



IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

IUCN Council's Guidance for 2020 Election Candidates

(Approved by decision C/76/40 of the 76th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2011; revised by decision C/85/8 of the 85th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2015 and decision B/XVI of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 1 July 2019)

IUCN seeks to attract candidates with the necessary competencies, profile and ability to represent the interests of the Union in order to provide effective governance including oversight, strategic direction, and policy guidance between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

Council members have a fundamental obligation to serve IUCN with diligence and integrity. This obligation extends to candidates for election to the offices of IUCN to ensure good governance practices in the elections process. The following guidance is intended to serve this purpose.

1. In undertaking their election campaign activities, candidates are to conduct themselves with integrity and with respect and fairness towards the opposition candidates and their colleagues.
2. In their campaigning activities, candidates are encouraged to demonstrate restraint in respect of the resources they use and allocate available resources in the first place to conservation purposes. Candidates should prefer to communicate about their candidacy by electronic means instead of postage or printed materials. However, they shall also not abuse email addresses of IUCN members through excessive communications.
3. In conducting their election campaign activities, candidates are to refrain from making untruthful representations about their qualifications and/or their opponents' qualifications for the office sought.
4. Candidates must avoid taking advantage of functions, trips, events and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of IUCN for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances to be elected. This relates in particular to incumbent Council members, Commission members or members of staff nominated for a Council position in the use of resources that may have been placed at his/her disposal for the purpose of carrying out those functions or activities.
5. All campaign activities are to end on the date and time which the Congress Steering Committee will establish and announce during the 2020 Congress, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any manipulative activity, real or perceived. In particular, candidates shall refrain from arranging or endorsing the dissemination on their behalf of any flyers or other campaign support information or materials following the closing date and time for campaign activities.¹
6. A member of Council who intends to present his/her candidacy for the office of President will inform Council at the latest during the meeting of the IUCN Council referred to in Regulation 30 which considers the nominations. (In the 2016-2020 inter sessional period, this will be the 98th meeting of the IUCN Council²)

¹ Date to be established, taking into consideration that campaigning (a) must be allowed up to a certain date at the Congress venue in order for candidates to have the opportunity to meet with and get known by Members, but (b) must come to a halt at least on the eve – e.g., midnight – of election day, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any activity that is – or may be perceived to be – unfair to other candidates.

² The 98th Meeting of the IUCN Council is scheduled for 8 to 11 February 2020.

7. Candidates who are a member of the IUCN staff will notify the Director General of his/her intention to run for Council office before the deadline for nominations³. As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification to the Director General will include the confirmation that, should he/she be nominated, his/her employment contract with IUCN will end at a date agreed with the Director General, which will not be later than the date recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council or by the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Regional Councillor.
8. Candidates undertake to observe and uphold a free and fair process in their participation in all phases of the nominations and election process.
9. Candidates shall disclose in writing to the Congress Nominations Committee any actual or potential conflict of interest to which his/her candidacy might give rise.
10. This Guidance is issued and shall be interpreted pursuant to Council's procedure on "Additional requirements for Nomination to Council and guidance for election candidates."⁴

³ Deadline for nominations is 11 December 2019 at 13:00 GMT/UTC (decision C/96/9 of the 96th meeting of the IUCN Council, March 2019).

⁴ Approved by decision B/XVI of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 1 July 2019.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION TO COUNCIL AND GUIDANCE FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

(Approved by the IUCN Council at its 76th Meeting in May 2011, Decision C/76/40, and endorsed by the IUCN Council at its 85th Meeting, May 2015, Decision C/85/8; revised by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, decision B/XVI, 1 July 2019)

A. Introduction

In view of issues that arose during the quadrennium that ended with the 2008 Barcelona Congress, and in order to address those issues and otherwise contribute to the integrity, effectiveness and efficiency of the nominations and election process (the “election process” or “process”), the following guidance has been developed by Council. It aims to ensure good governance practices in the election process and to guide the various persons and functions involved in that process, including the following:

- The Nominations Committee of Council
- The prospective and actual candidates
- The Director General

B. Additional requirements for nomination to Council functions¹

1. Eligibility when Secretariat staff members intend to apply for Council office:

a. Candidates who are a member of the IUCN staff will notify the Director General of his/her intention to run for any Council office before the deadline for nominations². As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification to the Director General will include the confirmation that, should he/she be nominated, his/her employment contract with IUCN will end at a date agreed with the Director General, which will not be later than the date recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council or by the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Regional Councillor.

b. The Director General will as soon as possible transmit to the Nominations Committee, or to the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Regional Councillor, the staff member's notification of intention to run for Council. In this transmittal, the DG will set forth the proposed terms and conditions for the continued employment of the staff member up to the effective end date of the employment contract, which the Director General will tentatively agree with the staff member and other relevant staff.

c. The Nominations Committee/Election Officer in cooperation with the Director General will determine as soon as possible the date by which the employment contract shall be ended at the latest, taking into account all relevant facts and circumstances in each case.

2. Additional requirements when members of Council (other than the current President) intend to apply for the office of President

¹ The following additional requirements for nomination to Council have proven their effectiveness during the 2012 and 2016 nominations and elections process. However, in order to strengthen the status of the additional requirements and ensure they are implemented also after the nominations will have been made, Council may consider whether to incorporate them in the Statutes as eligibility criteria.

² Deadline for nominations is 11 December 2019 at 13:00 GMT/UTC (decision C/96/9 of the 96th meeting of the IUCN Council, March 2019).

a. A member of Council who intends to present his/her candidacy for the office of President will notify the Nominations Committee in writing of such intention before notifying any IUCN Members, Council members or Secretariat member. He/she will do so at the latest during the meeting of the IUCN Council referred to in Regulation 30, which decides on the nominations to be put forward to Congress (in the intersessional period 2016-2020 this will be the 98th Meeting of Council to be held in February 2020). Such a member of Council will be expected to:

i. Disclose in writing to the Congress Nominations Committee any actual or potential conflict of interest to which his/her candidacy might give rise.

ii. Avoid taking unfair advantage of functions and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of Council or any other component of IUCN, including the use of resources that may have been placed at his/her disposal for the purpose of carrying out those functions or activities, for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances of prevailing over the opponent(s).

C. Guidance for all candidates during the nomination and election campaign process

Appendix A³ provides a Guidance document for candidates which will form part of the nomination papers and which shall be signed by each candidate as a requisite step for his/her nomination.

³ Approved by the Bureau of the IUCN Council, decision B/XVI, 1 July 2019