



Snapshots of IO Practices

IUCN's Resolutions and Recommendations database

Organisation(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Monitoring mechanism	
1.3	Name of the Practice	IUCN's Resolutions and Recommendations database	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template		

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2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	IUCN's Resolutions and Recommendations database provides a platform for any IUCN constituent to report on activities that they have undertaken towards the implementation of a Resolution or Recommendation adopted by the Membership. Further, each Resolution and Recommendation from the most recent World Conservation Congress is assigned a Secretariat focal point to synthesise all of the activities being carried out across the Union. These reports are then summarised and shared with the IUCN Council, which may take actions to encourage implementation, address challenges, propose reforms, etc.	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	<p>Collect and collate reporting on the progress of implementing the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by IUCN's Members, and making those reports accessible to all parts of the Union. It also provides insights into gaps, challenges, and bottlenecks in IUCN's policy implementation work. There are two kinds of reports that are collected and published:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Activity reports: any IUCN constituent can submit an activity report about any Resolution, at any time. They are viewable to the public, and there is no limit to how many can be submitted. An empty template is not available online, but here is an example from our most recent Congress: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48844 2) Progress Reports: once per year, a single Secretariat focal point synthesises these activity reports (with other information) and produces one Progress Report. Therefore, there is one Progress Report per Resolution, per year. These are also public, and should include key inputs from the activity reports. Here is an example from the same Resolution as above: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48700 	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	An accessible archive is publicly available, the Union's policy organs have been provided with more data-driven reports of the progress made in implementing the policies adopted by the Members.	

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2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	2015	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	No But there have been calls from those completing reports to update the templates and reporting systems to make them less time intensive and more interconnected.	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	Transparent and easily accessible information on the status of implementation of IUCN's Resolutions and Recommendations. It's ability to provide real-time data on overall trends on successes, challenges, etc.	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	Co-ordination among focal points in reporting. Quite a lot of actions are never recorded, either because those tasked with reporting are unaware of the progress made, or because they lack the time, knowledge, and/or resources to follow up and submit reports. This challenge applies to both Member-assigned focal points (assigned when the Resolutions are first submitted as motions) and Secretariat focal points assigned to collect and collate information on each Resolution.	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary? If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	The mandate to report on the implementation of Resolutions adopted at the previous Congress can be found in Rule 45ter in the <i>Statutes, including Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, and Regulations</i> , available here: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48398 The mandate to develop the online system comes from the Resolution 4.011 <i>Development of an automated system to record members' actions on Resolutions and Recommendations to improve reporting at, and between, World Conservation Congresses</i> , available here: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/44161	

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2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	Any IUCN constituent is welcome to submit an activity report at any time. Secretariat focal points summarise these inputs into an annual Progress Report on each Resolution and Recommendation adopted at the previous World Conservation Congress (held every four years). The Global Policy Unit then provides a single annual synthesis report to the Programme and Policy Committee of the IUCN Council.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	It is only applied to Resolutions and Recommendations.	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	All of the reports are available in the database. No login is required to view them. https://portals.iucn.org/library/resrec/search	
3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	Internally among a few units of the Secretariat.	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	Several parts of the Secretariat were consulted to develop the questionnaire, with a view towards linking the inputs received in the reporting system with other ongoing monitoring and project management systems.	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	Approximately one year.	

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3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	A few staff members.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	Too many questions were initially included, as every unit consulted had their own priorities to be addressed in the reporting template. This led to a long questionnaire that was a burden to complete. As such it was cut back.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	Yes. It was used solely by the Secretariat at the outset. Only after the first year was it opened to Members and other IUCN stakeholders.	
4	Implementation of the Practice		Comments and intersections
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	The Global Policy Unit co-ordinates this process, with support from the Union Application Team. This includes ensuring that focal points (particularly those from the Secretariat) are assigned and have access to the reporting templates, providing support, and collecting data to write the synthesis report for the Council. These units also assist Members and other IUCN constituents in their reporting, but that support tends to be reactive rather than proactive.	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Yes, Members are requested to submit activity reports on any actions they are taking that contribute to the implementation of Resolutions or Recommendations. These reports form the basis for the syntheses produced by the Secretariat.	

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4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	No, external actors are not able to directly submit reports, as accessing the template requires a login. However they are welcome to collaborate with an IUCN constituent to ensure that their inputs are reflected. There is also a field in the template which allows the user to highlight contributions from external actors.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	Staff in the Global Policy Unit and Union Application Team (4-5 staff members). Likewise the Secretariat staff that are assigned as focal points for Resolutions and Recommendations need to dedicate time and resources to collecting and reporting information on the previous year's implementation activities (50-60 staff members for the 2017-2020 reporting cycle).	
5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No. However, the Global Policy Unit intends to solicit the feedback of Members and other users following the next World Conservation Congress in order to improve, and where possible, streamline the reporting apparatus.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	--	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	--	

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5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	--	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	<p>All of the activity reports and Progress Reports are available directly on the database website: https://portals.iucn.org/library/resrec/search</p> <p>The most recent synthesis report for the IUCN Council (February 2020) is available in the supporting documentation of their meeting (pp. 34-52): https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/c98_ppc_fac_gcc_combined_compressed_12.03.20.pdf</p> <p>The report <i>The impact of IUCN resolutions on international conservation efforts</i> is available on the IUCN library website: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47226</p>	
	Sources		