



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

Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes:

Clarification of conditions for readmission of former State Members

ADOPTED MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

On the proposal of the IUCN Council,

Adopts the following amendments to the Statutes and Regulations of IUCN: (*see Annex 1 below*)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

As part of its on-going concern to improve IUCN's governance, the IUCN Council 2016–2020 considered a number of issues requiring clarification of membership admission and rights.

Conditions for former State Members to re-join IUCN after having withdrawn

In a legal opinion commissioned by the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) (see [Council document C98/GCC25/1.1.2.3](#) pp. 334–353), the IUCN Legal Adviser had concluded that the specific conditions of readmission in Article 14 of the Statutes and Regulation 26 were applicable to all categories of Members with outstanding membership dues seeking readmission to IUCN membership, including States. In other words, a State's readmission is conditional upon payment of outstanding membership dues from past IUCN membership.

However, on the recommendation of the GCC, the IUCN Council prefers to allow States who had voluntarily withdrawn or were deemed to have withdrawn after a decision by the IUCN World Conservation Congress to rescind their rights as per Article 13 (b) of the Statutes, to adhere again without the obligation to pay any outstanding dues from past membership in IUCN (i.e. "with a clean slate"), independently of the moment when they seek readmission and the reasons of their withdrawal. In other words, former State Members should be allowed to adhere again as IUCN Members on the same conditions and in accordance with the same process as if it was a new adhesion, even if their withdrawal was the consequence of the non-payment of outstanding dues following a decision of rescission by the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

This would take into consideration that the adherence of State Members to IUCN membership is the consequence of a simple declaration of adhesion (Article 6 of the Statutes and Regulation 3) and that the IUCN Council does not have to assess and approve a State's membership, as opposed to the membership admission of other types of Members.

Council thereby also acknowledges that IUCN membership of States is essential to delivering the Union's vision and mission. It is therefore in the Union's interest to facilitate the

return of State Members who had previously withdrawn, independently of the reasons of such withdrawal.

To achieve this, Council is proposing an amendment to Article 14 of the Statutes and Regulation 26.

Issues related to the readmission of former IUCN Members other than States – for further consideration by the next Council 2021–2024

The second paragraph of the motion refers to the clarification of the readmission process of categories of IUCN Members other than States following their voluntary withdrawal from the Union, or their withdrawal following the rescission of their remaining rights by vote of the IUCN membership.

The IUCN Council proposes that the next Council be requested to study these issues during the term 2021–2024.

Background information on this matter can be found in [Council document C98/GCC25/1.1.2.3](#) (pp. 334–353).

**Proposed amendments to the IUCN’s Statutes and Regulations regarding
the Conditions for readmission of State Members**

| Amend- ment # | Existing provisions of the IUCN Statutes: | Proposed amendments (with track changes) | Revised version of the IUCN Statutes (all track changes ‘accepted’) |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| 1. | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Readmission</u></p> <p>Article 14 of the Statutes</p> <p>Any former Member of IUCN meeting qualifications for membership may be readmitted by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations.</p> | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Readmission</u></p> <p>Article 14 of the Statutes</p> <p><u>(a) States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall re-join IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year’s membership dues.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Any former Member of IUCN Government agency, national and international non-governmental organisation, indigenous peoples’ organisation and affiliate</u> meeting the qualifications for membership may be readmitted by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations.</p> | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Readmission</u></p> <p>Article 14 of the Statutes</p> <p>(a) States or political and/or economic integration organisations shall re-join IUCN by notifying the Director General of their adhesion to these Statutes, effective upon payment of the first year’s membership dues.</p> <p>(b) Any Government agency, national and international non-governmental organisation, indigenous peoples’ organisation and affiliate meeting the qualifications for membership may be readmitted by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations.</p> |

| Amendment # | Existing provisions of the IUCN Regulations | Proposed amendments (with track changes) | Revised version of the IUCN Regulations (all track changes 'accepted') |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| 1. | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Membership dues</u></p> <p>Article 26 of the Regulations</p> <p>If a former Member, which is deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN, seeks readmission to membership within three years of its withdrawal, all membership dues outstanding shall be paid before the Member is readmitted. Applications for admission three years or more after withdrawal shall be treated in the same way as new applications for membership.</p> | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Membership dues</u></p> <p>Article 26 of the Regulations</p> <p>If a former Member <u>a Government agency, a national and international non-governmental organisation, an indigenous peoples' organisation or an affiliate</u>, which is deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN, seeks readmission to membership within three years of its withdrawal, all membership dues outstanding shall be paid before the Member is readmitted. Applications for admission three years or more after withdrawal shall be treated in the same way as new applications for membership.</p> | <p>Part III – Members</p> <p><u>Membership dues</u></p> <p>Article 26 of the Regulations</p> <p>If a Government agency, a national and international non-governmental organisation, an indigenous peoples' organisation or an affiliate, which is deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN, seeks readmission to membership within three years of its withdrawal, all membership dues outstanding shall be paid before the Member is readmitted. Applications for admission three years or more after withdrawal shall be treated in the same way as new applications for membership.</p> |