

To IUCN Members in West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia

Requesting your assistance in forming an Inter-Regional Committee for the West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia statutory regions of IUCN

Summary

In this letter, the IUCN Working Group for National Committee Development (WGNCD) and Regional Councillors for the IUCN statutory regions West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia, are formally proposing to establish an Inter-Regional Committee (IRC) for the two regions.

It is considered that an Inter-Regional Committee will give the Membership a legitimate collective voice within the IUCN framework. This new Committee's main objectives would be to strengthen the engagement of Members and their interests in relation to the different components of IUCN.

The aim would be to elect the Steering Committee at the next Regional Conservation Forum in 2019.

Background

Since 2013, the WGNCD has worked collaboratively to fulfil its remit. This has resulted in many useful outcomes, including a strengthened unity within and amongst the two regions, enhanced cooperation between the IUCN Members, Regional Councillors, Commissions and the IUCN Secretariat, and regular exchange of best practice. In 2016, the WGNCD initiated a discussion on how to further strengthen the collaboration between the IUCN Members of both regions.

Although the work of the WGNCD has been very successful, the group is an informal arrangement. This new proposal is to establish a formally recognized structure in the form of an IRC covering both the statutory regions. As with National Committees, such arrangements require formal approval and recognition by IUCN Council.

Members in other IUCN regions have organised themselves into seven Regional Committees which augment the important work being done by the 64 National Committees which have been established.

Our regions - West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia – still reflect the historic situation of the second half of the 20th Century. We believe that there are now significant opportunities to find new ways of working more closely together. It is our belief that an IRC for West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia will be an important means to achieve greater collaboration.

Proposition

The WGNCD, after consultation with the IUCN Secretariat and in cooperation with the Regional Councillors, herewith proposes to the IUCN Members in both statutory regions to establish the IRC for West Europe, East Europe, North and Central Asia, with the objective of electing its Steering Committee at the next European Regional Conservation Forum in 2019.

Next steps

There follows a 2 stage process

1. Attached, you will find the following documents for your consideration:

- A list describing potential advantages of forming the IRC;
- A document describing the rules and regulations regarding the establishment of an Interregional Committee;
- Draft By-Laws for the IRC;
- A document describing statutory regions and the IUCN Membership in the two relevant regions;

- A tentative timeline for the upcoming steps in the procedure.

The draft by-laws are quite extensive since they reflect the need for an IRC, what its objectives should be, and how it could work. The By-laws have been thoroughly discussed with IUCN's legal advisor.

An online consultation is now open on the Union Portal at **URL**. Any comments and questions on the process or accompanying documents can be fed through this process and will be answered by members of the WGNCD and Regional Councillors between 27th April to 25th May 2018. You are of course also welcome to contact any of the signatories of this letter directly.

2. After the close of the online consultation, you will receive a communication with a single question survey asking: *“Does your organization support the establishment of the IUCN Inter-Regional Committee for the statutory regions of West Europe and East Europe, North and Central Asia?”* This communication will go out around the 1st of June 2018.

We would like to emphasise that the formation of the IRC will not affect Membership fees. These are decided at the World Conservation Congress. The work of the IRC will, as in the IUCN National Committees and the Commissions, be based on voluntary work.

For the IRC to be established and recognized by IUCN Council, a positive majority of 50% of the Members in each of the two regions is required, therefore your engagement in this process is very important.

The WGNCD will report the outcome of the online discussion forum and survey to Council for its consideration at the 95th Council meeting in October 2018.

Thank you in advance for taking an interest in this important initiative. It is our strong belief that forming the Inter-Regional Committee should build upon evolving foundation of the WGNCD and expand this into more areas of collaboration, thus strengthening the Membership in our regions.

Chris Mahon

Chair, WGNCD
chris.mahon@iucn.org.uk
Chester, United Kingdom

Ann Katrine Garn

Secretary, WGNCD
akg@zoo.dk
Copenhagen, Denmark

Hilde Eggermont

Regional Councillor, West Europe
h.eggermont@biodiversity.be
Brussels, Belgium

Michael Hošek

Regional Councillor, East Europe, North and Central Asia
michael.hosek@gmail.com
Prague, Czech Republic

Jonathan Hughes

Regional Councillor, West Europe
jhughes@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Rustam Sagitov

Regional Councillor, East Europe, North and Central Asia
rustam_sagitov@bfn.org.ru
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Jan Olov Westerberg

Regional Councillor, West Europe
JanOlov.WESTERBERG@iucn.org
Luleå, Sweden

Tamar Pataridze

Regional Councillor, East Europe, North and Central Asia
tamar.pataridze@gmail.com
Tbilisi, Georgia