continuing to ensure that all candidates are given an equal opportunity to present themselves to the global IUCN membership during the Members’ Assembly, candidate presentations will be spread out in three different Sittings. Instead of long series of individual presentations from the speakers’ rostrum, a different format will be applied in an attempt to make it more interesting for participants.

Candidates for President: A session of 60 minutes for candidate presentation and panel debate based on questions on key issues for the Union shared with the candidates in advance.

Candidate for Treasurer: 5 minutes presentation for the candidate.

Candidates for Commission Chair: A session of 50 minutes for 7 candidate presentations based on questions about what they aim to achieve in their respective Commissions and about shared responsibilities as Commission Chairs and members of the IUCN Council.
Candidates for Regional Councillor: The Agenda includes six time slots during the 4th and 5th Sittings. To avoid that all 40 Regional Councillor Candidates are introduced in one long series of presentations, the Secretariat proposes to hold brief candidate presentation segments grouped per region in between the agenda items. Each candidate will have 2 minutes of speaking time.

The election of all Regional Councillor positions will come after all candidate presentations i.e. agenda item 5.7.

If a candidate for election cannot travel to Marseille, her/his presentation will be pre-recorded and screened during the Members’ Assembly.

All election results will be announced together after all elections will have been held, towards the end of the 6th Sitting.

5. “Marseille Outcomes”

Building on the experience from the “Hawaii Commitments” (2016), the IUCN Council intends to develop the “Marseille Outcomes” as a strategic and focused message from the Union to a global external audience.

The Marseille Outcomes will be organised around three key themes:

1. Post-COVID nature-based recovery with a focus on the role of conservation and natural resources in addressing medium to long-term consequences of the social and economic impacts. The scope of this outcome could embrace both the immediate exigencies of dealing with the pandemic as a health crisis, the longer term (and broadly known) consequences of a global recession as well as the opportunities to re-frame economic development (the so-called “build back better” agenda).

2. Post-2020 agenda and the biodiversity crisis channelling the broader conservation communities’ voice into the sort of ambition required from CBD COP15 at Kunming and providing the opportunity for the Union to position itself as a key delivery vehicle. IUCN has an acknowledged leadership role to support an ambitious agenda for the protection and conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030, including through effective and well-connected systems of protected and conserved areas.

3. The climate emergency allowing IUCN to send key messages to the Glasgow UNFCCC COP on the links between the climate and biodiversity crises, the options that nature offers to contribute to scaled-up action, both for mitigation and adaptation, and the need for a coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land/ecosystem degradation.

A fourth theme will focus on Partners, Alliances and Agency for Conservation and may either be included as a stand-alone theme or systematically integrated across the other three themes.

The relevant content of the Outcome messages will be a combination of forward looking outcomes / commitments that we, as the Union, and our partners would prioritise to work towards as well as significant announcements that key stakeholders might make during the Congress. Without it being a negotiated document, the legitimacy and ownership of the Marseille Outcomes among IUCN Members will be enhanced by a transparent informal process, ensuring that its content will be sourced from Congress outputs such as the
Summits, the High-Level Events, the Forum events and the motions adopted by the Congress.

The *Outcome* messages will therefore be developed in “real time” by a small working group set up in the framework of the Council’s Congress Preparatory Committee which will provide an opportunity for IUCN Members to comment on a draft of the *Marseille Outcomes* that will then be subsequently “welcomed by acclamation” towards the end of the Members’ Assembly.
Following the 1st sitting of the Members’ Assembly on 4 September, Contact Groups will be established as required and scheduled to be convened during both the Forum and the Members’ Assembly days i.e. (mornings from 07:15-08:20, lunchtime from 12:30-14:00 and evenings in two sequences: 19:00-20:15 and 20:30-21:45.)
Draft Agenda
of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Preliminary Meetings

2 September 2021

Commission Steering Committee meetings (subject to confirmation by the Commission Chairs, noting that some of the Commissions will be holding their Steering Committee meetings prior to Congress, virtually).

14:00-18:00 Meeting of the IUCN Council

Day 1 – 3 September 2021

08:30-12:30 Meeting of IUCN National and Regional Committee representatives and Country Focal Points (open meeting)

Commission Steering Committee meeting (subject to confirmation by the Commission Chairs, noting that some of the Commissions will be holding their Steering Committee meetings prior to Congress, virtually)

17:00-19:00 Opening Ceremony of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

19:45-21:45 Opening Reception of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

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1 A global meeting of the National and Regional Committees will be held as requested by Resolution WCC-2012-Res-005. A report on the outcomes of the meeting of the National and Regional Committees will be presented during the Members’ Assembly during the 5th Sitting. According to Article 20 of the IUCN Statutes, the Congress shall receive and consider, among others, the reports of recognised Regional Committees and Fora. As was the case for the 2016 Congress, this reporting obligation will be fulfilled by offering all National and Regional Committees space on the IUCN Congress website to publish their reports.
Forum and Exhibition²

All forum events can be viewed on the Congress website
Details of the Congress Themes can be viewed here

Day 2 – 4 September 2021

8:00-8:45 1st Sitting of the Members’ Assembly
1.1 Opening remarks by the IUCN President
1.2 Appointment and first progress report of the Congress Credentials Committee
1.3 Adoption of the Agenda
1.4 Appointment of the Resolutions, Finance and Audit, Governance, and Programme Committees of the Congress
1.5 Presentation by the Resolutions Committee about the schedule of Contact Groups for all motions including motions to amend the Statutes and other IUCN governance issues, about the process for motions on urgent and new topics, and submission for adoption of the Procedures and Code of Conduct for Contact Groups.
1.6 Presentation of the “Marseille Outcomes” process

Forum and Exhibition

Day 3 – 5 September 2021

Forum and Exhibition

Day 4 – 6 September 2021

Forum and Exhibition

Day 5 – 7 September 2021

Forum and Exhibition

18:30-20:30 Regional Members meetings³ (incl. presentation of election candidates, only if invited by the meeting organisers)

Contact Groups⁴/Social events

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² Exhibition will run in parallel with the Forum and partly with the Members’ Assembly
³ Regional Members meetings will take place on the eve of the 2nd Sitting of the Members’ Assembly
⁴ Contact Groups will be established as required and scheduled to be convened during the Forum and the Members’ Assembly days (i.e. mornings from 07:15-08:20, lunchtime from 12:30-14:00 and evenings in two sequences: 19:00-20:15 and 20:30-21:45).
Members’ Assembly

All documents of the Members’ Assembly listed per agenda item can be viewed on the Congress website
All motions adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote ending on 21 October 2020 can be viewed here
All items adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote ending on 10 February 2021 can be viewed here

Day 6 – 8 September 2021

8:30-12:30 2nd Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

2.1 Director General’s Report and introduction of the discussions of issues of strategic importance for the Union

2.2 Discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union and reports from the Summits⁵:
   2.2.1 Report on the results of the *IUCN One Nature, One Future Global Youth Summit*
   2.2.2 Report on the results of the *IUCN Summit for Cities, Local Authorities and Subnational Governments*
   2.2.3 Strategic discussion on: The influences of biodiversity loss and climate change on public health

2.3 Report of the IUCN President and Council

2.4 Elections: Information by the Election Officer about the election procedures

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

3.1 Presentation of candidates for Commission Chair and Treasurer

3.2 Presentation and debate among candidates for IUCN President

3.3 Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress of the discussions in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

3.4 Reports of the following IUCN Commissions including Awards established by these Commissions: WCEL, WCPA, SSC

3.5 Presentation of the laureate(s) of the John C. Phillips Memorial Medal and the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal, and approval of the laureate(s) for Honorary Membership of IUCN

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⁵As part of the strategic discussions, the Summit reports will be reported under the strategic topic where they are most relevant.
Day 7 – 9 September 2021

8:30-12:30  4th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

4.1 Discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union and reports from the Summits (continued):

4.1.1 Report on the results of the World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature

4.1.2 Strategic discussion: Structuring economies in a post COVID-19 world

4.2 Reports of the following IUCN Commissions including Awards established by these Commissions: CEESP, CEM, CEC

4.3 Election of the IUCN President, Treasurer and six Commission Chairs

4.4 Presentation of Regional Councillor candidates from West Asia and South and East Asia

4.5 Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

4.6 Presentation of Regional Councillor candidates from Africa

Contact Groups/Social events

14:00-18:15  5th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

5.1 Presentation of Regional Councillor candidates from Meso and South America, and North America and the Caribbean

5.2 Discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union and reports from the Summits (continued):

5.2.1 Report on the results of the CEOs Summit

5.2.2 Strategic discussion: Building a culture of conservation through new alliances and strengthening the agency of key actors

5.3 Presentation of Regional Councillor candidates from West Europe

5.4 Report of the Programme Committee and adoption of the draft Addendum to the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 ‘Impacts and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and human health on the IUCN Programme Nature 2030’

5.5 Presentation of Regional Councillor candidates from East Europe, North and Central Asia, and Oceania

5.6 Report on the meeting of all recognised National and Regional Committees

5.7 Election of Regional Councillors

18:30-20:30  6th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

6.1 Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress of discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

6.2 Report from the Election Officer on the results of all elections

Contact Groups/Social events

6 Contact Groups will be established as required and scheduled to be convened during the Forum and the Members’ Assembly days (i.e. mornings from 07:15-08:20, lunchtime from 12:30-14:00 and evenings in two sequences: 19:00-20:15 and 20:30-21:45.).
Day 8 – 10 September 2021

08:30-12:30 7th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

7.1 Finances of IUCN:
   7.1.1 Update from the Director General on the finances of IUCN
   7.1.2 Report of the Treasurer on the finances of IUCN
   7.1.3 Report of the Congress Finance and Audit Committee and approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the year 2020

7.2 Discussion and adoption of “Developing a comprehensive gender approach at IUCN”

7.3 Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress with the discussions in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

Contact Groups

14:00-19:15 8th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

8.1 Final report of the Congress Governance Committee and vote on any motions on IUCN governance including amendments to the Statutes that have not yet been voted on

8.2 Final report of the Resolutions Committee, followed by discussion and vote on motions (continued)

8.3 Presentation and welcome by acclamation of the Marseille Outcomes

20:00-21:00 9th Sitting of the Members’ Assembly

9.1 Recognition of outgoing members of the IUCN Council

9.2 Message from the President Elect

9.3 Closure of the IUCN World Conservation Congress by the outgoing President (including a closing speech from a representative of the Host Country)

21:00-21:45 Closing reception

11 September 2021

9:00-17:00 Meeting of the newly elected IUCN Council