



IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

## **IUCN COMMISSION CHAIRS 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 Chairs of the IUCN Commissions are elected by the World Conservation Congress. Regulation 34 to the IUCN Statutes provides the following guidance:

“Nominations for election to the office of Chair of each Commission shall be made to each ordinary session of the World Congress by the Council after considering proposals made by Members in Categories A and B, and by the members of that Commission. The nominations shall take into account the need to ensure that the holders of these offices are of the highest professional calibre and, as a whole, come from a diverse range of Regions.”

### 2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Chairs of Commissions 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.<sup>1</sup> (Statutes, 41)

The Chairs of Commissions, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, 42)<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Responsibilities of Commission Chairs

- (a) To provide creative, dynamic and visionary leadership for the activities of the Commission to enable it to fulfill its Mission as defined in the mandate adopted by the World Conservation Congress and contribute its part of the IUCN Programme.
- (b) To serve as the lead representative for the Union in the substantive field of expertise of the Commission.
- (c) To maintain and motivate a network of Commission members and be responsive to their inquiries and concerns.
- (d) To ensure the work of the Commission is well organized and effectively managed.
- (e) Within the preceding, to ensure that the Commission works closely with the other IUCN Commissions, IUCN's membership, its National and Regional Committees and the Union's other components to further the objectives of IUCN and its integrated programme.

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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.

<sup>2</sup> Article 42 of the IUCN Statutes: “Members of the Council shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. For the purpose of this Article, the time served to fill the balance of the term of a Council member following a vacancy occurring in Council, shall not be counted.”

- (f) To raise financial resources, supplementary to the budget of the Union's Secretariat for the activities of the Commission, in close coordination with the Strategic Partnerships Unit, the Regional Programmes and other thematic programmes of the Secretariat.
- (g) To represent the Commission at national and international fora directly related to the implementation of the Commission's programme of activities.
- (h) To propose to Council, a candidate for appointment as Deputy Chair of the Commission and candidates for membership of the Commission Steering Committee.
- (i) Be responsible for the appointment or re-appointment of the members of the Commission and the assessment of their performance.
- (j) To ensure effective and accountable management of all Commission funds and appropriate reporting to Council.
- (k) To present a written report at each ordinary or extraordinary session of the World Congress and each year to the Council.
- (l) To participate as a member of Council, providing guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's policies and programmes for the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress and fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in Article 46 of the Statutes.

#### 4. Qualifications

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

Commission Chairs should have the following attributes:

- (a) outstanding, widely respected expert within the work of the Commission
- (b) time available for the full discharge of the Commission Chair's duties as defined in Section 3 above
- (c) if possible, institutional support for the discharge of the Commission Chair's duties
- (d) good knowledge of IUCN
- (e) network of contacts around the world and networking skills
- (f) practical experience within the work of the Commission
- (g) ability to work across cultures, disciplines, north-south
- (h) leadership qualities - able to give vision, sense of direction and inspiration
- (i) effective chair of meetings
- (j) strategic planning and organizational management skills
- (k) good communicator

(l) experience with the concerned Commission

(m) capacity to work in English and at least one of the other official languages

5. Secretariat support for the work of the Commission

Commission Chairs may expect to receive from the Secretariat, reasonable support for the work of their Commission in accordance with IUCN Regulation 81.

6. Expenses

The position of Commission Chair is a voluntary position. Commission Chairs may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses within the framework of the financial support provided by the Secretariat to the Commission and in accordance with the Council's Policy on the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses to IUCN Councillors (Annex III to Council Handbook).

7. 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](#).