

Final Motions Working Group Update

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

30 September 2025

Dear Members,

This is our last communication before Congress and contains important information about the remaining steps of the motions process. We invite all IUCN Members to read it carefully.

1. Outcome of electronic vote on motions

The electronic vote on motions took place from 27 August to 10 September 2025.

You would recall that following the online discussion, the Motions Working Group (MWG) submitted one hundred (100) motions to an electronic vote prior to Congress, nine of which had amendments to be considered, and thirty-eight (38) were sent to the Members' Assembly for further discussion before the vote. After appeal, two (2) motions were added to the ones remitted to the Assembly (40). A total of ninety-seven motions (97) were sent to the electronic ballot¹.

Members adopted all 97 motions, continuing a trend from previous Congresses by which the majority of motions that reach the vote are adopted. The electronic vote results published on 24 September, can be found on the [Congress website](#). The final adopted text of these Resolutions and Recommendations will be published on the [Resolutions and Recommendations platform](#) after the Congress.

2. Discussion of motions before Congress

Rule of Procedure 56(d) of the [IUCN Statutes](#) states that, *in order to increase the time for discussion during Congress, the MWG may convene virtual contact groups in the three weeks prior to the Opening of the Congress.*

Given the very large number of motions to debate upon before the vote, 16 of the 40 sent to Congress were remitted to early virtual contact groups (see [our Third Update](#)).

¹ It is 97 rather than 98 because motions 048 and 052 were merged into a single text for vote. The list of the 97 motions that were sent to the electronic vote is [available here](#).

In addition, the Council has decided to convene early contact groups, for a first reading of a number of [Congress documents](#), including the draft Programme, Financial Plan, the 20-year Strategic Vision, the Commission mandates, and motions proposing amendments to the Statutes.

Information about these early contact groups, including the schedule, can be found in the [Motions Process page](#). We encourage you to consult the page regularly as it is periodically updated with new information.

3. Discussion and vote of motions during Congress

The MWG referred 40 motions, as amended during the online discussion, to the Members' Assembly for continued debate and vote. These are listed [here](#).

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress (see Box 1), detailed negotiations on the text of the motions remitted to Congress, and other new and urgent motions (see section 4), will take place in contact groups.

Box 1: Excerpt of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress

56. (a) *The Resolutions Committee may refer a motion to a committee or ad hoc contact group of delegates from accredited Members, for its review and advice or decide that it be debated and voted upon directly by the World Congress. It may also propose that motions whose arguments are not technically sound or coherent and require further development or motions which are so controversial that it is, in its opinion, not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by the Members' Assembly, be deferred to the next session of the World Congress.*

(b) *The Chair may also propose that a motion under discussion in the World Congress be referred to a contact group.*

(c) *When meeting during the World Congress, contact groups shall have a fully virtual format.*

[...]

(f) *For issues that prove hard to resolve in contact groups, the Resolutions Committee or the facilitator of a contact group may set up one or more drafting groups that balance the spectrum of views on the motion, for the purpose of achieving a consensus text. Should a consensus remain impossible, the drafting groups may decide to present minority views as amendments. Drafting group meetings may also be convened in a fully virtual or hybrid format.*

(g) *The reports of such contact groups or drafting groups shall ordinarily be considered by the Resolutions Committee prior to their presentation to the World Congress. The debate in the World Congress shall take place on the text resulting from this process.*

Contact groups will be established as required and scheduled to be convened both during the days of the Forum and the Members' Assembly (i.e. from 10 to 14 October, to avoid opening and closing days of Congress). Contact groups during Congress will take place throughout the day during the Forum, and when there is no plenary sitting scheduled during the Members' Assembly. Depending on progress made, contact groups may be scheduled early in the morning or late in the evening. Contact groups will take place in a fully virtual format. In case drafting groups are needed, these may be convened either in a fully virtual or hybrid format.

The contact group [schedule and sign up](#) is available on the Congress website, and will be updated periodically. We advise to consult it regularly.

Finally, the *tentative* timeline for the presentation, discussion and vote of motions during the plenary of the Members' Assembly is the following:

9 October 2025 1st Sitting, 14:00–17:00 GST

- Adoption of ToRs of Congress Committees, including the Resolutions Committee
- First report of the Resolutions Committee and recording *en bloc* the adoption of motions through the electronic ballot prior to Congress. Presentation about the schedule of Contact Groups for all motions to amend the Statutes and other IUCN governance issues, about the process for motions on urgent and new topics, and submission for adoption of the Procedures and Code of Conduct for Contact Groups

13 October 2025 2nd Sitting, 8:30–12:30 GST

- Update of Resolutions Committee on progress with discussion in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions

3rd Sitting, 14:00–18:15 GST

4th Sitting, 19:30–21:00 GST

- Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

14 October 2025 5th Sitting, 8:30–12:30 GST

- Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

6th Sitting, 14:00–18:15 GST

- Progress report of the Resolutions Committee and discussion and vote on motions

7th Sitting, 19:30–21:00 GST

15 October 2025 8th Sitting, 8:30–12:30 GST

- Final report of the Resolutions Committee on progress of the discussions in Contact Groups, followed by discussion and vote on motions (if required)

9th Sitting, 14:00–18:15 GST

The draft agenda for the World Conservation Congress can be found alongside all [Congress documents](#).

3.1 Guidance for participants in contact groups, including Commission members, Committee members, and Secretariat staff

We urge you all to read carefully [the Guidance Note for Virtual Contact Groups](#) as well as the [Procedure and Code of Conduct](#) for contact groups. These documents elaborate the roles and responsibilities of different IUCN constituents in the contact group setting, noting that Members' inputs take priority, and it is their prerogative to propose amendments to the text. Other constituents – Commission members, Committee members, Secretariat staff – may participate in a technical advisory and support capacity only (*Figure 1*). This may include providing factual information, clarifying procedures, or explaining scientific or legal concepts. Should these interventions include possible textual formulations, they should not be taken on board unless one or more Members specifically agree.

If any participant of a contact group feels that any other participant (including the facilitator) is not adhering to the guidelines or the Code of Conduct, they may politely state their concerns during the meeting, or alternatively they may contact us via email (motions@iucn.org) and we will follow up.

Figure 1: Roles in the contact groups

IUCN Constituent	Role in contact groups
Members	Members vote on motions, and thus they need to feel comfortable with the text of motions. They can comment on any part of the motion, propose edits, support implementation, and endorse edits proposed by other participants with which they agree.
Representatives of National Committees	May take part in contact groups in an advisory and support capacity only. They can make general comments to provide technical advice and support the discussion. Councillors, who have been assigned as focal points for Council-sponsored motions, can be called to comment on specific parts of these motions.
Commission members	
Secretariat staff	
Council	
Facilitator	Steer the discussions fairly and transparently, producing a text that enjoys broad support.

4. New and urgent motions

Members may submit motions at the World Congress with the co-sponsorship of at least ten (10) other Members, from at least two Statutory Regions (Rule 52). These motions are only admissible if the Resolutions Committee determines that they meet the original criteria listed in Rule 54, with the exception of paragraphs (b) viii. and ix. and that the subject of the motions is both “new” **and** “urgent” according to the following criteria, and on that basis authorises their distribution to delegates:

- i. “New” means that the issue which is the subject of the motion has arisen or has been subject to developments occurring after the closing of the deadline for the submission of motions and, at that time, could not have been foreseen; and
- ii. “Urgent” means that the issue is of such importance that it requires an immediate response from the Union in the form of a Resolution or Recommendation.

Motions meeting the criteria of Rule 52 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 (Rule 53). This means that for the 2025 Congress, new and urgent motions may be submitted from 2 to 9 October, with the deadline scheduled for 17:00 GST/UTC+4. We encourage Members to submit their new and urgent motions as soon as possible on or after 2 October to ensure sufficient time for their technical review and consideration by the Resolutions Committee. Motions received after the deadline shall be admitted only with the consent of the President.

The submission of new and urgent motions takes place through a portal on the Congress website specifically designed for this purpose, to be launched on 2

October. Submission will be done using a submission form which is very similar to the original motion submission form that Members used from November 2024 to January 2025. Please see the guidance note on the Congress website entitled “[Step by step motions submission guide](#)” for details about how to use the submission form.

Decisions of the Resolutions Committee on the admissibility of the new and urgent motions can be appealed to the Congress Steering Committee (Rule 55). The deadline for appeals and other details will be communicated to the Members concerned via email. Members should take note that the timeframe to submit an appeal will be quite short (likely less than 24 hours from the time that the decision is communicated). Should Members adopt the changes in the Rules of Procedure as per Motion A, including on Rule 55, these become effective immediately.

4.1 New and urgent motions related to the IUCN Programme

New and urgent motions which fulfil the criteria in the Statutes and are accepted by the Resolutions Committee can include provisions that directly impact the draft IUCN Programme, leading to potential amendments of the Programme. In these cases, the Resolutions Committee will refer those motions to the Programme Committee for its consideration.

5. Motions on IUCN governance issues and other Congress documents

The four (4) motions on IUCN governance proposed by the Council (*Table 1*) will continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Congress. The Congress Governance Committee will oversee these discussions, and may recommend convening additional contact groups, if needed, following those held prior to the Congress.

Table 1: Motions proposing amendments to the Statutes

#	Title
A	Proposed amendments to the IUCN Rules of Procedure: Improvements to the motions process
B	Proposed amendments to Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress: Criteria for accepting motions
C	Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes, Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress and Regulations
D	Proposed amendments to the IUCN Statutes and IUCN Regulations: Introduction of a Membership dues waiver mechanism for IUCN Members facing exceptional financial hardship



A handful of other Congress documents will also continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Congress. Responsibility for their oversight rests with other Congress committees, as specified in the Annex.

6. Voting at the 2025 IUCN Congress

The 2025 Congress will be IUCN's first hybrid Congress, allowing Members to participate in all sessions—including the Members' Assembly—whether attending in Abu Dhabi or joining online from anywhere in the world.

Important: All voting will be conducted online, regardless of whether Members are participating in person or remotely.

Registration and accreditation: To participate in Congress sessions and vote, delegates from Member organisations must:

- Register for the Congress
- Designate their Head of Delegation

Each eligible Head of Delegation will receive an email containing a unique URL to access the electronic voting platform during the Members' Assembly.

Voting timeframes

- **Motions – final text votes** (per Rule of Procedure 48): 1 hour
- **All other votes, including amendments:** 2 minutes

Voting on motions

Each motion requires a single vote on whether to adopt it. Options are: YES, NO, or ABSTAIN.

For motions with amendments:

- Amendments will be put to vote before the original text of the motion.
- When multiple amendments address the same text section, the amendment most different from the original will be voted on first.



Any questions should be directed to the Secretariat Motions Team at:
motions@iucn.org

We look forward to a fruitful and powerful Congress in Abu Dhabi.

Sincerely,

The Motions Working Group

Jon Paul Rodriguez (*Chair*)
Ana Di Pangracio
Samad-John Smaranda
Jan Olov Westerberg

Maud Lelièvre (*Deputy Chair*)
Brian Child
Kathryn Gwiazdon
Jessika Woroniak

Annex: Congress documents overseen by Congress Committees

Congress Programme Committee:

- IUCN Programme 2026–29
- Commission mandates 2026–29 incl. the mandate of the Climate Crisis Commission

Congress Finance and Audit Committee:

- Financial Plan 2026–29
- Membership Dues Guide for dues from 2026

Congress Governance Committee:

- Motions A, B, C and D
- Motion 121 on the Climate Crisis Commission (noting that the draft Mandate of CCC attached to the motion will be considered by the Congress Programme Committee)

Congress Credentials Committee:

- Gives its advice to the Congress Finance and Audit Committee on Membership Dues Guide for dues from 2026

Intersessional Council Working Group on the 20-year Strategic Vision (also called the “Steering Committee”):

- Shares its advice on the outcomes of the pre-Congress contact group on the 20-year Strategic Vision