



IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

**THE REGIONAL COUNCILLORS OF IUCN  
ELECTION, ROLE, FUNCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**

1. Election

The IUCN Regional Councillors are elected by the World Conservation Congress following the provisions of the IUCN Statutes, Article 39 and the IUCN Regulations 36 to 40. There are twenty-four Regional Councillors, three from each of IUCN's eight Statutory Regions.

2. Terms of Office

The terms of office of the Regional Councillors shall 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, Article 41)

The Regional Councillors, as well as any other member of the Council, shall not hold the same office consecutively for more than two full terms. (Statutes, Article 42)

3. Role of Regional Councillors

- (i) As members of Council, Regional Councillors serve first and foremost the global interests and well-being of IUCN, fulfilling the functions of the IUCN Council as outlined in the IUCN Statutes, Article 46 and providing guidance on the overall development and implementation of the Union's world-wide policies and programmes in the period between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;
- (ii) Within the above parameters, Regional Councillors provide input to the Council on the interests, priorities and needs of the IUCN Members in the Regions;
- (iii) Regional Councillors act as IUCN's ambassadors, working with the President and Director General to advance the interests and Mission of the Union and to promote its services within the Region;
- (iv) Regional Councillors serve as key contact points in the Region to facilitate the work of the Director General and Secretariat, members of Commissions and IUCN Members;
- (v) Working actively with IUCN Regional and National Committees, IUCN Regional Offices and Members, Regional Councillors assist in promoting the work of the Union.

4. Functions of Regional Councillors

- (i) Assisting the Director General and the Secretariat in evaluating advice from, and working with, the membership in the Region;
- (ii) Reporting to Members on Council deliberations;

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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.

- (iii) Consulting the membership on issues to be discussed in the Council and conveying their opinions to Council;
- (iv) Developing and maintaining regular contact with the IUCN Members in the Region, individually and through the Regional and National Committees, to keep them informed on the work of IUCN globally and in the Region;
- (v) Participating in meetings of IUCN National and/or Regional Committees, other regional fora and gatherings of Members from the Region;
- (vi) Promoting the Mission of the Union, fostering public awareness, and encouraging development of the membership in the Region;
- (vii) Facilitating communications between members of IUCN Commissions in the Region and IUCN Members and Offices;
- (viii) Maintaining regular contact with their IUCN Regional and Country Offices and their designated Secretariat Focal Point within the Region;
- (ix) Identifying persons and organizations within the Region who could contribute to the work of the Union;
- (x) Responding to correspondence and requests for advice from IUCN Members, regional Commission representatives and members of the IUCN Secretariat;
- (xi) Representing IUCN at national and international meetings;
- (xii) Assisting in fundraising for IUCN, both globally and within the region.

5. Qualifications and Requirements for the Post

The electoral process for Council should aim to attract the best, high calibre candidates available and to ensure that nominees know the nature of their commitment. It should also contribute to preserving roughly the balance on Council in respect of (i) governmental/non-governmental, (ii) developing country/developed country, (iii) gender and (iv) private sector representation.

Criteria

- (i) Outstanding, widely respected individuals;
- (ii) Experience working at international level;
- (iii) Capacity for guiding development of the Union's policies between sessions of the World Conservation Congress;
- (iv) Ability to contribute to the direction of IUCN and determination of its priorities;
- (v) Previous governance experience from large governmental or non governmental organizations;
- (vi) Commitment to conservation, equity and justice;
- (vii) Have a global view of the Union;
- (viii) Understanding of sustainable development;
- (ix) Capacity to work in English.

Requirements

- (i) Avoid conflict of interest situations;
- (ii) Serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of member organization or interest groups;
- (iii) Commitment of time (1 to 2 Council meetings per year, preparation, participation in Committees and Task Forces, regional duties and communications with Members as detailed under Section 4 above – at least three weeks of work per year).

Desirable

- (i) Support at institutional/employment base
- (ii) Experience from international networking
- (iii) Capacity to work in one of IUCN's other official languages (French and Spanish)
- (iv) Prior IUCN involvement

6. Expenses

The position of Regional Councillor is an honorary one. Regional Councillors may claim reimbursement of their travel expenses 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](#) as well as the [IUCN Statutes and Regulations](#).