



**IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
3–11 September 2021, Marseille, France**

**Draft Agenda
of the IUCN World Conservation Congress**

(2nd revision – August 2021)

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 online 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.

Further, on 8 July 2021, the IUCN Council decided to hold the elections exclusively by online vote before the Members' Assembly sittings of 8–10 September 2021, and to adopt the Draft Agenda accordingly.

The revised version that follows hereafter also takes into account that, as a result of the online 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

On 8 July 2021, in light of the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the IUCN Statute, Regulations and Rules of Procedure, the IUCN Council decided the following:

- a) IUCN Council elections shall be held by an online vote open to all IUCN Members eligible to vote (present in Marseille or not).
- b) Voting on motions and decision items other than elections shall take place during the Members' Assembly onsite by duly accredited delegates of IUCN Members who may carry proxies from eligible Members not able to participate in person. For details, [see the full decision C104/2 here](#).
- c) Contact Groups shall be organised virtually to allow Members off-site to participate in the discussion of content of motions. It will mean that also delegates present in Marseille will have to connect to the virtual Contact Group meetings from their electronic devices. The Resolutions Committee will decide in each case whether

motions that, after a first reading, prove hard to negotiate in virtual meetings in order to achieve a consensus text, should be discussed in drafting groups meeting in person onsite (Rule 56). More details to be provided soon.

The entire Members' Assembly will be live-streamed and the recordings of each plenary sitting made available for delayed viewing soon after they close. In accordance with Rule 66 (d), a Member entitled to vote but unable to attend the World Conservation Congress may give a proxy to an accredited delegation of a Member entitled to vote or a recognised National or Regional Committee 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) Formally 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. Voting for Elections during the IUCN Congress

Voting for the IUCN Council elections will take place online by those Members eligible to vote. The vote on elections will be **open on 4 September 2021 at 07h00 UTC and close on 7 September 2021 at 18h00 UTC**. If a second round for the election of the President is needed in accordance with Rule 81, paragraph (i.), **an additional online vote** will be opened for 24 to 30 hours during the Members' Assembly (8–10 September 2021) in time for the results to be announced before the closing of the Congress.

The online vote will be held under the supervision of the Election Officer and Deputy Election officer. The online voting system will allow elections to be held during Congress in the most secure way possible and under conditions that apply equally to all IUCN Members worldwide.

Use will be made of IUCN's online voting system as we know it from e.g. the vote on motions (October 2020) and the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 and other decisions items (February 2021). Authorized Vote Holders (AVH) of all IUCN Members eligible to vote, whether or not they are present onsite in Marseille, will receive the URL to cast their vote online. As always, Members will have an opportunity to designate their AVH and, if they so wish, may designate their Head of Delegation at Congress as the AVH for the online vote on elections.

5. The presentation of election candidates

Since elections will be held before the Members' Assembly sittings on 8–10 September, there will be no candidate presentations during the Members' Assembly. Candidates are encouraged to continue making use of their candidate pages on the IUCN Congress [website](#) to promote their candidacy and interact with IUCN Members.

A virtual Presidential candidates' debate (approximately 90') will be organised during the 2nd half of August 2021 and the recordings posted on the Congress [website](#). This will provide an equal opportunity to all three candidates, given the uncertainty on whether they will be able to attend the Congress in person.

However, should all three candidates for IUCN President be present in Marseille, an additional presidential candidates' debate will be held in person, on 3 September 2021, as part of the Meeting of the National and Regional Committees.

Additional details will be provided in the coming weeks.

All **election results** will be announced during the 3rd sitting of the Members' Assembly on 8 September, 2021. They will also be published on the Congress website immediately after their announcement during the Members' Assembly.

6. "Marseille Outcomes"

Building on the experience from the "*Hawai'i 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.

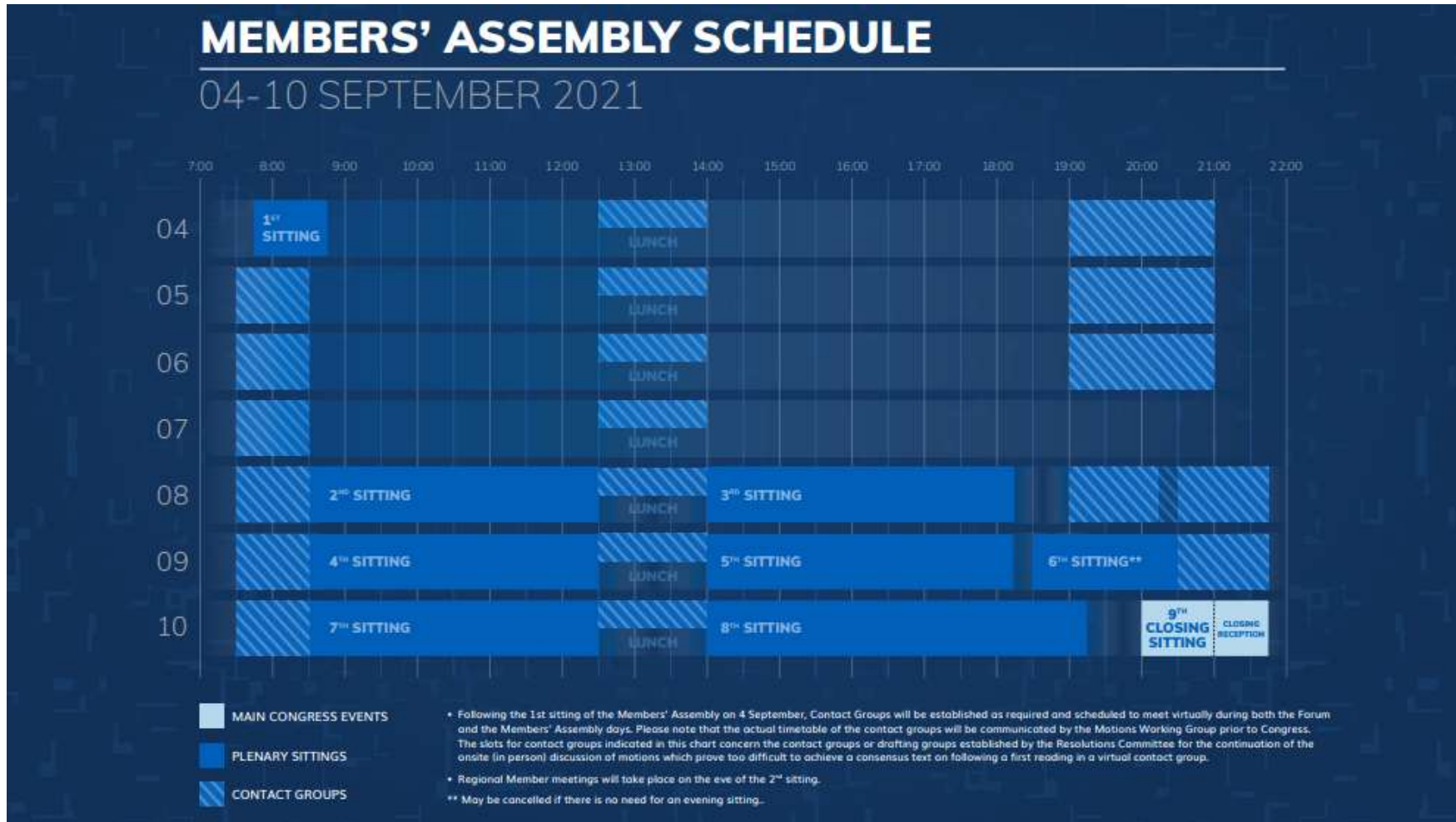
A fourth theme will focus on Partners, Alliances and Agency for Conservation and may either be included as a stand-alone theme or systematically integrated across the other three themes.

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.



Draft Overview of the IUCN World Conservation Congress
Marseille, France





IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

3–11 September 2021, Marseille, France

**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

08:30-16:30 Meeting of IUCN National and Regional Committee representatives and Country Focal Points (open meeting)¹

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**

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

- 08:00-8:45 **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
 - 1.7 Council motion granting postponement of the obligation to pay the 2020 dues to IUCN Members which have been in arrears of paying them as a direct result of the pandemic⁴

09:00 (07:00 UTC³) **Opening** of the online vote on elections to all IUCN Members⁵

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 meetings⁶

20:00 (18:00 UTC) **Closing** of the online vote on elections to all IUCN Members

Contact Groups⁷/Social events

² Exhibition will run in parallel with the Forum and partly with the Members' Assembly.

³ Or after the end of the 1st sitting of the Members' Assembly, whichever is later. The adoption of the Council motion referred to in agenda item 1.7 may postpone the opening of the online vote on elections by 3 to 6 hours, to be confirmed during the 1st Sitting of the Members' Assembly.

⁴ Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council on 14 July 2021 (decision B96/4) and endorsed by the IUCN Council on 2 August 2021.

⁵ The online vote on elections will close on 7 September 2021 at 18:00 UTC.

⁶ Regional Members meetings will take place on the eve of the 2nd Sitting of the Members' Assembly.

⁷ Contact Groups will be established as required and scheduled to meet virtually during the Forum and the Members' Assembly days. Please note that the actual timetable of the Contact Groups will be communicated by the Motions Working Group prior to Congress.

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

08:30-12:30 **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 Summits⁸:
 - 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

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

- 3.1 Report from the Election Officer on the results of all elections⁹
- 3.2 Motion calling for an online vote on all motions following the Congress
- 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

Contact Groups

⁸ As part of the strategic discussions, the Summit reports will be reported under the strategic topic where they are most relevant.

⁹ If a second round for the election of the President is needed in accordance with Rule 81, paragraph (i.), **an additional online vote** will be opened for 24 to 30 hours during the Members' Assembly (8-10 September 2021) in time for the results to be announced before the closing of the Congress.

Day 7 – 9 September 2021

08:30-12:30 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 Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

Contact Groups/Social events

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

- 5.1 Discussion of issues of strategic importance for the Union and reports from the Summits (continued):
 - 5.1.1 Report on the results of the *CEOs Summit*
 - 5.1.2 Strategic discussion: **Building a culture of conservation through new alliances and strengthening the agency of key actors**
- 5.2 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*'
- 5.3 Report on the meeting of all recognised National and Regional Committees

18:30-20:30 6th Sitting of the Members' Assembly¹⁰

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

Contact Groups¹¹/Social events

¹⁰ This sitting may be cancelled if there is no need for an evening session.

¹¹ Contact Groups will be established as required and scheduled to meet virtually during the Forum and the Members' Assembly days. Please note that the actual timetable of the Contact Groups will be communicated by the Motions Working Group prior to Congress.

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

7.1.1 Report of the Treasurer on the finances of IUCN

7.1.2 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

09:00-17:00 Meeting of the newly elected IUCN Council