



Terms of Reference of the Motions Working Group of the IUCN Council

Approved by the IUCN Council, Council decision C109/30 (Annex 10), May 2023
building on the TOR approved by the IUCN Council, decision C/96/2 (March 2019)

Amendments proposed by Council on improving the efficiency and transparency of the motions process, completing the amendments to the Rules of Procedure proposed by Council to Congress (Decision C113/8, May 2025)

In accordance with Article 46 (q) of the IUCN Statutes, Regulation 29, and Part VII of the Rules of Procedure ('Agenda and Motions'), the Council appoints a Motions Working Group with the mandate to:

- a. Provide guidance to IUCN Members on the submission of motions;
- b. Receive the motions and determine that they are consistent with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* and meet the requirements listed in RoP 54;
- c. Prepare, including editing, the motions for the online discussion and, as appropriate, for submission to the Resolutions Committee of Congress and the World Congress;
- d. Submit the motions to an online discussion to be held prior to Congress, specifying which motions that warrant debate at the global level during the Congress will continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Members' Assembly subject to RoP 45*bis*, and which motions will be put to an online vote prior to Congress subject to Rule 62*quinto*;
- e. Facilitate and oversee the online discussion of motions between Members prior to the Congress, ensuring that it is transparent and will adhere to the greatest possible extent to the procedure for discussion and amendment of motions during the Congress;
- f. Following the close of the online discussion, submit motions to an electronic vote prior to Congress and refer others to the Members' Assembly for continued debate and vote.

The Motions Working Group to be established by Council in accordance with Regulation 29 shall consist of

- (i) five (5) to seven (7) members of the IUCN Council,
- (ii) three (3) individuals who will be appointed by Council in their expert, personal capacity to represent the common interests and the diversity of the IUCN membership and Commissions, following Council's call for nominations to all IUCN Members and Commissions; and
- (iii) the Director General *ex officio*.

The Motions Working Group shall present periodic reports on its work to the IUCN Council and shall keep the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC) closely informed. The Motions Working Group shall receive adequate support from the IUCN Secretariat in order to deliver on its mandate.

The Motions Working Group shall, among others, perform the following tasks:

1. In collaboration with the GCC Task Force on motions process, establish specific procedures for the motions process in advance of the Congress to ensure its effective, efficient and transparent management. As part of this procedure, it shall guide the development of guidelines and templates for IUCN Members for the motions process which shall be sent to all IUCN Members before the opening of the submission of motions. The procedures will

also specify the tasks which the Secretariat accepts to undertake in support of the work of the Motions Working Group and contain the criteria and transparent processes for making the determinations which the Motions Working Group is required to make by the Rules of Procedure.

2. Members of the Motions Working Group shall serve in their personal capacity and assess the content of motions with diligence, integrity and impartiality. They shall disclose any potential conflicts of interest, real or perceived, that could create an appearance of impropriety undermining the confidence in the member's ability to fulfil her/his duties impartially, and recuse themselves from discussions about motions where such potential conflicts of interest exist. The communication of the Motions Working Group referred to in paragraph 7 shall include the conflict of interest declarations made by its members.
3. Work jointly with the GCC Task Force on Motions to propose amendments to the IUCN Statutes (if any are required), Regulations and Rules of Procedures of the World Conservation Congress to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the motions process.
4. Work with the IUCN Secretariat to prepare a detailed work plan and budget for effectively managing the motion process, in time for consideration by Council when adopting the IUCN Budget for 2024 and 2025.
5. Be informed of and take into account to the extent possible the results of discussions of motions in National Committees, Regional Committees and Regional Fora, including those that warrant discussion at a local and/or national level;
6. Consult the standing committees of the IUCN Council for advice as follows:
 - a. the Governance and Constituency Committee and the Legal Adviser regarding the possible impact of motions on the governance of IUCN in particular motions whose implementation, if adopted, depend on reform of the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the Congress or the Regulations;
 - b. the Finance and Audit Committee regarding the resource implications of motions, in particular the motions that explicitly request that all or part of the funds required to implement the motion (if adopted) be included in IUCN's annual budget;
 - c. the Programme and Policy Committee regarding the implementation of Rule 51 about the motions (or part of motions) that affect the draft Programme or the mandate of a Commission;
7. Ensure that the statutory requirements are strictly applied to the submitted motions and that motions which meet the requirements, are treated fairly and equitably, with adequate communication with proponents and sponsors of motions related to rejecting, amending, combining or categorizing motions, explaining the rationale. Communicate to all IUCN Members the results of its deliberations on the motions providing a clear rationale and references for its decisions including, as the case may be, the specific provision(s) that the motion does not comply with.
8. Ensure that, following the deadline for submission of motions, the Secretariat shall make all submitted motions visible to all Members until the start of the online discussion referred to in Rule 62*bis* (b).
9. Make effective use of the information provided by proponents and co-sponsors about the actions and resources required to implement the motion and the contributions which they intend to make towards its implementation (RoP 54 (b) viii.), including publishing the information and/or the rating described in the template throughout the motions process, thereby encouraging IUCN Members to take responsibility for the implementation of the motions they submit, once they are adopted. Transmit a report to the Resolutions Committee of Congress regarding the status of the resources committed/pledged on all the

motions adopted through the electronic vote prior to Congress.

10. Communicate clearly and comprehensively to the IUCN membership the rationale for referring certain motions to the electronic vote prior to Congress and others to the Members' Assembly, either at the time of publication of the motions prior to the online discussion (RoP 62*bis*) and/or after the online discussion, at the time the motions are submitted to the electronic vote (RoP 62*quinto*) e.g. by explaining what the issues are that could not be solved during the online discussion and that require continued debate during the Members' Assembly.
11. Monitor the quality of motions, alert Members and facilitators before/during the electronic discussion of quality issues, and provide guidance to facilitators empowering them to raise issues of poor quality of motions and actively work with Members to solve them before the end of the electronic discussion.
12. Oversee the online discussion on motions in advance of the Congress, providing guidance and direction, and assistance, to ensure that facilitators are designated and receive adequate training and guidance in the spirit of IUCN's 'One Programme approach' and fully understand the intent and requirements of the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations pertaining to motions.
13. Provide clear guidance to the facilitators of the online discussion with a view to alerting Members to issues of alignment with the IUCN Programme, or alert Members directly to such issues during the online discussion, e.g. at the beginning of the 2nd reading.
14. Encourage broad participation of Cat. A Members (through reminders, incentives, etc.) and to keep a record that shows its adequate engagement with and invitation to State Members.
15. Monitor the electronic discussion and assist / guide the facilitators to proactively build a consensus during the online discussion, thereby reducing as much as possible the application of RoP 62*quinto* (b), i.e. the referral to the Members' Assembly of motions that led to such divergent proposed amendments that it was not possible to submit them to the electronic vote prior to Congress.
16. Prepare the motions, as amended during the online discussion or together with proposed amendments, for an electronic vote in accordance with Rule 62*quinto* explaining as clearly as possible in the Guidance for IUCN Members on electronic voting the way of voting on amendments.
17. Prepare the motions that require continued discussion during the Members' Assembly, for hand-over to the Resolutions Committee of the Congress with any advice and background, as appropriate, including motions which, in the view of the Motions Working Group, are controversial and consensus would be beneficial for conservation, and so may have to be referred to the next Congress (Regulation 62*quinto* as revised).
18. Formally transmit to the Congress 1) the motions approved during the electronic vote in order for the Congress to 'record *en bloc* the adoption' of these motions, and 2) the motions that require continued debate and vote during the Members' Assembly.
19. Prepare the motions on new and urgent topics submitted from one week prior to the opening of the Congress for the consideration of the Congress Resolutions Committee as soon as it will have been established, with a view to enabling the Committee to timely distribute the motions that it will have admitted. Should the deadline for new and urgent motions established by Council under Rule 53 occur before the Resolutions Committee is formally established by the Members' Assembly, the Motions Working Group shall review and take decisions on the acceptability of the new and urgent motions under Rule 54 and thereby apply the procedure guaranteeing transparency and fair process described in the Terms of Reference of the Congress Resolutions Committee.

20. Make recommendations to the next Council for improving the Working Group's role and functioning based on its own evaluation to be made before the end of the 2025 Congress taking into account Council's guidance for self-evaluation.