

WORLD URBAN PARKS (the 'New Ifpra') - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1	<i>Why are we considering a new model world urban parks organisation?</i>	Following concern in 2010 and 2012 that Ifpra membership was declining the World Commission and Executive invested in the Science Committee, Ifpra Academy and Ifpra Strategic Review. The Review concluded that a new, inclusive and sustainable model world urban parks organisation was required and in October 2013 the World General Assembly approved creation of a Task Force be created to determine the viability of the 'new Ifpra' and provide greater implementation detail.
2	<i>What does the new-model organisation look like?</i>	This can be found in the Strategic Review Report. Basically there is a General Assembly, 18-26 person board (primarily representing member categories but with a weighting to Associations and Agencies), Executive Committee and Secretariat. Initially Ifpra Academy and Standing Committees would transfer along with our two regions.
3	<i>How is the decision to be made?</i>	The Ifpra General Assembly (all members) will vote on whether to approve the constitution of the new-model organisation to replace the Ifpra Constitution. A link will be provided to an on-line survey on 5 December. Members will have until 12 December to answer the first question as to whether they approve the new constitution, and three supporting questions. A 'quorum' is 15 returns from members. The electronic 'special meeting' was made possible by a change to the Ifpra constitution by the General Assembly in Penang in June 2014.
4	<i>If the new constitution is approved, when will the new-model organisation be implemented.</i>	The Task Force and World Commission are recommending March/April 2015 before Ifpra's reserves run out. This also aligns with the start of the Ifpra financial year.
5	<i>What if the 75% of returned member votes required for constitutional change is not achieved?</i>	There is no good Plan B. Ifpra has been gearing up for this for a year now with a lot of time put in by members. The Alberta General Assembly and Malmo World Commission all endorsed the direction being taken and the Task Force has said it is viable. While no design will suit all perfectly there is a lot to be excited about an inclusive and sustainable 'new Ifpra'.
5	<i>If we adopt the new constitution does that mean we are automatically members?</i>	Yes, on the date the new constitution takes effect.
6	<i>What parts of Ifpra transfer other than members?</i>	The Academy, standing committees and regions. The Ifpra Website and World Parks News will likely be re-branded and reformatted to provide the initial communications platforms. Over the last year Ifpra has been developing and configuring services so that they bridge to the new organisation
7	<i>What happens to the Ifpra Executive and World Commissioners?</i>	The Ifpra Executive and representatives of Parks for Life will discuss and appoint 'first directors' to the board of the new organisation. First directors will come from Ifpra, Parks for Life and external organisations. Potentially half the First directors will be appointed this way and the remainder by the new board of directors. First directors represent all member categories with

		<p>most being from associations and agencies. After 1-2 years First directors step down and elections take place.</p> <p>The new constitution governs the organisation with a board of directors. In consultation with national associations Ifpra Commissioners will be asked to continue to represent their country for a further year or so in an important ambassadorial role to assist the transition of their country's membership to the new organisation and promote it.</p>
8	<i>Where will the new organisation be registered and have its main office?</i>	<p>The Task Force Report notes Washington DC, Brussels and Melbourne are all viable options. This will be a decision for the new board and may respond to operational requirements and agency sponsorship. Depending on the country chosen registration and charitable status could take 6-12 months to set up. Initially the new organisation would be registered in New Zealand and the Secretariat provided by NZRA on short-term contracts.</p>
9	<i>What are the main differences between Ifpra and the new-model world urban parks organisation?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar objectives to Ifpra with focus tightened to urban parks and recreation • More inclusive membership including associations, agencies, research institutions, business, philanthropic, NGOs, community groups and individuals – connecting up the whole sector • Smaller board representative of member categories and with some skills-based, to replace World Commission • Seen as the international umbrella organisation for all national associations • Fee model with higher fees and board representation for organisations (packaged with free individual memberships) and supporting a larger secretariat. • Broader income base; charitable status allows tax concessions for donations • Ultimately five standing committees, four regions and in the future three outcome commissions like IUCN • More elaborate business plan • Registered non-profit company or incorporated society with reporting requirements for accountability <p>Note that the organisation is still an association that requires strong involvement from members to govern and operate.</p>
10	<i>How viable is the new mode organisation?</i>	<p>While the new organisation will recruit new members it relies on Ifpra members to create it and get involved. There is a lot of the best of the Ifpra legacy, DNA and initiative in the new organisation. We have to be prepared to really commit to it and make it work.</p> <p>Individual fees are similar to Ifpra and less for members who belong to a national association. The fee structure relies on organisations being prepared to pay according to their budget size. The fees are much higher than currently with Ifpra but are comparable or better than corporate fees for many other</p>

		<p>associations and there are additional and clearer benefits (see Prospectus).</p> <p>There is also an initial reliance on founding member contributions. One-off donations to help the new organisation get off the ground. These can take many forms and will be fully acknowledged through a promotion and membership campaign.</p>
11	<i>When do other members join?</i>	<p>There will be a promotional campaign for members prior to going live around March/April. Membership is only automatic for Ifpra members. Parks for Life would disband as a competing organisation, its former members joining the new organisation. Ideally as national associations realise how the new model is designed to strengthen them, including 50 percent discounts to any organisational or individual member that wants to the new world urban parks organisation, there will be stronger promotion to their members.</p>
12	<i>How do I find out more?</i>	<p>The best documents (all on our website www.ifpra.org are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Draft World Urban Parks Prospectus (and Invitation to Join for Associations) ❖ The Ifpra Strategic Review Report ❖ The WUPO Task Force Report <p>Contact the Secretariat at ceo@ifpra.org or members of your Executive.</p>

Feel free to suggest more FAQs to ceo@ifpra.org