



IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

## **THE PRESIDENT OF IUCN ELECTION, ROLE AND FUNCTION**

(Approved by the IUCN Council at its 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting, May 2015, decision C/85/8)

### 1. Election

The President of IUCN is elected by the World Conservation Congress. IUCN Regulation 32 provides the following guidance:

"Not more than two nominations for President and for Treasurer shall be made by the Council after considering the proposals made by Members in Categories A and B. Nominations for President may also be made directly by Members as provided for in the Statutes, provided that such nomination is received by the Director General not less than sixty days prior to the opening of the session of the World Congress."

### 2. Term of Office

The term of office of the President extends from the close of the World Conservation Congress at which the President is elected to the close of the next ordinary session of the Congress.<sup>1</sup> (Statutes, Article 41)

The President, 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 of the President

- (a) To preside over the work of the World Conservation Congress and of the Council.
- (b) To work with all members of Council and the Director General to make the World Conservation Congress and Council as effective as possible.
- (c) In consultation with the Chairs of Council Committees, to guide the Director General on the issues to be brought before Council, and where appropriate, to approve the papers to be laid before Council before these are circulated to the members.
- (d) To advise the Director General, on behalf of the Council, on how the policies endorsed or defined by the Council should be implemented between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.
- (e) To contribute prestige and influence to enhance the high regard in which the Union is held in the international arena and to facilitate its access to governments and international organizations at the highest level.
- (f) To represent the Union at meetings of persons of similar status, and to undertake such other representational tasks as are most appropriate; representational duties being divided between the President and Director General in a fashion most convenient to them both.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

#### 4. Qualifications

The IUCN Council has agreed on the following criteria to guide the Council Nominations Committee:

- (a) Nominations should take into account the background of the Director General and reflect the diversity of IUCN.
- (b) The President should be:
  - (i) an individual with a significant record of interests and activities strongly supportive of the Mission and objectives of IUCN
  - (ii) of international profile, with a network that enables access to high level officials
  - (iii) committed to conservation and sustainable development
  - (iv) an excellent ambassador for the Union
  - (v) an accomplished speaker
  - (vi) a competent chair for meetings
  - (vii) an individual with leadership qualities
  - (viii) able to devote substantial time to the Union
  - (ix) capable of working in English and if possible, at least one of the other official languages of IUCN
- (c) Gender equity should be taken into consideration in presenting candidates.

#### 5. Expenses

The Presidency of IUCN is a voluntary position. IUCN covers the cost of travel and subsistence for meetings of the Council and will cover the expenses incurred by the President when undertaking special missions for the Union agreed as a part of the Union's programme of action. IUCN may also contribute to office support for the President, according to a budget agreed with the Director General and Council.

#### 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, the composition and structure of Council and the role of the President, Vice Presidents and the Director General. Prospective candidates are invited to consult the [IUCN Council Handbook](#), the [Code of Conduct for IUCN Councillors](#) as well as the [IUCN Statutes and Regulations](#).