

**► Category B: National Non-Governmental Organisations (NG); including Universities****ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** [[IUCN Statutes Article 5 \(e\); Regulations, Paragraph 5 \(a\); \(b\)](#)]:

**National Non-Governmental Organisations** must comply with the following four main requirements:

- **be a not-for-profit entity which conforms with the law of the State where its seat is located.**
- **have been in existence for at least three years.**
- **have a board that is autonomous and independent.**  
*Is deemed to mean a board whose decision-making processes adhere to the provisions contained in the statutes/articles, regulations/bylaws and other constitutive institutional instruments, and are not controlled or unduly influenced through financial or other pressures exerted by government agencies or public or private entities.*
- **have a governance structure which is transparent, accountable, and representative.**  
*Is deemed to mean that the statutes/articles, regulations/bylaws or other constitutive institutional instruments provide for a governance structure that affords the members of the organisation and/or its Board, fair and adequate participation in the business and governance of the organisation, that require the organisation to be transparent and accountable in its activities, finances and policies, and that such provisions are adhered to in the day-to-day business of the organisation.*

**Accredited university, similar institution of higher learning, specialized centre(s) and research institute(s), organized within a State, seeking admission in Category B**, in addition to the above requirements, shall be:

- **an academic or professional entity of high standing;** and
- **autonomous in administration and governance**  
*Is deemed to mean an organisation whose decision-making processes adhere to the provision contained in the statutes/articles, regulations/bylaws, and other constitutive institutional instruments, and is not controlled or duly influenced through financial or other pressures exerted by government agencies or public or private entities.*

**IUCN REQUIREMENTS** [[IUCN Statutes, Article 7](#)]

**The IUCN Council must determine that:**

- the applicant shares and supports the objectives of IUCN;
- the applicant has as one of its central purposes the achievement of IUCN's objectives and a substantial record of activity in the conservation of nature and natural resources; and
- the objectives and track record of the applicant\* embody to a substantial extent:
  - (i) the conservation of the integrity and diversity of nature; and, either or both:
  - (ii) the aim to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.
  - (iii) dedication to influencing, encouraging, and assisting societies to meet the objectives of IUCN.*\*These can take many forms, including field action, community involvement, research in the natural and social sciences, policy development, advocacy, legal activities, education and public awareness, and fundraising where these are for purposes in line with the mission of IUCN. While determining the relative importance of an activity is necessarily to some extent subjective, it is here considered that "substantial" can be assessed in terms of the applicant's programme and projects, resource allocations, organisational structures and outputs.*
- the applicant does not pursue objectives or carry out activities that conflict with the objectives or activities of IUCN.

## INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT VIA THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PLATFORM, BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

- **Description of the organisation governance and structure + objectives, mission, and activities, including its date of establishment** (questionnaire available in the respective pages of the Membership application platform).
- **A copy of the organisation Statutes/Bylaws/Constitution**
- **Registration/incorporation certificate**
- **Activity report**
- **Details of the following contacts for the organisation:**
  - “Primary contact”: This person will receive all correspondence from IUCN and is responsible for dissemination within your organisation.
  - “Financial contact”: This person will receive the invoice for the payment of membership dues and will be contacted for any membership dues issues.
  - “Head of organisation”: This person will only be contacted for matters of the highest importance, e.g. to designate the Head of Delegation for Congress, for any electronic ballots, etc.
  - “Authorized vote holder”: This is the person who is authorized by the Member to receive the link to the electronic system and to cast the Member’s vote(s) when electronic votes take place.
- **A minimum of 2 letters of endorsement from IUCN Members in good standing (with membership dues up to date) or from IUCN National/Regional Committees, IUCN Councillors or IUCN Honorary Members.**
  - The list of IUCN Members eligible to provide a letter of endorsement is available in the respective page of the online Membership application form.
  - Letters of endorsement must address the [following questions](#). Any formal or informal relationships with the applicant must be detailed and disclosed by the endorsers.
- **The 3 latest annual audited financial statements together with a reconciliation (highlight) to the declaration of total expenditure.** If the organisation is not required to have a statutory audit, the latest annual financial statements approved by the Board or governing body can be provided.
- **The organisation’s annual total expenditure (average cost for the 3 last financial years)**
  - This is defined as all expenditure of the organisation during the year, irrespective of the funding source and including interest costs and taxes. This will be used to calculate the annual IUCN membership dues. Please consult the [Membership Dues Guide](#) for further details on membership dues calculation.
- **Deposit payment corresponding to the entire current year of membership.** A deposit equivalent to the entire current year of membership is payable at the time of submitting the application. If you are admitted as a Member, the membership dues for that year are calculated on a pro-rata basis of the total annual membership dues starting the month following admission. Any surplus will be credited to the following year’s dues. The deposit will be reimbursed in full by IUCN if the application is rejected.
  - Payment by bank transfer: payment details are indicated in the respective page of the online Membership application form.
  - Payment by credit card: a credit card payment link can be requested in the respective page of the Membership application platform. Once requested, this should be provided to you by email within 2 working days.
  - For other payment method, please contact your [Membership Focal Point](#)
- **Proof of the organisation membership deposit payment**
- **Signed declaration of Truth and of sharing IUCN’s objectives by the Head of the Organisation.** The form is available in the respective page of the Membership application platform.
- **Declaration of conflict of interest.** The form is available in the respective page of the Membership application platform.

- **For applicants as Venue-Based organisations (*in addition to the above listed requirements*): A declaration of conservation expenditure, based on the 3 last financial years**, signed by the Head of organisation (or auditors if applicable) and submitted in one of the IUCN official languages (English, French, Spanish. Courtesy translation will be considered).
  - Conservation expenditure are defined as what the Applicants reports as conservation expenditure in their audited accounts; or conservation expenditure self-reported by the Applicant, if these are not included in, or reflected in their audited accounts. In such case, these should: specify the costs and nature of conservation-related expenditure from the organisation, such as Direct conservation action; Conservation research both inside and outside the institution; Field conservation education; Conservation advocacy; Conservation fundraising and direct grants. Please consult the [Membership Dues Guide](#) for further details.