



# Electronic Elections at the Members' Assembly of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

**Guidelines for delegates attending the World Conservation Congress in Jeju, from 6 to 15 September 2012**

## **Background:**

For the first time in its history, the IUCN Members' Assembly will use an electronic system to run its elections. The main rationale for running electronic elections during Congress is to ensure a more efficient voting procedure that delivers accurate results with a minimum investment of time and staff. Whereas previous Congresses required the mobilization of dozens of people over an entire day to count the paper ballots cast during the elections, the electronic system will automatically provide election results in a matter of seconds. In Jeju, the results will be known shortly after the close of the elections in the evening of September 12<sup>th</sup>.

The decision to use an electronic elections system was enabled by the IUCN Membership through the adoption of a statutory reform proposed by Council and voted on through an electronic mail ballot, effective 5 May 2012. The full text of the approved motion can be downloaded [here](#).

For the forthcoming Congress in Jeju, the electronic elections system will be operated by the company ([Braehler](#)) providing the audio-visual services in the plenary hall, including the electronic system for voting on motions. The electronic elections system has been tested and found adequate by the designated Election Officer during site visits to the service provider (Braehler) in May and July 2012. The electronic system provided by Braehler will also be used for exercising speaking rights, voting on motions, and – if [the Council proposal on establishing a quorum requirement](#) is approved at the opening of the Congress – for establishing the quorum during Assembly sittings.

As provided by Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, the elections will be supervised and the accuracy and confidentiality of the electronic voting system verified by the Election Officer appointed by Council: Prof. Dr. Michael Bothe (Germany). The terms of reference as well as the curriculum vitae of the Elections Officer can be viewed on the [Congress website](#).

## Candidates:

Delegates are invited to elect a total of 32 members of IUCN Council during Congress. Up to five additional Councilors and the representative of the Swiss Government will be appointed by the newly elected Council following Congress. Photos, personal messages, and biographical information on all the candidates are posted on the [Congress website](#) and will be printed on posters to be displayed onsite in the Members lounge of the Congress venue.

The candidates will be elected through 16 different rounds of voting in accordance with the following positions:

- One (1) **President**
- One (1) **Treasurer**
- Six (6) **Commission Chairs** – one (1) for each of the IUCN Commissions outlined here below subject to the prior approval by Congress of their respective mandates:
  - o Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); Commission on Education and Communication (CEC); Commission on Environmental Law (CEL)<sup>1</sup>; Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP); Species Survival Commission (SSC); World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- Twenty-four (24) **Regional Councilors** – three (3) representatives from each of the eight (8) statutory regions of IUCN outlined here below:
  - o Africa; Meso and South America; North America and the Caribbean; South and East Asia; Oceania; East Europe, North and Central Asia, West Asia; and West Europe.

All candidates will be given the opportunity to present themselves to the Congress delegates during plenary sessions of the Members' Assembly. Similar to the arrangements made in previous Congresses, candidates will be allocated the following speaking times:

- Presidential candidates: 10 minutes each
- Candidate for Treasurer: 5 minutes
- Candidates for Commission Chairs: 5 minutes each
- Regional Councilor Candidates: 3 minutes each

---

<sup>1</sup> In the draft new mandate for the Commission, a new denomination is proposed: The World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL).

Additionally, it is expected that the Regional Member Meetings, scheduled in the evenings of September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will provide an opportunity for delegates to meet with candidates and discuss the forthcoming elections (see [online programme](#) for room allocations).

## Schedule of elections:

In order to avoid having a single lengthy session in which all the candidates are presented and elected, the Elections Officer approved the decision to hold the candidate presentations and elections in separate stages spread across four days of the Members' Assembly (September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>). An overview of the scheduling of elections is provided in a table as Appendix I of this document.

In each round, the candidates for a given position will present themselves to the plenary and, once all the presentations have been made, the voting will take place. This format will be repeated for every round of voting. The results for all the rounds of voting will be jointly communicated at the end of the last day of the elections, i.e. on 12 September 2012.

The Elections Officer will briefly explain the elections procedure, answer questions, and facilitate a mock-test of the electronic system during the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting of the Assembly on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The elections themselves will begin during the 2<sup>nd</sup> sitting of the Members Assembly on the morning of September 9<sup>th</sup>.

The different rounds of elections are scheduled as such:

- Second sitting of the Members' Assembly, morning of September 9<sup>th</sup>: **Regional Councilors** from **West Asia, Meso and South America, and Oceania**.
- Third sitting of the Members' Assembly, morning of September 10<sup>th</sup>: **Regional Councilors** from **Africa**.
- Fourth sitting of the Members' Assembly, morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>: **Regional Councilors** from **East Europe, North and Central Asia**.
- Sixth sitting of the Members' Assembly, morning of September 12<sup>th</sup>: **Regional Councilors** from **North America and the Caribbean**.
- Seventh sitting of the Members' Assembly, late morning of September 12<sup>th</sup>: **Regional Councilors** from **West Europe**.
- Eighth sitting of the Members' Assembly, afternoon of September 12<sup>th</sup>:
  - o **Regional Councilors** from **South and East Asia**.
  - o **Commission Chairs**
  - o **Treasurer**

- **President**

This ordering of the elections for Regional Councilors, which are scheduled over 6 separate sittings spread over 4 days, was made in accordance with the number of candidates presented per region. Thus, those regions with least number of candidates will be voted on first and this progressive logic will follow until the elections for the region with the most candidates (South and East Asia) have been held. The ordering of the elections for regions with the same number of candidates (three regions have three candidates, and two regions have five candidates) is determined by the randomly selected alphabetical order beginning with the letter 'U' in accordance with Regulation 40. The same randomly selected alphabetical order will be used for scheduling the candidate presentations in a given election round and for displaying the names on the screens during the actual voting.

Candidates who wish to withdraw from the elections:

The Election Officer will set the deadline for candidates who wish to withdraw from the election at 17h00 on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Should a sole candidate for the post of the President, Treasurer or Chair of Commission withdraw or become ineligible, the Council shall meet in extraordinary session and, having considered the views of the Members of IUCN, shall propose a new candidate to the World Congress (rule 79 of Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress).

## **Voting sessions:**

All delegates at the World Conservation Congress vote for all candidates.

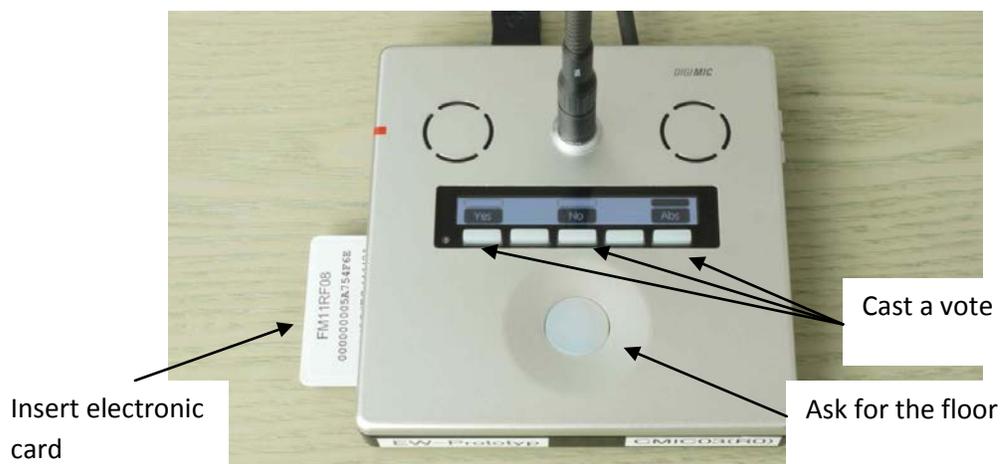
The elections will begin as soon as all the candidate presentations in a given round have been made. At that point, the plenary screen will display the ballot list containing the names of all the candidates, with their country of nationality and, in the case of Regional Councilors, with the number of valid nominations they have received, in alphabetical order beginning with the letter 'U' randomly selected as explained above.

Delegates will be able to elect candidates by using the same device which is used for requesting the floor, for speaking, and for voting on motions (see images below). In addition to the round button used to request the floor, the device contains 5 buttons directly below the display screen; those are to be used for voting.

Because the elections will take place over several rounds and will involve different types of positions (e.g. some ballot lists will contain only 1 or 2 candidates, others will have 8), the voting sessions will not all run identically. There are 3 main voting scenarios for the elections:

- In cases where the number of candidates is equal to the number of eligible positions, delegates will be invited to choose whether to vote YES, NO, or ABSTAIN for each of those candidates (Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress).
  - o **Example 1:** in an election round for Regional Councilor from a given region (3 eligible positions) in which there are only 3 candidates, delegates will cast 3 separate votes to express their choice between YES, NO, and ABSTAIN for each of the 3 candidates. In this example, the approximate voting time for the entire election round is expected to be between 3 and 4 minutes. In Jeju, this scenario is expected to occur for the three Regional Councilor election rounds (**West Asia; Meso and South America; and Oceania**) scheduled on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - o **Example 2:** in an election round for Commission Chair (1 position) in which there is only 1 eligible candidate, delegates will cast 1 vote to express their choice between YES, NO, and ABSTAIN for the single candidate. In this example, the approximate voting time for the entire election round is expected to be between 1 and 2 minutes. In Jeju, this scenario is expected to occur for four Commission Chair election rounds (**CEESP; CEL; CEM; and SSC**) scheduled on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Image 1: Voting/speaking unit with YES/NO/ABSTAIN display:**



- in cases where the number of candidates is larger than the number of eligible positions, delegates are invited to select one or several name(s) from a ballot list by pressing the buttons corresponding to the candidate(s) they wish to vote for (see image 2, below). The display on the

voting units will show the numbers corresponding to the candidates as they appear on the ballot list projected on the main screen of the plenary hall. This procedure corresponds with adding a 'X' behind the name of the preferred candidates on a ballot paper.

Delegates cast their votes for Regional Councilors by pressing up to three buttons corresponding to the candidates of their choice.

- **Example 3:** in an election round for Regional Councilor from a given region (3 eligible positions) in which there are 4 or 5 candidates, delegates will select up to three names from a numbered list (projected on the plenary screens and read out loud by the Chair) by pressing the corresponding buttons on their voting devices. In this example, the approximate voting time for the entire election round is expected to be between 1 and 2 minutes. In Jeju, this scenario is expected to occur for 3 Regional Councilor election rounds (**Africa; East Europe, North and Central Asia; and North America and the Caribbean**) scheduled on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- In cases where the number of candidates is larger than 5, the technical limitation of the 5-button voting devices will mean that the election round will require an additional step. In order to allow delegates to select their preferred candidates from a list containing more than 5 names, the election round will require delegates to vote in two steps, one for each half of the candidate list.
  - **Example 4:** in an election round for Regional Councilor from a given region (3 eligible positions) in which there are more than 5 candidates, delegates will be invited to select up to 3 preferred candidates during the two combined steps of voting covering the single ballot list. In the first step, voting will be open for the first half of the candidates on the ballot list (according to the randomly selected alphabetical order). Once that step is done, the second half of the ballot list will be open for vote. Again, delegates can select up to 3 names from the second half of the ballot list. Overall, for the two steps combined, delegates cannot select more than 3 preferred candidates. During both steps of this election round, the names of all the candidates on the ballot list will be projected on the plenary screens. In this example, the approximate voting time for the entire election round is expected to be between 3 and 4 minutes. In Jeju, this scenario is expected to occur for the Regional Councilor elections rounds for **West Europe and South and East Asia**, both scheduled on September 12<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> sitting).

**Image 2: Voting/speaking unit with candidate selection display:**



**Important notes:**

- In each step of voting during a given election round, delegates will be able to correct their selections within the time allowed for voting. The voting device will always record the vote as it is completed at the end of the time allowed for voting. For votes made on a YES, NO, ABSTAIN choice, corrections are done simply by pressing the button corresponding to the desired choice. The previous selection will be automatically cancelled. For votes made on a choice between several candidates, a selection can be cancelled by pressing the corresponding button a second time.
- The voting devices are programmed so as not to allow for the selection of more candidates than there are eligible positions.
- The electronic system has been programmed in order to recognize the multiple votes to which certain categories of IUCN Members are entitled.

For Members having three votes, the system will automatically multiply their votes by three, for those having two votes by two. In the case of States where the State leaves one vote to a Government Agency, the vote of the State will be multiplied by two and the Government Agency will receive a voting card yielding one vote. The Statutes and Regulations do not allow to split multiple votes held by Members in categories A and B.

## Vote counting:

Where there are more candidates than positions to be filled, the number of votes cast for each candidate shall be totaled and the candidates ranked in order of the votes cast, this being done separately for Category A (government Members) and Category B (NGO Members) votes (Rule 81). The rankings so obtained for Category A shall then be added to those of Category B to produce a combined ranking.

In the event that the combined ranking is the same for two or more candidates the rankings shall be recalculated as follows: the Category A votes for each candidate required to fill the posts involved shall be multiplied by a constant factor being the number of Category B votes cast divided by the number of Category A votes cast for all candidates in that balloting; these adjusted Category A vote totals shall then be added to the Category B vote totals and the candidates ranked in order of the combined vote so obtained.

Where two or more candidates from the same State are nominated for a given Regional Councilor position, only the candidate with the greater number of votes may be elected (Rule 81c of RoP of World Conservation Congress).

(Rule 79bis, RoP of World Conservation Congress) Where three or more candidates from the same State, each nominated for a different Commission Chair post, receive the highest number of votes or the highest ranking for the respective posts for which they were nominated, only the two candidates who receive the highest percentage of the votes in the voting for their respective Commission Chair posts shall be elected. With regard to each of the remaining candidates who received the highest number of votes or the highest ranking for the posts for which they were nominated, the vote on each such candidate ipso facto shall be vacated by the election of the two candidates who received the highest percentage of votes, and the vacant post of Commission Chair for such candidate's Commission shall be filled as follows:

- If there was a runner-up candidate from a different State who received at least eighty percent (80%) of the votes received by the candidate for whom the vote was vacated, then such runner-up shall be elected to the vacant post of Commission Chair.
- If there was no runner-up from a different State who received at least eighty percent (80%) of the votes received by the candidate for whom the vote had been vacated, then the post of Commission Chair for that Commission shall be filled by the new Council.

(Rule 80, RoP of World Conservation Congress) Where the number of candidates for Regional Councilors is the same or less than the number of vacancies in the Region for which they are nominated, each candidate shall be voted on individually. Should a candidate not receive a simple majority of votes cast by each Category of Members eligible to vote, the position of the Regional Councilor shall be filled by the new Council.

## **Elections Results:**

All the results of the 16 different rounds of elections will be published jointly after the closure of the Sitting at which the last round of voting is held on September 12<sup>th</sup> (election of IUCN President). Because the Elections Officer will require some time to validate the final rounds of the elections, the results will be made available a couple of hours after the end of the last sitting of September 12<sup>th</sup>. The results will be published on the IUCN World Conservation Congress website.

At the beginning of the following sitting of the Members' Assembly on the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup>, the results will be briefly presented to the plenary by the Elections Officer.

## **Proxies:**

Several Members will be voting and/or speaking on behalf of other Members who have transferred their voting/speaking rights to them through a written expression of permission in accordance with Rule 66. Delegates can only give or receive proxy votes through [the online accreditation system](#). The total voting rights of proxy holders will be programmed and updated daily in accordance with the accreditation database.

Proxy holders will be given two options for casting the proxy votes that they hold:

1. If all the votes cast by a proxy holder are identical to all the votes to be cast by proxy, a single electronic card will be used and the total votes (including the proxies) will be automatically counted.
2. If a Member has provided specific voting instructions to the proxy holder which differs from the votes to be cast by the proxy holder, one or more additional electronic proxy card(s) ('correction cards') will be produced for each of the proxy givers which have given such a voting instruction. The additional electronic proxy cards or 'correction cards' will only be distributed for the proxy votes that are different from the vote cast by the proxy holder in their own behalf.

For Members holding more than 3 proxies with specific voting instructions, several voting machines will be made available to ensure a timely casting of votes. In order to ensure that these 'big proxy holders' receive sufficient assistance, these delegations will have a specified seating allocation in the plenary hall. Big proxy holders are encouraged to solicit the support of the Accreditation desk for any queries they might have.

**Important notes:**

- There is a security element built into proxy voting which requires that Members using the same unit to cast all their and the proxy votes, cast the vote for their own organization first in order for the system to recognize them as a proxy vote holder. The Member can then 'correct', if necessary, the proxy votes it is holding for each Member that has given specific voting instructions.
- The proxy holders are invited to attend a briefing session to familiarize themselves with the electronic voting system and learn how to cast all the proxies they hold in a minimum of time, on 7 September 2012 from 14:00 to 15:00 in the Tamna hall (plenary room).

**Contingency plan:**

In the highly unlikely event of a failure of the electronic voting system, a contingency plan will be implemented in order to ensure that the elections take place during Congress. If the electronic elections system were to fail, paper ballots will be distributed to delegates and the votes will be manually counted by Secretariat staff. In such a scenario, the paper ballots will be distributed by the morning of September 12<sup>th</sup> at the latest, and Members will be invited to submit their completed ballots by the end of the day (Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>) by placing them in the two collection boxes (one for Government Members, one for NGO Members) provided in the plenary hall. The votes will be counted during the excursion day (September 13<sup>th</sup>), and the results will be communicated on the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Proxy holders will be given separate paper ballots for voting on behalf of each Member organization that has given them their voting rights.

# Appendix 1: Overview of Elections during Members Assembly



## Agenda Overview 2012 – Members Assembly Sittings 1 through 8 World Conservation Congress (Jeju, Republic of Korea, September 2012)



Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> - morning	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> - afternoon
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sitting</b> 8:00 – 10:30 <i>Nature-based solutions to climate change</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sitting</b> 8:30 – 10:30 <i>Nature-based solutions to food security</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sitting</b> 8:30 – 10:30 <i>Nature-based solutions to development</i>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sitting</b> 8:30 – 10:30 <i>Effective and equitable governance of nature's use</i>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sitting</b> 8:30 – 10:30 <i>Valuing and conserving nature</i>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sitting</b> 14:30-19:00 <i>Commission reports and mandates</i> <i>Elections</i>
	8:30 - 10:15 <b>Programme</b> discussions and voting on relevant <b>motions</b>	8:30 – 9:45 <b>Programme</b> discussions and voting on relevant <b>motions</b>	8:30 – 10:15 <b>Programme</b> discussions and voting on relevant <b>motions</b>	8:30 – 10:10 <b>Programme</b> discussions and voting on relevant <b>motions</b>	8:30 – 10:10 <b>Programme</b> discussions and voting on relevant <b>motions</b>	14:30 – 15:00 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (8) candidates from South and East Asia • <b>Voting</b> for South and East Asia
14:00 – 15:00 <i>Briefing session on voting for proxy holders</i>	10:15 – 10:30 <b>Elections:</b> Introduction to electronic voting system	9:45 – 10:30 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (3) candidates from West Asia • <b>Voting</b> for West Asia • Presentation of (3) candidates from Meso/South America • <b>Voting</b> for Meso/South America	10:15 – 10:30 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (4) candidates from Africa • <b>Voting</b> for Africa	10:10 – 10:30 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (5) candidates from East Europe, North and Central Asia • <b>Voting</b> for East Europe, North and Central Asia	10:10 – 10:30 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (5) candidates from North America and the Caribbean • <b>Voting</b> for North America and the Caribbean	15:00 – 16:45 • Presentation of Commission reports • Presentation of Commission mandates • <b>Voting</b> on Commission mandates
19:00 – 21:00 <b>Statutory Members' Meetings:</b> Meso and South America South and East Asia Africa	19:00 – 21:00 <b>Statutory Members' Meetings:</b> North America and the Caribbean Oceania Europe West Asia	• <b>Voting</b> for Meso/South America • Presentation of (3) candidates from Oceania • <b>Voting</b> for Meso/South America candidates		<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sitting</b> 19:00 – 20:00 <i>Medals and Awards</i>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sitting</b> 11:00 – 13:00 <i>Reports of the President/Council and the Director General</i>  12:30 – 13:00 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of (6) candidates from West Europe • <b>Voting</b> for West Europe	17:15 – 19:00 <b>Elections:</b> • Presentation of Commission Chair candidates • <b>Voting</b> for Commission Chairs • Presentation of Treasurer candidate • <b>Voting</b> for Treasurer • Presentation of Presidential Candidates • <b>Voting</b> for President  ~21:00 <b>Publication of Elections results on IUCN Website</b>
<b>Indicative Agenda for Morning Programme Sittings:</b> 8:30 – 8:45: DG Report on 2009-2012 Programme 8:45 – 9:00: Highlights from Previous day of Congress Forum 9:00 – 9:15: Presentation of 2013-2016 Programme 9:15 – 10:10: Discussion on Programme and tabling/voting of motions 10:10 – 10:30: Elections						
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Statutory Members' Meetings</div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Elections</div>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Programme discussions and tabling/voting of motions</div>						