



IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

IUCN Council's Guidance for 2016 Election Candidates

(Approved by decision C/76/40 of the 76th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2011 and, with minor adjustments of dates and references, by decision C/85/8 of the 85th Meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2015)

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 between sessions of the World Conservation Congress.

Council members have a fundamental obligation to serve IUCN with diligence and integrity. This obligation needs to extend 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. 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.
2. 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. They shall also care not to abuse their addressees' mail boxes.
3. 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.
4. Candidates must avoid taking advantage of functions, trips, events and activities that he/she may be carrying out on behalf of IUCN directly for the purpose of enhancing his/her chances to be elected. This relates in particular to incumbent Council 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.
5. All campaign activities are to end on the date and time which the Congress Steering Committee will establish and announce during the 2016 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.¹
6. 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 20012-2016 inter sessional period, this will be the 88th meeting of the IUCN Council²)

¹ 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.

² The 88th Meeting of the IUCN Council is scheduled for 10 to 13 April 2016.

7. 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 nominations³. As a position on the IUCN Council is incompatible with a position in the IUCN Secretariat, the staff member's notification will include the resignation from his/her position with the Secretariat, should he/she effectively be nominated, with the effective date of termination of the employment contract to be determined by the Nominations Committee of Council in consultation with the Director General.⁴
8. Candidates undertake to observe and uphold a free and fair process in their participation in all phases of the nominations and election process.
9. This Guidance is issued and shall be interpreted pursuant to Council's procedure on "Eligibility for Nomination to Council for Members of Council and Members of Secretariat Staff."⁵

³ Deadline for nominations is 12 February 2016 at noon GMT/UTC (decision C/85/9 of the 85th meeting of the IUCN Council, May 2015).

⁴ Members of the IUCN Secretariat staff are referred to the Staff Regulations for more detailed procedures.

⁵ Approved by decision C/85/8 (Annex 5) of the 85th Meeting of the IUCN Council (May 2015).