



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

**Proposed amendment to the IUCN Statutes:
Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees**

ADOPTED MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

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

[...]

Background

This proposal concerns a discrepancy identified in Council when reviewing the by-laws of National and Regional Committees. It appears that for a long time, the practice in Latin America has been to include in some of the National and Regional Committees representatives of the IUCN Commissions with the right to vote.

The IUCN Legal Adviser drew Council's attention to Article 66 of IUCN's Statutes which provides that National and Regional Committees are "restricted to Members of IUCN". As a result, accepting that a) Commissions, members of IUCN Commissions, or one representative of each Commission, become member/s of a National Committee or Regional Committee and/or b) be granted a right to vote at meetings of the Committees would be contrary to IUCN's Statutes and Regulations.

On the one hand, Council was concerned to see the Statutes applied in the same way across all National and Regional Committees. On the other hand, it was concerned to strengthen the longstanding and positive experience in Latin America and elsewhere of coordinating important regional work with the Commissions.

The Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) of the IUCN Council therefore established a Working Group consisting of three Council members (including the Chairs of CEC and SSC) which was supported by the Secretariat and by the Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development represented by the Chair of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Committee and the Chairs of the Canadian National Committee and of the Danish National Committee.

The Working Group originally proposed that Council modifies the [Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees](#) in order to allow National and Regional Committees to involve one representative from each IUCN Commission in their governance structure. The idea was that Commission representatives participate in meetings of the governing bodies of the National and Regional Committees with the right to speak but not to vote. At the regional level, Commission representatives should work cohesively with the national representatives of the Commissions and with the Regional Committee. At the national level, Commission

representatives should work collaboratively with the national members of the Commissions and with the National Committee.

The proposal to recognise the role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees, with no voting rights, was broadly supported by Members when it was presented to them during the Regional Conservation Fora in 2019, and online.

Further to proposals from the Working Group, supported by the GCC, the IUCN Council (decision C98/9, February 2020) approved an amendment to the Statutes as well as modifications to the [Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees](#) in order to clarify that a) each Commission is encouraged to nominate an official representative of the Commission, resident in the State or Region of the Committee, to participate in the meetings of the governing bodies of the National and Regional Committees, and b) such representative would have the right to speak but not to vote.

Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes regarding the Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees

Amendment #	Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes	Proposed amendments (with track changes)	Revised version of the IUCN Statutes (all track changes 'accepted')
1.	<p>Part VII – The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora</p> <p>Article 72 of the Statutes</p> <p>Regional Councillor and other members of the Council resident in a State or Region where such Committees and Regional Fora have been established, shall be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the corresponding National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Members of the Commissions resident in such State or Region, may be invited to participate in meetings and activities of the National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora.</p>	<p>Part VII – The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora</p> <p>Article 72 of the Statutes</p> <p>Regional Councillors and other members of the Council resident in a State or Region where such Committees and Regional Fora have been established, shall be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the corresponding National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Members of the Commissions resident in such State or Region, may be invited to participate in meetings and activities of the National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. <u>Each Commission may nominate an official representative of the Commission, resident in such a State or Region who may attend, and speak at, meetings of the governing bodies of the National and Regional Committees, without a right to vote.</u></p>	<p>Part VII – The National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora</p> <p>Article 72 of the Statutes</p> <p>Regional Councillors and other members of the Council resident in a State or Region where such Committees and Regional Fora have been established, shall be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the corresponding National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Members of the Commissions resident in such State or Region, may be invited to participate in meetings and activities of the National and Regional Committees and Regional Fora. Each Commission may nominate an official representative of the Commission, resident in such a State or Region who may attend, and speak at, meetings of the governing bodies of the National and Regional Committees, without a right to vote.</p>