09:00-09:05	**Agenda Item 1: The President's opening remarks and approval of the Agenda**
09:05-09:30	**Agenda Item 2: Selection of the members of the Council Working Group to design and guide engagement with IUCN members on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic** *On 24 July 2020, the Bureau (87th Meeting) approved the Terms of Reference of the Council Working Group (decision B87/2). According to these Terms of Reference, the Bureau will decide on the membership of the Working Group based on expressions of interest from*

The Chair of the Congress Preparato
and recommendations of alternative op
President summarized the discussion
by its ToR to study any and all aspects
which will discuss them thoroughly bef

Timetable 88th Bureau meeting on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 9.00 AM UTC

Annex 1
IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020
Congress scenarios and Secretariat recommendation

29 August 2020

Background

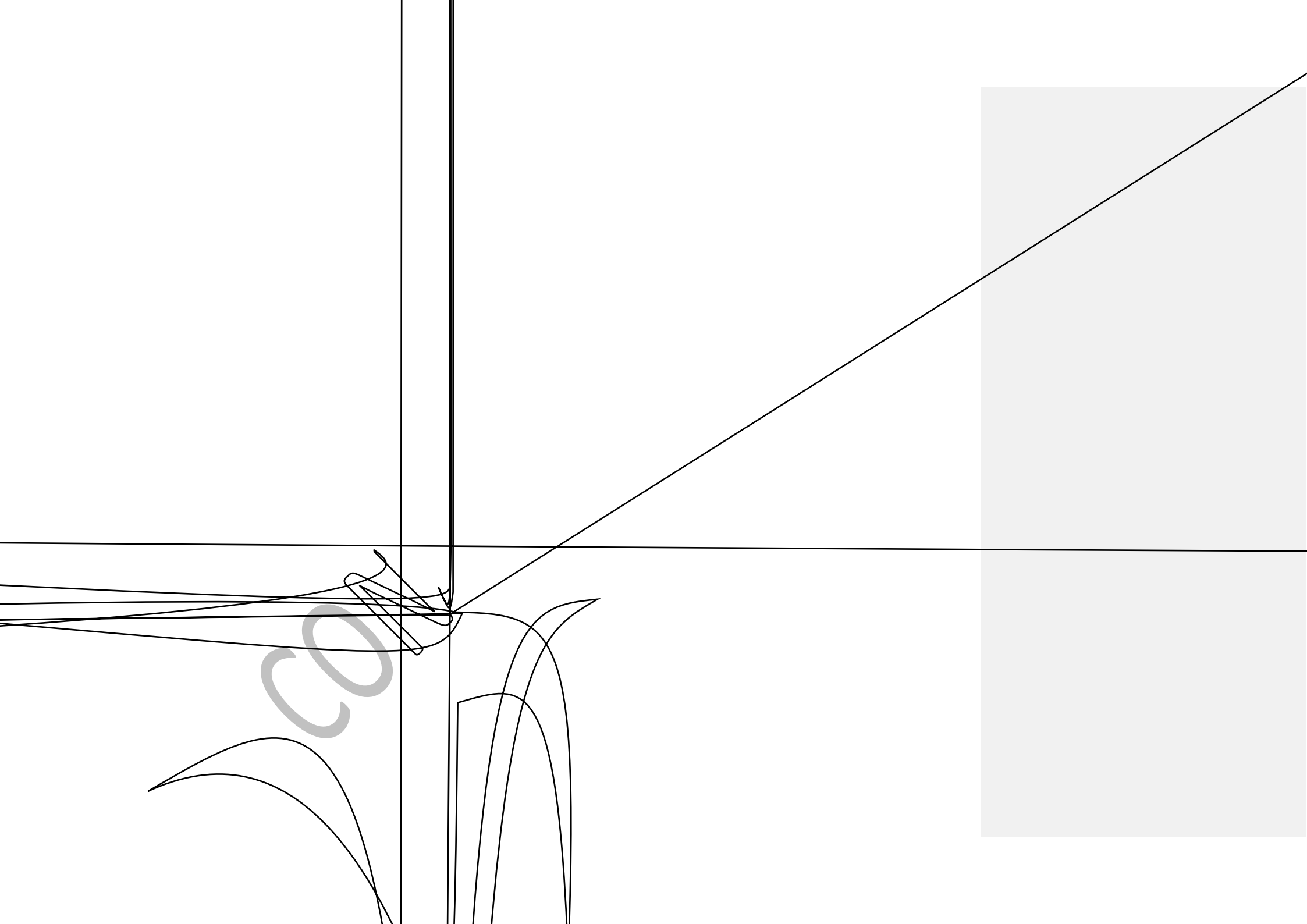
In light of the ongoing and deteriorating COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to reconsider options for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020. The Secretariat has analysed the feasibility, advantages and disadvantages/risks of all options in this paper and makes a recommendation to CPC and Council on which option to pursue.

It must be noted that every option presented has a number of risks and uncertainties that are very difficult to assess and quantify with the uncertainty on the likely evolution of the pandemic and resulting impacts on the global economy. All options will result in a financial deficit for IUCN but financial impacts are not the only criteria to take into account when taking a decision on Congress, the highest decision-body of the Union.

There is increasing pressure for a signal to be given with regard to the Congress. In order to limit the financial liabilities for IUCN but also for the Host Country and participants, a decision on the Congress needs to be taken by Council as soon as possible. The French Government expects this decision to be taken by mid-September 2020.

It is important to note that the CBD will postpone its

	CPC Decision paper and Secretariat recommendation paper circulated to CPC
1 September 2020, 12 :00 – 14 :00	CPC considers the options presented in this paper and makes initial recommendation to Council or Bureau
07 September 2020	Host Country consults with the French Presidency (Elysée) and decision-makers at local level on the preferred option
08 September 2020	French Minister of Environment Barbara Pompili and IUCN Director General discuss options
10 September 2020	Bureau or CPC considers final options and makes final recommendation to Council



From:	President - IUCN
To:	+IUCN BUREAU 2017-2020
Cc:	GILMOUR-BIERI Fleurange
Subject:	FOR THE IUCN BUREAU"S APPROVAL BY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020 – IUCN membership applications
Date:	05 September 2020 22:20:02
Attachments:	Annex 1 - Membership applications for Bureau"s consideration in August 2020.pdf Annex 2 - Decision of the Governance and Constituency Committee 26 August 2020.pdf image006.png

You are kindly invited to reply to this message by 12 September 2020 with your response to the question whether you approve the draft decision below

Dear members of the Bureau of the IUCN Council,

During its meetings of 4 June and 8 July 2020, the Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC) considered a number of applications for

Beijing Sunyu Green Environmental Protection Foundation, China and

Institute of Constructions and Urban Economics, Viet Nam,

to its next meeting .

You are therefore kindly invited to reply to this message by 12 September 2020 with your response to the question whether you approve the above draft decision.

This message will be sent for information to Council members who are not members of the Bureau, inviting them to share with the Bureau any queries or concerns they may have before 12 September 2020.

Once approved by the Bureau, Council members will receive the Bureau's decision for validation through the no-objection procedure provided by Regulation 58.

With my best wishes,

ZHANG Xinsheng
President
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
www.iucn.org
www.iucncongress2020.org

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1) NG/25373 Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology, China
2) NG/25044 All-China Environment Foundation, China C.2 (r) Tm [0.75rg -0.00(C)

Pakistan	www.preparedpakistan.org	NG	1) NG/25340 Human Resource Development Network, Pakistan 2) NG/25352 Institute of Rural Management, Pakistan	25989

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	18	Centre for Restoration of the Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands	CRIMW	Iraq	https://crim.mowr.gov.iq	GA	n/a	25919
	19	Nature Iraq Organization	NI	Iraq	www.natureiraq.org	NG	1) IN/213 BirdLife Intl, UK 2) NG/24611 World Land Trust, UK	25920
	20	Jordan BirdWatch Association	JBW	Jordan	www.jordanbirdwatch.com	NG	1) NG/25198 Royal Botanic Garden, Jordan 2) NG/25469 The Environmental Education Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, Palestine	JBW_incl DDP
	21	The Colong Foundation for Wilderness	CFW	Australia	www.colongwilderness.org.au	NG	1) NG/270 Autralian Conservation Foundation, Australia 2) NG/518 Nature Conservation Council	CFW_incl DDP
	22	Udruga Dinarica (Dinarica Association)		Bosnia and Herzegovina		NG	1) NG/409 WWF, Switzerland 2) NG/487 WWF, The Netherlands	25929
	23	The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus	RECC	Georgia	www.rec-caucasus.org	NG	1) NG/25062 Field researchers` Union - CAMPESTER, Georgia 2) ST/25100 Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	25923
	24	Lovacki savez Srbije (Hunting Association of Serbia)	LSS	Serbia	http://www.lss.rs/	NG	1) IN\1063 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, Hungary 2) IN/788 Federation of Associations of Hunting and Conservation of Wildlife of the European Union, Belgium	25975

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	25	Sharkproject Austria		Austria	www.sharkproject.org/category/austria	NG	1) NG/25149 Wildlands Conservation Trust, South Africa 2) NG/25217 Preserve Planet, Costa Rica	25924
	26	Fondazione UNA (UNA Foundation)	UNA	Italy	www.fondazioneuna.org	NG	1) NG/1036 Federparchi, Italy 2) GA/22714 National Park of Cilento, Vallodi Diano and Alburni, Italy	Una
	27	Gallifrey Foundation		Switzerland	www.gallifrey.foundation	NG	1) IN/25930 SHARKPROJECT International e.V., Germany 2) NG/25638 SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE (DBA MISSION BLUE), USA 3) IN/25358 WWF International, Switzerland	Gallifrey_Addl info.pdf
	28	Blue Marine Foundation	BLUE	United Kingdom	www.bluemarinefoundation.com	NG	1) NG/226 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK 2) NG/25002 The Pew Charitable Trusts, USA	25964

1) NG/25609 National Whistleblower Center, US80.72 1.4 (9 (t)-2.3 (e)-0.6 (r)0.9 (,)-1

	3	European Sustainable Use Group	ESUG	Belgium	http://esug.sycl.net	NG	1) IN/1416 International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, Belgium 2) Hilde Eggermont, IUCN Councillor	ESUG

Annex 2

DECISION OF THE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

The Governance and Constituency Committee,

Having reviewed

33 membership applications, which had been filed by 31 December 2019 and received no objections from the IUCN membership by email correspondence between 6 May and 4 June 2020 and at its meetings on 4 June[1] and 8 July 2020[2], and

one membership application from the UNA Foundation, Italy, which was deferred by the Bureau of IUCN Council, in February 2020, by e-

1. Recommends to the Bureau of the IUCN Council to approve the admission of 28 organizations and/or institutions applying for IUCN membership in accordance with Regulation 18. (Appendix 1)

2. Recommends to the Bureau of the IUCN Council to reject the following applications for IUCN membership:

   European Sustainable Use Group, Belgium based on the fact that the organisation in its public documents and statlegal entity.

3. Defers its consideration of the applications from the
   - **Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, USA,**
   -

[1] The minutes of the meeting of the GCC of 4 June 2020 are attached hereafter as Appendix 2.
[2] The minutes of the meeting of the GCC of 8 July 2020 are attached hereafter as Appendix 3.

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2) NG/25044 All-China Environment Foundation, China C.2 (r) Tm [0.75rg -0.00(C)

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	19	Nature Iraq Organization	NI	Iraq	www.natureiraq.org	NG	1) IN/213 BirdLife Intl, UK 2) NG/24611 World Land Trust, UK	25920
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	22	Udruga Dinarica (Dinarica Association)		Bosnia and Herzegovina		NG	1) NG/409 WWF, Switzerland 2) NG/487 WWF, The Netherlands	25929
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	27	Gallifrey Foundation		Switzerland	www.gallifrey.foundation	NG	1) IN/25930 SHARKPROJECT International e.V., Germany 2) NG/25638 SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE (DBA MISSION BLUE), USA 3) IN/25358 WWF International, Switzerland	Gallifrey_Addl info.pdf
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	3	European Sustainable Use Group	ESUG	Belgium	http://esug.sycl.net	NG	1) IN/1416 International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, Belgium 2) Hilde Eggermont, IUCN Councillor	ESUG

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North America & the Caribbean	1	Center for Environmental Ethics and Law	CEEL	United States of America	www.environmentalethicsandlaw.org	NG	1) NG/1103 Australian Rainforest Conservation Socety, Autralia 2) NG/621 Ecological Society of the Philippines, Philippines 3) NG/1061 Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina 4) NG/1075 George Wright Society, USA 5) NG/454 The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan 6) National Committee of IUCN Members, France	CEEL
	2	Center for Biological Diversity	CBD	United States of America	www.biologicaldiversity.org	NG	1) NG/515 Natural Resources Defense Council, USA 2) IN/25534 Born Free Foundation, UK 3) NG/25508 Center for Conservation Biology, USA	CBD application_incl. objections & feedback received during application process Response to objections and additional feedbac from DDP
South and East Asia	3	Beijing Sunny Green Environmental Protection Foundation	BSGEPF	China	www.bjlsyg.org.cn	NG	1) NG/25377 Chengdu Bird Watching Society, China 2) NG/25487 China Mangrove Conservation Network, China	25982
	4	Institute of Constructions and Urban Economics	(ICUE)	Viet Nam		NG	1) NG/25381 Center for environment and Community Research, Viet Nam 2) NG/25697 Centre of Live and Learn for Environmen Community, Viet Nam	25990

$ Q Q H [0 L Q XRWHGVEC Meeting – 4 June 2020

: Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere (Chair), Tamar Pataridze (Deputy Chair), Jenny Gruenberger, Hilde Eggermont (proxy for Lider Sucre for half the meeting. She then had to leave and both Hilde's and Lider's proxy were passed to Tamar Pataridze), Sixto Inchaustegui, Mamadou Diallo, Ramiro Batzín (not connected for full meeting).

: Masahiko Horie, Lider Sucre (proxy given to Hilde Eggermont), Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri

Ali Kaka, Youngbae Suh

: Enrique Lahmann, Sandrine Friedli Cela, Luc De Wever (for the Gender Strategy item), Sarah Over, Fleurange Gilmour-Bieri, Anja Miller, Louise Imbsen. Jackie Siles (Governance and Rights Programme)

1. Gender Strategy
2. Membership applications
3. Any other business

The

11 applications had been unanimously approved by e-mail correspondence:

- Association Marocaine pour le Développement des Aires Protégées (Moroccan Association for the Development of Protected Areas)
- Fundación Nicaragüense para la Conservación-Fundación COCIBOLCA
- Canopy Planet Society
- The Wildlife Society
- Cloud Mountain Conservation
- China Environmental Protection Foundation
- Nature Iraq Organization
- Jordan BirdWatch Association
- The Colong Foundation for Wilderness
- Udruga Dinarica (Dinarica Association)
- The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus

There was also unanimity on approving application Sharkproject Austria, pending clarification (at the request of the Chair) on where the organization is registered given that its project work appears to be in Australia. The Secretariat agreed to check.

Masahiko raised a question about the date of establishment of the foundation. This was confirmed to be 1986.

The Secretariat confirmed that they always verified that organization have been in existence for three years before circulating the applications to Members.

In discussion on the environmental record of applicants, Jenny noted that sometimes organizations have been in existence for a long time but that they have only recently been involved as conservation. This should be taken into account when considering applications.

Tamar was concerned that the organisation's vision and mission is not directly linked to IU.87 -1.10 Td [(i.6 (U.87 -1.10 Td [bu)10.6 (t)-6.7 A6 (s)-2 (h4 (t)-17.Tw 1.88 0 Td (0.007 TC(a l)2hai(a l)2.6

having a substantial record of activity in the conservation on nature. The three years is based on the requirement in Regulation 5 (a) that the organisation must have been in existence for at least three years.

The question was raised whether or not clarification was needed with regards to this to avoid difficult situations. Enrique noted that the Regulations require an organisation to have been in existence for 3 years, not for it to be carrying out environmental work for three years. The Chair noted that while the Statutes do not specify the length of time an organisation has been active in conservation it requires the GCC should actively consider whether an organization has a substantial conservation record. She advised the GCC to remain flexible and not fix it to three years, noting that the key would be the overall assessment being made by the GCC at the time an application is considered. The Legal Advisor agreed that the "substantial conservation record" should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The GCC decided that the information provided was not clear and the Secretariat was asked

The Chair noted that the GCC does not normally

reiterated their concern about the ethical issues relating to the misrepresentation of the organisation and felt that until this had been addressed, the organisation should not be admitted to IUCN. The Chair acknowledged and agreed with Jenny's concerns.

After extended discussion, the GCC considered whether to reject, accept, or defer the decision. The Chair summarized discussion in the GCC noting that the issue goes deeper than just the website and that the GCC was concerned that they did not present themselves as an independent organization. The ESUG would need to discuss this issue and demonstrate that they have on moved from their history, as a working group of IUCN.

Hilde, who had provided a recommendation to admit this member, stated she would feel uncomfortable to reject the ESUG and proposed that the GCC reach out to them again to ask them to make things clear, providing them with some specific examples of where things could be improved. It may not be possible for them to see how they can address GCC requests in a satisfactory way and GCC should guide them to make the changes.

Ramiro confirmed that he felt that the organisation needed to clarify who they are and proposed they be rejected.

The Legal Adviser mentioned that in their own statutes the EUSG refer to IUCN in different places, in the historical background of their establishment, which is fine. She noted that EUSG requires their members to subscribe to the IUCN objectives. If there were a recommendation to be made to them, she would ask them to see if their statutes could be adapted in the sense that is deemed appropriate because they are similar to what they say in the website, thus creating confusion. During the due diligence process, the SSC Commission had clarified that they did not consider EUSG as part as the Commission.

The issue of ethics was reconsidered and the seriousness of an organization holding itself to be part of IUCN. The Legal Adviser confirmed that if IUCN found someone using the IUCN logo and branding, they would write to them and ask them to rectify the way they are presenting themselves. She also noted that whilst the Secretariat has processes in place to deal with such cases, there is no dedicated team to do so, which gives rise to issues of capacity. However, IUCN has the right to protect its name and logo. It could go as far as going to court if it is very problematic.

The Chair proposed given the discussion and views of members that the GCC reject the application and write to them explaining that the GCC does not consider them to be part of IUCN and that their statutes and website still give that impression. They will be invited to reapply in three years' time when they have had time to reorganise themselves and demonstrated their independence. The Legal Adviser res webs theal Advi r6 (hai)2.6 (r)-57p

Hilde added that while she would accept the majority decision she would like the record to show that she had proposed the middle route of giving them the opportunity to make further changes.

The Chair asked for votes:
. Ramiro had voted to reject earlier (unfortunately, he was disconnected and did not participate in the last part of the discussion).

GCC meeting 8 July 2020

Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Chair
Tamar Pataridze, Deputy Chair
Hilde Eggermont (proxy for Masahiko Horie and Lider Sucre)
Sixto Inchaustegui
Jenny Gruenberger (proxy for Mamadou Diallo and Shaikha al Dhaheri)

Secretariat: Grethel Aguilar (Acting Director General), Boris Erg (Regional Director, ECARO), Sharon Fitzpatrick (Head of Oversight), Enrique Lahmann, Fleurange Bieri, Sarah Over, Anja Miller, Louise Imbsen

Agenda

1. **Information on Serbia concerns**
2. **Management response – Update on IUCN ethics, compliance, integrity framework**
3. **Consideration of 20 Membership applications**

1. Information on Serbia Concerns

The Chair welcomed GCC members and the Acting Director General (ADG), Boris Erg and Sharon Fitzpatrick before moving to the first item on the Agenda and asked the ADG to provide the background to the issue

institutions decisions and recognised Kosovo as a State Member. For States, membership it is automatic. There is no Council decision on admission.

As far as the International Law question is concerned, the Legal Advisor explained that there had been a request for an advisory opinion to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding Kosovo when they declared independence. The ICJ concluded that "the adoption of the declaration of independence did not violate international law, the Security Council resolution 1244 or the Constitutional Framework of the UNMIK". It is up to each organisation or State to decide whether or not they want to recognise them as a State. For IUCN, the only relevant issue is Art 5 of the Statutes and the Legal Adviser concluded that this is sufficient to demonstration that they have been recognised by two other agencies. For her, there is no further requirement. Regarding the process of adhesion, which is unilateral. Kosovo did validly become an IUCN Member in 2019 and the Union will continue to answer along these lines in the future

The ADG added that even though she feels comfortable how IUCN has handled the situation, it does not mean that it is not a sensitive one. Councillors chairing the Members' Assembly need to be aware of the situation so that any of them will be ready to respond accordingly. It is important that nobody thinks we are taking sides in a situation that is out of the control of IUCN. The confirmed the important of communication the issue to the Council or the GCC, especially now in the run up to Congress. , e doe0J0 -1.152 TD8.4 (pCID 5t07 Tw TD88(or)-6

The Chair thanked Sharon noting that she had found it very interesting to hear how she had identified how an organisation could go about developing a culture of integrity. The Chair noted that what is striking in Sharon's thinking is that it is along the pillars of Council, Commissions, Secretariat and external advisory actors. .However, the experience with WWF and Oxfam has shown that some of the ethical problems that international organisations encounter are falling across these sectors. They may involve relationship in terms of gender or race or other ethical issues between management and the governance body, they may involve harassment to programmatic staff or communities in which we work and there is a need to think beyond the pillar structure. She asked how IUCN might address these more complex ethical issues within Union within the framework that she had proposed.

Sharon explained that some of the lessons learned from Oxfam and WWF are that you can have the perfect code of conduct and still have a very bad environment. It all starts with culture stemming from tone from the top. Council needs to set the message that integrity and ethics conduct are important. That is what resonated from GCF meeting – the messaging comes from the top and the actions have to follow. It is not possible just say that it is the Conflict of Interest programme that is deficient. That is merely the mechanism - what matters is the culture. You need the framework to support the culture. IUCN has not mapped out what mechanism it has, or what the gaps are. It will be necessary to go back and have a look at the holistic integrity programme and looking at the gaps. To date, IUCN has plugged the gaps in an ad hoc way. It is not the most effective way. What you need is a framework behind it to ensure that it sticks. There are many things to consider. Map out what you do have, what the gaps are and then putting in the infrastructure that can support council and secretariat with tis related bodies.

Jenny– suggested the establishment of a "Court of honour". This could be a strong, independent body elected during Congress so that it is representative. It could be a body that does not work all the time but only when they are consulted on certain matters.

Sharon replied that in some organisations there are ethics officers, maybe at an internal, senior level, reporting directly to the DG. That is not something IUCN has invested in. You need your structure for the S

GCC will design the next steps for the current and the future Council

3. Consideration of 20 Membership applications

The Chair proposed to leave the discussion on CBD and the applications from the last meeting to the end of the current meeting in order to get through as many of the other applications as possible.

Planopac – Plateforme Nationale des Organisations Agro-Sylvo-pastorales et

was motivated by the dues, and whether the GCC would like to ask them to apply as an affiliate.

Tamar said that for her, the organisation sees themselves as an NGO, and they meet the requirements for that category and should be admitted in that category.

The move to admit them was supported by the GCC.

GCC Decision: admit

New Mexico BioPark Society

The Chair was concerned by the fact that this organisation appears to be a procurement organisation.

Hilde noted that having seen the Chair's comments she agreed that organisation itself is not a conservation organisation but indeed a procurement organisation.

The GCC noted that organisation had received the support of the Regional and National Committees.

Tamar had supported the admission but having heard the concerns regarding procurement, she would support the rejection.

GCC members agreed.

GCC Decision: Reject

Revive and Restore

The Chair was unsure about this application in view of the field it operates in. Council is still considering the proposal of synthetic biology and noted the comment from John Robinson that at two years old, they don't have a conservation trackacrv t

SPECIES – The Society for the Preservation of Endangered Carnivores and their international Ecological Study

Following concerns about the legal status of the SPECIES, Secretariat had consulted with the Office of the Legal Adviser (OLA). The OLA advised d that SPECIES should not be applying because they are not a legal entity. They form a part of Lifescape, who is the entity who should be applying. On this basis, GCC rejected the application.

The GCC confirmed that replies to objections to applications can be shared with objectors once the decision-making process has been finalised.

The GCC also considered that the advice they should give the organisation would be that they would be able to reapply in three years' time once they have become a legal entity.

GCC Decision: Reject.

Beijing Sunny Green Environmental Protection Foundation

The GCC Chair voiced her concern over whether or not this organisation is a conservation organisation. She could not see that their activities are conservation activities.

Tamar commented that one of the issues facing GCC members in this review is that there is nothing on the internet in English.

However, in order to undertake a proper review of the application, GCC requested the Secretariat to contact the organisation, asking them for more information on their conservation record.

GCC Decision: Defer

Green Pine Care Foundation

Lider had raised concerns about the organisation's funding agency status.

GCC members raised concern -2 ( )]TJ1Td( )TjEMC P /MCe , er the or2 (ons)-2 (er)-6 (v)8.96 (t)-6 fo(d)2 6(e)

The Chair felt that their activities were clearly conservation based and noted that the organisation has submitted an activity report to the Secretariat.

Ali highlighted the fact that although the organisation does not have very strong conservation activities as such, there was an indirect

Jenny abstained from the vote (Note: since she held the proxy votes of Shaikha, and Mamadou they also counted as abstentions.

A majority supported the admission since the organisation does have conservation objectives. Further, it was noted that they are involved in the restoration of degraded agriculture lands and in breeding of declining species.

GCC Decision – admit

Sharkproject – Austria

Having confirmed that this organisation was applying in the right region, the GCC voted to admit them

GCC Decision: admit

Gallifrey Foundation

In reviewing the application, Ali, and the Chair had proposed the application be deferred. The Chair proposed that all funding organisation applications be put on hold for the time being to allow the Council to have a serious discussion about the issue of admitting foundations as IUCN Members.

Ali also pointed out that the applicants had not set out a clear statement on their position on sustainable use and that they should be clearer with their opinion.

The Chair recognised that funding organisations have been accepted as IUCN Members in the past. However, she felt that the Union's reading of these organisations' contribution to conservation is becoming increasingly wider. She asked whether this issue should be more widely discussed in GCC with a view to asking for guidance from Council.

Enrique explained the reasoning behind the change to the Statutes some years ago was to widen the scope of the membership by allowing the consideration, and inclusion of organisations whose aim is to assist conservation.

The Chair agreed but felt that Council should reflect on what assisting society should mean. In recent years, this has included education, media (running film festivals) and more. However, it is important from time to time for GCC and Council to reflect on their practices and to reflect on the criteria used to accept Members and how that contributes to the vision and mission of IUCN:

She suggested that the GCC should have a considered opinion either way. She proposed the Committee review existing policy and practice and interpretation and asked for comments.

Jenny agreed that it would be important to have the discussion but she felt that since many such organisations have been accepted to date, it would be difficult to stop doing so at this point. Rather we should continue to accept them and undertake a review within GCC/Council.

Friendship

Following the deferral from the last meeting, the organisation had supplied further information. Due to insufficient time for discussion, the GCC Chair proposed that Secretariat circulate the information to the GCC members, who would consider and vote by email.

Following email review, GCC Decision: Admit

Comments on membership applications received from Councillors/Bureau members prior to the 88th Bureau meeting on 9 September 2020
(status: 21:30 CEST on 8 September 2020)

1. **Membership application from S.P.E.C.I.E.S. The Society for the Preservation of Endangered Carnivores and their International Ecological Study, USA**

- Jon Paul Rodriguez:

"..the rejection of SPECIES (Society for the Preservation of Endangered Carnivores and their International Ecological Study), is due to the fact that they are not a legal entity. Both of these organizations are based in the USA, and are very actively involved in species conservation and capacity building.

In the case of SPECIES, the problem is that they are the research arm of a larger organization, LifeScape International, and the application should have come from LifeScape instead of SPECIES. I agree with that. My objection to simply rejecting them and recommending that "they … reapply in three years' time once they have become a legal entity" is that LifeScape is already a legal entity registered as 501c3 NGO in the United States. I believe that IUCN's recommendation should be to encourage LifeScape to apply for membership (instead of SPECIES), which does not require any delay."

- Jon Robinson:

"Thank you for forwarding the recommendations on admissions and rejections for IUCN Membership. As a Councillor, I have been most active in reviewing applications from prospective Members in my region. Two of the applications for Membership from the region are recommended for rejection, and I believe in both cases, the problem lies with confusion as to the nature of the organizations. Following extensive consultation with the Membership Committee of the U.S. National Committee, I believe that in both cases, the organizations are actively involved in species conservation and capacity building, and the applications should be approved, and thus cannot vote for approval of the present Bureau draft decision.

In the case of New Mexico BioPark Society, the reason for the proposed rejection was that it was a procurement organization. I am not sure of the definition of a procurement organization, but I can assure my fellow Councillors that the organization has been active in conservation activities, and has a positive and supporting role with the Species Survival Commission, and has been a core supporter, both financially and through training and capacity building, of the Red List process. I have also read the detailed support letter from Jon Paul Rodriguez, Chair of the SSC, and find his arguments accord with my own understanding. My recommendation therefore is that the New Mexico BioPark Society be admitted as a IUCN Member."

- Rick Bates:
  And based on input from both John and Jon Paul in regard to the New Meico BioPark Society, that it be approved as well.

- Sixto Inchaustegui:
  Also, with proper clarifications from Jon Paul, to admit New Mexico Bio Park Society.

Summary of the 88th Bureau meeting
9 September 2020

The Bureau concurred with the CPC's recommendation to postpone the 2020 Congress to a later date in 2021 to be mutually agreed with the Host Country, because it is clear that the 2020 Congress won't be able to convene successfully due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to ensure the institutional stability of the Union, the Bureau also accepted the CPC's recommendation to refer a number of decision items presently included in the draft Agenda of the 2020 Congress to an electronic vote of the IUCN Members to be held in the beginning of 2021.

The only specification recommended by the Bureau was to delegate to the Governance and Constituency Committee the decision which motions on IUCN governance (incl. statutory reform) will, following the online discussion, be ready for submission to the electronic vote and which ones will have to be referred to the (physical) Members' Assembly for discussion and vote because they are controversial or warrant continued debate at Congress.

The Bureau discussed which other matters could be referred to an electronic vote but concluded that this question should be dealt with directly by the Council on 14 September 2020.

While summing up the Bureau discussion, the President requested the Secretariat to study the process and the technical/financial aspects of holding the elections by electronic means prior to the Congress in case the Council would decide it, and he suggested that Council members consult the IUCN Members on their views whether the elections should be held during the Members' Assembly or by electronic vote.

The Bureau also discussed the following matters:

1. The issues raised by a number of Council members in respect of some of the membership applications recommended by GCC for admission or rejection. The live