

Third Motions Working Group update

Electronic vote results, new Resolutions and Recommendations, online discussion of governance motions and other Congress Agenda items

13 November 2020

In this third update, the Motions Working Group (MWG) wishes to call Members' attention to a number of important milestones regarding the motions process of the World Conservation Congress 2020.

1. Outcome of the electronic vote on motions

The system for the electronic vote on motions was open **7-21 October 2020**. Members were asked to vote on **109 motions, including 15 with amendments**. **Members adopted all 109 motions**, continuing a trend from previous Congresses that the majority of motions that reach the vote are ultimately adopted. You can find the final adopted text of the motions, as well as the **electronic vote results** published on 4 November 2020, on the [Congress website](#).

The electronic vote enjoyed wide participation among the Membership, with **729 Members voting (62% of those eligible)**,¹ though a slightly lower proportion compared to the electronic vote on motions prior to the Congress in Hawai'i (69% of those eligible). The tables below provide additional details about the participation rates across regions and Membership categories.

Member Statutory Region	# Accredited	# Voted	Voting %
Africa	190	99	52%
East Europe, North and Central Asia	57	23	40%
Meso and South America	177	145	82%
North America and the Caribbean	137	83	61%
Oceania	35	18	51%
South and East Asia	243	184	76%
West Asia	58	38	66%
West Europe	279	139	50%
Total	1,176	729	62%

¹ Members in categories A, B, and C who have paid their membership dues are eligible to vote.

Member Category	# Accredited	# Voted	Voting %
A: States and government agencies	124	77	62%
B: Non-governmental organisations	1,030	634	62%
C: Indigenous Peoples' Organisations	22	18	82%
Total	1,176	729	62%

The Motions Working Group extends its sincerest thanks to all of the Members that participated in this important process.

We also note that given the rescheduling of so many international policy fora in 2020, including the Congress, several motions contain references to events or processes that may be outdated. In some cases, these were corrected during or after the online discussion, while in others there was no opportunity to do so prior to the electronic vote. Such references do not adversely affect these motions' validity or standing. We simply highlight this issue to address any Members' concerns about particular motions.

2. Resolutions and Recommendations are part of IUCN's general policy

Under normal circumstances, the motions adopted by electronic vote prior to a Congress would be recorded *en bloc* during the Members' Assembly, at which point they would enter into force as Resolutions and Recommendations, thereby becoming part of IUCN's general policy.

However, given the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves, and the ongoing uncertainty about the date and format of the Congress, Members voted overwhelming that, "as an exception to Rule 62^{septimo} of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, the motions adopted by this electronic vote become effective at the close of this electronic vote on motions (i.e. 21 October 2020)."

The consequence of this decision is that **the 109 motions that Members adopted by electronic vote have already entered into force as IUCN policy as of late October**. They have therefore been renumbered and reclassified as Resolutions and Recommendations (see **Annex**), and will soon be made available in the Resolutions and Recommendations database in the [IUCN library portal](#).² Members will recall that Resolutions are aimed at IUCN itself, while Recommendations are directed

² Note that as motions will be adopted at different times for this Congress, the numbering convention differs slightly from previous Congresses, when governance Resolutions preceded policy Resolutions, which in turn preceded Recommendations.

to third parties. Of the 109 approved motions, **96 have been classified as Resolutions**, while **13 have been classified as Recommendations**.

3. Online discussion and electronic vote on governance motions

When the Council decided at its meeting on 14 September 2020 to postpone the Congress ([decision C100/3](#)), it also decided to submit several decision items included in the draft Agenda of the Congress to an electronic vote, which will be held **27 January-10 February 2021**. To prepare for that vote, these items were sent for an **online discussion running 22 October-3 December 2020**.

Among the items sent to the online discussion were [nine motions](#) to amend the Statutes and other governance issues proposed by the IUCN Council. Following the end of the online discussion, Council's Governance and Constituency Committee will advise which of these nine motions will be ready for submission to the electronic vote and which ones will need further discussion, and be voted upon during the Members' Assembly in Marseille. We strongly encourage Members to participate in this discussion, as well as the electronic vote in early 2021. More information about this process is available on the [Congress website](#).

Governance motions being discussed online

#	Title
A	Including subnational governments in IUCN's membership
B	Election of Regional Councillors resident in dependent territories
C	Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position
D	Modification of the term "Regional Councillor"
E	Improvements to the motions process
F	Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees
G	Clarification of conditions for readmission of former State Members
H	Establishment, operating rules and oversight of National, Regional and Interregional Committees
I	Functions of the IUCN Treasurer

4. Motions forwarded to the Members' Assembly for further debate

Members will recall from our [previous update](#) that 19 motions were forwarded to the Members' Assembly for further debate prior to the vote, rather than going to the electronic vote. These are listed below.

#	Title
003	[Establishing a Climate Change Commission] [Establishing an Inter-Commissional Cross-Sectoral Task Force on the Climate Crisis] [Establishing an IUCN Climate Task Force]
013	Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects
021	Planning [of maritime areas] [of the maritime area] and [biodiversity conservation] [conservation of natural diversity]
024	Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean
034	[Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises]
039	Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers
040	Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework
044	Actions to strengthen food sovereignty and security of indigenous peoples and peasant communities
045	Recognising and supporting indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights and roles in conservation
048	Rediscovering the care of Mother Earth from the vision of indigenous peoples
062	Towards a Policy on Natural Capital
067	Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity
069	Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining
075	IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation
084	Taking action to reduce light pollution
101	Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive
118	Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation
125	Strengthening the protection of old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible
126	Advancing conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction



For the moment, that process remains unchanged. However, given the ongoing uncertainty about the timing and format of the Congress, we are considering options to expedite this process, or at least to continue to engage Members in making progress towards reaching a consensus on some of these motions prior to the Members' Assembly. We will share more information in due course.

5. New and urgent motions

The protocol for submitting new and urgent motions to the Congress remains unchanged. As per Rule 53, they "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." The Secretariat will ensure that all of the details and procedures are communicated once the timing and modalities of the Congress have been confirmed.

As usual, you can direct any questions or comments to motions@iucn.org.

Annex: Renumbered and reclassified Resolutions and Recommendations 2020³

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
001	Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews	Res 001
002	Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning indigenous peoples	Res 002
004	Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs	Res 003
005	Urgent action against the grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> outside of its natural distribution range	Res 004
006	Promoting harmony between cranes – flagships for biodiversity – and agriculture	Res 005
007	Declaration of priority for the conservation of tropical dry forests in South America	Res 006
008	Developing agroecological practices as nature-based solutions	Res 007
009	Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate	Res 008
010	Protecting and restoring endangered grassland and savannah ecosystems	Res 009
011	Preventing conflicts of interest related to chemicals and plant protection products	Res 010
012	The fight against imported deforestation	Rec 011
014	Aquatic biodiversity conservation of shallow marine and freshwater systems	Res 012
015	Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity	Res 013
016	The importance of a cross-border approach to prioritise biodiversity conservation, adaptation to climate change and risk management in the Río de la Plata Basin	Res 014
017	Cooperation on transboundary fresh waters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development	Res 015
018	Conservation of spring ecosystems in the Mediterranean region	Res 016
019	Protection of natural flows of water for the conservation of wetlands	Res 017
020	Valuing and protecting inland fisheries	Res 018

³ The full Resolution and Recommendation number will include additional information about the Congress, meaning that, for example, "Res 001" will be numbered "WCC 2020 Res 001" or "Resolution 7.001". Check the library portal for details.

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
022	Stopping the global plastic pollution crisis in marine environments by 2030	Res 019
023	Protection of herbivorous fish for improved coral community	Rec 020
025	Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean	Rec 021
026	Establishment of a mid-frequency active (MFA – 1 to 10 KHz) sonar moratorium for maritime military exercises conducted in Macaronesia	Res 022
027	Reducing impacts of incidental capture on threatened marine species	Res 023
028	For an improved management of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) in purse seine fisheries	Rec 024
029	Ecosystem conservation, restoration and remediation in the ocean	Res 025
030	International cooperation on marine pollution from sunken vessels	Res 026
031	Seascapes working for biodiversity conservation	Res 027
032	Updating of the legislation to stop the pollution of oceans caused by the discharging of wastewater by ships	Res 028
033	For the urgent global management of marine and coastal sand resources	Rec 029
035	Enhancing the resilience of coastal areas in the face of climate change, biodiversity crisis and rapid coastal development	Res 030
036	The implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin	Res 031
037	Ocean impacts of climate change	Res 032
038	Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures	Res 033
041	Ecological integrity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Res 034
042	Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021–2030	Res 035
043	Declaration of global priority for conservation in the Amazon Biome	Res 036
046	Strengthening the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment	Res 037
047	Treating organized crime having an impact on the environment as a serious crime	Res 038
049	Australia’s extinction crisis and national environmental law reform	Rec 039

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
050	Implementing international efforts to combat the sale of illegal wildlife products online	Res 040
051	Ensuring funding to secure rights and secure ecologies	Res 041
052	Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict	Res 042
053	Enhancing implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	Res 043
054	Climate crisis legal toolkit	Res 044
055	Global Indigenous Network for Aquaculture (GINA)	Res 045
056	Creation of the Ombudsperson for Future Generations	Res 046
057	Law enforcement regarding commercial trade in tigers and tiger parts	Res 047
058	Contributions of the Conservation-enabling Hierarchy to the post-2020 CBD framework	Res 048
059	Mainstreaming the Cerrado in international cooperation and global environmental funds	Res 049
060	Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law using legal indicators	Res 050
061	Regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	Res 051
063	Dams in the Alto Paraguay River Basin, the Pantanal and the Paraguay-Paraná Wetland System	Rec 052
064	Promoting sustainable and ethical mining practices in Africa	Res 053
065	Engaging the private sector to combat wildlife trafficking	Res 054
066	Guidance to identify industrial fishing incompatible with protected areas	Res 055
068	Biodiversity financing	Res 056
070	Accounting for biodiversity: encompassing ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	Res 057
071	Safeguarding coral reefs from harmful chemicals in sunscreen	Res 058
072	Combatting the illegal trade in lion body parts and derivatives	Res 059
073	Promotion of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions	Res 060

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
074	Partnerships and further development of a Global Ecosystem Typology	Res 061
076	Role of children and youth in nature conservation	Res 062
077	Urgent call to share and use primary biodiversity in situ data	Res 063
078	Promoting conservation through behaviour-centred solutions	Res 064
079	Enhancing knowledge of natural resource conservation and alternative sustainable energy models through faith-based organisation networks	Res 065
080	Generalising alternative practices and techniques to the use of synthetic pesticides	Res 066
081	Call for Nature in Cities agendas and strengthening the IUCN Urban Alliance	Res 067
082	Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	Res 068
083	Eliminate plastic pollution in protected areas, with priority action on single-use plastic products	Res 069
085	Combatting soil degradation and artificialisation	Res 070
086	Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure	Res 071
087	Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning	Res 072
088	Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels	Res 073
089	Geoheritage and protected areas	Res 074
090	Transboundary cooperation for conservation of big cats in Northeast Asia	Res 075
091	Building and strengthening wildlife economies in Eastern and Southern Africa	Res 076
092	Effects of the increase in the use of paper as a substitute for plastic on plantations of timber species	Res 077
093	Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems	Res 078
094	Linking in situ and ex situ efforts to save threatened species	Res 079
095	Recognising, reporting and supporting other effective area-based conservation measures	Res 080
096	Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity	Res 081

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
097	Reducing marine turtle bycatch: the important role of regulatory mechanisms in the global roll-out of Turtle Excluder Devices	Res 082
098	Ensuring the compatibility of human activities with conservation objectives in protected areas	Res 083
099	Global response to protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PADDD)	Res 084
100	Rewilding	Res 085
102	Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes	Rec 086
103	Urgent measures to safeguard the globally important Atewa Forest, Ghana	Res 087
104	Conservation of the natural diversity and natural heritage in mining environments	Res 088
105	Preventing the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard (<i>Ardeotis nigricaps</i>) in India	Rec 089
106	Continental conservation priority for the jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>)	Res 090
107	Global Conservation of rhino rays (<i>Rhinidae</i>, <i>Glaucostegidae</i>, <i>Rhinobatidae</i>)	Res 091
108	Adapting traditional medicine to achieve social and environmental sustainability	Res 092
109	A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions	Res 093
110	Safeguarding the Endangered narrow-ridged finless porpoise (<i>Neophocaena asiaeorientalis</i>) in the Yellow Sea	Rec 094
111	Conservation of seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons (family <i>Syngnathidae</i>)	Res 095
112	Maximising return on conservation investments and sustainable development: eradicating invasive alien species (IAS) to conserve island biodiversity and benefit society	Res 096
113	National Plan for the Sustainable Management of the Guanaco in Argentina	Rec 097
114	Saving the world's otters	Res 098
115	Strengthening great ape conservation across countries, in and outside of protected areas, involving local actors	Rec 099
116	Building Madagascar's capacity to counter the threat from invasive species	Res 100
117	Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife	Res 101

Mot. #	Title	Res/Rec #
119	Improving process and action to identify and recover 'Extinct in the Wild' species	Res 102
120	Action against Asian songbird trafficking	Res 103
121	Next IUCN World Parks Congress	Res 104
122	Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Res 105
123	Protection of Kakadu World Heritage site and rehabilitation of the Ranger uranium mine and Ranger Project Area	Res 106
124	Reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity	Res 107
127	Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains	Res 108
128	Increasing funding for biodiversity in developing countries	Rec 109