

**Terms of Reference for bodies involved in implementation of WCC 2020 Res 123  
“Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature  
conservation” (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49795>)**

**This document provides Terms of Reference for the seven different bodies involved in implementation of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123 “Towards development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation”, namely, i) IUCN Council Programme and Policy Committee Res 123 Working Group members, ii) Policy Development Working Group members, iii) Policy development working group chair/co chairs, iv) Citizens’ assembly members, v) Trainers, vi) Facilitators, vii) IUCN Secretariat support**

**This document should be read in conjunction with the Process for the implementation of WCC 2020 Res 123**

**IUCN Council Programme and Policy Committee Res 123 Working Group members**

**Composition: IUCN Members appointed by the IUCN Council Programme and Policy Committee – Bibiana Suarez (Chair), Hilde Eggemont, Peter Cochran**

**Objective: Ensure delivery of the draft “IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation”, for consideration for adoption by the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress, according to the mandate provided in IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123**

**Specific roles: 1) Comment and sign off on proposal for resource mobilisation in support of implementation of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123, 2) Provide oversight regarding the procedures and timeline for implementation of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123 as well as on the roles and articulation of the different bodies engaged in the process; 3) Advise the IUCN Council Programme and Policy Committee and hence IUCN Council and IUCN President herself, specifically, on the appointment of nominees to the Policy Development Working Group further to operative clause 2 of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123 4) Advise the IUCN Council Programme and Policy Committee and hence IUCN Council itself on the drafting and participatory discussion and review process for the policy, further to operative clause 1 and 3 of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123 5) Provide assurance as to the stratified random selection of IUCN Members for participation in the citizens’**

## **Objective:**

**the IUCN Membership into the process for development of the ‘IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation’, as mandated in operative clause 1 of IUCN Resolution WCC 2020 Res 123**

**Specific roles: 1) Participate in training responsive to needs expressed by the citizens’ assembly members, to develop a common understanding regarding synthetic biology and its interactions with and implications for nature conservation; 2) Produce reports with recommendations and summary deliberations for the Policy Development Working Group regarding content of the ‘IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation’.**

**Mode of operation: 1) At least two in person meetings, one to participate in training the second to deliberate and produce recommendations; 2) Address ongoing issues by email or electronic meetings as needed; 3) Attend the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress; 4) Receive honoraria to cover opportunity cost of engagement time (on the rationale that citizens’ assembly members are selected at random rather than through nomination).**

### **Trainers**

**Composition: Anticipated to be three individuals, from a respected scientific institution (e.g. national academies of natural and social science), selected through the IUCN procurement process. The same institution may be selected to provide both the training and the facilitation functions (see below), to reduce transaction costs and increase continuity and efficiency of the process.**

**Objective: Provide training to citizens’ assembly on synthetic biology and its interactions with and implications for nature conservation, so that participants share a common understanding as starting point for the discussions.**

**Specific roles: 1) Prepare a briefing addressed at all IUCN Members about what synthetic biology is, and why its implications for nature conservation require an inclusive debate, recalling the process on the topics so far within the context of IUCN; 2) Prepare as necessary training materials (e.g. powerpoints, course handouts, relevant publications, quizzes) for training session of citizens’ assembly, in ways responsive to needs expressed by the citizens’ assembly members; 3) Lead training session of citizens’ assembly.**

**Mode of operation: 1) One in person meeting for the training session of citizens’ assembly; 2) Preparation time to develop training materials; 3) Address ongoing issues by email as needed**

### **Facilitators**

**Composition: Anticipated to be three individuals, from a respected scientific institution (e.g. national academies of natural and social science), selected through the IUCN procurement process. The same institution may be selected to provide both the facilitation and the training functions (see above), to reduce transaction costs and increase continuity and efficiency of the process.**

**Objective: Facilitate the meetings of the citizens’ assembly and of the Policy Development Working Group**

**Specific roles: 1) Produce brief guidance documents on how different components of IUCN can carry out inclusive processes to discuss synthetic biology and collect inputs from discussions and produce summary reports (National, Regional and Interregional Committees, Regional Conservation Fora, Commissions); 2) Facilitate at least one deliberation meeting of the citizens’ assembly to produce recommendations for the Policy**



**Committee Res 123 Working Group will invite these different structures of IUCN to carry out inclusive discussions among their respective constituencies. Brief guidance documents will be provided to facilitate these discussions and to request consistent brief summary reports for input into the process.**

**Process schematic for development of an IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation**