Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and the IUCN Regulations: Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position

Action Requested: The World Conservation Congress is invited to CONSIDER the proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and IUCN Regulations to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position submitted by the Council under Article 105 of the IUCN Statutes.

DRAFT MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress,

Adopts the following amendments to the IUCN Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, and Regulations: (cf. Table attached hereafter as Annex 1)

[...]

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Background

1. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016, the IUCN Members’ Assembly adopted a landmark decision for indigenous peoples and conservation. Members voted to create a new category of IUCN membership for Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations (IPO), strengthening the recognition of their rights, participation, voice and role in IUCN (WCC-2016-Res-004). The establishment of this new category marked a milestone in the 70-year history of IUCN, since for the first time IUCN reformed its membership structure and did so especially to recognise the specific situation and role of IPOs.

2. As a distinct and mobilized constituency within IUCN, IPO Members developed a self-determined strategy identifying joint priorities for advancing indigenous rights and issues in conservation and at IUCN.

3. The IPO Member strategy includes the objective set by IPO Members to increase indigenous participation in IUCN’s governance and, in particular, ensuring indigenous representation on IUCN’s Council, as key priorities. The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress and is tasked with setting strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union, subject to the authority, direction and policy of the World Conservation Congress. As such, IUCN IPO Members consider it essential for clear indigenous representation on Council from the new IPO Member Category.
4. The current Council appointed to Council an indigenous representative, Mr Francisco Ramiro Batzin Chojoj, under Article 38(f) of the Statutes regarding the composition of Council (Council decision C94/20, May 2018):

   “one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.”

5. Past Councils have had representation from indigenous peoples with the appointments of Mary Simon from 1994–1996 (Inuit, Canada), Henrietta Rasmussen from 1997–2000 (Inuit, Greenland, Denmark), and Aroha Mead from 2001–2008 (Maori, New Zealand) and as Chair of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) from 2009–2016. While Aroha Mead served on Council for 16 years, her first two terms were as an indigenous appointed Councillor and her last two were as Chair of CEESP where, until September 2016, she also brought an indigenous perspective to Council. Throughout this time, however, IUCN Statutes have never been amended to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position.

6. Given the new Member Category, IPO Members request the Members’ Assembly to amend IUCN Statutes to allow for the creation of an elected Indigenous Councillor position. An elected Indigenous Councillor position would:

   - ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples;
   - support and advance IUCN’s significant indigenous mandate;
   - facilitate reporting on the implementation of the IPO Member strategy;
   - improve regional and global coordination with current and potential IPO Members and partners; and
   - make visible and help to effectively apply the wealth of traditional and indigenous knowledge and systems for the use, management and conservation of natural resources, IUCN strategies and actions at the regional and global level.

7. The proposal to establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position was presented by members of Council to all Regional Conservation Forums (RCF) held in 2019, and posted online for comments until 15 September 2019.

8. The proposal has been prepared as proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations (Annex 1) by a small working group of the IUCN Council’s Governance and Constituency Committee led by Councillor Ramiro Batzin, taking into account the comments received from IUCN Members.

9. If the motion related to the modification of the term “Regional Councillor” is adopted in the form as proposed by the IUCN Council, articles 12, 20, 28, 38 and 41 of the Statutes; Rule 81; and Regulations 37, 38 and 40, amongst others, will present additional changes which are not shown in Annex 1.

**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.
# Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the IUCN Regulations regarding the establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position

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5. **Article 41 of the IUCN Statutes:**

(b) the Treasurer;

(c) the Chairs of the Commissions;

(d) the Regional Councillors;

(e) a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, appointed by the Council, provided that one from that State has not been elected Regional Councillor; and

(f) one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.

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Should a sole candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer or Chair of Commission withdraw or become ineligible, the Council shall meet in extraordinary session and, having considered the views of the Members of IUCN, shall propose a new candidate to the World Congress.

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Should a sole candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer, or Chair of Commission or Indigenous Councillor withdraw or become ineligible, the Council shall meet in extraordinary session and, having considered the views of the Members of IUCN, shall propose a new candidate to the World Congress.

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3. **Rule 81 of the Rules of Procedure**

Where there is more than one candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer, Regional Councillor or Commission Chair:

(a) the ballot paper or the electronic election system shall list candidates in alphabetical order from a point in the alphabet chosen at random;

(b) where one person is to be elected from two or more candidates for the post of President, Treasurer or Chair of a Commission, the vote shall be cast by placing an 'X' against the name of the preferred candidate;

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