

THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2020 MOTIONS PROCESS

**UPDATED TO REFLECT POSTPONEMENT
OF CONGRESS TO 7-15 JANUARY 2021**

1) INTRODUCTION

This is the first of a series of Guidance Notes referring to the motions process for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020. More detailed guidance will be provided for each step of the process in due course including through step-by-step guidance on how to use the online systems, as appropriate. Additional information and updates will be provided throughout the process.

Please consult the [Congress website](#) for the most up-to-date information about the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020.

Background

Motions, and the resulting Resolutions and Recommendations, are the mechanism by which Members guide the policy and Programme of IUCN, and influence third parties. The 1,305 Resolutions and Recommendations that have been adopted at previous Congresses and General Assemblies are the basis of IUCN's general policy and have been the Union's most effective means of influencing conservation policy, at the species, site, national and global level. IUCN's decisions have contributed to setting the international conservation agenda, supported the development of international conservation law, and identified emerging issues that impact conservation. All of the adopted IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations can be consulted [HERE](#).

In accordance to IUCN Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, ***a motion means a draft in writing of any decision which the World Congress is requested to take. Such motion may take the form of a resolution, recommendation, expression of opinion or proposal. Resolutions are directed to IUCN itself. Recommendations are directed to third parties, and may deal with any matter of importance to the objectives of IUCN (Rule 48).***

In addition, ***Consistent with Article 20 (a) and (b) of the Statutes, the purpose of the motions is to define the general policy of IUCN and to influence the policies or actions of third parties, or to***

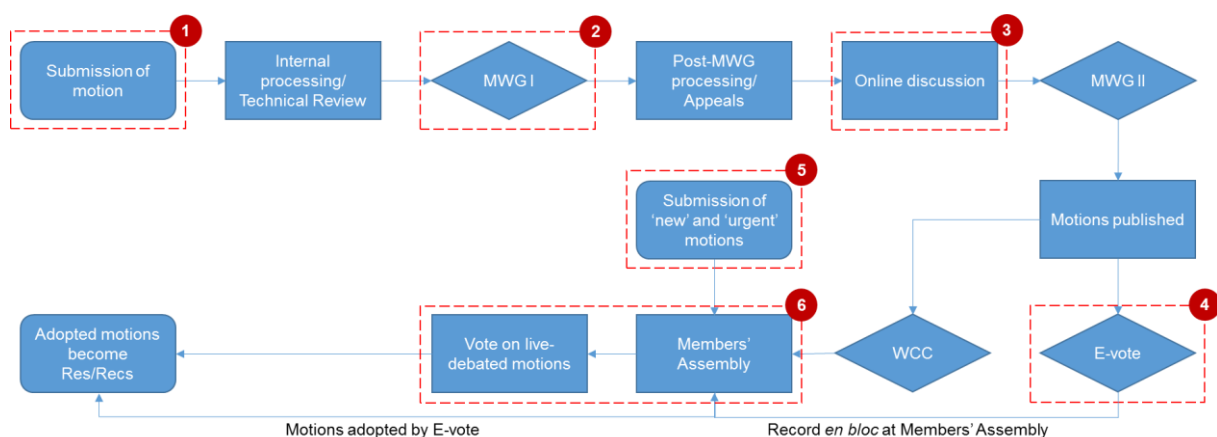
address the governance of IUCN, within the parameters of IUCN's objectives as set forth in Articles 2 and 3 of the Statutes. (Rule 48bis).

The IUCN motions process will be supported by an online system developed for that purpose accessible via the [Congress website](#). The system's design and functionalities will draw from the successful experience and lessons learned from the use of the online system developed for the previous IUCN Congress in 2016.

Indeed, feedback and suggestions were received from participants of the 2016 Congress, IUCN Members (on the online part of the motions process), the 2016 Congress Resolutions Committee and through the article "IUCN's encounter with 007: safeguarding consensus for conservation" published in Oryx whose authors come from a broad cross-section of IUCN. Responding to the feedback and suggestions received, the IUCN Council, through its Governance and Constituency Committee and assisted by a task force on the motions process and supported by the IUCN Secretariat, made a series of proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and the Regulations to further improve the motions process. The IUCN Members, through electronic vote in March 2019, approved the proposals put forward by Council and so the process now reflects those changes.

Importantly, it is noted that the overall motions workflow for the Marseille Congress in 2020 is based almost entirely on the workflow of the Hawai'i Congress of 2016 (see Figure 1 below; developed from Figure 1 from [Guidance note – Introduction to the motions process 2016](#)).

Figure 1



2) THE 2020 MOTIONS PROCESS

The motions process for the 2020 World Conservation Congress will begin on 2 May 2019 with the launch of the first step of the process – the motion submission phase. Consequently, **Members will be able to propose motions for consideration from 2 May 2019 until 28 August 2019 (13:00 GMT/UTC). No motion shall be accepted after this deadline.**

As in 2016, all motions will be discussed online prior to the World Conservation Congress with a significant number of motions to be voted on electronically before the Congress. Regardless of whether the motions are voted on electronically prior to the Congress or during the Congress, all those that are adopted will become Resolutions or Recommendations, and will enjoy the same value and status. The Members' Assembly will formally 'record' the adoption of the motions adopted by electronic vote prior to the Congress without re-opening discussions.

The 2020 motions process consists of various segments (see **Figure 1**); the primary ones being:

- 1 The **submission of motions** by IUCN Members
- 2 **Consideration by the Motions Working Group**
- 3 An **online discussion**
- 4 An **electronic vote**
- 5 The **submission of "new" and "urgent" motions** (before the opening of the IUCN Congress and on-site)
- 6 The **discussion and vote of certain motions on-site** (during the Members' Assembly at the World Conservation Congress)

Note that this guidance note refers to a large extent to motions which are deemed to define IUCN's general policy as well as to influence the policies or actions of third parties. Motions pertaining to the governance of IUCN (including amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure) are managed slightly differently.

Indeed, proposals to amend the Statutes will be governed by Articles 104 to 106 of the Statutes. Members may submit them until six months prior to Congress, i.e. 11 December 2019. The motions submission platform will draw Members' attention to this. Amendments proposed may be posted in the present [Congress Portal page](#).



Proposals to amend the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress are governed by Rule 29 and may be submitted to Council anytime. If any such motion is submitted, it will be directed to Council.

However, **there may be motions about the governance of IUCN without proposing amendments to the Statutes** (e.g. requesting the Council to study a reform of governance). **Such motions must be submitted through the online motion submission system by 28 August 2019.** However, according to Rule 45bis, they will automatically be referred to the Members' Assembly for discussion and voting. If the Motions Working Group so decides, the discussion of such motions may start online together with all other motions, but they will not be concluded with a final draft for submission to an electronic vote prior to Congress.

Note that two main changes to the overall motions process will be implemented for the 2020 Congress based on feedback received to the 2016 motions process:

1. **More time** will be provided to the various steps of the motions process; and,
2. The **motions process is launched earlier** than before, in order to take advantage of the Regional Conservation Fora that will take place in 2019 in preparation for the Congress.

3) SEGMENTS OF THE 2020 MOTIONS PROCESS

Highlights about each of the main steps of the process are provided below.

1 **Submission of Motions** (2 May 2019- 28 August 2019)

The submission of motions will take place via an electronic system specifically designed for this purpose, to be launched **on 2 May 2019**. Members must use the **online submission form** for the submission of their motions, as approved by Council in March 2019.

Besides the **title, preambular paragraphs** (limit of 2,000 characters) and **operative paragraphs** (limit of 1,500 characters), the proponent of the motion will have to answer a **series of preliminary questions** concerning the rationale for proposing the motion and provide **information required for the implementation of the motion** (in line with Rule 54 (b) viii.). In submitting the motion online, the proponent also needs to identify the IUCN Members eligible to vote who co-sponsor the motion (Rule 49) and those who have been consulted or have collaborated in the development of the motion. The proponent needs to identify the contributions intended to be made by its institution and those of the co-sponsors to the implementation of the motion.

As per the IUCN Statutes, **a proponent of a motion needs to find a minimum of five co-sponsors eligible to vote, from at least two Regions** (in the sense of Articles 16 and 17 of the Statutes) in order to submit a motion. **Only IUCN Members in categories A, B and C who have paid their dues up to and including 2018 are eligible to propose or co-sponsor a motion.**

The electronic system will enable Members to **'save' their motion as a draft** while further discussing it with other Members, ensuring that all information necessary is available, eventually adjusting the content of the draft motion and adding new or additional co-sponsors. This will enable Members to build momentum and support for their motion. **All motions need to be 'submitted' by 28 August 2019 (13:00 CET/UTC)** at the latest by following the instructions provided in the system. **No motion shall be accepted after this deadline.** Any motion saved as 'draft' in the system at this point will not be regarded as 'submitted' and therefore not taken into consideration by the Motions Working Group.

It is strongly recommended for Members to plan to submit their motions online with sufficient time in advance of the deadline to avoid possible system glitches or unexpected delays.

2 Consideration by the Motions Working Group (MWG) (October 2019 -TBC)

The **MWG, established by the IUCN Council**, will oversee the motions process. In addition to members of Council, three individuals from Members and Commissions will be appointed by Council as members of the MWG in their expert and/or personal capacity representing the common interests of Members and reflecting the diversity of IUCN's Members and components.

The MWG will be formally established before the start of the motions' submission step on 2 May 2019.

The MWG will be supported by a Secretariat Motions Team throughout the process.

The MWG will review all motions submitted for technical issues and the requirements laid out in the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress (Part VII and in particular, Rule 54 – see **Figure 2**). On these grounds, the MWG will decide whether a motion will be admissible, with or without modifications, or rejected. In accordance with its [Terms of Reference](#), the MWG will ensure that the statutory requirements are strictly applied to the submitted motions and that motions which meet the requirements

Figure 2

54. Motions shall be accepted only upon determination by the Motions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee that they are consistent with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* and meet the following requirements:
- (a) related to content:
- i. Propose or modify IUCN's general policy and only to the extent necessary and subject to the full application of Rule 51, specify the activities required to implement the policy;
 - ii. Contributions from Members and/or components of IUCN, if called for in the motion, are reasonable and achievable;
 - iii. Contain technically sound and coherent arguments;
 - iv. Be precise in what they aim to achieve;
 - v. Propose aspirational goals that are reasonable;
 - vi. Do not merely repeat the content of Resolutions and Recommendations previously adopted; and
 - vii. When focusing on local, national or regional issues, state, with the proponent providing evidence at the moment of submission, that (1) the matter covered by the motion has been engaged at local, national and/or regional instances and that the desired result has not been achieved; and (2) the Members and relevant Commission members as well as other stakeholders in the geographic area in question have been consulted; and
- (b) related to process and format:
- viii. Be submitted before the deadline established in Rule 49;
 - ix. Be proposed and co-sponsored by Members eligible to vote, in accordance with Rules 49 or 49*bis*;
 - x. The proponent specifies a) which of the Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties, which the motion calls upon to undertake action have been consulted or have collaborated in the development of the motion, b) which Members or components of IUCN have been consulted with a view to identify solutions that might address the underlying issues and c) the actions and resources required to implement the motion and the contributions which proponents and co-sponsors intend to make towards its implementation;
 - xi. For motions concerning issues arising in a State or States outside the State or Region of the proponent, be co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member from the Region with which the motion is concerned in accordance with Rule 49*bis*; and
 - xii. Use the template to be approved by Council.

are treated fairly and equitably, with adequate communication with proponents and co-sponsors related to rejecting, amending or merging motions, explaining the rationale.

Proponents will be informed of MWG decisions on acceptability of motions submitted (first through formal notification by email; then posted on the website and online system).

The list of titles of accepted motions, including motions which have been merged with others on similar issues, will be made available soon after the MWG meeting (scheduled for October 2019).

In particular, Members whose motions have been rejected by the MWG will be formally notified of this decision by email as soon as possible after the MWG meeting. This email will explain the decision as well as the process for appealing the decision in case the Member so desires.

All motions will be published in the language they were submitted by 30 October 2019.

Proponents and co-sponsors have the right to appeal decisions of the MWG pertaining to their motions.

In accordance with Rule 62ter, The Congress Preparatory Committee established by Council in conformity with Article 46 (q) of the IUCN Statutes shall decide any appeal from a proponent and cosponsors against the classification, exclusion or amendment by the Motions Working Group of a motion referred to the electronic discussion and vote prior to the World Congress. In the case of an appeal against the decision to refer a motion to the electronic vote prior to Congress, the only permissible ground for appeal is that an error was made in not classifying the motion as qualifying for consideration at the Members' Assembly. Any appeals under this Rule shall be received by the Congress Preparatory Committee by no later than two weeks following the date of the publication of the motions.

Members can file their appeals (by sending an email to the Congress Preparatory Committee, acting as the appeal body) **by 13 November 2019 at 13:00 GMT/UTC.**

Motions which are reinstated as a result of the appeals process will be processed and edited before the start of the online discussion.

3 Online Discussion (11 December 2019- 11 March 2020)

All motions will be discussed online, prior to the Congress, during a period of 13 weeks, enabling all IUCN Members to participate in the process democratically, effectively and transparently. **An electronic system for the online discussion will be live from 11 December 2019 until 11 March 2020 (13:00 GMT/UTC) accessible via the Congress website.** Members of all categories which are in good standing can voice their support for motions, express concerns, debate pros and cons and submit amendments using this system, just as they would during the Members' Assembly.

Commission members, representatives of recognised National and Regional Committees and members of the Secretariat may also take part in the online discussion of motions in a technical advisory and support capacity (Rule 62*bis*).

The **electronic discussion will be facilitated** by a number of qualified individuals identified by the MWG. They will help to ensure the transparent nature of the process and contribute to achieving a level of convergence on contentious issues sufficient for the motions to be considered ready for the MWG to submit them to an electronic vote, with or without amendments.

The online discussion of each motion will be **organised in two readings** (two periods of discussion). Details about the duration and modalities of the two readings will be provided in due course.

4 The Electronic Vote (7-21 October 2020 – new dates)

Following the online discussion, **the MWG will put a substantial number of motions to an electronic vote by IUCN Members eligible to vote prior to the Congress.** All motions voted electronically will carry the same importance as motions debated and voted at the Congress.

Importantly, the final texts of all motions and any amendments to be put to the electronic vote before Congress will be **published by 1 September 2020 (new date)**, in all three languages.

The electronic vote of motions will take place over a period of two weeks, **from 7 until 21 October 2020 (new dates), 13:00 GMT/UTC.**

The electronic vote **will not apply to:**

- **Motions that warrant debate at the global level** during the Congress which will continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Members' Assembly; and

- **Motions which have been the subject of such discussion and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial** that it is, in the opinion of the MWG, **not possible to produce a consensus text** for submission to the electronic vote prior to Congress.

The MWG will forward these motions to the World Conservation Congress.

5 Submission of "new" and "urgent" motions (31 December 2020-12 January 2021 – new dates)

In accordance with the (amended) Rule 52, "*Motions may be submitted at the World Congress (a) either by the Council, or by (b) a Member eligible to vote with the co-sponsorship of at least ten other Members eligible to vote from at least two Regions; and (c) only if the Congress Resolutions Committee determines that the subject of the motions is new and urgent according to the following criteria...*

- "New" means that the issue which is the subject of the motion has arisen or has been subject to developments occurring after the closing of the deadline for the submission of motions and, at that time, could not have been foreseen; and*
- "Urgent" means that the issue is of such importance that it requires an immediate response from the Union in the form of a Resolution or Recommendation."*

Following the amendments to the Rules of Procedure in March 2019, Rule 53 now states that "*motions meeting the criteria of Rule 52 shall be submitted from one week prior to the opening of the Congress until the end of the plenary sittings on the first day of the Members' Assembly.*"

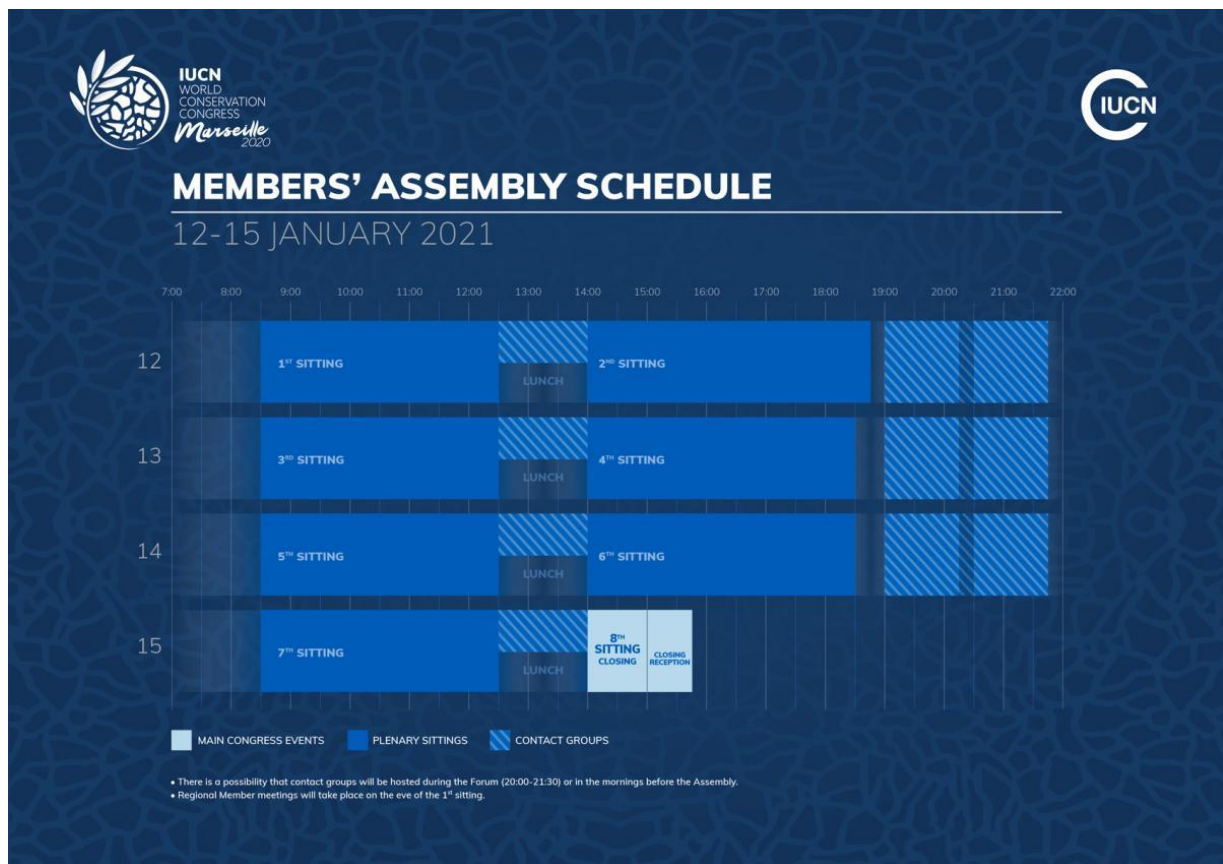
Submission of new and urgent motions for the 2020 World Conservation Congress will be possible **from 31 December 2020 and until 12 January 2021 (new dates)** using a **template** which will be provided in due course.

6 Discussion and vote of motions at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille (12-15 January 2021 – new dates)

At the World Conservation Congress, the Members' Assembly will 'record' *en bloc* the motions adopted by the electronic vote prior to the Congress without re-opening discussion or vote on any of them.

Motions transmitted to the World Conservation Congress will be discussed in different sittings of the Members' Assembly depending on the topic, and voted upon throughout the Congress, following discussion in contact groups as needed (see **Figure 3**).

Figure 3



The Guidance Note on the Submission of Motions will be released at the time of the opening of the submission step on 2 May, 2019.

For any questions related to the motions process please contact motions@iucn.org.