



# IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2021

## COMMUNICATION BY THE MOTIONS WORKING GROUP IN PREPARATION OF THE CONGRESS

August, 2021

Since our previous update in [November 2020](#), many things have taken place in the run-up to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille including the decisions to further postpone the Congress to September 2021<sup>1</sup> and hold it in a “hybrid” format<sup>2</sup>.

This is our last communication before Congress and contains important information about the remaining steps of the motions process. We invite all IUCN Members to read it carefully.

### 1. Outcome of electronic vote on motions (7 October – 21 October, 2020)

The system for the electronic vote on motions was open 7-21 October 2020. Members were asked to vote on 109 motions, including 15 with amendments. Members adopted all 109 motions, continuing a trend from previous Congresses by which the majority of motions that reach the vote are adopted. The text of these 2020 Resolutions and Recommendations, as well as the electronic vote results published on 4 November 2020, can be found on [the Congress website](#).

As an exception to Rule 62septimo of the Rules of Procedure, Members also voted that the motions adopted by this electronic vote (October 2020) would become effective immediately, as Resolutions and Recommendations, rather than later on at the Members’ Assembly. [The 109 Resolutions and Recommendations](#) have thus entered into force and constitute IUCN general policy.

### 2. Discussion and vote of motions onsite

The draft agenda for the World Conservation Congress can be found alongside all [Congress documents on the Congress website](#).

Following Rules 45 to 62septimo of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress concerning the Agenda and Motions, a limited number of motions which “*warrant debate at the global level during Congress...*” or for which it was “*not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote prior to Congress*” are to be discussed and voted upon during the Members’ Assembly. A total of 19 motions are put forward for discussion and vote during the Members’ Assembly. These are listed below.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN Council decision C/XVI (14 December 2020) decided that the “date on which the Congress will be held in Marseille (will) be from 3 to 10 September 2021.”

<sup>2</sup> IUCN Council decision C103/2 (27 April 2021).

**Motions that “warrant debate at the global level during the Congress because they are of significant importance for conservation and for the IUCN and its Members”**

No.	Title
039	Protecting environmental human and peoples’ rights defenders and whistleblowers
040	Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework
048	Rediscovering and supporting indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights and roles in conservation
101	Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive

**Motions that “have been the subject of such debate and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial that it is not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote prior to Congress”**

No.	Title
003	[Establishing a Climate Change Commission] [Establishing an Inter-Commissional Cross-Sectoral Task Force on the Climate Crisis] [Establishing an IUCN Climate Task Force]
013	Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects
021	Planning [of maritime areas] [of the maritime area] and [biodiversity conservation] [conservation of natural diversity]
024	Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean
034	[Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises]
044	Actions to strengthen food sovereignty and security of indigenous peoples and peasant communities
045	Recognising and supporting indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights and roles in conservation
067	Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity
069	Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining
084	Taking action to reduce light pollution
118	Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation
125	Strengthening the protection of old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible
126	Advancing conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction

**Motions that warrant debate and for which it was not possible to produce a consensus text**

No.	Title
062	Towards a Policy on Natural Capital
075	IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation

Detailed negotiations on the text of the above listed motions, and other new and urgent motions (see section 3 below), will take place in **contact groups**.

In accordance with [Council decision C/104/3](#) of 22 June, 2021, virtual meetings of the contact groups will be established by the Congress Resolutions Committee, at least for a first reading of motions, in accordance with Rule 56 and open to all interested IUCN Members whose representatives will have registered for the Congress.

In accordance with the same Council decision, the Congress Resolutions Committee may decide to use its authority under Rule 56 (d) to establish in-person drafting groups onsite if, after discussion of the motion in a virtual contact group, it proves hard to achieve a consensus text in a virtual meeting.

**Contact groups will be established as required and scheduled to be convened during the Forum and the Members' Assembly days (i.e. from 4 September to 10 September). The detailed schedule for contact groups is yet to be finalized, but these discussions will take place in the mornings (tentatively from 7.30 to 9.15), at lunchtime (tentatively from 12.30 to 14.00) and in the evenings (tentatively from 17.45 to 21.30). Please refer to the Congress [Official Programme](#).**

Guidelines for Members' participation in virtual meetings of contact groups or in-person drafting groups onsite will be circulated in due course. However, the Motions Working Group encourages Members to consult and familiarize themselves with the [Procedure and Code of Conduct for Contact Groups](#) approved by Council in February 2020 and the [Guidelines for Contact Groups](#).

Finally, the tentative timeline for the discussion and vote of motions during the **plenary of the Members' Assembly** onsite is the following:

- 8 September, 2021 (afternoon) – 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting
  - o Update of Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions.
- 9 September, 2021 (morning and evening) – 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> sitting
  - o Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions.
- 10 September, 2021 (morning and afternoon) – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> sittings
  - o Update of the Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions.
  - o Final report of the Resolutions Committee, followed by discussion and vote on motions (continued).

### **3. New and urgent motions**

According to Rule 52, motions may be submitted at the World Congress by the Council, or by a Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least ten other Members eligible to vote, from at least two Regions. These motions are only admissible if the Resolutions Committee determines *that they meet the requirements of Rule 54 with the exception of paragraphs (b) viii. and ix. and that the subject of the motions is new and urgent according to the following criteria and on that basis authorizes their distribution to delegates:*

***“New” means that the issue which is the subject of the motion has arisen or has been subject to developments occurring after the closing of the deadline for the submission of motions and, at that time, could not have been foreseen; and***

***“Urgent” means that the issue is of such importance that it requires an immediate***

*response from the Union in the form of a Resolution or Recommendation.*

**IMPORTANT:**

All new and urgent motions must be submitted by email, using the [completed template](#), to [motions@iucn.org](mailto:motions@iucn.org). It is essential that the motion is submitted by the proponent, with at least 10 co-sponsors (eligible to vote, from at least two Regions) in copy, in one of the three official languages of IUCN. Please ensure that the email subject line reads “NEW AND URGENT MOTION” followed by the title of the motion.

In accordance with Rules 52 and 53 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, new and urgent motions may be submitted from one week prior to the opening of the Congress until the end of the plenary sittings on the first day of the Members’ Assembly, in this case, **from 27 August to 4 September 2021 at 8:45 am (CEST)/ 6:45 am (GMT/UTC)**. Note that new and urgent motions submitted prior to 27 August 2021 will not be considered.

We encourage Members to submit their new and urgent motions as soon as possible on or after 27 August 2021 so as to ensure sufficient time for their technical review and consideration by the Resolutions Committee.

Decisions of the Resolutions Committee on the admissibility of the new and urgent motions can be appealed to the Congress Steering Committee. The deadline for appeals and other details will be communicated to the Members concerned via email. Members should take note that the timeframe to submit an appeal will be quite short (likely less than 24 hours from the time that the decision is communicated).

#### **4. New and urgent motions related to the IUCN Programme**

In previous Congresses, new and urgent motions which fulfil the criteria in the Statutes and were accepted by the Resolutions Committee could include provisions that would directly impact the draft IUCN Programme, leading to potential amendments of the Programme.

The IUCN Programme – Nature 2030 – has already been adopted by the IUCN membership through electronic ballot in February 2021. As a consequence, **Members should note that only proposals for new and urgent motions that relate to the draft [Addendum to the IUCN Programme 2021-2024](#) and fulfil the criteria of new and urgent motions in the IUCN Statutes will be considered.** The Resolutions Committee will thus refer those motions to the Programme Committee for their attention.

Members should also note that **the adoption of the draft Addendum to the IUCN Programme 2021-2024 during the Members’ Assembly has been tentatively scheduled for September 9, 2021 during the 5th sitting.**

#### **5. Motions on IUCN Governance issues**

The Resolutions Committee will schedule the initial discussions of these motions in virtual contact groups. However, these motions will be followed up directly by the Governance Committee of Congress, which might decide to organize additional contact groups as required.

The approval of motions on IUCN governance during the Members’ Assembly, including amendments to Statutes, has been **tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2021 during the 8<sup>th</sup> sitting.**

No.	Title
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

## 6. Amendments to motions

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure 58-62, delegates can propose amendments to any motion. An amendment has to relate directly to the text, clearly reflecting the change it seeks to make. The submission of an entirely revised motion text is not admissible.

The most appropriate time to propose changes to a motion is during the course of a contact group. However, amendments may also be made either during the debate in plenary or in writing.

In plenary, both debate and voting on amendments will take precedence over the original text to which they relate. If two amendments relate to the same part of the text, the amendment most different from the original text will be discussed first. In the case that many amendments are submitted to the text, the Resolutions Committee or the Chair may refer the text to another contact group.

In writing, amendments need to be submitted in time for them to be distributed before the motion is debated.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**All amendments submitted in writing shall be sent electronically to [motions@iucn.org](mailto:motions@iucn.org), ideally no later than 18:00 CEST (16:00 GMT/UTC) the day before the Motion is scheduled for discussion in a contact group or Plenary**, in order to allow for sufficient time for consideration by the Resolutions Committee and circulation before the last sitting of the Members' Assembly. Please ensure that the email subject line reads "AMENDMENT TO MOTION XYZ".

The Resolutions Committee will decide whether a given amendment is in order. If the amendment is proposed during the plenary, the Chair makes this decision.

Any questions should be directed to the Secretariat Motions Team at: [motions@iucn.org](mailto:motions@iucn.org).