



**By-Laws for the  
IUCN Interregional Committee for the  
West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia  
statutory regions**

**(the “Interregional Committee for Europe, North and Central Asia”, the “Interregional Committee”, “the Committee” or “ICENCA”)**

As approved by IUCN Council at its meeting on

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## **Preamble**

*Whereas,*

Interregional, Regional and National Committees of IUCN Members are core components of IUCN, facilitating cooperation among Members within a country and a region, and supporting coordination with other components of IUCN and participation of Members in the programme and governance of IUCN,

*Whereas,*

Participation of the Members in their national and regional programmes and in the governance of IUCN is essential for programme growth and development,

*Whereas,*

Members are enabled to participate in the preparation and evaluation of IUCN Programmes and strategies and to prepare for each World Conservation Congress;

*Whereas*

Regional Councillors are currently elected in the two regions West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia by the global membership of IUCN, they need to be connected on a continuous manner in particular with the members in their region in order to inform their members about the work of the IUCN Council and to receive feedback of members about what they should represent in Council. (Two Way communications);

*Whereas,*

“West Europe” and “East Europe, North and Central Asia” are two IUCN statutory regions with a great importance for both IUCN and the global environment and which have built long lasting collaboration through, amongst others, the Working Group for National Committee Development (WGNCD) consisting of representatives from both regions;

*Whereas,*

The Working Group for National Committee Development (WGNCD) has discussed the possibilities in the forming of an Interregional Committee for the two statutory regions West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia.

*Whereas,*

An electronic consultation of all Members in both statutory regions took place from autumn 2018 until October 2019, allowing Members to express their views and raise questions in relation with the proposition to establish an Interregional Committee for West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia.

*Whereas*

The electronic survey showed that a majority of IUCN Members in each statutory region expressed their support for the establishment of an IUCN Interregional Committee covering both regions, as authorized under Part VII of the IUCN Statutes (Article 66 and 67(b)) and section VI of the Regulations.

*Whereas*

Based on the recommendation of the working group for National Committee Development (WGNCD) a Steering Committee for the “Interregional Committee for Europe, North and Central Asia” (ICENCA) was established through an open round of applications by IUCN members in the respective statutory regions. At its constitutive meeting held at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille in September 2021, the Steering Committee representing both statutory regions agreed to establish the Interregional Committee for “Europe, North and Central Asia” (ICENCA) and to operate in accordance with the following by-laws.

## **1. Establishment of the IUCN Interregional Committee for West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia**

- 1.1 A majority of the Members in each of the IUCN statutory Regions of “West Europe” and of “East Europe, North and Central Asia” hereby establish the IUCN Interregional Committee of “Europe, North and Central Asia” covering both statutory regions as a forum of Members.

## **2. Purpose and activities**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Interregional Committee is
- (i) to facilitate cooperation and information exchange amongst Members within and amongst the Regions covered by the Committee, as well as with the other components of IUCN (National and Regional Committees, Council, Commissions and Secretariat) as to guide and facilitate the One Programme Approach;
  - (ii) to share best conservation practices amongst the Members of the Committee, and with other components of the Union and other regions.
- 2.2 The Interregional Committee should, funding permitting, further work to:
- a) Encourage suitable partners to become or remain Members of IUCN;
  - b) Take positions relevant to the objectives of IUCN on behalf of the Committee on issues of interest and concern to IUCN Members in the regions of the Committee;
  - c) Undertake advocacy and awareness-raising activities on behalf of IUCN Members in the regions of the Committee;
  - d) In cooperation with the Secretariat and Commissions, facilitate the development of common activities, awareness processes, education and training to strengthen the skills and expertise of IUCN Members;
  - e) Motivate actions for the conservation and sustainable management of nature, and for the wellbeing of present and future generations in Western Europe, Eastern Europe and North and Central Asia;
  - f) Facilitate and promote discussion, communication and exchange of information among the Members in the regions of the Committee on the environment through forums, networks or other channels;
  - g) Support the implementation of the decisions reached at the World Conservation Congress in relation to the regions of the Committee;
  - h) Support the development and implementation of the regional Programme within the One Programme framework
  - i) Promote communication between Commissions, the Secretariat, National Committees and Members in the regions of the Committee;
  - j) Encourage the establishment of National Committees in the regions of the Committee, and to support development and work of the National Committees;
  - k) Assisting in the review process of motions for discussion at IUCN’s World Conservation Congress;
  - l) Actively support the Secretariat in the planning and execution of the Regional Conservation Fora.

- m) Facilitating the communication between Regional Councillors and the membership in the two regions, so as to ensure that Members are informed about the activities of the IUCN Council and to provide Regional Councillors in advance of Council meetings with mandated positions which would enable them to represent these positions in Council.

### **3. Membership**

- 3.1 The membership of the Interregional Committee is open to all IUCN Members in the statutory regions of West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia.
- 3.2 Every IUCN Member in good standing in the above-mentioned regions shall be automatically enrolled as a Member of the Interregional Committee and have the right to vote on all decisions of the Committee and on the election of the Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee.
- 3.3 The Interregional Committee will endeavour to ensure that it represents the interests of all IUCN Members within the two IUCN statutory regions and to support the active participation of the IUCN Members in each of the two regions.
- 3.4 Any IUCN Member in the regions of the Committee has the right to disassociate itself from any decision of the Committee or statement of the Committee, and, if requested, the Committee shall clearly indicate that disassociation as provided for in IUCN's Regulation 66 (e) and communicate this to the Members.

### **4. Organization**

- 4.1 The Member's Assembly of the Interregional Committee shall be the highest organ of the Interregional Committee.
- 4.2 A Steering Committee shall be adopted by the Members Assembly based on a process of open and transparent nominations, authorized to manage the affairs of the Interregional Committee in between meetings of the Members' Assembly.
- 4.3 The Interregional Committee shall be self-governing and autonomous and shall not undertake or impose financial obligations or liabilities upon IUCN or its Members, which is not responsible for commitments entered by the Interregional Committee.
- 4.4 The work of the Interregional Committee shall be conducted with transparency. Agendas, minutes and programmes of work of the meetings being held shall be shared with all Members in the regions of the Committee, the Council and the Secretariat.

### **5. Member's Assembly**

#### ***Composition***

- 5.1 The Member's Assembly shall consist of the representatives of the voting members of the Interregional Committee.

#### ***Function***

- 5.2 The Member's Assembly may adopt its own operational procedures consistent with

these by-laws.

- 5.3 The Member's Assembly shall define or approve policies as set forth in section 5.
- 5.4 The Member's Assembly shall adopt
- a. Two individuals, one from each of the regions, to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Member's Assembly and as the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee;
  - b. Two individuals one from each of the regions, to serve as the Vice-Chairs of the Member's Assembly and as the Vice-Chairs of the Steering Committee in case of absence of the Co-Chair from their region;
  - c. Two individuals one from each of the regions, to serve as the Co-Secretaries of the Member's Assembly and as the Co-Secretaries of the Steering Committee;
  - d. Ten additional individuals, five from each region to be members of the Steering Committee.

#### ***Quorum and Voting***

- 5.5 All adoptions and decisions taken by the Member's Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast for the statutory regions of "West Europe" and of "East Europe and North and Central Asia" (double majority).
- 5.6 All matters within the competence of the Members of the Interregional Committee may be decided either i) at the Member's Assembly or ii) by electronic voting.
- 5.7 Half of the Members of each of the regions of the Committee, whether in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. In case of electronic voting, all IUCN Members receiving the voting material are considered to be participating to the vote.
- 5.8 Only Members of the Interregional Committee, who are also Members of IUCN, have the right to vote. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote.

#### ***Holding of Meetings***

- 5.9 The Members of the Interregional Committee shall meet in the form of a Member's Assembly at least once every four years, when possible, at the occasion of the IUCN Regional Conservation Fora. Meetings and voting can be held online.
- 5.10 The Steering Committee decides upon the place and form of the Members Assembly.
- 5.11 The Chair may convene additional meetings upon request of 5 regular members or of its Steering Committee
- 5.12 The Co-Chairs or their Vice-Chairs preside over the meetings and have general responsibility for implementing the decisions of the Interregional Committee.

### ***6. The Steering Committee***

- 6.1 The Steering Committee shall manage the daily affairs of the Interregional Committee in between meetings of the Members Assembly.

#### ***Composition***

- 6.2 The members of the Steering Committee are:

- a. The two Co-Chairs;
- b. The two Vice Chairs;
- c. The two Co-Secretaries; and
- d. Ten additional individuals, five from each region.

adopted by the Members' Assembly as set forth in clause 5.4.

- 6.3. There shall be a total of 16 elected members of the Steering Committee. To the extent possible, they shall reflect a balance of gender, age and expertise in line with IUCN's diversity principle. In addition, there shall be a minimum of two elected members from each of the statutory regions.
- 6.4. Additional members may be appointed by the elected members of the Steering Committee considering any gaps in skills, gender or representation as well as representation from other strategic institutions. If two members are appointed, they should not come from the same region.
- 6.5. A maximum of two Members of the Steering Committee may be from the same State.
- 6.6. The adopted members of the Steering Committee shall not be members of the IUCN Council.
- 6.7. Each member of the Steering Committee will serve for an initial term of four years and shall be eligible for re- adoption by the Members Assembly for another term but not exceeding two consecutive terms. The time served to fill the balance of the term following a vacancy as set forth in clause 6.8, shall not be counted.
- 6.8. The Steering Committee may fill vacancies for any member of the Steering Committee that may occur for the balance of the term concerned.
- 6.9. A member of the Steering Committee may terminate his/her mandate through written resignation.

#### ***Quorum and voting***

- 6.10. Half of the members of the Steering Committee, whether in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum.
- 6.11. Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast.

#### ***Roles in the Steering Committee***

##### **Role of the Co-Chairs**

- 6.12. The Co-Chairs, or Vice-Chairs, shall preside over meetings of the Member's Assembly and the Steering Committee, and have general responsibility for promoting the implementation of the decisions of the Committee.
- 6.13. The functions and responsibilities of the Co-Chairs shall be to;
  - a) Represent the Committee and ensure implementation of the decisions of the Committee;
  - b) Monitor and ensure the application of the Operational Guide for IUCN National and Regional Committee and of Logo Rules for IUCN National and Regional Committees



- currently applicable and include corresponding feedback in the annual report;
- c) With support of the Co-Secretaries, convene meetings of the Member's Assembly and of the Steering Committee and preside over those meetings;
  - d) Disseminate official communications in the name and on behalf of the Committee
  - e) Serve as the liaison between the Committee and the Director General of IUCN, or their designated nominee responsible for liaising with the Interregional Committee and convey the communications of the Director General of IUCN or of the designated nominee responsible for liaising with the Interregional Committee to the members of the Interregional Committee, as provided for in Regulation 68;
  - f) Ensure preparation and presentation of an annual report covering the activities of the Committee and transmission to all the Members of the regions of the Committee, the Director General and the IUCN Council;
  - g) Maintain contact with IUCN Members, National Committees, ECARO and EURO offices, the Council Members, Commissions members in both regions, and IUCN Secretariat through the Director General or the designated nominee responsible for liaising with the Interregional Committee;
  - h) Act as mediator in the resolution of problems between Members of the regions of the Committee, where necessary;
  - i) Endeavour to ensure the full participation of the Members in both regions

#### **Role of the Co-Secretaries**

- 6.14 The Co-Secretaries shall send invitations to the different meetings, prepare the agenda and record written minutes of all the meetings of the Member's Assembly and of the Steering Committee, to the Director General of IUCN and to the IUCN Council. The Co-Secretaries shall prepare an annual report of the Interregional Committee in English for the approval of the Steering Committee before transmission to the Director General of IUCN and the IUCN Council.

#### **Role of the Treasurer**

- 6.15 If elected by the Steering Committee from within its composition, the Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds raised by, and the financial affairs of the Interregional Committee in line with the regulations and guidelines established by the Committee and within the framework of IUCN regulations.

#### **Holding of Meetings**

- 6.16 The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year. The main form of the meetings shall be by teleconferencing. The intention shall be to organise a physical meeting in one of the regions at least once during the term of 4 years. Special meetings may be convened at the discretion of the Co-Chairs or if requested by five or more members of the Steering Committee
- 6.17 The Interregional Committee will, funding permitting, cover the costs of transport and accommodation for the meetings of the Steering Committee. In addition, Members will be reimbursed for their expenses in the way adopted by the IUCN.

#### ***Suspension and expulsion of a member of the Steering Committee***

- 6.18 If a member of the Steering Committee is absent at two or more consecutive meetings without good reasons or acts in a manner seriously inconsistent with that member's duties, the Co- Chairs or two other members of the Steering Committee may propose that the Steering committee suspend that member. If, after due process, the Steering Committee considers that they are valid grounds, it may decide on the expulsion of a member appointed by the Steering Committee or propose the expulsion of an elected member to the Members' Assembly for its decision.

## **7. Observers**

- 7.1 A member of the Council resident in a State within one of the statutory regions of the Committee, shall be invited to participate in the meetings both of the Member's Assembly and the Steering Committee, as well as other activities of the Interregional Committee without voting powers but with speaking rights.
- 7.2 Individuals who have been appointed as a member of a Commission resident in a State within one of the statutory regions of the Committee, may be invited to participate in the meetings of the Member's Assembly and other activities of the Interregional Committee, as appropriate and without voting rights but with speaking rights.
- 7.3 The Director General or the IUCN Secretariat official nominated by the Director General to be responsible for liaison with the Interregional Committee, and the IUCN Legal Advisor have the right to attend.
- 7.4 The Regional Directors of the regional offices [ECARO and EURO] or their nominee, shall be invited to participate in all the meetings of the Interregional Committee. without voting rights but with speaking rights.

## **8. IUCN Programme within both regions of the Committee**

- 8.1 The Interregional Committee may adopt its own programmatic policies consistent with the policies and objectives of IUCN and may exchange views on conservation with IUCN Members in the regions of the Committee or internationally.
- 8.2 The Interregional Committee shall adopt the "One Programme Approach" model and work with the Secretariat offices within the regions, with Members in the region, and with National Committees where they exist or directly with Country Focal Points or Members where no National Committee exists, and Commissions to raise the profile of IUCN, formulate, coordinate, implement and monitor the Programme of IUCN within the regions of the Committee.
- 8.3 The Interregional Committee shall promote the active engagement of Members in both regions of the Committee and participate in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the IUCN regional Programmes and agree to a written work plan with respect to the implementation of the Programme of IUCN within both regions of the Committee. Members are entitled to raise matters of concern to the Steering Committee for it to discuss and, if necessary, raise with IUCN Council.
- 8.4 The Interregional Committee may assist its members with respect to the realization

of the rights and obligations of IUCN Members, as set forth in Article 12 of the Statutes of IUCN.

## **9. *Communication and use of IUCN's name and Logo***

- 9.1 Once recognized by the Council of IUCN as an Interregional Committee, the Interregional Committee, may use the name of IUCN and the logo of IUCN in conjunction with the name of the regions covered by the Interregional Committee in accordance with Logo Rules for IUCN National and Regional Committees currently applicable, and subject to the conclusion of a license agreement with IUCN.
- 9.2 Once recognized by the Council of IUCN as an Interregional Committee, the Committee may take positions, announce policies, and issue statements in the name and on behalf of the Committee on matters relevant to the objectives of IUCN and arising solely within the statutory regions of the Committee. Such recommended policies, positions or statements, as agreed by the Interregional Committee Members Assembly, shall be solely in the name and on behalf of the Interregional Committee and shall not commit IUCN to any financial, legal or policy obligation.
- 9.3 The Committee shall align its messages with the principles, values and general policy approved by the World Conservation Congress, with the rulings and guidance of the IUCN Council to elaborate that policy, and with official statements issued from time to time by the Director General to implement the policy.
- 9.4 The Co-Chairs of the Committee shall communicate such positions and policies at once upon their adoption by the Committee to the Director General of IUCN or to the IUCN Secretariat official nominated by the Director General to be responsible for liaison with the Committee. Should the Director General find that such positions and policies may be inconsistent with the objectives, rules and regulations of IUCN, the Co-Chairs of the Interregional Committee shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve such problems, and if the problems cannot be resolved with the Director General, Director General and/or the Co-Chairs of the Committee may address the issue to the Council of IUCN.

## **10. *Interregional Committee Operations***

- 10.1 The Interregional Committee shall not be a legal entity in itself.
- 10.2 The Interregional Committee shall not undertake any activities, including but not limited to direct projects implementation or fundraising, which are inconsistent with the IUCN programme or which would be in competition with activities and work undertaken or monitored by IUCN Members, National Committees, the Secretariat or Commissions.

In particular, the Interregional Committee will - in accordance with the Operational Guide:

- a) coordinate its fundraising activities with the Secretariat in a spirit of openness and transparency;
- b) When proposing to work outside its own State or Region as set forth in Regulation 66bis, undertake prior, meaningful consultation with its counterpart Committee(s) in the

country(ies) or Region(s) concerned (hereafter referred to as “focal” country(ies) or region(s)) in order to avoid conflicts and to ensure that its activities are consistent with the IUCN Programme, including any agreed regional or national programmes or work plans.

### **11. Regional Conservation Forum**

- 11.1 The Interregional Committee shall, in so far as possible, facilitate and encourage the participation of all IUCN members in the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum and any other fora of IUCN Members within the Region of the Committee.

### **12. World Conservation Congress**

- 12.1 The Interregional Committee shall, in so far as possible, facilitate and encourage the effective participation of its Members in the World Conservation Congress especially in the formulation of common positions on issues.

### **13. Amendments**

- 13.1 These by-laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the IUCN Members in good standing, for each statutory Region of the Committee, by those attending a Members Assembly.
- 13.2 Any IUCN Member in the regions of the Committee may propose an amendment to these by-laws, and the Chair of the Interregional Committee shall circulate the proposal to all IUCN Members in both regions, to the Regional Directors of the [ECARO and EURO] and to the Director General of IUCN. Three months after the Chair of the Committee has circulated the proposed amendment, it may be voted upon by an electronic ballot of all the Members of the Committee.
- 13.3 Where an amendment fundamentally changes the current by-laws of the Committee, the Chair shall highlight this in his/her communication about the proposed amendment. The Director General, after consideration of the proposed changes, shall advise the Interregional Committee on their conformity with IUCN Statutes and Regulations, and if not satisfied of that conformity, shall inform Council at its next meeting so that Council may reconsider its recognition.

### **14. Dissolution of the Committee**

- 14.1 Should the Members of the Interregional Committee decide to dissolve the Committee, they should inform the Council, through the Director General.

Signed and dated