



THE REGIONAL COUNCILLORS OF IUCN ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

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

The Council has agreed on the guidance, qualifications and requirements presented below to guide the nominations for Regional councillors.

1. Election

The IUCN Regional Councillors are elected by the World Conservation Congress following the provisions of the IUCN Statutes, Article 39 and the IUCN Regulations 36 to 40. There shall be twenty-eight Regional Councillors. The number of elected Councillors for each Region shall be as follows: four (4) for Africa; four (4) for Meso and South America; three (3) for North America and the Caribbean; five (5) for South and East Asia; three (3) for West Asia; three (3) for Oceania; three (3) from West Europe, and three (3) from East Europe, North and Central Asia.

Guidance for nominations of Regional Councillors

Nominations should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment and also contribute to promoting a balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender, (iv) youth and (v) indigenous people.

2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Regional Councillors shall extend from the close of the ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress at which they are elected, until the close of the next ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.¹ (Statutes, Article 41)

The Regional Councillors, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Responsibilities and roles of Regional Councillors

General

(a) As members of Council, Regional Councillors serve first and foremost the best interests of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Articles 37 and 46 and providing oversight of IUCN's governance, financial management and programme as well as guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

Specific

(b) Within the above parameters, Regional Councillors provide input to the Council on the interests, priorities and needs of the IUCN Members, including the Members from their region;

(c) Regional Councillors act as IUCN's ambassadors, working with the President and Director General to advance the Vision, Mission and interests of the Union and to promote its services within the Region;

(d) Regional Councillors serve as key contact points in the Region to facilitate the work of the Council, the Director General and Secretariat, members of Commissions and IUCN Members, promoting the [One Programme Charter](#) which calls upon the

¹ Article 24 of the Statutes provides that the World Congress shall meet in ordinary session every fourth year and therefore the duration of the term of office is approximately four years.

constituent parts of the Union to work together to implement the IUCN Programme collaboratively;

- (e) Working actively with IUCN Regional and National Committees, IUCN Regional Offices and Members, Regional Councillors assist in promoting the work of the Union.
- (f) To carry out other duties and responsibilities as provided for in the Statutes;
- (g) Assisting Council and the Director General and the Secretariat in evaluating advice from, and working with, the membership in the Region;
- (h) Reporting to Members on Council deliberations;
- (i) Consulting the membership on issues to be discussed in the Council and conveying their opinions to Council;
- (j) Developing and maintaining regular contact with the IUCN Members in the Region, individually and through the Regional and National Committees, to keep them informed on the work of IUCN globally and in the Regions;
- (k) Participating in meetings of IUCN National and/or Regional Committees, other regional fora and gatherings of Members from the Region;
- (l) Promoting the Mission of the Union, fostering public awareness, and encouraging development of the membership in the Regions;
- (m) Facilitating communications between members of IUCN Commissions in the Region and IUCN Members and IUCN Offices;
- (n) Maintaining regular contact with their IUCN Regional and Country Offices and their designated Secretariat Focal Point within the Region;
- (o) Identifying persons and organizations within the Regions who could contribute to the work of the Union;
- (p) Responding to correspondence and requests for advice from IUCN Members, regional Commission representatives and members of the IUCN Secretariat;
- (q) Representing IUCN at national and international meetings in coordination with the Director General and IUCN Regional and Country Offices;
- (r) Assisting in fundraising for IUCN, both globally and within the regions.

4. Qualifications for the Post

Councillors should have the following attributes:

General

- (a) previous governance/Board experience, preferably in an international organization or large regional organization
- (b) commitment to conservation, equity, justice and sustainable development
- (c) a global view of the Union, and the ability to contribute to the strategic directions of IUCN and determination of its priorities
- (d) financial literacy
- (e) commitment to serve Council in one of its standing committees
- (f) the capacity to work in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN

- (g) gender equity and regional diversity must be taken into consideration in presenting candidates

Specific

- (h) outstanding, widely respected individuals;
- (i) experience working at regional or international level;
- (j) capacity for guiding development of the Union's policies between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;
- (k) competency in one of the key areas of Union development and oversight.

Desirable

- (i) Support at institutional/employment base
- (ii) Experience from regional and/or international networking
- (iii) Prior IUCN involvement

Requirements

- (i) Avoid conflict of interest situations;
- (ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of State, Member organization or interest groups;
- (iii) Able to devote substantial time to the Union (1 to 2 Council meetings per year; preparation; participation in Committees and Task Forces throughout the year; regional duties and communications with Members as detailed under Section 3 above. Cumulatively this is at least six weeks of work per year).

5. Expenses

The position of Regional Councillor is a voluntary position. Regional Councillors may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors ([Council Handbook](#)).

6. Additional Reference Material

The IUCN Council Handbook and Performance Tools prepared and approved by Council, provide guidance on the role and responsibilities of Council, its composition and structure. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the [IUCN Council Handbook](#) as well as the [IUCN Statutes and Regulations](#).