



IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2025 FORUM

Volunteer Reviewers for Forum proposals

Terms of Reference

Background

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 Forum will take place from 9 to 12 October 2025. The Forum, a hub of public debate, will bring together people from around the world to discuss and develop solutions to the world's most pressing conservation and sustainability challenges.

The Forum will feature a range of sessions, from plenaries to capacity building sessions and networking opportunities. Through the competitive [Call for Proposals](#) process, several hundred events (comprising interactive thematic sessions, speaker pitches and training and capacity building sessions) will be selected as part of the official Forum programme.

Proposal selection and review process

Proposals received through the open Call (19 December 2024 to 14 February 2025) will be submitted for technical review, based on the selection criteria, and ranked accordingly. Each proposal should be assigned to **at least three** technical experts for review.

The complete list of proposals will then be reviewed by an Advisory panel to ensure optimal geographic and disciplinary balance, as well as appropriate representation of IUCN strategic priorities across the Forum programme.

The Forum Team is seeking technical experts to serve as volunteer reviewers for proposals submitted through the open call.

Selection Criteria for Reviewers

Technical experts will be selected based on their level of professional experience and expertise in one or more of the [Congress themes](#), as well as regional and other areas of expertise. Reviewers will also be selected to ensure gender, youth and geographical balance. Young professionals (35 years of age and under) are strongly encouraged to apply as volunteer reviewers.

Technical Review process

The technical review process will take place through an online system from 21 March to 15 April 2025. (During this phase of the process, each proposal will be reviewed from a technical perspective, based on its own merits, according to IUCN's selection criteria and assessment method.)

Volunteer reviewers will be assigned proposals written in their native language. In addition, reviewers will be matched to proposals based on the above selection criteria (including level of professional experience, expertise in the Congress themes etc.)

The number of proposals assigned to each volunteer reviewer will depend on the availability of the individual. Each proposal will take an estimated 30 minutes to review, including completing the online review form.

Technical experts will be required to review each Forum proposal on its own merit, and provide impartial feedback based on the agreed [Selection Criteria](#) of the Call for Proposals, the [Forum Guiding Principles](#), and mindful of any conflict of interest.

To thank them for their efforts, the Congress team will grant reviewers modest rewards based on the following progressive scheme:

7 to 10 reviews completed on time (before 15 April)

- One food / beverage voucher - to be collected on-site

11 to 19 reviews completed on time (before 15 April)

- [3 Months free subscription to National Geographic Digital.](#)

20 to 24 reviews completed on time (before 15 April)

- [1 year free subscription to National Geographic Digital.](#)

And

- Qualification for the draw to receive one of five CHF 500 vouchers for the [IUCN Academy](#). *This voucher can be used towards the cost of any of the IUCN Academy professional certificate courses. There are 5 vouchers up for grabs. These will be allocated by random draw, and the lucky reviewers will be informed by 31 May 2025.*

25 or more reviews completed on time (before 15 April)

- [1 year free subscription to National Geographic Digital.](#)

And

- Qualification for the draw to receive one of 20 free registrations for onsite participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. *There are 20 free registrations up for grabs. These will be allocated by random draw, and the lucky reviewers will be informed by 31 May 2025.*

Note: All reviewers will have their names recognised (listed as Forum technical reviewers on the website provided they accept that their name be published online)

How to volunteer as a technical reviewer

To volunteer as a technical reviewer, interested individuals are required to complete the Volunteer Reviewer Form. Before submitting the form, be sure to visit the relevant Forum pages to learn more about the [Congress themes](#), the [Guidelines for proposing an event](#), the [Forum Guiding Principles](#) and [selection criteria](#).

For any questions about the technical review process, the Volunteer Reviewer form or the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 Forum, please contact: congressforum@iucn.org.