

How is IUCN Policy Made?

IUCN members are entitled to submit motions on issues that are consistent with the objectives of IUCN, for consideration and debate at the WCC.

Motions are drafts in writing of any decision which the Congress is requested to take. They must have at least three sponsors and be submitted to the Director General within the required period prior to the WCC.

Motions are reviewed and consolidated by a Resolutions Working Group established by Council, to ensure consistency with IUCN objectives and to avoid any duplications. Motions can be otherwise submitted to the WCC Resolutions Committee at the Congress.

Motions are debated and revised/amended at the WCC. Only an accredited representative of a delegation has the right to speak and vote on behalf of a member. Successful motions become Resolutions and Recommendations, and are recorded in the Proceedings of the WCC.

What is the Difference between a Resolution and a Recommendation?

Resolutions are directed to IUCN itself, whereas recommendations are directed to third parties such as governments, international and national organizations.

What is the Relationship between IUCN's Policy and Programme?

The programme is an integrated set of activities that enable IUCN to pursue its objectives, and to *implement* policy as established by the WCC at different levels.

The approval of the IUCN programme by the WCC does not define IUCN general policy. However, in setting work priorities, the programme does play a role in interpreting IUCN general policy.

Summary: Role of IUCN Bodies in Defining and Implementing Policy

The World Conservation Congress (WCC)

- Defines IUCN general policy;
- Makes recommendations to third parties on matters related to IUCN objectives;
- Approves the IUCN programme.

The Council

- Gives rulings on policy and determines policy guidelines;
- Adopts and publicizes statements on issues concerning IUCN objectives;
- Approves the annual work plan and budget of IUCN's programme.

The Director General

- Implements IUCN policy and programme as approved by WCC and Council;
- Issues policy statements in the name of IUCN;

ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES OF IUCN BODIES

What is a "Policy"?

A policy may be defined as a definite course or principle of action selected from among alternatives to guide present and future decisions and actions.

What is IUCN Policy?

IUCN general policy is developed through Resolutions or Recommendations adopted by the World Conservation Congress (WCC).

IUCN policy must conform to the IUCN Objectives to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN general policy includes texts such as *Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living* (1991). This was recognised by IUCN's 18th General Assembly in 1990 (Resolution 18.13), and by Council the following year (Decision C/31/27).

Who Defines IUCN's Policy?