



First Motions Working Group Update IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 6 November 2019

The motions process is a fundamental element of IUCN's governance and constitutes a means through which IUCN Members set IUCN's general policy, influence conservation priorities and find support for moving commitments into action. By submitting, discussing and voting on motions - that after adoption become Resolutions or Recommendations - IUCN Members participate in this highly democratic and unique process. Ultimately, all these decisions, together with the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 pave the way for the work of the Union for the next inter-sessional period and support the achievement of IUCN's Mission.

Among the Terms of Reference for the IUCN Council's Motions Working Group (MWG) are mandates to receive the motions presented by the IUCN Membership and determine whether they are consistent with the purpose of the motions as defined in the IUCN Statutes – Rule 48bis – and meet the requirements listed in Rule of Procedure 54.

In accordance with Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, IUCN Members and the Council proposed motions by the deadline of 28 August 2019 (13:00 GMT/UTC), as set by the IUCN Council. Following the submission of **210 motions by IUCN Members and 11 by the IUCN Council**, the MWG scrutinized all proposed motions in its first meeting from 23-26 October 2019.

It is worth noting that the submission of 221 motions for the World Conservation Congress in Marseille is the highest number ever received and represents a significant increase since Hawai'i.

The motions submissions covered a range of themes and regions, including all four areas of the draft IUCN Programme 2021-2024, and seven out of eight Statutory Regions. The submissions were likewise spread across all seven of the Congress themes, though notably the number of submissions that Members cited as pertaining to the first Congress theme, *Managing landscapes for nature and people*, was significantly higher than for any other.

The MWG appreciates the efforts of all IUCN Members that took the time to prepare, discuss and submit motions. The unprecedented level of engagement of the Members in this process is, in the view of the MWG, a reflection of their enthusiasm and willingness to actively participate in the policy



decision-making process of the Union. The MWG celebrates this enthusiasm and thanks all Members for their engagement in the motions process.

After careful review of each of the motions submitted, **103 motions were accepted, 38 motions were merged into 17, 77 motions were rejected, and 3 motions were remitted for Programme consideration.** The resulting **120 accepted motions** are now published, in their original submission language.

In applying the admissibility criteria to each of the 221 motions and making determinations as to their eligibility under IUCN's Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, MWG members made all decisions by consensus. When conflicts of interest existed for individual MWG members on specific motions, those MWG members acknowledged these and recused themselves from participating in the decisions on those motions.

Of the motions that were rejected, these can be grouped into two broad categories: 1) Those which failed to meet requirements in terms of content; and 2) those which failed to meet requirements in terms of process and format.

In the first group, motions were rejected if it was determined that they were not proposing or modifying IUCN's policy (Rule 54(a)i), they did not contain technically sound and coherent arguments (Rule 54(a)iii), were not precise in what they aimed to achieve (Rule 54(a)iv) or, in many cases, were repeating the content of already adopted - and active - Resolutions and Recommendations (Rule 54(a)vi) (searchable [here](#)). This suggests the need for the provision of further guidance to the IUCN Membership on the basic pillars of IUCN's policy development through the motions process.

In the second group, motions were rejected if they did not sufficiently specify which of the Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties that the motions called upon to undertake action had been consulted or had collaborated in the motion (Rule 54(b) x a)), or which of these had been consulted to identify solutions in accordance with Rule 54(b) x b). This highlights the importance of strengthening communication channels among IUCN constituencies, which could identify ongoing opportunities for dialogue and action outside of the motions process and, in the case of motions, result in stronger and potentially more implementable Resolutions or Recommendations.

As we move into the next step in the motions process – the online discussion of accepted and merged motions that will commence on 11 December 2019 – the MWG wishes to encourage all Members of the



Union to continue to participate actively in the process and to engage in collegial and respectful deliberations around motions, with a view to finding consensus on the issues covered therein.

Respectfully,

The Motions Working Group