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12-14 AGOSTO 2019

Report of the discussion on Improving IUCN Governance (reforms)

As part of the preparatory work for the South American Conservation Forum - FSC, the South American Committee formed a working group on governance issues, which was organized to present the proposals of changing the Statutes.

The main goals of this task were: to ensure that Members know the governance issues proposed for inclusion in the IUCN statutes, so that they can cast an informed vote during the Members Assembly, 2020; and, update Members on issues that the South American Committee has been following up on.

In order to accomplish this goal it was presented the following topics:

1. Presentation on the category of sub-national governments.
2. Electoral procedures and inclusion of dependent territories.
3. Proposal to establish an elected position of Indigenous Councillor.
4. Modification of the term "Regional Councillor".
5. Improvements in the motion process.
6. Role of the Commissions in the National and Regional Committees.
7. Follow-up to the External Evaluation of IUCN governance.

Participation in this segment of the Forum was scarce, however it was agreed that in a timely manner, before casting the vote in the Assembly, Members would hold meetings to clarify any doubts that may arise.

The greatest doubt generated during the plenary was related to the issue of electoral procedures and inclusion of dependent territories. Although the context was understood, which in a certain way limits the participation of dependent territories; it was also considered that there is a risk of giving them greater influence.

Regarding the participation of Commissions in national Committees, it was mentioned the necessity of regulating the use of the IUCN brand by the members of the Commissions.



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REPORT ON CONSULTATION OF MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY

In order to strengthening the consultation process on the 2020-2030 Membership Strategy, the working group on governance issues formed by the South American Committee to prepare the South American Conservation Forum, was responsible for designing the methodology to obtain the contributions of the regional Members.

The group's work consisted of:

1. Making an online consultation (consultation document in Annex 1), whereby Members expressed their agreement or disagreement with the position expressed by the South American Committee to the Governance and Constituents Committee of the Council, regarding various sections of the Strategy. 36 Members, more than 50% of the organizations represented in the Forum, responded to the consultation and several provided additional comments and ideas.
2. The consultation, in addition to its good level of participation, had two important results, the first one was the almost unanimous support of Members to the position of the Regional Committee mentioned above. The second one was the amount of contributions they made.
3. The results of that consultation were presented at the Forum, based on flipcharts that showed each question and its respective contributions members made online. Members present at the Forum indicated, through the use of stickers, those opinions that best represent their views. (Enclosed the images of the work done in the Forum and the documents with the synthesis of the results)

This report contains a synthesis of the comments that represent, mostly, the opinion of the South American membership to the proposal of the Membership Strategy

About Principles and Values:

1. Transparency, access to information and justice, public participation, coherence, subsidiarity, respect for human rights, responsibility and rule of law.
2. Ensure a perspective based on the rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, and respect and fulfillment of the rights of indigenous peoples
3. Intergenerational approach, it is urgent to direct youth involvement and empowerment strategies.

4. Consider everyone as a global unit, with particularities by region and ensure cultural diversity.
5. Reconciling Human Rights to combat poverty and inequality with the rational use of natural resources while protecting their integrity and functionality.

Ideas to improve involvement in governance:

1. Make it clear that IUCN is its members and not the Secretariat.¹
2. The four-year Program, plans and projects must be articulated with the Membership Strategy.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat, Members and Council must be clearly defined in the Membership Strategy. It is necessary to define well what the work of the regional offices is and how they can support their Members and not compete for funds.
4. Generate regional spaces for consultation and consensus among Regional Committees and Councillors.
5. Create a system of recognition of Members participation in IUCN governance is preeminent.
6. Strengthen National Committees.
7. Design a tool that allows a closer approach between members beyond the space of events. Something like an exchange.

On how to get to know members better and achieve synergies between them:

1. Take advantage of international events that bring together several Members, such as congresses or COPs of the conventions, to hold meetings among Members present and the maximum representatives of the Secretariat. In these meetings, establish meeting points for members and create WhatsApp groups to exchange information and news.
2. Build a network for access to cooperation, similar to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network. Thus Members can meet cooperation providers and different project presentation platforms, etc.

On strengthening work under the One Program Approach:

1. Involvement of all constituents in the development and implementation of the Program, plans and projects, according to their capabilities. Increased involvement of Members in projects that are promoted and executed by regional offices.
2. Involvement of all constituents in the definition and monitoring of indicators.
3. Promote a School of Governance to strengthen the capacities of Members, exchange capacities and create new ones; improve their interrelation and action possibilities with

¹ The strategy text often refers to IUCN when it seems to refer to the secretariat. The document should make it clear that IUCN is made up of its Members and Commissions, supported by the Secretariat.

each other, with Commissions and with other actors; Strengthen their involvement in the governance of the Union and ensure that Members understand IUCN's policy, contribute to it, through motions, and have the necessary elements to implement it.

4. The essence of IUCN is its Members. To the extent that the Members are strengthened through the national committees, the regional committees will be strengthened.

5. Establish coordinated work platforms, and not just reaction moments before meeting deadlines.

On participatory monitoring and evaluation:

1. The right of Regional and National Committees to receive, comment and contribute to the annual progress reports of the Global Program and regional plans.

2. The “Measurement and monitoring / success” of the Membership Strategy must be reflected in the Program, through its outcome and impact indicators.

3. Provide a system for measuring and monitoring the participation of Members, including quality indicators.

4. Regional councilors should have the obligation to work with their respective Regional Committees, reporting on issues of regional and global importance, as well as important decisions approved at the suggestion of the Council’s Committees.

5. The regional councilors must present to the Council the issues raised from the regions to which they belong and take care of the follow-up to their treatment, seeking concrete responses to regional demands.

6. Regional councilors and regional Secretariats should be involved in the follow-up of the motions approved in each general Assembly and that involve that region - in particular - to fulfill the desired effects.

7. To ensure that the Regional Committee and National Committees represent the vision of the Members so that the Counselors can do their job. And the vision of the Regional Councilors must be checked among all the Members of the region they represent before being issued.

On strengthening the membership composition:

1. Set achievable goals to increase government membership: States and / or government agencies and other sectors such as indigenous peoples and farmers' organizations. The South American membership strongly recommends the incorporation of the private sector (productive and industrial sectors) to the membership, as well as Universities.

2. Regarding the profile and qualities of potential members, it has been said that they should be: organizations linked to emerging issues such as climate change, gender, intercultural and intergenerational issues, access to environmental justice, sustainable cities. And that they must be responsible and ethical organizations.

3. Focus on young organizations is key, active and enthusiastic groups. The times to come require environmental activism again.

4. It is important to consider a strategy to handle this "growing" membership, so that we remain highly involved.

Other themes:

Allocation of sufficient funds for the work of regional offices.

On how to strengthen our IUCN identity:

- Setting positions and influencing the global agenda.
- Intensifying internal communication, contact with members, their integration and participation; providing clear and key messages.
- With strong National and Regional Committees.
- Work with organizations that join IUCN so that they know how they can contribute to expanding IUCN's mission.
- Best IUCN dissemination and visibility campaign.

On how to achieve a membership involved in the implementation of conservation and sustainable development actions:

- Working so that members have access to projects and supporting the fund raising.
- Generating appropriate mechanisms of participation, based on actions, projects and other integrative initiatives of the members, not only the Global ones, and incorporating them among the Union's contributions, not only what the Secretariat proposes, coordinates or does.
- Strengthening the participation of National and Regional Committees.

On roles / functions that Regional and National Committees should have:

- They must have agendas of greater impact on the public policy of the countries and be very attentive to the political situation in countries that may negatively impact the conservation of nature.
- Promote the collegial participation of IUCN members in projects, plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of nature at national and regional levels (especially those promoted by, or involving the State).
- Promote knowledge management and that the experiences developed within each Member can be shared with the others, promote networks among Members to defend themselves against actions of third parties (including the State), monitor and generate reports on regional and national achievements of the Members who contribute to the global program, among others
- Encourage the articulation of the IUCN institutional Members with the members of the Commissions.

On roles / functions of regional offices:

- Coordination, technical support, information, advice to align agendas at regional and national levels, to be a communication channel with the General Secretariat, Council, Committees and Commissions, identify joint financing opportunities with its Members, foster dialogue between Members, etc.
- Getting more involved with the partners, not only with the national representatives, providing facilities for project development, dissemination of projects and events in which the partners participate.
- Communicate periodically with National Committees and work together in the management of specific work plans.
- Articulate actors for the formulation and leverage of projects and economic resources for the development of regional biodiversity conservation projects.
- Guide / support the work of national commissions in the framework of global purposes.
- Be the articulating bridge between global, regional and national purposes.

On how IUCN's neutral coordinator role could be better exploited:

- Looking for agreements against discrepancies between sectors that impact on biodiversity, sometimes between the State and civil society, sometimes between private and civil society.
- Promoting the participation and capacities of Members as advisors to governments and their impact on conservation and sustainable development policies.

On actions to strengthen the capacities of Members:

- Supporting access to financial resources to projects in order to work on the specific actions required in the region / or country.
- Promoting a Governance School as a relevant tool, as well as webinars on several aspects of the governance of the union, as time progresses, in a timely manner, for example, the role of the World Congress, the Regional Forum, motion process, etc.
- Training in important and vital areas for the union and its members, such as: strategic planning, fund management, strategic communications, and development, among other topics.

On the Member's assessment of being a member of IUCN:

- The possibility of influencing biodiversity conservation policies at different scales and sectors.
- The variety of professional profiles and the exchange of experiences.
- Taking advantage of being a meeting place with people and institutions to establish synergies of action and summations towards wider spaces.