



### **IUCN Council's Guidance for 2025 Election Candidates**

(Approved by decision C/76/40 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2011; revised by decision C/85/8 of the 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2015, decision B/XVI of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 1 July 2019 and decision B/XIII of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 28 August 2024)

IUCN seeks to attract candidates with the necessary competencies, profile and ability to represent the interests of the Union in order to provide effective governance including oversight, strategic direction, and policy guidance between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

Council members have a fundamental obligation to serve IUCN with diligence and integrity. This obligation extends to candidates for election to the offices of IUCN to ensure good governance practices in the elections process. The following guidance is intended to serve this purpose.

1. An individual proposed for nomination by Council as candidate for President, Treasurer or Commission Chair becomes a candidate once nominated by decision of the IUCN Council<sup>1</sup> of which the candidate will receive formal notice. Once an individual is proposed to Council for nomination to any of the aforementioned positions and until Council takes a decision whether to nominate the individual concerned to Congress for election, IUCN Members, Commission members as well as the individual proposed shall abstain from any attempt to persuade Council members to nominate the individual. Any actions to the contrary may lead to withdrawal of the proposed individual by the Nominations Committee from the list of nominees provided to the Council.
2. Candidates for President, Treasurer and Commission Chair may start campaign activities<sup>2</sup> from the moment they have been notified of Council's decision to nominate them to Congress for election. Candidates for President nominated in conformity with Article 27 of the Statutes may start campaign activities<sup>2</sup> from the moment their candidacy is received by the Director General in conformity with Regulation 32. Candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions and for Indigenous Councillor may undertake campaign activities<sup>2</sup> once their nomination has been validated by the Election Officer and posted in IUCN's intranet in conformity with Regulation 40.
3. In undertaking their election campaign activities, candidates are to conduct themselves with integrity and with respect and fairness towards the opposition candidates and their colleagues.
4. In their campaigning activities, candidates are encouraged to demonstrate restraint in respect of the resources they use and allocate available resources in the first place to conservation purposes. Candidates should prefer to communicate about their candidacy by electronic means instead of postage or printed materials. However, they shall also not abuse email addresses of IUCN members through excessive communications.
5. In conducting their election campaign activities, candidates are to refrain from making untruthful representations about their qualifications and/or their opponents' qualifications for the office sought.

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<sup>1</sup> Council meeting C113 scheduled for 7-9 May 2025

<sup>2</sup> The term "campaign activity" is to be understood as any action (such as electronic or postal mail, social media, physical or virtual meetings, blogs and other web-based platforms or publications) undertaken in support of or against a candidate for election with the candidate's knowledge, whether taken by the candidate or an IUCN Member on the candidate's behalf.

6. Candidates must avoid taking advantage of functions, trips, events and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of IUCN for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances to be elected. This relates in particular to incumbent Council members, Commission members or members of staff nominated for a Council position in the use of resources that may have been placed at his/her disposal for the purpose of carrying out those functions or activities.
7. All campaign activities are to end on the date and time which the Congress Steering Committee will establish and announce during the 2025 Congress, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any manipulative activity, real or perceived. In particular, candidates shall refrain from arranging or endorsing the dissemination on their behalf of any flyers or other campaign support information or materials following the closing date and time for campaign activities.<sup>3</sup>
8. A member of Council who intends to present his/her candidacy for the office of President will inform Council at the latest during the meeting of the IUCN Council referred to in Regulation 30 which considers the nominations. (In the 2021-2025 inter sessional period, this will be the 113<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IUCN Council<sup>4</sup>)
9. Candidates who are a member of the IUCN staff will notify the Director General of his/her intention to run for Council office before the deadline for nominations<sup>5</sup>. As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification to the Director General will include the confirmation that, should he/she be nominated, his/her employment contract with IUCN will end at a date agreed with the Director General, which will not be later than the date recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council or by the Election Officer in the case of candidates for Councillor elected from the Regions.
10. Candidates undertake to observe and uphold a free and fair process in their participation in all phases of the nominations and election process.
11. Candidates shall disclose in writing to the Congress Nominations Committee any actual or potential conflict of interest to which his/her candidacy might give rise.
12. This Guidance is issued and shall be interpreted pursuant to Council's procedure on "Additional requirements for Nomination to Council and guidance for election candidates."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Date to be established, taking into consideration that campaigning (a) must be allowed up to a certain date at the Congress venue in order for candidates to have the opportunity to meet with and get known by Members, but (b) must come to a halt at least on the eve – e.g., midnight – of election day, in order to allow for a voting process that is fair, smooth, and free of any activity that is – or may be perceived to be – unfair to other candidates.

<sup>4</sup> The 113<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council is scheduled for 7-9 May 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Deadline for nominations is 7 February 2025 at 13:00 GMT/UTC

<sup>6</sup> Approved by [decision B/VII of the Bureau](#) of the IUCN Council, 18 August 2024.