Improvements of IUCN’s Governance currently under consideration in the IUCN Council

Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia

Rotterdam, 1-3 July 2019
IMPROVEMENTS OF IUCN’S GOVERNANCE

1. Including subnational governments in IUCN’s membership
2. Election procedures and inclusiveness of dependent territories
3. Establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position
4. Modification of the term “Regional Councillor”
5. Improvements to the motions process
6. Follow-up to the External Review of IUCN’s governance
1. Including subnational governments in IUCN’s membership

Concrete proposals 2012 & 2016, but no 2/3 majority

2012:

1) to make it explicit in the Statutes that Government Agencies of all levels below the national level could apply so that Subnational Government Agencies could join in the sub-category Government Agencies and share the collective vote of Government Agencies of their country; and

2) to add in Category A, a new sub-category for Subnational Governments; increase the number of votes for State Members from 3 to 4, of which one was to be used a collective vote for the Government Agencies and another as collective vote for the Subnational Governments.
1. Including subnational governments in IUCN’s membership

- Resolution WCC-2016-Res-003 adopted in Hawai‘i
- Working Group chaired by Councillor Amran Hamzah (Malaysia)
- Subnational Governments = all levels of government with mandate and authority below the national level in any given country that is, or can be, a State Member of IUCN
- Proposal = create a new (third) sub-category for Subnational Governments within the “Government House” (Category A), in addition to the State Members and the Government Agency Members
1. Including subnational governments in IUCN’s membership

In the Government House:
- Each State Member will have 3 votes; each Government Agency and Subnational Government will have 1 vote
- Votes will be adjusted in order to balance the voting weight of each sub-category according to the ratio 3:1:1
2. Election procedures and inclusiveness of dependent territories
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Amend Article 40 of the IUCN Statutes as follows:

Only one Regional Councillor, and only two Chairs of Commissions, shall be from the same State. This does not exclude the election of one additional Regional Councillor from the same State but resident in a dependent territory that is geographically located in a Region, or part of a Region other than that of the State to which it belongs. For the purpose of Article 39, such candidate shall be elected for the Region in which the dependent territory is geographically located.
3. Establish an elected Indigenous Councillor position

- In May 2018, the IUCN Council appointed Mr Ramiro Batzin Chojoj as “additional appointed Councillor” on the proposal of IUCN’s Indigenous Peoples’ Organisation (IPO) Members
- Article 38 (f) enables Council to appoint one additional Councillor
- Council accepted to assign the position to an IPO Member representative without setting a precedent
- Council will study the feasibility of establishing an elected Indigenous Councillor position for implementation in 2024, if a proposal in this sense is adopted by the 2020 Congress
- In the meantime, IUCN Members are encouraged to nominate / elect indigenous persons for existing elected positions
4. Modification of the term “Regional Councillor”

- Article 62 of the IUCN Statutes: “Members of the Council shall serve IUCN in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their respective States or organisations” - i.e. Council members should act independently in the best interest of IUCN as a whole

- Misperceptions about Councillors’ global and regional roles

- Change the term “Regional Councillor” completely changes the nomenclature and increases complexity in the Statutes

- Council’s Governance and Constituency Committee considers “light” changes to Article 38 of the Statutes (membership of Council), plus clarification, in the Statutes or other documents, of the role of Council members
4. Modification of the term “Regional Councillor”

Proposed amendment from the Governance and Constituency Committee of Council:

Article 38 of the Statutes:

The members of the Council are:

- (a) the President;
- (b) the Treasurer;
- (c) the Chairs of the Commissions;
- (d) the Regional Councillors;
- (e) i. Regional Councillors;
  ii. a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat, appointed by the Council, provided that one from that State has not been elected Regional Councillor; and
- (f) iii. one additional appointed Councillor, chosen by the Council on the basis of appropriate qualifications, interests and skills.
5. Improvements to the motions process

A. Increase the majority required to adopt motions from a “simple majority” to a “two-thirds majority”: (New) Article 31bis:

_The adoption of motions referred to in RoP 48bis shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast in Category A and in Categories B and C combined._

B. Require and guarantee the scientific independence of the work carried out by the Commissions and the Secretariat: (New) Article 3bis:

_In working towards the objectives outlined in Article 3 (f) bis of the Statutes, the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions are required to uphold the highest standard of scientific work and will be free from undue influence in this regard._

C. Put a cap on the number of abstentions in order for a motion to be adopted: Article 32:

_Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast. However, if the number of abstentions is 1/3 or more of all votes in either Category A or Category B and C combined, the motion is not adopted._
6. Follow-up to the External Review of IUCN’s governance

• Second four-yearly External Review of IUCN’s Governance (the 1st one was commissioned by Council in 2015)

• At mid-term to allow the preparation of proposals for change, in time for discussion / decision at Congress

• Distinct from the four-yearly External Review of IUCN which is focused on implementation of the IUCN Programme and delivered towards the end of the term

• Council is preparing the “Management Response” to the External Review, with detailed action points and a timeline, for consideration at the Council meeting in October 2019
The IUCN Council is looking forward to receiving your views on these questions, and any other governance issues that you would like to bring forward.

Post your comments on the Council proposals to amend the IUCN Statutes on the topics presented today, in the Union Portal by mid-September 2019 (page will be opened soon).

Post IUCN Member proposals to amend the IUCN Statutes on any other topics in the Union Portal by 11 December 2019: https://portals.iucn.org/union/node/21735
THANK YOU