



**IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS  
3–10 September 2021, Marseille, France**

## **Report of the IUCN Council**

**Action Requested:** The IUCN World Conservation Congress is invited to CONSIDER the draft Report of the IUCN Council to Congress

### **I. Introduction**

This report outlines the major activities and achievements of the IUCN Council 2016–2021, a period which has been “shaped” by the global coronavirus pandemic. This devastating event has not only disrupted the lives and livelihoods of many millions of people, but it has also underlined the importance of a sound relationship between humanity and nature.

The IUCN Council is the principle governance body of IUCN, and constitutes the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of the Union, working alongside Members, the Secretariat and Commissions. The Council works and acts on behalf of the IUCN membership between sessions of the World Conservation Congress. Following its election in 2016, Council has addressed many issues and executed its role as stipulated in Article 37 of our [Statutes](#): to have responsibility for oversight and general control of all affairs of IUCN. Included in this are the following: to set strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union; to provide oversight and guidance on the performance of the components of the Union as a whole and of the Director General in particular, encouraging coherence among its component parts; to fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities to the Members of the Union and to render an account to them on the achievement of the Union’s objectives; and to support the Director General in communicating IUCN objectives and policy and the IUCN Programme to the world community. While there have been many successes, Council faces ongoing challenges in these roles, challenges that must continue to be addressed by the incoming Council.

The IUCN Council has guided the implementation of the outcomes of the 2016 Congress in Hawai’i through oversight of the Secretariat and facilitating and supporting the work of Members and Commissions, as well as the Secretariat.

The IUCN Council is a voluntary body and its members receive no financial benefits for its extensive service. It carries out its work through three standing committees [Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC); Finance and Audit Committee (FAC); Programme and Policy Committee (PPC)], the Bureau, its President and Vice Presidents, and various task forces and working groups (see Annex 1).

### **II. Governance during the pandemic – a complex issue with long-term effects**

Governance during the pandemic has proven to be a complex issue with long term-effects for our Union. Although the pandemic disrupted our ordinary ways of working and caused much concern, it also has given us the opportunity to develop our ways of governing and managing the Union. We have used virtual tools to continue to influence decision makers with our unique strengths: the power of science and respect for diverse knowledge systems, the power to convene and the power of the global conservation network.

In March 2020, shortly after the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the IUCN Council decided to postpone the Congress from June 2020 until January 2021. In September 2020, given the high levels of uncertainty about the trajectory of the pandemic, Council further postponed the Congress to a date to be determined in agreement with the Host Country. In December 2020, the Council made the final decision to convene the Congress in Marseille for September 2021. Subsequently, based on a thorough analysis prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Host Country, and reviewed by the Congress Preparatory Committee, the IUCN Council decided, in April 2021<sup>1</sup>, to maintain the Congress convened for September 2021 in Marseille as an in-person event. However, its infrastructure was adjusted in order to enable virtual (remote) participation in a number of Congress events, thus making it a “hybrid” Congress.

To ensure the continuity of IUCN’s operations over this period, the Council referred a limited number of decision items included in the Congress Agenda to an online vote by the IUCN Members<sup>2</sup>. Through the online vote, which closed on 10 February 2021<sup>3</sup>, IUCN Members adopted, among others, the IUCN Programme and Financial Plan 2021–2024, the mandates of the IUCN Commissions 2021–2024, the audited financial statements for the years 2016 to 2019 and the membership dues for the new quadrennial. Taking account of statutory limitations and in response to IUCN Members, Council agreed that Elections would be conducted virtually while the motions that the Motions Working Group had previously designated to be referred to Congress would be voted on in person or by proxy<sup>4</sup>.

### III. Setting strategic direction for the Union

#### *Programme*

A new long-term Programme preparing the Union for a new decade was adopted by the IUCN Council in February 2020<sup>5</sup> and approved by the IUCN membership in an online vote held in February 2021. Council, through its work in the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) and its engagement with Members, exercises a strategic role in the preparation of the Programme, providing guidance and technical expertise to the Secretariat, as well as oversight in the subsequent implementation.

Important programmatic developments include a new long-term perspective. The [Nature 2030 IUCN Programme](#) sets its ambition in a decadal timeframe (2021–2030), ensuring closer alignment with United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **Nature 2030**, a truly unified Programme as envisaged in the [IUCN “One Programme Charter”](#), is a call for mobilisation to the entire Union. This high-level, strategic document aims to strengthen the Union’s delivery and impact more effectively by leveraging the respective roles, capacities and unique features of the constituent parts of the Union – our Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees and Secretariat.

Council’s work to raise awareness about the key role that oceans play to support nature and people has been promoted by establishing within Council an Oceans Global Focal Person, and is reflected in the IUCN Programme with its aim to focus on strengthened national and international legal frameworks, and sustainable investments that retain and restore ocean

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. [Council decision C103/2](#)

<sup>2</sup> Cf. [Council decision C100/3](#)

<sup>3</sup> See the [results of the online vote closing on 10 February 2021](#)

<sup>4</sup> Cf. [Council decision C104/2](#)

<sup>5</sup> Cf. [Council decision C98/2](#)

and coastal biodiversity and associated services. The importance of the intersection of biodiversity-health-climate change is reflected in the IUCN Programme addendum as the result of the work of the IUCN Council and IUCN Commissions. Furthermore, in February 2020, Council approved the [Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#), which provides a guidance for benchmarking nature-based responses to global challenges such as food and water security, human health or climate change.

At the 2016 World Conservation Congress, IUCN Members adopted [Resolution 029](#) on “Incorporating urban dimensions of conservation into the work of IUCN.” The motion had been prepared by Council’s Urban Task Force. In order to implement the Resolution, the Members called on Council – IUCN’s highest decision-making body – to establish the IUCN Urban Alliance as a broad coalition of IUCN constituents. The [IUCN Urban Alliance](#) was launched in late 2018 and the work since has even further underlined the need for strengthened alliances and tools to secure nature in urban environments.

Concomitant with its role of developing policy and guiding the programmatic work of the Union, Council has advanced several forward-looking Council-sponsored motions. Included is a [motion](#) requesting the Union to begin work on developing an IUCN policy on synthetic biology and biodiversity conservation and another [motion](#) on protecting the rights of environmental defenders and whistleblowers. Council’s work on the latter culminates in a high-level event at the Marseille Congress.

Council also has repeatedly highlighted the important role which youth play in the work of the Union at all levels. The very successful Youth Summit in the Spring of 2021, led by the work of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication as a precursor to Congress, is an example of this work.

## **Governance**

The Council, through its Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC), has undertaken a series of initiatives to improve governance<sup>6</sup>, including by strengthening accountability to and engagement of IUCN Members, a [motion](#) for more effective organisation of Member Committee reforms, strengthening accountability and oversight, and improving capacity for strategic development.

The Council recognised the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development in 2017<sup>7</sup>, adopted a new IUCN Membership Strategy in February 2020<sup>8</sup>, and requested the Director General to ensure that Members are recruited in areas where they are under-represented<sup>9</sup>.

The Council has demonstrated its commitment to strengthening diversity in IUCN. It developed a Comprehensive Gender Approach in 2020<sup>10</sup>, which will be presented for adoption at the Marseille Congress, and incorporated diversity requirements in the 2021 IUCN Programme of Work<sup>11</sup> to more equitably engage IUCN Members and guide Union development. In line with Article 38(f) of the Statutes, Council appointed an indigenous

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<sup>6</sup> Cf. [Council decision C94/5](#)

<sup>7</sup> Cf. [Council decision C92/11](#)

<sup>8</sup> Cf. [Council decision C98/24](#)

<sup>9</sup> Cf. [Council decision C93/12](#)

<sup>10</sup> Cf. [Council decision C100/2 \(Annex 5\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> Cf. [Council decision C95/8](#)

person to Council<sup>12</sup> and has sponsored a [motion](#) creating a permanent seat in Council for an Indigenous Peoples' representative.

In 2017, the Bureau and the Director General agreed that Council should have full access to all required information to strengthen oversight and guidance, except for information protected by applicable laws<sup>13</sup>. The Council implemented the stronger role of the Bureau and standing committees which was a key element of the governance reforms adopted by the previous Council towards the end of its mandate in April 2016 with the purpose of enabling the Council to fully exercise its strategic and oversight roles<sup>14</sup>.

Council has extended the reporting requirements of the Head of Oversight to include reporting to Council. Council's Response to the External Review noted that appropriate mechanisms be studied and recommended for Council to participate in the evaluation of the Legal Advisor who is appointed by Council [Statutes, Article 46(o)] and the Secretary to Council, who is approved by Council and appointed in consultation with the IUCN President (Regulation 56*bis*).

In its [Council Response](#) to the [External Review of Aspects of IUCN's Governance](#), Council committed to improving IUCN's governance. This provides the groundwork for the next Council to strengthen the ability of Council to fulfil its statutory functions. The Council has prepared a [motion](#) proposing that IUCN undertake a full strategic planning process that also addresses financial stability.

### **Finance**

Council, through its Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), has adopted several policies, namely the Human Resources Policy, the Risk Policy, the Investment Policy and Commission Financial Rules, to improve performance and resource management including financial and human resources as well as reduce potential risks to the Union. The FAC has also reviewed the investment portfolio and modified the structure of the investment to improve revenue generation from the investment while maintaining a similar risk level.

Moreover, the FAC has appointed a task force to identify the risks in the IUCN financial model, from both the revenue and the expense side, and to propose strategic financial guidance and an outline to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Union post 2020. The external risks considered included the revenue reliance on a small number of States and the decline in framework income over the last five years. Internal challenges identified include the adequacy of reserves to absorb potential risks, particularly in relation to the scale of the project portfolio, and the structure of the financial model, which does not generate sufficient funding from operations, after costs, to build reserves or to invest in development and growth.

It was therefore proposed that steps should be taken to reassess the adequacy of the reserves needed to absorb current and future risks, to strengthen and diversify revenues, and to systematically re-examine the present cost and efficiency models and practices.

The strategic financial guidance and its implementation proposed by the task force was then reviewed in light of the pandemic, which adversely impacted project implementation and income, and resulted in unplanned costs and a reduction in the level of available reserves.

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<sup>12</sup> Cf. [Council decision C94/20](#)

<sup>13</sup> Cf. [summary minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Bureau \(November 2017\), p. 8](#)

<sup>14</sup> Cf. [Council decision C88/7 \(April 2016\)](#)

Council will propose to Congress a [motion](#) to strengthen financial governance with a clarification of the role of the Treasurer, who will now focus on advice and reporting to Council. The Council, with the support of the FAC and the Treasurer, has responsibility for ensuring the long-term financial stability of IUCN and for oversight of the Secretariat as it implements agreed strategies and policies. How this is to be done is not well defined and would merit a speedy, preferably independent review, in the face of new and pressing financial challenges.

In addition, the FAC has developed a draft outline for IUCN long-term financial strategy. Development of the strategy is expected to be fully developed by the next Council. Therefore, this Council submitted a [motion](#) to Congress to ask the next Council to develop a long-term financial strategy that is aligned with the overall Union strategy.

#### **IV. Providing oversight and guidance on performance**

The Council provides oversight and guidance on the performance of the components of the Union [Statutes, Article 37(b)(ii)].

The Congress Preparatory Committee has overseen preparations for the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, among them: inspection of the venue, approval of sanitary measures for Congress taking account of the Covid-19 pandemic, selection of Forum events including High Level Events, and guidance to the Secretariat regarding diversity in participation and speakers as envisioned under the Gender Strategy for IUCN Events.

The Council has strengthened the performance requirements of Councillors in both their roles as members of the Council and of its standing committees<sup>15</sup>. It has also revised and updated the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the Council Handbook.

The Council also reviews the work of the Commissions on an annual basis [Statutes, Article 46(f)]. As of February 2020, Commission membership has grown to more than 15,000, with many of these members participating in the activities of more than one Commission. All Commissions have successfully used the impetus of the pandemic to engage their membership virtually in a host of webinars.

The IUCN President and Vice Presidents evaluate the work of the Director General as per the IUCN Statutes, Article 46(k). In line with a decision of the previous Council, the Director General's objectives were set and the evaluations undertaken on an annual basis, strengthening Council's role of oversight, strategic development and policy guidance. In addition, the Council approves the annual report of the Director General and the audited financial statements [Statutes, Article 46 (g)]. Following review of the external auditors' reports which were all "unqualified", the Council endorsed the audited financial statements for the years 2016 to 2020.

The FAC has provided oversight of the Union's financial stability and has identified the following risks for the Union: (1) a reserve level too low to mitigate unforeseen risk impact; (2) low income generation resulting from slow project implementation as well as relatively low compensation for overhead costs; (3) a decline in framework income and a reliance on very few donors; (4) high initial investment for the development of large projects vs potential recovery of this investment cost; and (5) low income generation from the investments made in accordance with the approved investment policy which sets low risk as the main principle for investment.

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<sup>15</sup> Cf. Bureau decision B97/2 (August 2021) [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN B97 DECISIONS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE](#)

The oversight of Human Resources policy and practices is a key function of Council. However, other than reviewing and approving policies, this has proven to be difficult to carry out. It has always been difficult to distinguish between micro management and oversight issues which has often resulted in relying on the information provided by the Secretariat to fulfil this function.

In 2018, the IUCN Council appointed Stewardship & Governance Associates (SGA) to undertake a review of IUCN's governance. Published in July 2019, this [External Review of Aspects of IUCN's Governance](#) identified key actions required to strengthen the four key pillars of governance: people, information architecture, structures and processes, and institutional culture. A Council working group considered the findings of the review and drafted a response. Following review by the GCC, the [Council Response](#) was approved by Council in early January 2020. As with previous reviews, this Council has undertaken some actions and is handing over remaining actions to the incoming Council.

## **V. Fulfilling fiduciary responsibilities to the Members of the Union**

A major component of Council time is allocated to the fulfilment of its fiduciary responsibility.

The Council has emphasised the importance of the engagement of Regional Councillors with IUCN Members to ensure that their interests are respected and a relationship of trust is fostered and strengthened. To facilitate this, the Council approved a small budget to support Councillors who face challenges when attending Member meetings due to financial constraints<sup>16</sup>. Normally Councillors are required to cover these costs themselves, which can prove difficult for many. This IUCN Council urges the incoming Council to ensure adequate budgetary allocations to governance.

The Council also reviewed and approved the annual work plans and budgets for the years 2017 to 2021.

Council has the fiduciary responsibility for the financial stability of the Union (Articles 46(f) and 83). In this role, Council noted key challenges related to financial sustainability and in 2017 requested the Director General to maintain the target of financial reserves to 25m CHF. It has also addressed the structural weaknesses in the funding model and addressed some of the financial challenges inherent in the centre-regional structure of IUCN. The Council approved a budget of 250K CHF to enable the current Director General to invest in revenue growth over the coming four years. This work should be continued under the new Council and increased efforts and resources should be committed to strengthening financial governance and oversight.

The IUCN Council appointed a new Director General in 2020, pursuant to Article 46(j) of the IUCN Statutes. The latter part of this process proved to be challenging due to COVID restrictions in travel and physical meetings. The new Director General brings a wealth of experience in sustainable resource management and green economy. He has explored and shaped the interface between environmental policy, economic development and social equity from the perspectives of state regulator, entrepreneur and scientist.

IUCN Statutes require each application for IUCN membership to undergo a thorough due diligence and consultation of all IUCN Members. This process was enhanced in May 2018 through additional due diligence<sup>17</sup>. Following this procedure, Council admitted 346 new IUCN Members, including 12 new State Members (as of 18 August 2021). As regrettably,

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<sup>16</sup> Cf. [Council decision C94/11](#)

<sup>17</sup> Cf. [Council decision C94/13](#)

some State members did not renew their membership, the IUCN Council requested the Director General to undertake measures to attract and retain State members. A Council [motion](#) addresses the terms under which State members can be readmitted.

Since the 2016 Congress, the IUCN Council has recognised seven National Committees of IUCN from Belize, Benin, Cambodia, Chile, Palestine, UAE and USA.

The Council appointed the Deputy Chairs and Steering Committee members of all six IUCN Commissions on the proposal of their respective Chairs.

Following a rigorous and transparent bidding process, Council chose Marseille, France, as the venue for the 2020 Congress<sup>18</sup>. It established the Congress Preparatory Committee, which includes the Host Country, to support Council in the oversight and strategic guidance of the Congress preparations. Due to the CoVID-19 pandemic, preparations for Congress have had to be modified in order to take into account the limitations imposed.

Following the proposals made by IUCN Members and members of the Commissions concerned, Council nominated candidates for President, Treasurer and the Chairs of the six IUCN Commissions<sup>19</sup>. As recommended by the previous Council (2012–2016), nominations were made for two presidential candidates who can bring to the Union the competencies and profiles needed to leverage influence with key political and economic actors and to bring new resources to the table. In 2017 new TORs<sup>20</sup> were developed for the Treasurer, allowing for the first time for the Treasurer to come from anywhere in the world. In preparation for elections at the upcoming Congress, new TORs<sup>21</sup> were also adopted in 2019 for Regional Councillors.

The IUCN Council has submitted 11 programmatic motions to IUCN Members to vote on at Congress. These range from a call to pursue integrated approaches to solve the climate change and biodiversity crisis to strengthening the IUCN Urban Alliance to developing a policy on natural capital. In addition, the Council has submitted 12 governance motions containing proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes including several improvements to the motions process and the inclusion of sub-national governments in IUCN's membership structure. See Annex 3 below for a list of motions.

## **VI. Support the Director General in communicating IUCN objectives and policy, and IUCN Programme to the world community**

Members of the IUCN Council, at the request of the Director General, engage in publically communicating IUCN objectives and policy. In 2017, the Council recommended to the Director General that opportunities be sought to engage Regional Councillors in high-level events to increase their opportunities to engage with IUCN Members<sup>22</sup>.

During the period 2016–2021, members of Council have contributed substantial time to global, regional and national events. These include participating in National and Regional Committees and Regional Conservation Fora, and providing support to the President and Director General during visits to their country/region. Following a decision of the IUCN Council, a small amount has been reserved in the annual IUCN budget for supporting

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<sup>18</sup> Cf. [decision C94/21](#)

<sup>19</sup> Cf. [decision C98/5](#)

<sup>20</sup> Cf. [Bureau decision B73/1](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Bureau decision B/XVI, 1 July 2019](#)

<sup>22</sup> Cf. [decision C93/13](#)

attendance of Regional Councillors at meetings of the National and Regional Committees and other important events in their regions.

Council members have also brought their support and expertise to IUCN delegations to multilateral meetings, to emphasise in the international policy arena the importance of the sustainable use and management of natural resources and biodiversity, and the need for targeted global action. Some of the meetings attended were high-level UN fora, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, CITES, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## VII. Recommendations for the next Council

The *External Review of Aspects of IUCN's Governance* has set the groundwork for the next Council. Rebuilding the Union's governance structures and reinforcing the work of the Council should be a priority to enable IUCN to emerge as a more robust and resilient Union, capable of responding to the continually changing challenges of the conservation world.

To maximise Council's role of setting the strategic direction of the Union, an IUCN Council-sponsored [motion](#) requests the incoming Council to undertake a strategic planning process to develop a 20-year strategic vision and plan for the Union. This will establish a clear roadmap to ensure that the Union effectively and efficiently fulfils its mandated objectives.

The pandemic has influenced not only the work of our Members, the members of our Commissions and the Secretariat. But it has also affected the work of Council in many areas. There is a clear need for the next Council, based on the roles of Council and its internal and external relations, to find new ways to maximize the effectiveness of its work. To complement increased effectiveness of Council's work, there is a need to strengthen the effectiveness of the Union in responding to extraordinary situations such as the pandemic. Our recommendation is for the incoming Council to review and possibly amend the Statutes to render IUCN more agile and responsive in the face of unexpected challenges requiring urgent action.

In order for Council to effectively govern the Union using best practice governance principles, measures will need to be undertaken in the medium term to augment the skills in Council through increased availability of independent skills. Possibilities include an evaluation mechanism for individual Council members against established objectives or a mapping of the skills and expertise needed to align with the Union's strategic direction. Strengthening financial oversight should be taken into consideration when augmenting the Council's skills, in particular the financial expertise in the Finance and Audit Committee, paying particular attention to risk management. It is also important that the Secretariat avoid engagement in sensitive oversight areas.

Building on the collaborative work to develop the new **Nature 2030** Programme, inspired by the spirit of the One Programme Charter, the incoming Council should continue to engage all components of the Union. It should exert its role of providing strategic direction to the Union by making use of the new long-term structure to ensure alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Finally, the Council should capitalise on this "One nature, one future" Programme, as well as the impacts of the pandemic, to continue to demonstrate the importance of nature and the critical relationship between people and nature.

To leverage the unique strength found in IUCN's membership, the next Council should continue to enhance its relationship with Members to reinforce their engagement and augment their contributions to the collective expertise of the Union. The Strategic Planning



process will consider whether new membership models will need to be developed in order to meet strategic requirements.

As noted in the External Review, it is crucial for Council and management to have a clearer and shared understanding of the scope and importance of oversight. While we have made some progress in this area, our recommendation is to call for a commitment to clear, transparent and respectful communication as the key to a successful relationship between governance bodies. The work of Council is dynamic, challenging and forward-looking, and the willingness of the different parts of the Union to collaborate is essential to realising the IUCN mission 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”.

## Composition, structure and activities of the IUCN Council 2016–2021

The IUCN Council comprises the [President](#), the [Treasurer](#), the [Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat](#) (Switzerland), [twenty-eight Regional Councillors](#), the [Chairs of IUCN's six Commissions](#) and the [additional appointed Councillor](#) (see Annex 2 below).

All members of the IUCN Council were elected by the 2016 Congress with the exception of the Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat and the additional appointed Councillor, and the following two Council members:

- Mr Nihal Welikala (Sri Lanka/UK) who was appointed by the IUCN Council in April 2018 as IUCN Treasurer following the resignation of Mr Patrick de Heney (Switzerland/UK);
- Ms Natalia Danilina (Russian Federation) who was appointed by the IUCN Council in December 2018 following the passing away of Dr Rustam Sagitov.

By the time of the 2021 Congress in September 2021, the IUCN Council will have held 16 meetings. Numbered from the 91<sup>st</sup> to the 105<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will have included seven ordinary (six-monthly) meetings held in person, two short meetings in person of which one held immediately after the closure of the 2016 Congress in Hawai'i and the other before the opening of the 2021 Congress in Marseille, and seven meetings held by videoconference<sup>23</sup>.

The ordinary meetings were held at the IUCN Conservation Centre in Gland except the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting which was hosted by the Government of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Republic of Korea at the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Leaders Conservation Forum.

The Bureau established by the IUCN Council is comprised of the President, Treasurer, two Vice-Presidents, a Commission Chair, two Regional Councillors and the Chairs of the three standing committees of the Council (the Finance and Audit Committee, Governance and Constituency Committee, and Programme and Policy Committee) and the Director General (without vote). Between May 2017 and August 2021, the Bureau will have held twenty-five meetings, numbered 69 to 96, of which nine in person and the others by videoconference.

All [decisions of the Council and the Bureau, adopted during meetings](#) (in person and by videoconference) or [by email correspondence between meetings of the Council](#), can be viewed on IUCN's public website in the three official languages of IUCN (English, French and Spanish). Since Council updated its [Transparency Policy](#) in 2016, also the [documents](#) prepared for Council and Bureau meetings (in person and by videoconference) as well as the [summary minutes](#) of these meetings have been posted on IUCN's public website. Summary minutes have been published in the three official languages while documents have only been published in their original (mostly English) version.

Four [Vice-Presidents](#) support the President with advice, assist him in the management of Council meetings and the evaluation of the Director General, and serve as the Council's Ethics Committee.

Every Council member serves on one of the three standing (permanent) committees of the Council. In addition, the Council established also the following temporary bodies: the Congress Preparatory Committee, the Motions Working Group, the Nominations Committee, the Succession Planning Committee and the Search Committee for the Director General. The Council appointed Mr Peter Cochrane as Council's Global Oceans Focal Person.

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<sup>23</sup> Held between August 2020 and June 2021. The 101<sup>st</sup> Council meeting was held in November 2020 in two sessions on two different dates.

The standing committees established task force to accomplish specific and time bound tasks, such as the Climate Change Task Force, the Private Sector Task Force, the Urban Task Force, the Retirement of Resolutions Task Force, the Conservation and Human Rights Task Force, the Post-2020 Global biodiversity framework Task Force, the Financial Planning post-2020 Task Force and the Joint FAC/GCC Task Force on membership dues. In addition to meetings held in the context of the ordinary meetings of Council, the Council's standing committees and their task forces accomplished their work through virtual meetings or email correspondence.

Council members have played an active role between meetings of Council, contributing substantial time to global, regional and national events including National and Regional Committees and Regional Conservation Fora, or as part of IUCN delegations to multilateral meetings, or providing support to the President and Director General during visits to their country/region. Following a decision of the IUCN Council, a small amount has been reserved in the annual IUCN Budget supporting Regional Councillors' attendance to meetings of National and Regional Committees and other important events in their region.

## IUCN COUNCIL 2016–2021

### **PRESIDENT:**

Mr ZHANG Xinsheng, China

### **TREASURER:**

Mr Nihal Welikala, Sri Lanka and UK<sup>24</sup>

### **COMMISSION CHAIRS:**

#### Commission on Ecosystem Management

Ms Angela Andrade, Colombia

#### Commission on Education and Communication

Mr Sean Southey, Canada/South Africa

#### Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

Ms Kristen Walker Painemilla, USA

#### Species Survival Commission

Mr Jon Paul Rodriguez, Venezuela

#### World Commission on Environmental Law

Mr Antonio Herman Benjamin, Brazil

#### World Commission on Protected Areas

Ms Kathy MacKinnon, United Kingdom

### **REGIONAL COUNCILLORS:**

#### Africa

Mr Mamadou Diallo, Senegal

Ms Jesca Eriyo Osuna, Uganda Mr

Ali Kaka, Kenya

Ms Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, South Africa

#### Meso and South America

Mr Lider Sucre, Panamá

Mr Marco Vinicio Cerezo Blandon, Guatemala

Mr Carlos Cesar Durigan, Brasil

Ms Jenny Gruenberger, Bolivia

#### North America and the Caribbean

Mr John Robinson, USA

Mr Rick Bates, Canada

Mr Sixto J. Inchaustegui, Dominican Rep.

#### South and East Asia

Mr Amran Hamzah, Malaysia

Mr Masahiko Horie, Japan

Mr Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Pakistan

Mr Mangal Man Shakya, Nepal

Mr Youngbae Suh, Republic of Korea

#### West Asia

Ms Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheeri, UAE

Mr Said Ahmad Damhoureyeh, Jordan

Mr Ayman Rabi, Palestine

#### Oceania

Mr Andrew Bignell, New Zealand

Mr Peter Michael Cochrane, Australia

Ms Ana Elizabeth Tiraa, Cook Islands

#### East Europe, North and Central Asia

Ms Natalia Danilina, Russian Federation<sup>25</sup>

Mr Michael Hošek, Czech Republic

Ms Tamar Pataridze, Georgia

#### West Europe

Ms Hilde Eggermont, Belgium

Mr Jonathan Hughes, United Kingdom

Mr Jan Olov Westerberg, Sweden

### **COUNCILLOR FROM THE STATE IN WHICH IUCN HAS ITS SEAT:**

Mr Norbert Baerlocher, Switzerland

### **ADDITIONAL APPOINTED COUNCILLOR:**

Mr Ramiro Batzin Chojoj, Guatemala<sup>26</sup>

### **DIRECTOR GENERAL:**

Mr Bruno Oberle<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Appointed by the IUCN Council in April 2018 following the resignation of Mr Patrick de Heney, Switzerland/United Kingdom, who had been elected by the 2016 Congress.

<sup>25</sup> Appointed by the IUCN Council in December 2018, following the passing away of Dr Rustam Sagitov who had been elected by the 2016 Congress.

<sup>26</sup> Appointed by the IUCN Council in May 2018.

<sup>27</sup> From 13 July 2020 following his appointment in June 2020. On appointment by the IUCN Council, Dr Grethel Aguilar had been acting Director General from 1 June 2019 following the departure of Ms Inger Andersen who had been Director General since January 2015.

## Council-sponsored motions to Congress

### Programmatic

1. IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation
2. Archiving obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations and future policy reviews
3. Develop and implement a transformational and effective post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for people and nature
4. Partnerships and adoption of a Global Ecosystem Typology
5. Development of a Standard Approach to Implement Nature-based Solutions for Societal Challenges
6. Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021 – 2030
7. Strengthening the IUCN Urban Alliance
8. Towards a policy on Natural Capital
9. Protecting Environmental Human and Peoples Rights Defenders and Whistleblowers
10. Climate change and biodiversity crisis – a call to action
11. Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UNSDGs

*The list above refers to the motions approved by Council for submission to Congress, pursuant to Bureau decision B/78/2 of 19 August 2019. The list below contains these same motions as they were approved by the Motions Working Group and following input by Members during the online discussion. The discrepancy in titles for several of the motions is a result of this review process.*

1. Motion 075: IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation
2. Motion 001: Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews
3. Motion 040: Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework
4. Motion 074: Partnerships and further development of a Global Ecosystem Typology
5. Motion 073: Promotion of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions
6. Motion 042: Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021–2030
7. Motion 081: Call for Nature in Cities agendas and Strengthening the IUCN Urban Alliance
8. Motion 062: Towards a Policy on Natural Capital
9. Motion 039: Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers
10. Motion 034: [Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises]
11. Motion 004: Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs

## **Governance**

- A Including subnational governments in IUCN's membership
- B Election of Regional Councillors resident in dependent territories
- C Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position
- D Modification of the term "Regional Councillor"
- E Improvements to the motions process to protect the intellectual independence of the knowledge-based and evidence-based work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat of IUCN
- F Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees
- G Clarification of conditions for readmission of former State Members
- H Establishment, operating rules and oversight of National, Regional and Interregional Committees
- I Functions of the IUCN Treasurer
- J Development of a new 20-year Strategic Vision, inclusive of a Financial Strategy, and Strategic Plan for the Union
- K Improvements to the motions process to put a cap on the number of abstentions in order for a motion to be adopted
- L Improvements to the motions process regarding the majority required to adopt motions