

Process leading to the adoption of the Operational Guide for National and Regional Committees by Council

- **October 2008:** IUCN Members, at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, agreed to modify Article 71(c) of the IUCN Statutes by deleting the territorial limitation phrase, thus allowing National and Regional Committees to operate outside of their State or regional borders.

Article 71 (c): *“National and Regional Committees shall work in partnership with the Secretariat and the Commissions and any in-country National or Regional Committees to formulate, coordinate and implement the Programme of IUCN ~~within their State or Region.~~”*

In deciding to propose this amendment for adoption by the World Conservation Congress, Council also requested the Membership Committee [of Council]¹, in consultation with the relevant and interested National and Regional Committees, to write a code of conduct describing the normal conduct Committees should respect when working outside of their State or Region and making reference to Regulation 64. Consequently, IUCN Members adopted Regulation 66bis calling for a Code of Conduct for National and Regional Committees working outside their State or Region:

Regulation 66bis: *“When preparing to operate outside of its own State or Region, a National or Regional Committee shall follow the Code of Conduct for National and Regional Committees working outside their State or Region and must first consult with the relevant IUCN regional and/or country office and any relevant National or Regional Committees and ensure that any proposed activities are consistent with the IUCN Programme, including any agreed regional or national programmes or work plans.”*

The Members' Assembly of the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona also adopted a resolution in relation to National and Regional Committees. [Resolution 4.003 “Strengthening IUCN's National and Regional Committees”](#), recognising that National and Regional Committees are important instruments for involving the IUCN membership in carrying out the Mission of IUCN worldwide, called on the Director General to implement a programme designed to strengthen the capacity of National and Regional Committees to comply fully with their statutory obligations.

- Against this background, but also based on other recommendations relating to membership issues raised in the [IUCN External Review \(2007\)](#) and the [Global Survey of IUCN Members \(2007\)](#), the Constituency Committee of Council prepared a draft Code of Conduct for National and Regional Committees, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 66bis.
- **November 2009:** During its 42nd meeting, the Constituency Committee considered a first draft of the Code of Conduct prepared by the Secretariat and decided to propose to Council to expand the scope of the Code of Conduct to cover other aspects of National and Regional Committees' operations not covered by Regulation 66bis. Council approved the proposal to expand the scope of the draft Code of Conduct (Decision C/73/24).
- **November 2009 – June 2010:** The Secretariat prepared a revised draft Code of Conduct based on the recommendations of the Constituency Committee of Council and the decision taken by Council to expand the scope of the Code of Conduct.
- **June 2010:** The Constituency Committee reviewed the new draft and suggested additional modifications. Council adopted the draft Code of Conduct to use as a basis for consultation with Councillors (Decision C/74/31).
- **June 2010 - November 2010:** The Secretariat facilitated the consultation with Councillors and prepared a new draft for consideration by the Constituency Committee.

¹ Now called “Constituency Committee of Council”

In parallel, the Secretariat took the initiative to conduct a study on National and Regional Committees. The Secretariat believed that the study would contribute to the debate on the draft Code of Conduct and help define the next steps towards the implementation of Resolution 4.003, while at the same time, providing valuable input to the Council's "visioning exercise" on the IUCN Council, Members and Commissions of the future.

- **November 2010:** During its 44th meeting, the Constituency Committee reviewed the new draft and proposed that the name be changed from "Code of Conduct" to "Operational Guide" to reflect the expanded scope of the document and its intent to provide useful guidance to the National and Regional Committees. The draft was approved by Council at its 75th meeting for further consultation with all National and Regional Committees (Decision C/75/25).

During the same meeting, the Constituency Committee recognized the value of the study on National and Regional Committees conducted by the Secretariat and agreed on a first set of actions to be implemented by the Secretariat.

- Share the results of research carried out;
- Develop an interactive platform on the Members' Portal to continue the work initiated in collaboration with the National and Regional Committees;
- Encourage Secretariat staff to keep Committees informed of their activities and visits in the region and/or countries and to consult them on relevant issues;
- Finalize the revision of the criteria for the allocation of funds for Regional Fora;
- Investigate innovative funding opportunities in support of National and Regional Committees;
- Create an information pack for National and Regional Committees to strengthen their institutional capabilities;
- Revise documents related to National and Regional Committees, e.g. License Agreement, Statement of Financial obligations and Model Statutes;
- Request Committees to send their annual reports and share reports and information.

This first set of actions was also endorsed by Council through the approval of the report of the Constituency Committee.

- **January – March 2011:** A consultation process was undertaken by the Secretariat with all IUCN National and Regional Committees, seeking feedback on the draft Operational Guide.
- **May 2011:** The 45th meeting of the Constituency Committee discussed the feedback received from National and Regional Committees, which reflected broad agreement. The changes proposed were taken into account and a revised document was submitted to the 76th meeting of Council for decision. The final version of the Operational Guide for IUCN National and Regional Committees was adopted by Council and the Secretariat was requested to communicate the decision (C/76/32) and to distribute the Guide to National and Regional Committees, and Members.