

Note from the Secretariat – October 2020

Since this Update was published on 1 September 2020, new developments have rendered some of the information obsolete.

On 14 September, the IUCN Council decided ([C100/3](#)) to [postpone the Congress](#) for a second time, to a later date in 2021. Please check the [Congress website](#) for the latest developments. This means that the following references in this Update are outdated:

- Dates for the Congress and Members' Assembly in January 2021 (now TBD)
- Dates and deadlines for the submission of new and urgent motions in December 2020 and January 2021 (now TBD)

This same Council decision opted to send the governance motions, along with [other decision items included in the draft Agenda of the Congress](#), to an electronic vote, which will take place 27 January-10 February 2021. This necessitated an online discussion, with a different purpose than what is described in the Update. At the same meeting, the Council also decided to add another governance motion to this process: motion I – *Functions of the IUCN Treasurer* ([C100/2](#)). This means that the following references in this Update are outdated:

- Dates for the online discussion of governance motions (now taking place 22 October-3 December 2020)
- Purpose for the online discussion of governance motions (now to produce a consensus text, if possible, for the electronic vote to take place in early 2021)
- Number of governance motions submitted to the online discussion (now nine)

On 28 September, the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body granted the appeal of the decision to send motion 069 – *Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining* to the electronic vote. This means that the following references in this Update are outdated:

- Number of motions sent to the electronic vote closing on 21 October 2020 (now 109)
- Number of motions sent to the Members' Assembly for further debate and vote (now 19)

Second Motions Working Group update Online discussion of motions, decisions & electronic vote 1 September 2020

Since our [first update](#) in November 2019, much has happened in the world. Little would we know that 2020 would be so dramatically different from what we had planned.

As you are all aware, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to ensure the safety of participants and visitors, IUCN and the French government decided to postpone the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, initially scheduled to take place from 11-19 June 2020, to 7-15 January 2021 in Marseille.

The postponement of the Congress has also triggered a number of changes to the motions process's timeline. The new dates are as follows:

- **1 September 2020:** New date of publication of the Motions Working Group's (MWG) decisions specifying which motions are submitted to the electronic vote and which are sent to Marseille for further discussion and vote;
- **1 September 2020:** New date of publication of the final version of all motions in the three IUCN official languages prior to the electronic vote;
- **1 September – 18 November 2020:** Online discussion of governance-related motions;
- **7-21 October 2020:** Electronic vote of motions;
- **4 November 2020:** Publication of results of the electronic vote of motions;
- **31 December 2020 – 12 January 2021:** Submission of new and urgent motions;
- **12-15 January 2021:** Members' Assembly.

In this update, we provide an overview of the online discussion of motions that concluded in March; present the MWG's decisions regarding motions (specifying those submitted to an electronic vote

prior to Congress and those that we consider to necessitate further discussion before the vote in Marseille); make reference to the governance motions; and briefly introduce the electronic vote on motions.

Still to be released are the guidelines for the electronic vote and for the submission of new and urgent motions, which the Secretariat will make available in due course. You can also expect to hear from us after the electronic vote has taken place and in preparation for the submission of new and urgent motions and the start of the Congress itself.

1. Overview of the online discussion of motions (11 December 2019 – 11 March 2020)

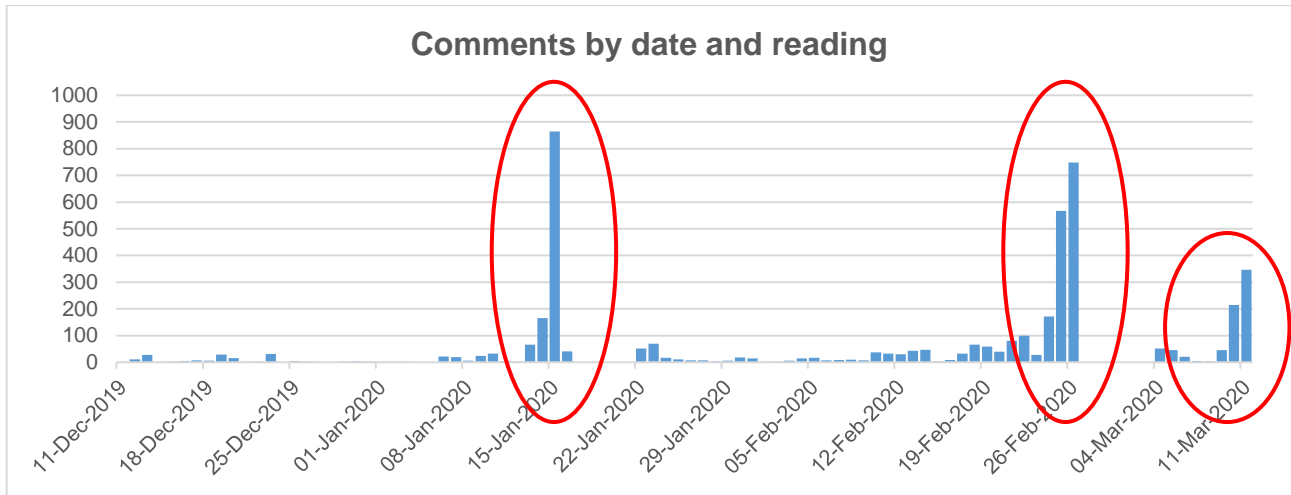
The online discussion of 128 motions commenced on 11 December 2019, and remained open through two reading periods, until 11 March 2020. The online discussion schedule is presented below.

11 December – 15 January	15 – 22 January	22 January – 26 February	26 February – 4 March	4 – 11 March
First reading period (5 weeks)	Facilitator revision (1 week)	Second reading period (5 weeks)	Facilitator revision (1 week)	Final edits (1 week)
	<i>No comments</i>		<i>No comments</i>	

Responding to feedback from Members after the 2016 Congress, the discussion for the 2020 Congress was longer. The online discussion was organized in two “readings” or periods of discussion of five weeks each. After each of the five weeks of discussion, Facilitators compiled all comments received and prepared a revised version of the text.

During the first reading, 1,408 comments were made, which increased to 2,371 during the second reading. In the week for final edits, 735 comments were made, and Facilitators and the Secretariat motions team subsequently posted another 117 to wrap up the discussion. It is worth noting that a

large number of comments were posted towards the end of the readings and at the very end of the discussion period as shown in the graph.



All parts of IUCN participated in the online discussion and the MWG was pleased to see the friendly and respectful manner in which participants interacted. During the online discussion, Members made general comments on motions, proposed amendments to the text of motions and endorsed the suggestions made by other Members or participants. Often, the discussion succeeded in resolving disagreement over parts of motions, reaching a text that enjoys general support for being put to the e-vote. In other cases, consensus was elusive.

The table below shows the number of comments made per IUCN constituent. While the figures in the table appear large, and many of the discussions saw active participation by a variety of Members, the total number of Members that participated in the online discussion was only 139, which represents roughly 10% of the Union's Membership, and was down slightly from 2016, when 206 Members made 4,133 comments on approximately 100 motions.

Constituent	# comments
Members	3,669
Commissions	266
National and Regional Committees	22
Secretariat	12
Council	30
Facilitators	632
Total	4,631

In the view of the MWG however, this is still a relatively new way of working for IUCN's decision-making process, with the online discussion launched for the first time for the Hawai'i Congress in 2016. By way of comparison to the past, when motions were only debated live, at the plenary sittings of the 2012 Members' Assembly in Jeju, around 100 Members made only 200 interventions on more than 200 motions. While the level of participation in the online discussions represents a step in the right direction, what remains clear to us is that more needs to be done to strengthen the Union's democratic character by significantly increasing the participation of Members in the discussion of motions.

2. Motions submitted to an electronic vote before Congress

After the closing of the online discussion on 11 March, the Facilitators provided the MWG with a revised text for each of the 128 motions, based on the comments received. Following careful consideration of the outcome of the online discussion, the MWG submits **110 motions to an electronic vote prior to Congress, 15 of which have amendments to be considered**. This is in line with the MWG's mandate as defined in Rule 62*quinto* of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress. The list can be found in **Annex 1**.

In accordance with Rule 62*ter*, the MWG's decision to send a motion to the electronic vote can be formally **appealed within two weeks of publication**. Note that according to the Rule, "the only permissible ground for appeal is that an error was made in not classifying the motion as qualifying for consideration at the Members' Assembly." All appeals need to be brought forward to the Congress Preparatory Committee acting as appeals body. Such appeals need to be made jointly by the proponent of this motion with at least five of its co-sponsors. Appeals should be sent by email to motions@iucn.org with the co-sponsors in copy, clearly indicating in the subject line "APPEAL MOTION [#]" by **13:00 GMT/UTC on 15 September 2020**.

3. Motions submitted for further discussion and vote at Congress

The MWG refers 18 motions, as amended during the online discussion, to the Members' Assembly for continued debate and vote. They are listed in **Annex 2**.

For 12 out of these 18 motions, it was not possible to produce a consensus text to be submitted to the electronic vote given the divergence in views and amendments expressed during the discussions [Rule 45(c)ii)]. Meanwhile, the MWG identified four motions as warranting debate at the global level to be further discussed and voted upon during the Congress [Rule 45(c)i)]. We further identified two motions as meeting both of these conditions.

4. Governance motions

[Eight motions on IUCN governance](#) proposed by the Council and published on 11 March 2020 (including amendments to the Statutes) will also be discussed and voted upon during the Congress [Rule 45(d)].

By recommendation of the MWG and with the approval of Council, these motions will also be discussed online prior to the Congress, from 1 September to 18 November 2020. The purpose of these online discussions is to provide Members with an opportunity to better understand these motions's technical aspects and to respond to their questions before these motions continue to be discussed and voted upon during the Congress. Members of the Council will act as Facilitators to these discussions.

These motions are listed in **Annex 3**.

5. Electronic vote on motions

Following the announcement postponing the IUCN World Conservation Congress to 7-15 January 2021, the Council adopted new dates for the electronic vote, re-scheduled to **7-21 October 2020**.

The system for the electronic vote on motions will be **open from 7 October at 13:00 GMT/UTC until 21 October at 13:00 GMT/UTC**. In due course, Members will receive specific and detailed guidance on the modalities of the electronic voting system and how to vote on motions, including those that are submitted together with additional amendments.

In accordance with Rule 62*septimo*, "Motions adopted by electronic ballot by Member Category A and by Member Categories B and C combined shall have the same validity as motions adopted during sittings of the Members' Assembly. The Members' Assembly will 'record' *en bloc* the adoption of motions through an electronic ballot prior to Congress but shall not, however, re-open the discussion or the vote on any of them. The motions whose adoption by electronic vote is so recorded by decision of the Members' Assembly shall be effective as of the date of such decision."

6. Note of thanks to the Facilitators of the online discussion of motions

You will recall that in preparation for the online discussion of motions, the MWG called for volunteers from all IUCN constituencies to act as Facilitators. **Eighty individuals were assigned 1-3 motions to facilitate.**

The MWG wholeheartedly thanks all of them. Their names appear below.

Facilitators associated with IUCN Members and Commissions:

Mourad AHMIM	Sarah HUMPHREY	Kamaljit K. SANGHA
Lilian APAZA VARGAS	Myles LAMONT	Cedric Elsy SIELATCHOM
Delmar Alberto BLASCO	Danna LEAMAN	NGALAHA
BELLOMARIA	Caroline LEES	Durojaye A. SOEWU
Michael BRUFORD	Rebecca LEWISON	Pritpal S. SOORAE
Onnie BYERS	Jorgelina MARINO	Sally STEELE
Peter COCHRANE	Don MOORE	Rianne Cornelie TEN VEEN
Jamie COPSEY	Usman MUHAMMAD	Susan TOCH
Aby DRAME	Michel Anthony NALOVIC	Cristiano VERNESI
Nigel DUDLEY	David OBURA	Amanda VINCENT
Nicholas DULVY	Junior OHOUKO	Hailu WASSIE
Nicole DUPLAIX	Beth POLIDORO	Wei WEI
Samara P. EL-HADDAD	Randall REEVES	Mike WONG
Emily GASKIN	Lily O. RODRIGUEZ	Stephen WOODLEY
Sonali GHOSH	Marina Rosales BENITES	Zequn YAN
Oscar GUEVARA	DE FRANCO	WANG Yanqing
Nirmal HARSH	Abdollah SALARI	Edgard YERENA

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Florence CURET
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Raphaëlle FLINT
Ludovic LARBODIERE

Bruno LELES
Nicholas MACFARLANE
Lorena MARTÍNEZ
HERNÁNDEZ
James McBREEN
Julio MONTES DE OCA
Ana NUNES
Leander RAES
Victoria ROMERO
Sugoto ROY

Juan Manuel SABIO
MORCHIO
Janet SCOTT
Sandeep SENGUPTA
Lydia SLOBODIAN
Kevin SMITH
Jacques SOMDA
Conor STRONG
Anita TZEC
Andrew WYATT

External Facilitators:

Aziza Nassoro OMARY

David TOOBY

Annex 1: Motions submitted to an electronic vote prior to Congress

#	Title	Amendment(s)
001	Archiving Resolutions and Recommendations meeting retirement criteria, consolidating policy and future reviews	
002	Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning indigenous peoples	
004	Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs	Yes (2)
005	Urgent action against the grass [<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>] outside of its natural distribution range	
006	Promoting harmony between cranes – flagships for biodiversity – and agriculture	
007	Declaration of priority for the conservation of tropical dry forests in South America	
008	Developing agroecological practices as nature-based solutions	
009	Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate	Yes (1)
010	Protecting and restoring endangered grassland and savannah ecosystems	
011	Preventing conflicts of interest related to chemicals and plant protection products	
012	The fight against imported deforestation	
014	Aquatic biodiversity conservation of shallow marine and freshwater systems	
015	Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity	
016	The importance of a cross-border approach to prioritise biodiversity conservation, adaptation to climate change and risk management in the Río de la Plata Basin	
017	Cooperation on transboundary fresh waters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development	Yes (1)
018	Conservation of spring ecosystems in the Mediterranean region	
019	Protection of natural flows of water for the conservation of wetlands	

#	Title	Amendment(s)
020	Valuing and protecting inland fisheries	
022	Stopping the global plastic pollution crisis in marine environments by 2030	
023	Protection of herbivorous fish for improved coral community	
025	Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean	
026	Establishment of a mid-frequency active (MFA – 1 to 10 KHz) sonar moratorium for maritime military exercises conducted in Macaronesia	
027	Reducing impacts of incidental capture on threatened marine species	
028	For an improved management of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) in purse seine fisheries	
029	Ecosystem conservation, restoration and remediation in the ocean	
030	International cooperation on marine pollution from sunken vessels	
031	Seascapes working for biodiversity conservation	
032	Updating of the legislation to stop the pollution of oceans caused by the discharging of wastewater by ships	Yes (1)
033	For the urgent global management of marine and coastal sand resources	
035	Enhancing the resilience of coastal areas in the face of climate change, biodiversity crisis and rapid coastal development	
036	The implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin	
037	Ocean impacts of climate change	
038	Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures	
041	Ecological integrity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	
042	Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021–2030	
043	Declaration of global priority for conservation in the Amazon Biome	

#	Title	Amendment(s)
046	Strengthening the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment and the Global Institute of Prosecutors for the Environment	
047	Treating organized crime having an impact on the environment as a serious crime	
049	Australia's extinction crisis and national environmental law reform	
050	Implementing international efforts to combat the sale of illegal wildlife products online	
051	Ensuring funding to secure rights and secure ecologies	
052	Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict	
053	Enhancing implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	
054	Climate crisis legal toolkit	
055	Global Indigenous Network for Aquaculture (GINA)	
056	Creation of the Ombudsperson for Future Generations	
057	Law enforcement regarding commercial trade in tigers and tiger parts	
058	Contributions of the Conservation-enabling Hierarchy to the post-2020 CBD framework	
059	Mainstreaming the Cerrado in international cooperation and global environmental funds	
060	Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law using legal indicators	Yes (2)
061	Regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	
063	Dams in the Alto Paraguay River Basin, the Pantanal and the Paraguay-Paraná Wetland System	
064	Promoting sustainable and ethical mining practices in Africa	Yes (1)
065	Engaging the private sector to combat wildlife trafficking	Yes (2)
066	Guidance to identify industrial fishing incompatible with protected areas	

#	Title	Amendment(s)
o68	Biodiversity financing	
o69	Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining	
o70	Accounting for biodiversity: encompassing ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	
o71	Safeguarding coral reefs from harmful chemicals in sunscreen	
o72	Combatting the illegal trade in lion body parts and derivatives	
o73	Promotion of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions	
o74	Partnerships and further development of a Global Ecosystem Typology	
o76	Role of children and youth in nature conservation	
o77	Urgent call to share and use primary biodiversity <i>in situ</i> data	
o78	Promoting conservation through behaviour-centred solutions	
o79	Enhancing knowledge of natural resource conservation and alternative sustainable energy models through faith-based organisation networks	Yes (2)
o80	Generalising alternative practices and techniques to the use of synthetic pesticides	
o81	[Call for Nature in Cities agendas and] Strengthening the IUCN Urban Alliance	Yes (1)
o82	Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	
o83	Eliminate plastic pollution in protected areas, with priority action on single-use plastic products	
o85	Combatting soil degradation and artificialisation	
o86	Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure	Yes (1)
o87	Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning	
o88	Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels	

#	Title	Amendment(s)
089	Geoheritage and protected areas	
090	Transboundary cooperation for conservation of big cats in Northeast Asia	
091	Building and strengthening wildlife economies in Eastern and Southern Africa	Yes (1)
092	Effects of the increase in the use of paper as a substitute for plastic on plantations of timber species	Yes (1)
093	Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems	
094	Linking <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> efforts to save threatened species	
095	Recognising, reporting and supporting other effective area-based conservation measures	
096	Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity	
097	Reducing marine turtle bycatch: the important role of regulatory mechanisms in the global roll-out of Turtle Excluder Devices	
098	Ensuring the compatibility of human activities with conservation objectives in protected areas	
099	Global response to protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PADDD)	
100	Rewilding	
102	Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes	
103	Urgent measures to safeguard the globally important Atewa Forest, Ghana	
104	Conservation of the natural diversity and natural heritage in mining environments	
105	Preventing the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard (<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>) in India	
106	Continental conservation priority for the jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>)	
107	Global Conservation of rhino rays (Rhinidae, Glaucostegidae, Rhinobatidae)	
108	Adapting traditional medicine to achieve social and environmental sustainability	Yes (3)

#	Title	Amendment(s)
109	A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions	
110	Safeguarding the Endangered narrow-ridged finless porpoise (<i>Neophocaena asiaeorientalis</i>) in the Yellow Sea	Yes (1)
111	Conservation of seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons (family Syngnathidae)	Yes (1)
112	Maximising return on conservation investments and sustainable development: eradicating invasive alien species (IAS) to conserve island biodiversity and benefit society	
113	National Plan for the Sustainable Management of the Guanaco in Argentina	
114	Saving the world's otters	
115	Strengthening great ape conservation across countries, in and outside of protected areas, involving local actors	
116	Building Madagascar's capacity to counter the threat from invasive species	
117	Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife	
119	Improving process and action to identify and recover 'Extinct in the Wild' species	
120	Action against Asian songbird trafficking	
121	Next IUCN World Parks Congress	
122	Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	
123	Protection of Kakadu World Heritage site and rehabilitation of the Ranger uranium mine and Ranger Project Area	
124	Reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity	
127	Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains	
128	Increasing funding for biodiversity in developing countries	

Annex 2: Motions referred to Congress for continued discussion and vote

Motions that “warrant debate at the global level during the Congress because they are of significant importance for conservation and for the IUCN and its Members” [Rule 45bis(c)i]

#	Title
039	Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers
040	Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework
048	Rediscovering the care of Mother Earth from the vision of indigenous peoples
101	Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive

Motions that “have been the subject of such debate and divergent proposed amendments or that are so controversial that it is not possible to produce a consensus text for submission to a decision by electronic vote prior to Congress” [Rule 45bis(c)ii]

#	Title
003	[Establishing a Climate Change Commission] [Establishing an Inter-Commissional Cross-Sectoral Task Force on the Climate Crisis] [Establishing an IUCN Climate Task Force]
013	Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects
021	Planning [of maritime areas] [of the maritime area] and [biodiversity conservation] [conservation of natural diversity]
024	Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean
034	[Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises]
044	Actions to strengthen food sovereignty and security of indigenous peoples and peasant communities
045	Recognising and supporting indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights and roles in conservation
067	Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity
084	Taking action to reduce light pollution

#	Title
118	Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation
125	Strengthening the protection of old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible
126	Advancing conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction

Motions that warrant debate and for which it was not possible to produce a consensus text

#	Title
062	Towards a Policy on Natural Capital
075	IUCN Principles on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation

Annex 3: Motions on IUCN governance to be discussed online (1 September-18 November), and then further discussed and voted upon during Congress

#	Title
A	Including subnational governments in IUCN's membership
B	Election of Regional Councillors resident in dependent territories
C	Establishment of an elected Indigenous Councillor position
D	Modification of the term "Regional Councillor"
E	Improvements to the motions process
F	Role of Commissions in National and Regional Committees
G	Clarification of conditions for readmission of former State Members
H	Establishment, operating rules and oversight of National, Regional and Interregional Committees