



IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
3 - 10 September 2021, Marseille, France

Proposed amendment to the IUCN Statutes:

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

ADOPTED MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

Adopts the following amendments to the Statutes of IUCN: (*cf. Table attached hereafter as Annex 1*)

[...]

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Background

1. Following the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, the IUCN Council considered a broad range of feedback and suggestions in view of considering improvements to the motions process:

- The [2016 IUCN Congress Participant Survey Report](#) dated 18 January 2017
- Feedback by IUCN Members on the online Motions Process¹
- The recommendations of the 2016 Congress Resolutions Committee²
- The article “IUCN's encounter with 007: safeguarding consensus for conservation” published in *Oryx*³ whose authors come from a broad cross-section of IUCN.

2. Council's response to the feedback and suggestions approved at its 95th meeting in October 2018 ([decision C/95/11](#)) included proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and the Regulations. It was presented to IUCN Members for online discussion in November–December 2018⁴.

¹ A summary is available as Annex 1 of [Council document C/93/GCC/3.2](#) (p. 651)

² “*The IUCN Motions Process. Reflections from the 2016 WCC Resolutions Committee*” available as Annex 2 of [Council document C/93/GCC/3.2](#) (p. 651)

³ Stuart, S., Al Dhaheri, S., Bennett, E., Biggs, D., Bignell, A., Byers, O., . . . Von Weissenberg, M. (2017). IUCN's encounter with 007: Safeguarding consensus for conservation. *Oryx*, 1-7. doi:[10.1017/S0030605317001557](#), referred to hereafter as Stuart, *et al.*, 2017.

⁴ The table with the Council's detailed response to the feedback is available as [Annex 20 to Council decision C/95/19](#) (p. 170).

3. As requested by Congress decision WCC-2016-Dec-113⁵, the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure were submitted to an electronic vote by IUCN Members in March 2019. All proposed amendments were approved.
4. The proposed amendments to the Regulations were adopted by Council at its 96th meeting in March 2019 ([Council decision C/96/17](#)).
5. The present proposal concerns the Council proposals to amend the Statutes. They were presented by members of Council to all Regional Conservation Forums (RCF) held in 2019, and posted online for comments until 15 September 2019.

Proposed amendment to the Statutes to protect the intellectual independence of knowledge-based and evidence-based work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat of IUCN

6. Council recommends to protect the intellectual independence of the work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat under IUCN's technical role, thus protecting such work from partisan interference from any source. Most organizations have no such guarantees of independence. As a knowledge-based Union that prides itself on evidence-based dialogue, convergence and consensus building, it is imperative that IUCN retains its hard-earned and critical technical and convening roles for long-term conservation outcomes and impacts.
7. The term "undue influence" in the proposed amendment to Article 3 of the Statutes means the influence by which the Commissions or the Secretariat, in their intellectual work, are induced to act otherwise than by upholding high standards.
8. No objections were received from IUCN Members during the RCF or the online consultation.
9. In June 2021, following review of the comments and proposals made by IUCN Members during the online discussion ending on 3 December 2020, the Council decided to make a slight amendment to its proposal, in response to a comment made, that referring only to standards of scientific work is inadequate in that it fails to recognise other knowledge systems, when making reference to the work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat of IUCN. Council therefore decided to propose this amendment to Congress.

Entry into effect

10. Unless decided otherwise by the Congress, the proposed amendments, if adopted, will come into effect at the end of the Congress.

⁵ [Proceedings of the 2016 Members' Assembly](#) (p. 20)

**Proposed amendment to the IUCN Statutes to protect the intellectual independence
of the knowledge-based and evidence-based work carried out by the Commissions and Secretariat of IUCN**

Amendment #	Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes:	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	Revised version of the IUCN Statutes (all track changes 'accepted')
1.	<p>Article 3 of the Statutes</p> <p>To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...]</p> <p>(f) develops expert networks and information systems to support its Members and components; [...]</p>	<p>Article 3 of the Statutes</p> <p>To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...]</p> <p>(f) develops expert networks and information systems to support its Members and components;</p> <p><u>(g) provides scientific and other authoritative information, including traditional ecological knowledge, in the form of assessments, analysis, and advice on the status and trends of nature and natural resources, including on threats, human behaviour, conservation measures and future scenarios;</u></p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>Article 3 of the Statutes</p> <p>To attain these objectives, IUCN: [...]</p> <p>(f) develops expert networks to support its Members and components;</p> <p>(g) provides scientific and other authoritative information, including traditional ecological knowledge, in the form of assessments, analysis, and advice on the status and trends of nature and natural resources, including on threats, human behaviour, conservation measures and future scenarios;</p> <p>[...]</p>
2.	[none]	<p>[New] Article 3bis of the Statutes</p> <p><u>In working towards the objectives outlined in Article 3 (g) of the Statutes, the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions are required to uphold high standards of scientific work and other knowledge systems and will be free from undue influence in this regard.</u></p>	<p>[New] Article 3bis of the Statutes</p> <p>In working towards the objectives outlined in Article 3 (g) of the Statutes, the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions are required to uphold high standards of scientific work and other knowledge systems and will be free from undue influence in this regard.</p>