Election of the IUCN President, Treasurer and the Chairs of the Commissions

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress is invited to:

1. CONSIDER the candidates nominated by the IUCN Council for the positions of IUCN President (Annex 1), IUCN Treasurer (Annex 2) and Chairs of the six IUCN Commissions (Annex 3);
2. ELECT the IUCN President, IUCN Treasurer and Chairs of six IUCN Commissions.

MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

ELECTS the following individuals as:

1. IUCN President: …
2. IUCN Treasurer: …
3. Chairs of the IUCN Commissions: …

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. In March 2019, the IUCN Council, at its 96th Meeting, set the deadline of 11 December 2019 for receipt of all proposals for nomination to Council for President, Treasurer, and Commission Chairs. The Council also appointed Professor Denise E. Antolini as Election Officer, pursuant to IUCN Statutes, Article 46(q) and Regulation 28 (b).

2. Article 27 of the IUCN Statutes provides that “The President, the Treasurer and the Chairs of the Commissions shall be elected by the World Conservation Congress on the nomination of the Council. Nominations for the President may also be made by forty members eligible to vote from at least three Regions, within the period prescribed in the Regulations.”

3. Regulation 32 specifies that “Not more than two nominations for President and for Treasurer shall be made by the Council after considering the proposals made by Members in Categories A, B and C.”

4. Regulation 32 also provides that: “Nominations for President may also be made directly by Members as provided for in the Statutes, provided that such nomination is received by the Director General not less than two months prior to the opening of the session of the World Congress.” The deadline for any such directly nominated candidates, which does not go through the Nominations or Council approval process described in this Explanatory Memorandum, is November 7, 2020.
5. On 1 July 2019, the Bureau of the IUCN Council approved the background details on the role and function of the IUCN President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs including required qualifications (decision B/XVI). At the same time, the Council approved the IUCN Council’s Guidance for 2020 Election Candidates.

6. On 25 July 2019, in accordance with the procedures set out in the IUCN Regulations, the Acting Director General wrote to Members of IUCN in Categories A, B and C inviting their proposals for persons to be nominated by Council for the positions of President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs. The Acting Director General also invited all members of the IUCN Commissions to make proposals for the Chair of their Commission.

7. The IUCN Commissions also proposed candidates to Council through ad hoc committees in accordance with 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 Committee, shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to Council.”

8. In October 2019, during its 97th Meeting, the Council adopted the Terms of Reference of the Council’s Nominations Committee to assist it in the selection process of the candidates for President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs.

9. All proposals for nomination submitted from IUCN Members, Commission members, and the ad hoc committees of each Commission were sent to and reviewed by the Election Officer in conformity with Regulations 30 and 35. The Election Officer transmitted the proposals meeting the requirements of the IUCN Statutes and Regulations to the Council’s Nominations Committee and submitted a report to the Committee on all submitted nominations and the election process.