

IUCN 2020 World Congress

Information note to RAMSAR contracting parties and secretariat

Held every four years, the IUCN Congress is the world's largest conservation event. It brings together leaders from government, civil society, indigenous peoples' organizations, business and academia to determine the world's most pressing environmental and development challenges, and actions to address them. The last IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in 2016 in Hawai'i, was attended by some 10,000 participants from 192 countries.

The IUCN Congress 2020 will be held from 11 to 19 June in France, in the city of Marseille. New global targets to curb the escalating biodiversity crisis under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity are to be set later in 2020. This is also the year when the Paris Agreement on climate change will formally come into effect and start being implemented, with countries submitting new or updated pledges.

Main themes of the 2020 IUCN WC are:

- Landscapes
- Freshwater
- Oceans
- Climate change
- Rights and governance
- Economic and financial systems
- Knowledge

Main events

The event will begin with an opening ceremony (11 June) followed by a Forum (12 - 15 June) and then the IUCN General Assembly (16 - 19 June).

> The **Forum** will allow IUCN Members to share their experiences in biodiversity conservation and the implementation of solutions based on nature

Period for submitting event proposals is open from May 2 to July 17, 2019

> The **General Assembly** will be responsible, among others, for adopting resolutions and recommendations, on the basis of motions submitted by Members. The motions submitted to the General Assembly will define IUCN's positioning for the next four years. These motions, once voted and adopted, become Resolutions, addressed to IUCN, or Recommendations, addressed to third parties. All IUCN Members (States and NGOs) may submit or sponsor motions

Draft motions can be proposed until 28 August 2019.

All motions will be discussed online prior to the World Congress and most will be adopted by electronic vote in advance of the Congress. Motions requiring an in-depth debate after the online vote, as well as those justifying a global debate, will be discussed and voted on at the Members' Assembly in June 2020. The lead mover of a motion must identify at least 5 voting co-sponsors from at least two regions.

Other **summits** are currently being considered in parallel and/or as part of the Congress:

- . **Heads of State:** this project is being considered by IUCN International
- . **Business leaders:** IUCN is planning a meeting of up to 20 leaders of large companies;
- . **Local authorities:** IUCN is planning a meeting bringing together some twenty mayors of major cities
- . **Indigenous people and local communities:** this issue, for which France is considering organizing a summit, is also one of the themes chosen by IUCN

Global website of the event:

<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>