

VOTING PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

APPROVED OCTOBER 2023

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the procedure for electing Board members at Annual General Meetings (AGM) of the Conservation Council where required, in accordance with Rule 14(f) of the Constitution.

2. Nominations before the AGM

2.1 Under Rule 14(a), persons seeking election to a specified position on the Board must -

- 1) be a member of a current member organisation;
- 2) be nominated in writing by two members of different member organisations (one of which may be a member organisation of which the candidate is a member);
- 3) consent in writing to being nominated by the nominators.

2.2 A standard nomination form endorsed by the Board will be provided to all potential nominees for completion. Nominees will also be given the opportunity to provide a supporting statement of up to 200 words.

2.3 Under Rule 14(a), nominations for a position on the Board must be given to the Secretary not less than 7 days before the date of the AGM.

2.4 Nominations may be submitted via a paper copy of the form, or by email provided that all the information required under 2.1 is included in the email.

2.5 As soon as practicable after nominations close, the Secretary or Executive Director will update the AGM webpage with the names of all nominees, the positions they have nominated for, and their supporting statements. A copy of this policy will also be provided.

3. Appointment of Returning Officer

3.1 If there is likely to be a need for a ballot at the AGM, i.e. the number of nominations received for particular positions exceeds the number of vacancies, or there are insufficient nominations and further nominations can be received at the meeting, then the Board will appoint a Returning Officer before the AGM.

3.2 The Returning Officer is responsible for all necessary preparations for the conduct of the ballot, e.g. preparation of ballot papers, and will conduct and count the ballot at the AGM.

3.3 The Returning Officer must be independent of the ballot process. They cannot be a nominated representative, current Board member, or have nominated any of the nominees.

3.4 Any disputes about a ballot will be resolved by the Returning Officer and their decision is final.

4. Presentations by nominees

4.1 Each nominee participating in a ballot will be given the opportunity to speak to the AGM for not more than 2 minutes, and will answer questions from AGM attendees (not including other nominees) for not more than 5 minutes.

5. General rules regarding ballots

5.1 Only nominated representatives of member organisations can vote in a ballot. Rule 3(b) sets out the number of nominated representatives each member organisation is entitled to have.

5.2 Only nominated representatives present at the AGM can vote in a ballot, and they may also lodge proxy votes on behalf of other nominated representatives who are not at the meeting, as per Rule 31.

5.3 All ballots will be conducted as secret ballots.

5.4 If there is a tie in voting for a final position then a second election shall be run between the candidates with equal votes.

6. Electronic voting

6.1 If the AGM is held as an online meeting, then the Returning Officer will establish an online voting system.

6.2 If the source of an electronic vote becomes known to the Returning Officer, e.g. it is sent from an identifiable email address or user name, then the vote is still valid but the Returning Officer must not disclose the identity of the sender of individual votes to anyone else.

7. Declaration of Results

7.1 At the end of a ballot the Returning Officer will announce to the meeting the successful candidate, or candidates in the case of the ballot for ordinary board members, and also the number of first preference votes achieved by each candidate.