

# Motions drafted by working groups convened by the French Committee of IUCN in the lead up to the French Nature Congress (2024) and the World Nature Congress (2025)

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## Table of contents

Conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems.....	3
Strengthening risk prevention related to invasive alien species in forests .....	3
Biodiversity protection in urban and peri-urban forests .....	4
Preservation of forest soils .....	5
Protection and restoration of diverse natural grasslands .....	7
Encourage the use of mycorrhizal fungi and microorganisms in agricultural practices and ecological restoration actions .....	8
Conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems .....	10
Definition and principles of regenerative blue economy .....	10
Strengthening the knowledge and protection of oceanic mesophotic ecosystems ...	11
Global conservation strategy for the high seas based on area-based management tools, including marine protected areas.....	13
Establishing an international governance for the management of sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean basin .....	15
Species conservation .....	17
Strengthening the fight against wildlife trafficking through awareness raising and training of all stakeholders.....	17
Strengthening the management of live wild animals seized as part of the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking .....	18
Protecting wildlife in the face of natural disasters .....	20
Enhancing the political, legal and regulatory frameworks.....	22
Promoting « free evolution » and the tools to sustain it .....	22
Operationalising the rights of nature through their implementation in territories .....	23
Implementing One Health from the global to the local scale .....	24
Defining a robust framework for the Nature-Positive approach .....	26

Conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems .....	28
Definition of an international framework for the preservation of the functionalities of headwaters and the strengthening of their climate resilience .....	28
For a protection of glaciers and post-glacial ecosystems .....	29
Sustainable management of freshwater resources in atolls.....	30
Warning on the impact of gold mining activity in the Amazon.....	31
Economy and funding for nature .....	32
Better integrating biodiversity in the upstream value chain of companies .....	32
Supporting the transformation of the economy into a regenerative economy .....	34
Creating biodiversity certificates that guarantee positive effects on nature .....	35
Maintain public development aid for biodiversity conservation and support for civil society regardless of the geopolitical situation .....	37
Protected Areas.....	39
Supporting the achievement of target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework .....	39
Strengthening the evaluation of the management of protected and conserved areas	40
Ensuring the maintenance and deployment of a resilient and connected network of protected areas in the context of global change .....	41
Listing the Forest of Fontainebleau as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .....	43
Education and civil society engagement.....	45
Developing journalists' and medias' knowledge on nature-related issues.....	45
Investing in the naturalist culture of new generations.....	46
Enhancing the recognition of the naturalist culture of indigenous people .....	47

# Conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems

## Strengthening risk prevention related to invasive alien species in forests

**Title**

Strengthening risk prevention related to invasive alien species in forests

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that invasive alien species (IAS)[1] are recognized as one of the main drivers of global biodiversity loss, with major consequences on ecosystem functioning and economic costs estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars each year;

RECALLING that Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework advocates for the adoption of measures aimed at preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species;

NOTING that pests, which include infectious microbial agents, bacteria, viruses, fungi, nematodes, and insects, are currently poorly integrated into global, national, and local strategies dealing with invasive alien species, unlike plants or vertebrates;

ALARMED by the increased number of unknown introductions and the induced risks of pest invasions in every region of the planet;

ALARMED by the proven ecological and economic consequences on forests of certain alien pests, which may be amplified by climate change;

EMPHASIZING the difficulty in detecting and identifying these organisms and the significant knowledge gaps regarding their biology and ecology;

ALSO EMPHASIZING the importance of anticipating invasion risks due to the great difficulty in limiting the spread and impact of pests in forests after the first outbreaks;

[1] An invasive alien species is an allochthonous species whose introduction by humans (intentional or accidental), establishment, and spread threaten ecosystems, habitats, or native species with negative ecological, economic, or health consequences (IUCN 2000, McNeely et al. 2001, McNeely 2001).

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. CALLS on States to:
  - a. Integrate forest pests into IAS management strategies;
  - b. Strengthen and generalize prevention by:
    - i. Developing a strategy to identify introduction pathways and potentially invasive species before their arrival, notably through sentinel plantations (in exporting countries);
    - ii. Enhancing regional and international collaboration to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and practices;
    - iii. Regulating main introduction pathways;
  - c. Generalize early detection and monitoring systems for pests by strengthening:
    - i. Surveillance actions and the training of forestry professionals;
    - ii. Border controls, notably through the development of easily usable detection tools;
    - iii. Traceability of commercial products;
    - iv. Research on the diversity, biogeography, and ecology of pests and their antagonists;
    - v. Research actions on control methods;
    - vi. Monitoring of forests, parks, and urban gardens.
  - d. Raise public awareness about the risks of importing any plant products.
2. CALLS on stakeholders to avoid forestry management practices that may promote the establishment and spread of pests by:
  - a. Prioritising natural regeneration when possible;
  - b. Limiting monoculture and supporting species mixing and genetic diversity.

## Biodiversity protection in urban and peri-urban forests

### Title

Biodiversity protection in urban and peri-urban forests

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

ACCORDING TO THE UN, by 2050, the global urban population will reach 6.7 billion people, compared to 4.2 billion today;

CONSIDERING that local authorities expressed their willingness to recognize urban forestry as a Nature-based Solution for the benefit of city dwellers (cooling islands, protection of water and air resources, soil de-impermeabilization, well-being, etc.) at the COP 28 climate conference in Dubai (2023) and at the COP 15 biodiversity conference in Montreal (2022);

RECALLING the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2017 definition of an urban forest: “networks or systems comprising all woodlands, groups of trees, and individual trees located in urban and peri-urban areas; they include, therefore, forests, street trees, trees in parks and gardens, and trees in derelict corners”;

CONSIDERING that some metropolises and cities are involved in ambitious tree planting programs such as Forest Cities or the cities4forest network;

NOTING that many urban or peri-urban forests are remnants of ancient forests, anthropized, degraded, and fragmented, and need urgent restoration and preservation, and that some urban forest

projects are currently developed with a spirit of conserving natural heritage, through the deconstruction of urban elements or the strengthening of existing wooded areas;

ALARMED by the harmful pressures for biodiversity that these forests face as a result of ultra-dense and concrete cities, which furthermore generate a very strong need for nearby nature;

EMPHASIZING that cities are responsible for 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions, thereby amplifying climate hazards from which they suffer severe consequences, and that the construction of cities solely focused on human economic needs has pushed nature out of cities despite the needs of city dwellers.

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. CALLS on States and local authorities to:
  - a. Recognize a special status for urban forests;
  - b. Increase the planting of diverse and resilient ligneous plants in cities with the view to create a wooded infrastructure;
  - c. Build a network for sharing experiences in global urban forums;
  - d. Establish global statistical monitoring of the evolution of these forests, for instance regarding the rate of forests under urban influence.
2. CALLS on researchers to study urban forests and city trees due to their greater exposure and earlier responses to temperature changes, carbon dioxide and monoxide deposits, nitrogen and ozone, pathogen attacks, characterized by response curves that are decades ahead.
3. CALLS on local authorities, urban planners, owners, and managers to:
  - a. Favor the mixing of local species, the conservation of existing trees and of wooded areas because of their genetic diversity;
  - b. Revitalize cities and urban centres by implementing Nature-based Solutions, with trees and forests playing a central role that should be defined in consultation with residents.
4. CALLS on IUCN to consider adapting criteria related to protected areas and red list of ecosystems for these forests, which significantly contribute to maintaining biodiversity and play an essential role in the quality of urban life.

## **Preservation of forest soils**

### **Title**

Preservation of forest soils

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING that soils, sometimes resulting from millennia of evolution, are essential components of forest ecosystems, serving both as the anchoring place for trees and the sole source of nutrients and water for them, at the interface of the above-ground and underground parts of the ecosystem;

CONSIDERING that forest soils constitute a major reservoir of biodiversity, potentially housing up to a quarter of known species, and that, given the multitude of interactions, this biodiversity ensures the functioning and productivity of the forest ecosystem;

CONSIDERING that forest soils play a central role in the water cycle and its regulation both globally and at the catchment basin level;

CONSIDERING that forest soils, particularly in mountainous areas, play a central role in slope stability, helping to limit landslides and favouring the regulation of water regimes with forest stands;

RECOGNIZING the major importance of forest soil as a carbon reservoir and sink, thus playing an important role in mitigating climate change;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the increasing degradation of forest soils due to:

1. Deforestation or large-scale die-offs causing rapid and sometimes complete disappearance of soils;
2. Climate change rapidly and drastically altering soil biodiversity and thus its functioning; these elements greatly impacting the ecosystem services they can provide;

NOTING that awareness of the importance of these soils, although growing, is still very insufficient;

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES Members to take all necessary measures to protect, sustainably manage, and, where applicable, restore forest soils and their biodiversity.
2. REQUESTS to restrict, or even prohibit, forestry practices that lead to soil degradation and compaction, and the use of heavy machinery.
3. REQUESTS to restrict, or even prohibit, the use of inputs and phytopharmaceutical products during the renewal of forest stands and to promote the use of biodegradable lubricants for equipment.
4. REQUESTS to promote virtuous forestry practices, such as the establishment and respect of permanent exploitation corridors and alternative solutions to heavy machinery logging to limit their circulation on plots.
5. REQUESTS to maintain continuous vegetation cover, to favor natural regeneration by relying on existing ecosystems and enhancing their resilience capacities, thus contributing to soil preservation.
6. CALLS on the relevant authorities to evaluate and integrate the services provided by forest soils in regulations for projects with direct or indirect effects on these soils.
7. CALLS on economic actors to integrate the fight against forest soil degradation into their forest management strategy and to report on their initiatives.
8. ENCOURAGES members to promote the improvement of knowledge on forest soils and their monitoring.

# Protection and restoration of diverse natural grasslands

## Title

Protection and restoration of diverse natural grasslands

## Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that the Ethical Manifesto of the French Committee of the IUCN, based on the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter, and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative (BEI), attributes to every living being a value of existence, a value of memory, and a value of future;

RECALLING that natural grasslands are those that have not been chemically (mineral fertilizers, pesticides) or mechanically (plowing, soil compaction) treated for at least several decades;

RECALLING that the oldest and most preserved natural grasslands host flora, fauna, and fungi close to the native communities (existing before the advent of agriculture) of their biogeographic area;

CONSIDERING that natural grasslands provide numerous ecological functions and ecosystem services: supporting (maintaining biodiversity, biogeochemical cycles, soil-related functions, etc.), regulating (carbon storage, pollination, crop auxiliaries, erosion control, water storage and filtration, resistance to invasive exotic species), provisioning (production of fodder, medicinal, aromatic, and perfume plants, etc.), and cultural (aesthetic and landscape amenity, environmental education, maintenance of historical local farming knowledge);

CONSIDERING that ancient natural grasslands are associated with better health of pollinators (survival, body mass, lipid reserves, and microbiota diversity, particularly of *Bombus terrestris*), of wild and domestic pollinator species (currently in sharp decline) and thus of associated ecosystems and agricultural products consumed by local populations (contributing to the One Health concept);

RECOGNIZING the demonstrated links between the ecosystem services of natural grasslands and, notably, the floristic diversity of green or hay fodder and:

- i- resistance and resilience to climatic hazards;
- ii- virtues associated with ecosystem services related to livestock and grazing;
- iii- the high quality and typicity of farm products (milk, cheese, meat, honey);

RECOGNIZING that the high ecological and heritage values of natural grasslands often lie more in the original and increasingly rare species assemblages they host rather than in the presence of protected/heritage species;

RECOGNIZING that they are intended to become references for the restoration of degraded grasslands in light of the recently adopted European nature restoration law;

CONCERNED ABOUT the disappearance and degradation of natural grasslands, threatened by climate change and human activities (land-use change, agricultural intensification; development of sports activities including mechanical ones, atmospheric nitrogen deposits; and various pollutants including ozone), soil extraction; accelerated deployment of photovoltaic parks, etc.;

ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT the massive and recognized decline in the diversity and abundance of pollinators and fungi for whom ancient natural grasslands constitute a crucial refuge area;

ALSO CONCERNED that international funding for agricultural activities acts against the conservation of ancient natural grasslands;

ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT the inconsistency of these international funds at the European level, which decide on a law for nature restoration (including the monitoring of pollinators in grassland environments, see article 8 Eupoms) while other funds for agricultural activities work against the conservation of natural grasslands and other decisions allow the marketing of pesticides;

WORRIED ABOUT the confusion between natural grasslands and permanent or temporary grasslands in some national and international regulations;

AWARE THAT natural grasslands, especially the oldest ones, do not benefit from any conservation status; that once destroyed or degraded, their natural restoration is very long (one to several centuries) or even impossible when they are isolated in the landscapes;

NOTING that the question of the time needed to recreate such ecosystems and their role in resistance and resilience to environmental changes are major issues both for biodiversity conservation and for the development of sustainable agriculture;

ALSO NOTING the existence of isolated initiatives for the restoration of the ecological functions of natural grasslands;

FINALLY NOTING the growing development of scientific knowledge on operational techniques for restoring the ecological functions of natural grasslands, alternative solutions to the use of pesticides, and demonstrated solutions for the conservation of other biodiversity elements (pollinators, other faunal elements, fungi, etc.) related to natural grasslands.

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CALLS for the implementation of an adaptive management and conservation approach for diverse natural grasslands, which are often ancient;

ENCOURAGES all efforts to locate, map, and study natural grasslands in order to better understand their geographical distribution, age, and degree of naturalness and conservation;

ENCOURAGES the creation of dedicated conservation statuses for these natural grasslands, promoting their naturalness and the creation of conservation islands protected from intensive agricultural practices (mechanical and chemical treatments with pesticides and fertilizers; intensive grazing or mowing); the maintenance or even restoration of sustainable management practices (e.g., extensive grazing, late mowing) that have allowed the maintenance of original and high biodiversity and suppressed the invasion by woody plants;

INVITES the exploration (definition and implementation) of ecological restoration approaches (pathways/practice corpus) to restore the diversity and abundance of epigeal and endogeal biodiversity in degraded grasslands by relying on the epigeal species reservoirs of reference natural grasslands;

## Encourage the use of mycorrhizal fungi and microorganisms in agricultural practices and ecological restoration actions

**Title**

Encourage the use of mycorrhizal fungi and microorganisms in agricultural practices and ecological restoration actions

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)



CONCERNED about the impacts of climate change on agriculture and forestry, particularly in island territories, which increase food insecurity and the risks of malnutrition;

EMPHASIZING the need to preserve and regenerate soil biodiversity to ensure both food and water security, while contributing to climate change mitigation through carbon storage in soils;

WELCOMING the recent development of agricultural practices offering opportunities for sustainable improvement of food production, notably integrated crop and forestry systems (syntropic or intensive agroforestry) that reduce dependence on water, whose availability is increasingly limited;

NOTING that mycorrhizae are symbiotic organs resulting from an association between plant roots and fungi, a beneficial association that promotes the exchange of minerals, water, and carbon;

OBSERVING that the use of these mycorrhizae and microorganisms brings numerous benefits such as nutrient absorption, soil health improvement, reduced needs for irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides, and reduced absorption of toxic elements such as heavy metals;

RECOGNIZING the complexity of the functioning of these mycorrhizae and their interactions with plant roots, which can vary depending on pedoclimatic conditions;

RECALLING Resolution 007 Developing Agroecological Practices as Nature-based Solutions (Marseille, 2020), aimed at promoting agroecological approaches as Nature-based Solutions, and the IUCN thematic dossier titled “Conserving Healthy Soils”;

FURTHER RECALLING that agroforestry systems using endomycorrhizae and microorganisms provide co-benefits for employment, agricultural yields, water resources, and biodiversity;

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to support IUCN members in better understanding mycorrhizae and microorganisms and the benefits of using them in agricultural production;
2. INVITES IUCN members to fully embrace these practices, promote them with agricultural and conservation stakeholders, and establish the necessary conditions for their deployment;
3. ENCOURAGES agricultural stakeholders to adopt farming practices that favor mycorrhizal development, such as minimal soil disturbance, maintaining cover crops without uprooting at the end of the cycle, maintaining a diversity of perennial plants from different families, associating with mycotrophic plant species, and adding organic matter such as mulch, compost, or ramial chipped wood (RCW);
4. ALSO ENCOURAGES these stakeholders to use microorganisms as a means of pest control (naturally nematicidal microorganisms, Trichoderma fungi, Beauveria bassiana, etc.) rather than chemical means;
5. URGES states and local authorities to adapt agricultural subsidies to incentivize the adoption of such practices: PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services), subsidies for the purchase or nursery establishment of recommended species, support for planted or non-destroyed trees, advice, subsidies for infrastructure related to these practices (subsoiling, soil work services, purchase of basalt powder, etc.).

# Conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems

## Definition and principles of regenerative blue economy

**Title**

Definition and principles of regenerative blue economy

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING the crucial role of marine and coastal ecosystems for climate stability, biodiversity, and human well-being as highlighted by the IPCC and IPBES;

RECALLING the threats they face and the importance of strengthening the resilience of marine socio-ecological systems, particularly in small island developing states in the South;

NOTING the emergence of the concept of sustainable blue economy in 2012 at the Rio conference;

EMPHASIZING the multiplicity of definitions and interpretations of the concept since 2012, and the divergences in its alignment with the objectives of the Climate and Biodiversity COPs;

OBSERVING a growing interest in the sustainable blue economy since the Decade of the Ocean in 2020, from states, international bodies, and public and private investors;

RECALLING the imperative to adopt an ecosystem-based approach in any activity related to marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid irreversible damage to these ecosystems and the populations that depend on them;

REFERRING to resolution WCC-2012-Res-057 on the capacity of islands to serve as models of green/blue economy and to integrate different sustainable development models;

RECALLING, according to resolution WCC-2020-Res-031, the importance of Nature-based Solutions as an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen resilience to climate change and accelerate the transition;

RECALLING the commitment of states to integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning, according to resolution WCC-2020-Res-21;

EMPHASIZING that according to the broad approach of regenerative economy, it is necessary to promote the resilience and dynamics of marine ecosystems to ensure their proper functioning, on which human well-being is interdependent, through collective governance;

DRAWING on the IUCN publication released in 2024: "Towards a Regenerative Blue Economy," which defines it unambiguously by integrating five founding principles.

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the President and Director General of the IUCN to actively promote the regenerative blue economy to IUCN members, Commissions, and the Secretariat;
2. REQUESTS IUCN Member States and organizations to adopt the clear definition of the regenerative blue economy as stated in the IUCN publication “Towards a Regenerative Blue Economy” (2024) and specifying its 5 founding principles:
  - a. Protect, restore, and regenerate marine and coastal ecosystems
  - b. Create an innovative, inclusive, equitable, and solidarity-based economic model
  - c. Adopt inclusive and transparent governance
  - d. Decarbonize activities, generate positive impacts on ecosystems, and establish a circular economy
  - e. Act for Island States and Indigenous Peoples
3. ENCOURAGES scientific studies and research to support the definition of: actions; Nature-based Solutions; performance indicators that enable States to establish roadmaps towards the regenerative blue economy;
4. CALLS for strengthened collaboration between researchers, States, and public and private stakeholders to establish reliable, transparent, and exchangeable data systems for monitoring the regenerative blue economy;
5. CALLS on private and public investors, as well as development agencies and banks, to adopt the definition and founding principles of the regenerative blue economy in order to guide future funding and development aid.

## Strengthening the knowledge and protection of oceanic mesophotic ecosystems

### Title

Strengthening the knowledge and protection of oceanic mesophotic ecosystems

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that marine biodiversity is essential to the health of ocean ecosystems and human well-being;

CONSIDERING that the mesophotic zone (or “circalittoral zone”), located at a moderately lit depth between 30 and 200 meters, plays a crucial role in the preservation of marine biodiversity;

RECALLING that it is primarily located in waters under national jurisdiction;

EMPHASIZING the richness, complexity, and endemism rate of mesophotic ecosystems, as well as their importance for the biodiversity and functionality of surface and deep ecosystems due to vertical connectivity (nutrient exchange, individual migration);

CONCERNED ABOUT the vulnerability of mesophotic ecosystems to anthropogenic threats (fishing and extractive activities, pollutants, ocean acidification, thermal bleaching) and natural threats (extreme weather events, diseases);

NOTING THAT scientific research explores the crucial ecological role of the mesophotic zone as a refuge for coastal biodiversity in the face of climate change, highlighting its importance for humanity and the need to maintain ecosystem connectivity to ensure their ecological integrity;

ALSO CONCERNED that despite their importance, mesophotic ecosystems remain largely unknown due to the technical difficulties associated with their study;

RECALLING THAT for effective and transparent biodiversity management, up-to-date and representative data are essential;

EMPHASIZING, however, that despite historical ignorance, research on mesophotic ecosystems is progressing;

CONSIDERING THAT mesophotic ecosystems do not yet receive adequate attention and integration into marine conservation policies;

CONCERNED ABOUT the difficulties States face in extending and strengthening protection networks to include the mesophotic zone.

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS States to fully integrate the mesophotic zone into marine conservation policies, recognizing its essential role in biodiversity preservation and the resilience of ocean ecosystems;
2. CALLS for the recognition of the importance of ecological continuity between surface ecosystems and those of the mesophotic zone in marine conservation policies and programs;
3. ENCOURAGES the conduct of in-depth studies and exploration of mesophotic ecosystems to fill knowledge gaps and better understand their geographical distribution, structure, functioning, and vulnerability to human and environmental pressures;
4. CALLS for the implementation of strong protection measures for mesophotic ecosystems, taking into account their particularities and interactions with surface and deep ecosystems;
5. ENCOURAGES the adoption of the precautionary principle for developments and activities that may impact mesophotic ecosystems;

6. REQUESTS IUCN Member organizations to actively promote the integration of mesophotic ecosystems into discussions and deliberations at international marine conservation forums;
7. CALLS for strengthened collaboration between researchers, marine managers, policymakers, and stakeholders to develop effective strategies for the preservation of mesophotic ecosystems.

## Global conservation strategy for the high seas based on area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

### Title

Global conservation strategy for the high seas based on area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that the high seas represent 65% of the planet's surface, that the oceans produce 50% of the world's oxygen and absorb 30% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and that the social, economic, and environmental stakes of the high seas are of utmost importance, particularly concerning the conservation and sustainable use of living natural resources;

KNOWING that 50% of the global economy depends on the oceans for food resources, transport, energy, genetic resources, and tourism, among others;

RECALLING that the text of the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in 2015 notes the importance of ocean preservation due to the existing systemic interactions between the ocean, climate, and biodiversity;

NOTING the delay in implementing international commitments related to ocean protection, such as Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, decisions from the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on marine protected areas, and the Sustainable Development Goal aimed at protecting oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG No. 14) of the United Nations;

ALIGNING with the 2023 Agreement relating to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ);

CONSIDERING the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022 during COP 15 of the CBD (known as Kunming-Montreal), whose target 3 is to protect 30% of the planet's ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that the Ocean is currently protected only up to 8% by marine protected areas, and less than 1% of the high seas are fully or highly protected;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations on marine protected areas adopted at previous IUCN World Congresses, notably WCC 2012-RES76 and WCC 2020-RES055;

CONSIDERING Articles 19.2 and 19.4 of the BBNJ Agreement, which provide for proposals for marine protected areas in the high seas to come from civil society and that the IUCN is the relevant organization for responding to the provisions of these articles;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

1. Requests the Director General to strengthen the IUCN marine program to be able to propose a global conservation strategy for the high seas based on area-based management tools and marine protected areas as part of its contribution to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with the following objectives:
  - a. Plan and map a high seas conservation strategy by aggregating and cross-referencing existing data on ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) of the high seas, integrating scientific knowledge on areas already identified for marine protection such as Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), future Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs), as well as sectoral conservation measures such as the creation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) for fishing and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
  - b. Study the identification and implementation of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the high seas;
  - c. Promote, among area-based management tools, the marine protected areas falling under IUCN categories I, II, and III;
  - d. Identify marine ecosystem areas of the high seas that are ecologically overlapping and coherent with maritime areas under national jurisdiction and require coordinated area-based management measures, including the creation of overlapping marine protected areas between the high seas and maritime areas under national jurisdiction;
  - e. Propose area-based management tools integrating marine protected areas, and operational management and governance modes, whether specific or hybrid, according to each possible classification of marine protected areas;
  - f. Participate in the precise definition of what is covered by the notion of area-based management tools (ABMTs);
  - g. Evaluate the environmental impact of activities conducted in the high seas to prevent, mitigate, and manage any significant adverse impact in relation to the designation and management of area-based management measures to protect and preserve the marine environment, in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of the BBNJ framework agreement.
2. URGES the Director General of the IUCN to strengthen the resources of the IUCN High Seas Expert Group led by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), open to experts from other global commissions and representatives of high seas sectoral activities, tasked with:
  - a. Proposing the creation of marine protected areas in the high seas to the Scientific and Technical Body of the BBNJ agreement, or at its request, evaluating proposals for marine protected areas in the high seas under the conditions defined by Article 21 of the BBNJ agreement;
  - b. Defining emergency measures to be taken under the conditions defined by Article 24 of the BBNJ agreement, and reporting them to the Parties or the Technical and Scientific Body of the agreement;
  - c. Encouraging the designation of high seas marine protected areas as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

# Establishing an international governance for the management of sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean basin

**Title**

Establishing an international governance for the management of sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean basin

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONCERNED by the massive strandings of sargassum seaweed (*Sargassum fluitans*) from the Atlantic on the coasts of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico and their increasing intensity and recurrence since 2011:

ALARMED by the negative impacts of these phenomena on coastal and marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and beaches;

NOTING that these seaweeds become toxic when they wash ashore and decompose, producing around thirty gases including ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, known for their neurotoxic and corrosive effects;

FURTHER NOTING that during their marine drifts, they incorporate other harmful substances for health such as heavy metals, notably organic arsenic, which they then release on the coast, constituting a source of soil and water resource contamination;

FINALLY NOTING that sargassum also constitutes a pathway for invasive exotic species that use them as rafts;

AWARE that the generalization of the phenomenon in the Antilles, and the acceleration of the stranding rate, affects the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems;

OBSERVING that among the possible causes of this phenomenon are changes in ocean currents, more abundant nutrient inputs carried by Saharan dust over the Atlantic Ocean, but also the impact of Amazonian deforestation for intensive agriculture, which enriches the marine environment with nitrates and phosphates, creating favorable conditions for the massive proliferation of sargassum;

EMPHASIZING the need for increased international cooperation to address this challenge, whether in the field of research or for the valorization of stranded seaweeds;

APPLAUDING the initiatives already launched in this regard, notably the international initiative to combat sargassum announced at the COP28 Climate Convention in Dubai in December 2023

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**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES the concerned governments to adopt sustainable management strategies for sargassum, whether to reduce their proliferation (e.g., reducing the use of chemical inputs around the Amazon River, reducing pollution in the Sahara...) or to manage the massive strandings in the Caribbean region;
2. EXHORTS the academic community, and the concerned governments and regional organizations (CARICOM, ACS, OECS...) to support a knowledge acquisition program on this phenomenon, in order to better understand its causes and identify possible mitigation and management measures;

3. ENJOINS these actors to work on defining a biological and legal identity for sargassum, with the aim of assessing ecological and economic losses for possible compensation measures;
4. ADVISES the States and competent authorities of the Caribbean basin to deploy economic means proportional to the scale of the phenomenon, particularly for the decontamination of heavy metals in order to strengthen the sargassum valorization sectors;
5. REQUESTS the establishment of effective intergovernmental governance by strengthening international and regional instruments or creating new ones, in order to reduce and manage these strandings in all their dimensions (health, scientific, economic, political), for example through the adoption of a new protocol on sargassum within the framework of the Cartagena Convention.

DRAFT



# Species conservation

## Strengthening the fight against wildlife trafficking through awareness raising and training of all stakeholders

### Title

Strengthening the fight against wildlife trafficking through awareness raising and training of all stakeholders

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

NOTING that despite the establishment of CITES in 1973, wildlife trafficking remains one of the main causes of species extinction today;

OBSERVING that this international trafficking represents around twenty billion euros per year globally and, according to INTERPOL, sees up to a 7% annual increase, making this activity one of the four most lucrative transnational organized criminal activities in the world;

CONCERNED not only about the threats to endangered species but also about the possible dispersal of invasive alien species, and especially the health risks posed by the potential importation of zoonoses;

CONSIDERING that to date, the fight against this scourge should be addressed more transversally, combining the skills of all relevant ministries at the national level and in international cooperation; and

RECALLING that education and awareness of stakeholders are essential to reduce the illegal trade in wildlife through prevention;

### The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:

### Operative text (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS that states impose systematic information at the entry points of their territories on the issues of wildlife trafficking for biodiversity and health security, and assign a similar mission to transport companies, tourism operators, and local authorities through any appropriate means of communication;
2. ENCOURAGES states to create a national focal point of the IUCN expert network available to authorities to strengthen the identification of seized species;
3. INSISTS that states ensure their control agents receive specific training in the identification and handling of specimens, and in combating cybercrime related to species trafficking;
4. ENCOURAGES states to establish national networks so that control and judicial authorities are trained in a transdisciplinary manner and can easily exchange information;
5. INVITES states to strengthen cross-border cooperation by creating international participatory databases for authorities, listing seizures, offenses, identification tools, placement locations, and training materials;

6. INVITES states to increase public awareness by including the topic in school curricula, in the educational missions of wildlife hosting structures, structures of scientific culture, natural areas, and by conducting informative campaigns on social networks.

## Strengthening the management of live wild animals seized as part of the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking

### Title

Strengthening the management of live wild animals seized as part of the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING the current challenges for biodiversity conservation and that wildlife trafficking remains one of the major causes of its erosion (UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report, May 2024);

NOTING the health security risks associated with the seizure of wild animals that can be vectors of zoonoses likely to impact local wildlife, domestic and farm animals, and human populations, as mentioned in the “One Health” approach;

CONCERNED about the risk of systematic killing of these animals, which should not be a solution;

RECALLING the two resolutions “Treating organized crime impacting the environment as a serious offense” and “Involving the private sector in the fight against wildlife trafficking” adopted at the 2021 World Conservation Congress;

RECALLING the IUCN guidelines for the use of confiscated animals;

RECOGNIZING that while the return of seized wild animals in good health to their natural environment would be the optimal solution for species conservation, the lack of information on the origin and condition of each animal may prevent it due to the risks of pathogen introduction and zoonosis spread, genetic pollution of wild populations in case of reintroduction, or because the physical and psychological condition of individuals requires handling with expertise for their rehabilitation;

NOTING that seized animals may be specimens of endangered species, that their number may hinder the possibilities of providing a secure reception that respects their needs, and that there is generally little or no information available on the origin site of the specimens and health monitoring;

AWARE of the potential interest that some seized specimens may represent for in situ or ex situ conservation of the species;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

### Operative text (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES states to:
  - a. Take responsibility for the management of seized wild animals;
  - b. Create a single national focal point to list reception facilities, coordinate, and monitor placements;
  - c. Ensure there are enough reception facilities meeting animal welfare and health security requirements;
  - d. Define annual quantified monitoring indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of government measures, and produce an annual national report;
  - e. Address the costs of rehabilitation, certification, and health monitoring in reception facilities through public funding or existing regulatory mechanisms, such as fines applied to offenders, to be defined at the same level as other serious offenses;
  - f. Require prosecutors to publicise the outcome of judgments on the status of seized animals;
  - g. Use the IUCN guidelines and CITES resources on the management and disposal of confiscated live specimens;
2. CALLS on states to include this issue in their national nature conservation strategies;
3. ENCOURAGES members to raise awareness about the role of reception centers;
4. REQUESTS that states ensure decisions on the fate of seized animals prioritize their welfare and consider the quality of housing, care, expertise of the facility, and in situ or ex situ conservation of the species.

## Integrate the preservation of wildlife and plant species into the creation and restoration of buildings

### Title

Integrate the preservation of wildlife and plant species into the creation and restoration of buildings

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING that soil artificialization and urban sprawl are among the main causes of biodiversity loss;

RECALLING that certain species use cavities for reproduction and shelter, that these species are numerous among birds, small mammals, insects, and reptiles, and that in natural environments, cavities are found in trees or rocks, whereas in urban environments, any crevices in built heritage can be used to complete all or part of the biological cycle, from cracks to less confined spaces such as shutter boxes or the occupation of entire volumes such as attics and roofs;

FURTHER RECALLING that some species are now almost exclusively dependent on buildings;

AWARE that new or renovated constructions often leave few opportunities for species to settle, and contribute to the destruction of resting, breeding, hibernation, wintering, or nesting sites;

CONCERNED about the frequent lack of consideration for biodiversity in the massive increase in building renovation, rehabilitation, and urban densification works carried out in accordance with the

objectives of reducing energy consumption and increasing user comfort, which favor smooth and airtight constructions that are unfavorable to the completion of the biological cycle of several species;

NOTING that building actors still rarely involve ecologists in their projects, despite recognizing the difficulties encountered in taking biodiversity issues into account;

FURTHER NOTING that despite the need to acquire more knowledge on the subject, any creation or modification of habitat without prior evaluation, such as the installation of external thermal insulation, the compensatory installation of roosts or nest boxes on building facades, can create ecological traps by imprisoning animals nesting inside blocked cavities or attracting individuals to habitats that are not suitable for them, or even detrimental;

WELCOMING that the needs for building construction and renovation are not necessarily incompatible with biodiversity conservation and the coexistence of humans and other species, if projects are designed to integrate dedicated arrangements for this fauna and flora and to evaluate the impacts through long-term monitoring.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. **URGES** the Director General of the IUCN, the Commissions, the Members, and the States to:
  - a. Promote the improvement and sharing of knowledge on the positive and negative impacts of different types of buildings, materials, and construction products on species and their habitats, as well as the development of suitable arrangements dedicated to species dependent on buildings, taking into account their ecological particularities and the environment;
  - b. Foster systematic and sustainable collaboration between building and biodiversity stakeholders at all stages of projects, from design to post-construction monitoring, to implement solutions that reconcile the technical requirements of the works and the needs of the species concerned;
  - c. Establish guidelines and a method for taking species into account at each stage of construction, renovation, and demolition projects, including the systematic establishment of initial diagnostics, the proposal of suitable arrangements for species, and the implementation of monitoring and evaluation of the arrangements made;
  - d. Support the training of planning stakeholders on the issues of reconciling biodiversity and buildings, as well as raising awareness among elected officials, government services, and users;
2. **INVITES** states to adopt appropriate regulations and ensure their proper application, including by promoting the recognition and evolution of existing labels and certifications for buildings that take biodiversity into account and propose concrete measures.

## Protecting wildlife in the face of natural disasters

**Title**

Protecting wildlife in the face of natural disasters

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING the definitions of natural disasters by the UNDRR, the EEA, and FEMA;

CONSIDERING IUCN WCC 2012 Res 113 on managing the environmental consequences of natural disasters and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognizing “the environment” as one of the assets to protect in case of disaster;

RECALLING that the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at COP 15 recognizes the need to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030;

RECALLING the values of existence, memory, and future of life from the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter, and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative;

RECALLING the essential role of wildlife in the balance and resilience of ecosystems and human communities;

NOTING that healthy ecosystems contribute to reducing disaster risks and mitigating their impacts;

AWARE of the increasing risks of natural disasters related to climate change and that, while we cannot stop them, we can anticipate them to reduce damage to wildlife;

AWARE of the scientific work on nature restoration through rewilding and conservation translocations;

WELCOMING the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction for the health and well-being of animals and for public veterinary health developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH);

CONCERNED about the lack of integration of wildlife in most disaster management plans;

CONCERNED about the side effects of natural disasters on wildlife, such as increased mortality due to wildlife displacement to urban areas, epizootics, and the introduction of invasive alien species.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the Director General of the IUCN to create a working group tasked with:
  - a. Reviewing examples of existing disaster management legislation and plans;
  - b. Listing best practices for incorporating wildlife into these plans;
  - c. Developing guidelines for reducing the impacts of disasters on wildlife;
  - d. Proposing communication and awareness plans on wildlife in the event of natural disasters;
  - e. Implementing monitoring of progress made by its members in integrating wildlife into their disaster management plans.
2. ENCOURAGES IUCN members to:
  - a. Implement the measures described in the WOAH guidelines;
  - b. Include wildlife in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
  - c. Contribute to the work of the created working group;
  - d. Support scientific research on post-natural disaster monitoring and the restoration of animal populations;
3. CALLS on IUCN member states to:
  - a. Strengthen legislation to include wildlife in disaster management plans;
  - b. Support the coordination of interventions in the event of cross-border disasters;

- c. Facilitate rescue interventions of competent NGOs following a disaster, in compliance with safety standards;
- d. Raise citizen awareness of regulations related to wildlife and the requirements of disaster management plans.

## Enhancing the political, legal and regulatory frameworks

### Promoting « free evolution » and the tools to sustain it

#### Title

Promoting « free evolution » and the tools to sustain it

#### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING, in accordance with the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter, and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative, the values of existence, memory, and future of living beings,

COMMITTED with the United Nations and the European Union, which have carried the ambition of conserving and restoring 30% of the land (COP15-Nature Restoration Law),

RECALLING that human activities are responsible for climate change and biodiversity loss,

UNDERLINING the fundamental role of spontaneous ecological processes in carbon storage functions and in combating climate change,

RECALLING humanity's dependence on ecosystem services (food, water, security of goods and people),

RECALLING that the complexity of spontaneous ecological processes drives biological diversity and all ecosystem services,

CONSIDERING that a free evolution area is a place where ecological processes are spontaneous and unimpeded by human activities,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that human societies have diverse representations of nature, free evolution can be culturally perceived in different ways,

UNDERLINING that free evolution constitutes an opportunity for reaffirming the human relationship with the environment based on respect for living beings,

CONSIDERING that large free evolution areas contain greater heterogeneity and higher genetic, specific, and ecosystem diversity,

RECALLING that small free evolution areas in contexts of high human pressure play an important role as biodiversity reservoirs,

NOTING that promoting free evolution enables raising awareness about nature, through wonder as well as science, and can contribute to improving the relationship between humans and non-humans,

RECALLING that free evolution areas are opportunities for the development of a local economy that respects nature and populations.

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. RECOMMENDS to the Director General of IUCN
  - a. The drafting of guidelines for international recognition of free evolution areas.
2. RECOMMENDS to all its members
  - a. That free evolution can be proposed as a management principle for all types of areas;
  - b. That free evolution areas can benefit from a protection and/or recognition status;
  - c. That awareness-raising actions be implemented among various audiences to initiate a change in perception of free evolution nature;
  - d. That governance synergies between free evolution areas and surrounding territories be encouraged to support co-benefits between natural processes and land management for human activities.
3. RECOMMENDS to States and local authorities
  - a. To encourage the creation of large natural areas in free evolution;
  - b. To consider, after scientific advice, any operation accelerating the restoration of ecological processes;
  - c. To support domestic and urban uses allowing the development of spontaneous nature in the immediate vicinity of human societies;
  - d. To develop any tool guaranteeing the sustainability of free evolution;
  - e. To encourage all economic development initiatives based on the promotion, knowledge, and respect of wild nature, contributing to the creation of new socio-economic opportunities for local populations and stakeholders.

## Operationalising the rights of nature through their implementation in territories

**Title**

Operationalising the rights of nature through their implementation in territories

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING the growing number of governments worldwide seeking to reverse the current trend of natural habitat degradation and biodiversity collapse by recognizing and enforcing the inherent rights of nature;

RECALLING that some states and territories have already recognized, with different rationale and modalities, the rights of nature in their Constitution, like Ecuador, or in their legislation, like Bolivia, Uganda, New Zealand, and Spain;

WELCOMING the recent developments in the international community in this field, notably in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022, which recognizes and considers “the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth as integral to the success of its implementation”;

CONSIDERING that protected areas are one of the most effective tools for conserving biodiversity and geodiversity against major anthropogenic threats and maintaining the resilience and adaptive potential of ecosystems;

CONFIDENT that the implementation of the rights of nature, particularly in protected areas, could help reconcile humans and nature, inspire citizenship anew, and reduce the vulnerability of environments to climate change;

RECALLING that the Ethical Manifesto of the French Committee of IUCN, based on the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter, and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative, calls for rethinking our ways of interacting with the living world and landscapes and inhabiting the Earth;

ALIGNING with the resolutions adopted by the World Conservation Congresses, notably resolution WCC 2012 Res 100 “Integrate the rights of nature as a cornerstone of IUCN’s decision-making process.”

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS States to recognize the rights of nature in their diversity and to support their effective and operational implementation at the territorial level, particularly within protected areas and IUCN Green List sites.
2. ENCOURAGES States to accompany this legal evolution by ensuring spaces for environmental democracy where civil society (and other guardians of the rights of nature) can actively contribute to considering the specific needs and interests of nature.
3. INVITES States and local and sub-national governments to plan human activities in synergy with the rights of nature and to ensure the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in this approach.
4. REQUESTS IUCN to:
  - a. Continue reflecting on the construction of new legal regimes adapted to the rights of nature, paying particular attention to Natural Legal Entities.
  - b. Conduct an experiment on the rights of nature in a network of pilot sites, particularly within protected areas and/or community-protected areas.
  - c. Encourage the dissemination of inspiring initiatives where the rights of nature are recognized or in the process of being recognized, at the local level by involving territorial actors.
5. REQUESTS the World Commission on Protected Areas and the World Commission on Environmental Law to coordinate the evaluation of the impacts of this experiment on the rights of nature on biodiversity protection, geological heritage, and the living conditions and lifestyles of populations, as well as to develop a toolkit allowing for the adapted replication of identified solutions to facilitate their global dissemination.

## Implementing One Health from the global to the local scale

**Title**

Implementing One Health from the global to the local scale

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)



CONSIDERING that respecting essential ecological processes is fundamental to preserving life and that our health depends on good ecological conditions;

RECALLING the conservation principles of the World Charter for Nature and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions on harmony with nature;

NOTING WITH INTEREST the recognition by the United Nations Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of a right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment;

RECALLING the urgency of taking necessary measures to halt biodiversity loss;

RECOGNIZING that the sustainability of food systems depends on biodiversity;

FIRMLY CONVINCED of the need to take appropriate measures at national and international, individual and collective, private and public levels to protect life and promote international cooperation in this field, and that only the integrated and cross-cutting One Health approach will achieve this;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 integrate health in a cross-cutting manner and that the environmental determinants of health are part of all SDGs, directly or indirectly;

RECALLING that the Convention on Biological Diversity plays a major role with the adoption of several decisions highlighting the link between biodiversity and health, particularly decision 15/29 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

NOTING the advent of a new global health order and growing concerns in the health-environment field in relation to the interests of present and future generations and to combat the accumulation of social and environmental inequalities;

AWARE of the need for a global approach that addresses all interdependencies between ecosystems, animal and plant health, and human health;

WELCOMING the definition provided by the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP);

UNDERLINING the importance of developing the One Health approach to act preventively and effectively for human health, animal health, and ecosystem health by ensuring close collaboration, communication, and coordination between the concerned sectors;

WELCOMING the integration of local authorities as members of IUCN who can now participate in the Union's actions for nature;

NOTING WITH INTEREST that One Health has been identified in IUCN's 20-year strategic vision as one of the eight key transformational changes.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES each government to:

- a. Integrate the One Health concept into law by recognizing and legally considering the interdependence of species and ecosystems;
- b. Develop a national One Health strategy:

- i. Developed with all institutions, stakeholders, professionals, and civil society;
  - ii. Including measurable and quantifiable objectives;
  - iii. Based on prevention;
  - iv. Implemented at the local level;
  - v. Evaluated using socio-economic and legal indicators;
- c. Integrate the One Health principle across all sectors in a comprehensive and dynamic approach with an integrated and unifying vision;
  - d. Measure all benefits obtained and expenses avoided through the implementation of One Health policies based on prevention.
2. RECOMMENDS sub-national governments to develop their own strategy and contribute to the national strategy if it exists.
  3. INVITES Members to support and develop interdisciplinarity in One Health policies and to promote the emergence of cross-disciplinary fields such as eco-epidemiology.
  4. ENCOURAGES Members to support education, awareness, and training in One Health by leveraging the expertise of various professional communities.
  5. INVITES companies to integrate the One Health principle into their CSR or business strategies.
  6. RECOMMENDS ensuring the protection of biodiversity reservoirs by controlling interactions between humans and wildlife and integrating One Health into nature protection policies.

## Defining a robust framework for the Nature-Positive approach

### Title

Defining a robust framework for the Nature-Positive approach

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING the need to go beyond “impact reduction” to bring about measurable and sustainable improvements to the state of nature;

RECALLING that IUCN supports private sector contributions to achieving the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the Nature Positive Initiative (2023) aims to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 based on 2020 levels, and achieve full recovery by 2050;

WELCOMING the fact that the “Nature Positive” approach recognizes the intrinsic value of all living beings and the interdependence between humans and nature, but does not sufficiently emphasize the values of memory and future of living beings;

RECOGNIZING that preserving life requires financial investments to which businesses and organizations must contribute;

RECALLING that a company cannot claim to be “nature positive,” but it can contribute to a “nature positive” goal if it demonstrates this through various actions and in a coordinated approach at the territorial level;

WELCOMING the fact that the “Nature Positive” approach considers all of a company’s actions throughout its value chain and in the different geographical areas where it sources;

RECALLING that achieving the Nature Positive goal requires measurable net results in terms of biodiversity to be robust, through the improvement of species abundance, diversity, integrity, and resilience, allowing the preservation of ecosystems and natural processes;

UNDERLINING that the initiative is anthropocentric, seeking to encourage and commend human action and value gains from action, it omits the importance of promoting respect for all living beings in their ability to evolve freely and self-regenerate;

VERY CONCERNED about the risk of greenwashing and the fact that the IUCN's support could suffice for the company to be identified as a “Nature Positive” company.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS IUCN and its members to ensure that the framework of this “Nature Positive” approach:
  - a. Supports strong ethical values;
  - b. Emphasizes preservation, thus the absence of degradation, rather than restoration and compensation;
  - c. Demonstrates a “positive” result for life in its diversity, functioning, and evolutionary capacity.
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to finalize the document “Measuring Nature Positive” put out for consultation in November 2023, while improving the robustness and credibility of the “Nature Positive” approach, and thus promote it within the “Nature Positive” initiative, specifically by:
  - a. Identifying quantifiable, verifiable, and science-based measures.
  - b. Clarifying the definition of reference years.
  - c. Illustrating the approach with diagrams and examples.
  - d. Proposing a threshold identifying a remarkable contribution to “Nature Positive.”
  - e. Reflecting on the cumulative impacts of multiple projects and their consideration in the “Nature Positive” approach.
  - f. Tailoring the approach according to the category of company (A, B, C), impacts (historical, ongoing, new).
  - g. Proposing different metrics and tools to use or develop, including indicators complementary to STAR.
  - h. Clarifying the mention and distinction between biodiversity credits and certificates.
3. INVITES IUCN and its Members to support:
  - a. Actions from which biodiversity derives a proven benefit, beyond human needs for notoriety or commitments of means.
  - b. Actions that do not simply remedy or endorse degradations, which should be subject to a distinct approach.
  - c. Evaluations including secondary impacts (other species, long-term, ecosystem functions).
  - d. Actions in favor of local and indigenous biodiversity and its resilience capacity.

# Conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems

Definition of an international framework for the preservation of the functionalities of headwaters and the strengthening of their climate resilience

**Title**

Definition of an international framework for the preservation of the functionalities of headwaters and the strengthening of their climate resilience

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

ACKNOWLEDGING Objective A and Targets 3, 7, 8, 14, and 21 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to restore 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030;

RECALLING the RAMSAR Convention aimed at halting the degradation of wetlands, and the WCC-2020-Res-008-FR motion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in 2021 to protect rivers and their ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate;

CONCERNED about the loss of 84% of freshwater vertebrates between 1970 and 2016 (Fengzhi He, et al., 2019), the increasing demand for water, energy, and food, the lack of dedicated funds for freshwater ecosystems (Synchronicity Earth, 2018), and conflicts over water use in the context of the climate crisis (6th IPCC report);

CONSIDERING headwaters as any natural, agricultural, and urban areas of level 1 to 2 in the Strahler classification;

RECALLING the essential role of climate-resilient watersheds, capable of withstanding temperature fluctuations and changes in rainfall patterns while ensuring their functions of retention, filtration, and availability of water for various uses and their role as biodiversity reservoirs;

KNOWING that maintaining the connectivity of headwaters is essential for their role as refuges and biodiversity reservoirs, that their small size makes them sensitive to natural and anthropogenic disturbances, and that some headwater streams are important sources of sediments for downstream rivers;

CONCERNED about the increasing number of impacts on headwater streams, affecting their quality, hydrology, morphology, and connection with other parts of the watershed, and the proliferation of development projects in areas freed by glacier retreat;

AWARE of the role of headwaters as agricultural production areas for many populations;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN members to:
  - a. SUPPORT the exchange of experiences and the adoption of best practices to preserve headwater streams;
  - b. ENCOURAGE all actions to understand, protect, and enhance headwater streams and their funding;
  - c. URGE states to allocate adequate public budgets;
  
2. INVITES governments and local authorities to:
  - a. INCLUDE the frameworks and regulations for the protection and restoration of headwaters in all public policies;
  - b. ASSESS and IMPROVE the mechanisms for protecting the natural hydromorphological functions and dynamics of rivers from source to sea;
  - c. INVENTORY developments hindering hydromorphological dynamics and EVALUATE the interest of their maintenance, modification, or removal;
  - d. SET improvement objectives based on international and national indicators, including biodiversity, ecosystem functionalities, groundwater, physico-chemical parameters, ecological connectivity, and hydromorphological processes;
  - e. FINANCIALLY SUPPORT the management and protection of headwater streams;
  - f. ENCOURAGE good practices in the use of natural resources for agriculture, forestry, fishing, material extraction, and renewable energy;
  - g. INCLUDE in public policies the identification, protection, and monitoring of streams with adequate funding.

## For a protection of glaciers and post-glacial ecosystems

### Title

For a protection of glaciers and post-glacial ecosystems

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that the 270,000 glaciers and the two continental ice sheets cover 10% of the Earth's land surface, play a crucial role in regulating the climate, global sea level, and the water cycle in many regions, and host specific biodiversity, profoundly influencing the functioning of the planet, the distribution of ecosystems, species, humanity, and its activities;

NOTING that glacial retreat is giving rise to vast post-glacial ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine) which, while not replacing the unique role of glaciers, become refuges for biodiversity, freshwater reservoirs, and carbon sinks in cold regions;

CONCERNED about the unprecedented acceleration of glacier melt due to the intensification of anthropogenic climate change and scientific projections on the continuation of this phenomenon at colossal levels;

CONCERNED about the direct destruction or degradation of some glaciers and post-glacial ecosystems by human activities (mining, power generation, recreation, etc.), affecting their evolution and ecological functions;

RECALLING that glaciers and post-glacial ecosystems are mainly located on lands belonging to public entities or local communities, requiring consideration of their rights, beliefs, and traditions;

DEPLORE that these ecosystems are largely ignored by nature protection policies and that a vast portion of their area lies outside protected areas;

WELCOMING initiatives to recognize and protect these ecosystems, such as the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, certain national laws since 2010, the One Planet Polar Summit in 2023 in Paris, and the UN General Assembly resolution declaring 2025 the International Year of Glacier Preservation.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES members to honor their climate commitments by accelerating actions without delay to mitigate anthropogenic climate change and keep it within the limits of the Paris Agreement;
2. URGES members to increase in-situ protection of glacial and post-glacial ecosystems, respecting and involving local communities and considering the imperatives of natural hazard mitigation to prevent the development of human activities threatening their integrity, evolution, and functioning;
3. INVITES members to initiate, similar to the Antarctic Treaty, negotiations for an international treaty to protect glacial and post-glacial ecosystems, recognizing them as the common heritage of humanity;
4. REQUESTS members to support the creation of the UN Glacier Preservation Fund in 2025, securing its human and financial resources in the long term;
5. INVITES members to act collectively to develop knowledge and long-term monitoring of these ecosystems and share this knowledge to raise global awareness on these fundamental issues, particularly through the mobilization and education of citizens and younger generations.

## Sustainable management of freshwater resources in atolls

**Title**

Sustainable management of freshwater resources in atolls

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONCERNED about the vulnerability of populations living in atolls, particularly in the face of the effects of climate change (coastal erosion, submersion risks, access to water resources);

RECALLING that water is a vital resource for all of humanity, especially when it is scarce and difficult to renew; that coral atolls have only two sources of freshwater: rain, which, although easily accessible, can become scarce during prolonged droughts, and freshwater lenses, underground aquifers present under certain islets;

FURTHER RECALLING that the presence, volume, and condition of these freshwater lenses depend on the extent of the islet, the nature of the soil, the surface vegetation, and its uses, and that the underground lens represents a substantial, even essential, resource for populations whose needs are increasing;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the development of unsustainable practices (tourism, agriculture...) leading to too frequent and excessive water withdrawals, resulting in the salinization of freshwater lenses, making them unfit for use;

AWARE that pumping does not affect the available water volumes, but can, however, alter the balance between freshwater and saltwater by raising the transition zone and increasing the proportion of saltwater, making the water brackish and causing an ecosystem imbalance;

EMPHASIZING that these aquifer resources could become vital for the survival of atoll inhabitants during future crises, whether for agriculture, access to drinking water, food, or health;

OBSERVING the current lack of knowledge about freshwater lenses, whether their physical characteristics or their dynamics;

## **The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to address this issue, which concerns many states in different regions of the world, and which is particularly acute in the context of climate change and rising sea levels;
2. URGES academic communities, as well as concerned governments and regional organizations, to support a knowledge acquisition program for this underground freshwater resource across all inhabited atolls, both in its physical characterization (volumes, water exchanges) and in the study of its dynamics in the face of multiple pressures it may undergo;
3. ENCOURAGES the IUCN, as well as the concerned states and local authorities, once this knowledge is acquired, to produce management recommendations (maximum withdrawal frequency and volume, land use, ecosystem restoration...) to reasonably utilize this underground resource without drastically altering its balance, with the aim of enabling sustainable use that allows for better resilience of atoll communities;
4. INVITES IUCN members and environmental associations working in the concerned countries to fully adopt these protocols, promote them to the relevant stakeholders in the atolls, and establish the necessary conditions for their proper implementation, including through incentive measures and actions to restore indigenous forest cover.

## **Warning on the impact of gold mining activity in the Amazon**

### **Title**

Warning on the impact of gold mining activity in the Amazon

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONCERNED about the growing global demand for minerals, which are extracted over areas exceeding 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> worldwide in 2024 with 25% dedicated to gold extraction;

WORRIED about the phenomenon of gold predation in various regions of the world by transnational networks mixing legal and illegal actors, facilitating the supply of equipment to illegal gold miners, associated trafficking (drugs, wildlife trafficking, prostitution, etc.), and money laundering;

NOTING a dramatic increase in gold extraction in the Amazon over the past two decades, causing catastrophic impacts, particularly in the Essequibo (Guyana), Maroni (Suriname and French Guiana), Tapajos (Brazil), and Madre de Dios (Peru) watersheds;

NOTING that Guyana and Suriname now occupy the top two places globally in terms of the proportion of national territory dedicated to gold extraction;

HIGHLIGHTING the impacts of gold extraction on the environment (deforestation, soil and watercourse destruction, greenhouse gas emissions, river turbidity and asphyxiation, etc.) and on human communities, particularly indigenous and local populations (mercury poisoning, social disruption, insecurity, illegal hunting);

RECALLING that gold mining activity on the Guiana Shield (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, and Amapa) is mainly concentrated on watercourses, resulting in diffuse impacts across entire watersheds;

DENOUNCING the growing development of illegal gold mining activities within protected areas, with more than 5,500 hectares deforested and illegally exploited within the protected areas of the Guiana Shield between 2014 and 2018;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES Guyana, Suriname, France, and Brazil to combat all illegal gold mining (and associated trafficking: fuel, wildlife trafficking, etc.) and to dismantle the formal or informal networks that support these activities;
2. CALLS on these countries to strengthen their international cooperation to specifically combat transnational networks based on gold exploitation;
3. URGES an end to all practices dangerous to humans and nature, including the destruction of watercourses to extract gold, poor management of tailings in mining areas, the use of cyanide and mercury, and the non-rehabilitation of exploited areas;
4. REQUESTS the states of the Guiana Shield to:
  - a. Effectively implement national or local regulations related to these practices, accompanied by regular monitoring of legal gold mining operators within their territory;
  - b. Implement common exploitation standards that integrate environmental and social issues, and formalize them through international regulation with a traceability system for gold from the extraction site to the end user;
5. INVITES all states to reconsider their uses of gold to commit to limiting all non-essential uses, or even ending its exploitation under these unsustainable conditions.

## **Economy and funding for nature**

### **Better integrating biodiversity in the upstream value chain of companies**

**Title**

Better integrating biodiversity in the upstream value chain of companies



**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that more than half of the world’s GDP moderately or strongly depends on nature and its services;

NOTING that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in its target 15 encourages companies to assess and report their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, particularly by moving towards sustainable supply and procurement chains;

NOTING the adoption of European directives such as the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), Due Diligence, and EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) aimed at enhancing corporate transparency regarding their value chain;

CONSIDERING that these new European requirements should serve as models and be applied internationally;

RECOGNIZING the local dimension of biodiversity impacts, as well as the global dimension of commercial exchanges between companies and value chains;

WELCOMING the emergence of voluntary frameworks such as SBTN and TNFD aimed at supporting companies in disclosing information related to their nature-related issues and setting science-based targets to reduce the pressures they exert on nature, particularly in their upstream value chain;

WELCOMING the existence of various guides or guidelines such as those from the WBCSD that encourage companies to report their negative impacts on biodiversity in their upstream value chain and to act accordingly.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS that states, companies, business networks, and NGOs cooperate to:
  - a. Identify, trace, and map the impacts of products on biodiversity throughout their value chains
  - b. Identify the most effective existing tools and methods, and develop new ones if necessary
  - c. Support suppliers and upstream value chain actors in implementing this transition
  
2. REQUESTS that governments define national policies (including financial and fiscal incentive tools) to promote the development of products from value chains that integrate biodiversity criteria
  
3. REQUESTS that the IUCN:
  - a. Capitalize on existing tools and best practices
  - b. Advocate for prioritizing the reduction of raw material and energy consumption, particularly through better design, extending product lifespans, reuse, and ultimately recycling
  - c. Conduct a study on mapping standards for raw materials according to IPBES pressure factors
  - d. Define biodiversity criteria to be integrated into supplier purchasing policies
  
4. REQUESTS that companies implement traceability along their value chain to:

- a. Identify and prioritize actions on products with a high impact on biodiversity
- b. Choose suppliers and subcontractors who adopt the inclusion of biodiversity-friendly criteria
- c. Cease purchasing materials/products with high and very high biodiversity impacts
- d. Choose low or lesser impact materials through the use of certified or labelled products, or by adopting purchasing policies that allow for the control of biodiversity criteria identified in 3.d.
- e. Replace one material/product with another that will have less impact on biodiversity
- f. Favor the choice of recycled and recyclable materials/products

## Supporting the transformation of the economy into a regenerative economy

### Title

Supporting the transformation of the economy into a regenerative economy

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING the dependence of economic activities on fundamental ecosystem services;

CONSIDERING the significant impact of economic actors on nature, due to activities carried out throughout their value chains, as well as their technical and financial capacities to undertake ecosystem restoration actions;

CONSIDERING that a “net zero” approach or the Avoid, Reduce, Compensate (ARC) sequence are no longer sufficient to stop the degradation of biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services, and that it is now necessary to contribute to regenerating biodiversity;

WELCOMING government policies aimed at reducing impacts and dependencies on nature;

WELCOMING the progressive recognition by economic actors of the importance of living dynamics;

RECOGNIZING and WELCOMING the role that companies can play by going beyond regulatory compliance through voluntary initiatives and contributions from some economic actors;

NOTING that to date, voluntary and regulatory actions have not succeeded in halting biodiversity loss;

CONSIDERING that this new form of economy would contribute to the implementation of the Nature Positive approach developed by the IUCN, as well as a regenerative Blue Economy, one of the eight key transformational changes identified in the IUCN’s twenty-year strategic vision;

CONCERNED that the emergence of new so-called “regenerative” economic models is consistent with ecosystem dynamics;

CONCERNED about the lack of official scientific and methodological definition (normative framework) of the concepts of regenerative business or regenerative economy;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

### Operative text (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to create a working group composed of IUCN members and commission experts to draft a document defining and characterizing regenerative economic models and regenerative businesses;
2. INVITES IUCN members to contribute to:
  - a. Defining the criteria that would qualify an economic model or activity as part of a regenerative economy;
  - b. Examining ways to guide economic actors towards these models;
  - c. Collecting existing experiences;
3. PROPOSES to base the regenerative economy on the following principles:
  - a. The interdependence of living systems, including human systems;
  - b. The maintenance or even restoration of the functional and evolutionary integrity of ecosystems;
  - c. Respect for planetary boundaries through appropriate collective governance at the global level, which is key to resilience;
  - d. Human activities enable the regeneration of ecosystems, so that their positive effects on nature outweigh their negative impacts.

## Creating biodiversity certificates that guarantee positive effects on nature

### Title

Creating biodiversity certificates that guarantee positive effects on nature

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING the adoption of Resolution WCC-2020-Res-056 on Biodiversity Financing (Marseille, 2020);

AWARE of the urgent need to reconcile economic activities with biodiversity and the impossibility of establishing a price for nature;

RECALLING the adoption of Resolution WCC-2016-RES-059 on IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets (Hawaii, 2016);

RECALLING the goal of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the CBD in 2022 to significantly increase financial resources from the private sector for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

RECALLING that there is a major difference between a biodiversity certificate and a biodiversity credit (which involves offsetting a debit);

CONCERNED ABOUT pitfalls and failures of carbon markets;

RECALLING that a biodiversity credit must value an action additional to regulation;

RECALLING that a biodiversity credit must certify a net gain in biodiversity;

CONCERNED about the potential misuse of biodiversity credits generating perverse effects, ultimately giving economic actors a right to destroy;

CONCERNED that indigenous populations are not sufficiently involved in the mechanism;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

RECOMMENDS that the certification methodology be based on scientific knowledge and use biodiversity indicators that account for the complexity of interaction networks between species and ecosystem functioning, which guarantee many irreplaceable contributions;

REQUESTS a comparative audit of available biodiversity labels and certificates to establish an appropriate and comparable nomenclature and methodology according to themes and objectives, areas, and sectors of activity;

INVITES stakeholders to apply the most stringent international biodiversity protection standards and regulations and to regularly adapt them in light of evolving scientific and technological knowledge on biodiversity conservation;

REQUESTS that biodiversity certificates be defined and used as tools to direct private financing towards ecosystem restoration and conservation projects that contribute to international, national, and local biodiversity goals;

RECOMMENDS promoting “biodiversity certificates” (and not “biodiversity credits”) which should follow a logic of contribution and not become a compensation instrument, thus constituting a monetizable expression of biodiversity gains or positive impacts on biodiversity to become a vehicle for financing;

REQUESTS that actors financing biodiversity certificates do not claim zero impact on nature by considering the generated gain as capable of offsetting a loss caused elsewhere;

REQUESTS that the financing of biodiversity certificates can only be done in a complementary and additional manner to companies’ efforts to reduce their negative impacts on nature and to transform their economic models in favor of biodiversity;

DEVELOP human, material, financial, and legal instruments to ensure the traceability of the use of financing in support of biodiversity certificates;

REQUESTS that the financing of biodiversity certificates can only be done within the framework of additional steps to the legal obligations imposed by the ARC sequence;

REQUESTS that legal entities apply the above principle to all their subsidiaries, in all their countries of operation;

REQUESTS that biodiversity certificates can be used by companies, governments, or investors wishing to support nature;

ENCOURAGES financiers to integrate into their decision-making processes the actions implemented by bidders in favor of biodiversity in the form of biodiversity certificates;

REQUESTS that legal entities integrate into their purchasing processes the actions implemented by suppliers in favor of biodiversity in the form of biodiversity certificates;

REQUESTS the establishment of an independent and robust system to guarantee the integrity of certificates and their contribution to global nature goals;

REQUESTS that all actors involved in the generation of biodiversity certificates ensure the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the definition of these projects, transparent governance, and the fair distribution of generated revenues;

INVITES all actors involved in the purchase, sale, and regulation of biodiversity certificates not to allow the resale of biodiversity certificates or the exchange of titles thus generated on secondary markets;

INVITES actors financing biodiversity certificates to communicate transparently about the nature of the actions financed and the public policies or strategies to which they contribute, to avoid the same action being counted multiple times as contributing to biodiversity efforts.

## Maintain public development aid for biodiversity conservation and support for civil society regardless of the geopolitical situation

### Title

Maintain public development aid for biodiversity conservation and support for civil society regardless of the geopolitical situation

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

NOTING that the financial needs to halt and reverse biodiversity loss are estimated between \$722 billion and \$967 billion annually, compared to the current \$124 billion to \$143 billion;

RECALLING that public development aid is an essential financing lever and represents between \$4 billion and \$10 billion per year;

RECALLING that despite its overall increase of 22% between 2021 and 2022, public development aid decreased by \$4 billion in 70 developing countries;

SPECIFYING that the degradation of nature is a significant factor in conflicts and instability;

INSPIRED by the principles of the World Charter for Nature (1982), which recognizes that “humanity is part of nature and life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems which are the source of energy and nutrients”;

RECALLING Principles 23, 24, and 25 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

ALSO RECALLING Principles 16, 16.a, 16.b, and 16.f of the Earth Charter;

AWARE that long-term peace and security depend on a productive environment capable of providing the ecosystem services necessary for maintaining human well-being and realizing fundamental rights;

FURTHER RECALLING that humanity as a whole depends on the biosphere;

RECALLING the need to contribute to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework, particularly target 19;

WELCOMING the decision to adopt the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which “Urges Parties and other governments, [...] to promote participation at all levels of governance, with a view to promoting the full and effective contribution of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, the private and financial sectors, as well as stakeholders from all other sectors”;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. REQUESTS donor states of public development aid to:
  - a. Maintain Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a tool for biodiversity and commons preservation regardless of the geopolitical situation in the world;
  - b. Ensure its continuity by establishing mechanisms that guarantee its persistence through civil society actors, who are apolitical and serve the public interest.
2. URGES recipient states of ODA to:
  - a. Recognize the role of civil society engaged in biodiversity and commons preservation;
  - b. Guarantee the right of civil society to operate in the preservation of commons regardless of the political situation.
3. ENCOURAGES the private sector to:
  - a. Maintain its funding for biodiversity preservation and civil society in times of geopolitical crises to compensate for potential suspensions of ODA.

DRAFT

# Protected Areas

## Supporting the achievement of target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework

### Title

Supporting the achievement of target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

REGRETTING that Aichi Target C11 has not been achieved in either terrestrial and inland water areas or marine and coastal areas;

NOTING HOWEVER that the global network of protected areas is increasing, reaching 16.10% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 8.01% of marine and coastal areas (Protect Planet, June 2024);

AFFIRMING THAT functional protected areas are a central tool for biodiversity conservation, maintaining ecosystem services, and the sustainable development of human societies;

CONCERNED about the difficulty of this network to fully play its role in halting and reversing the trend of global biodiversity loss, maintaining ecosystem services, and the sustainable development of human societies

CONCERNED that the recommendations of WCC-2012-Res-036-FR have been weakly implemented;

CONCERNED that a large number of protected areas exist only declaratively and that evaluations of management effectiveness and actual protection are still very fragmented (Chapter 6, Living Planet Report 2020);

CONCERNED that some ecosystems are still significantly underrepresented in the network (source needed);

CONCERNED that the distribution of protected areas does not allow enough connectivity within the network and with peripheral areas;

WORRIED about the trend to propose other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) for Target 3, which inappropriately include industrial activities;

WELCOMING the ambition to increase protected and conserved areas to at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, as well as marine and coastal areas;

AWARE that this increase will require adaptations of the network to national contexts;

RECOGNIZING the positive efforts of the international community to integrate other modes of space conservation to adapt biodiversity conservation efforts to the social, economic, and ecological realities of national territories;

RECALLING HOWEVER that a conserved and managed area must demonstrate positive and long-term sustainable results for in situ biodiversity conservation and associated ecosystem services.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES IUCN members not to repeat the failure to achieve the quantitative and qualitative objectives of Aichi Target 11 for biodiversity;
2. REQUESTS significant efforts from IUCN members to ensure that the global assessment of protected areas provides data that clearly indicate whether protected or conserved areas are effectively protected and managed;
3. ENCOURAGES national committees to support states in ensuring that the expansion of national networks of protected areas is based on local and sensitive knowledge as well as scientific evaluations;
4. URGES the IUCN Director General and the World Commission on Protected Areas to develop, evolve, and apply methodologies for assigning IUCN categories to protected areas, so that states and the international community can support and participate in achieving the quantitative and qualitative targets of Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework;
5. ENCOURAGES states to establish protected areas that meet the criteria of IUCN categories I and II;
6. ENCOURAGES states to implement scientific monitoring methods in their national biodiversity strategies to demonstrate that protected areas and OECMs contributing to Target 3 have positive and sustainable benefits for biodiversity;
7. URGES the IUCN Director General to facilitate the commitment of states to monitor the benefits of protected areas and OECMs by:
  - a. Providing adapted, standardized, science-based methodologies that are applicable in different contexts of protected areas and take into account their specificities;
  - b. Adapting the WDPA to collect and communicate high-quality data that indicate whether areas assigned to Target 3 are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected, and equitably governed areas;
8. INVITES states to integrate into their national biodiversity plans the fact that the mobilization of OECMs may, depending on the context, be necessary to achieve the 30% of Target 3.

## Strengthening the evaluation of the management of protected and conserved areas

### Title

Strengthening the evaluation of the management of protected and conserved areas

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONGRATULATING the commitment shown by the signatories of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to achieve the protection and management of 30% of land, inland waters, and coastal and marine areas by 2030;

CONSIDERING that effective and efficient protection of an area is essential to achieve the objectives of limiting and even reversing global biodiversity loss;

AFFIRMING THAT protected and conserved areas are a central tool in nature conservation policies and are complementary to other regulatory and land management tools to achieve biodiversity conservation objectives, maintain ecosystem services, and ensure the sustainable development of human societies;



CONCERNED about the difficulty of the global network of protected and conserved areas to be functional and to contribute to achieving these objectives;

NOTING that a small proportion of protected areas are actually equipped with a robust management effectiveness evaluation system to measure the achievement of their conservation objectives;

AWARE that the deficit in human and budgetary resources is the common factor across the entire network of protected areas at the national and international levels, significantly limiting the implementation of their management actions, the achievement of their conservation objectives, and the implementation of management effectiveness evaluations;

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. INVITES states to improve legal frameworks related to the status of protected areas to integrate evaluation processes of the effects of protected areas at different scales (local, regional, national, international) and to identify the actors responsible for carrying out these evaluations;
2. ENCOURAGES states to establish a centralized reporting system that allows for querying the results of protected areas at these different scales;
3. ENCOURAGES states and their operators to develop methodological benchmarks for protected area managers to adopt a common language for monitoring and evaluating the management of protected and conserved areas;
4. ENCOURAGES states, their operators, and protected and conserved area managers to promote the Green List standard as a tool capable of integrating all internationally recognized management effectiveness evaluation tools for protected areas (i.e., tools from the global PAME framework, Protected Area Management Effectiveness);
5. URGES states and international institutions to develop innovative financing mechanisms to strengthen the use of management effectiveness evaluation tools by:
  - a. Facilitating the recruitment of experts to conduct these evaluation exercises,
  - b. Ensuring the presence of evaluators in the field (except for self-assessment tools),
  - c. Ensuring stakeholder consultation within the protected area,
  - d. Systematizing the feedback of these evaluations to stakeholders and managers;
6. REQUESTS states and international institutions to mobilize sustainable funding specifically dedicated to supporting protected and conserved area managers engaged in the Green List program to strive for continuous improvement of their management practices in the long term.

## Ensuring the maintenance and deployment of a resilient and connected network of protected areas in the context of global change

**Title**

Ensuring the maintenance and deployment of a resilient and connected network of protected areas in the context of global change

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING THAT:

1. Existing global changes (climate warming, pollution, alteration of the water cycle and biogeochemical cycles) disrupt all compartments of our planetary ecosystem (geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, etc.);
2. They have significant negative effects on species and natural habitats (shifts in distribution areas, habitat degradation, direct destruction of species, mutations and hybridizations, weakening) and the services they provide;
3. Protected areas are impacted by global changes, which act directly within their boundaries but also indirectly, as they also suffer the effects of global changes occurring in surrounding territories;
4. Among global changes, climate change acts as an amplifier of other global changes;

CONCERNED THAT:

1. Protected areas are therefore subject to direct or indirect human pressures that are constantly evolving and increasingly intense;
2. Protected area managers are powerless against these pressures, which they can hardly act upon;

CONCERNED FOR EXAMPLE THAT:

1. Human visitation, increased by the development of outdoor activities linked to social networks and the dissemination of GPS tracks, without any consideration of regulations in natural areas, is rising sharply, even in remote areas that were previously preserved, and that natural area managers have no control over this phenomenon;

RECOGNIZING THAT:

1. Protected areas contribute to climate change mitigation and that nature is more resilient there than elsewhere;
2. They contribute to the resilience of the territories that host them and to their adaptation to global changes;
3. They serve as refuge areas for many species and habitats in the face of climate change.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. INVITES public and private decision-makers to:
  - a. Incorporate biodiversity preservation into all their public policies, particularly national climate change adaptation strategies (e.g., national low-carbon strategies);
  - b. Ensure that their climate policies do not contribute to the destruction of nature, including in protected areas;
  - c. Systematically integrate climate change, nature protection, and social justice issues into their sectoral public policies at all levels.
2. INVITES FOR EXAMPLE:

- a. States to have coordinated management of outdoor activities to limit human penetration into protected areas, notably through the regulation of GPS track dissemination; to have ambitious regulations aimed at limiting the use of pollutants (pesticides, fertilizers, various discharges) near protected areas.

3. REQUESTS:

- a. To include the consideration of global changes in the regulation of protected area management to allow for the adaptation of decrees to the evolution of human activities, and to ensure the sustainability of protected areas even when conservation issues evolve due to external factors (climate change, disruption of natural cycles, etc.);
  - b. To include the notion of relocating potentially lost issues due to global changes in the priorities of strategies and policies related to protected areas;
  - c. To accelerate the creation of connectivity between protected areas at all scales (international, national, local) and the creation of protected areas in strategic zones for climate change adaptation (forests and pre-forest areas, wetlands, glaciers and periglacial zones, watercourses, etc.) to network the territories;
  - d. To create protection perimeters around protected areas to strengthen their preservation (prohibition of chemical inputs in and near protected areas, prohibition of disrupting the water cycle around protected areas, etc.);
  - e. To implement all actions promoting the involvement of managers in the shared management of the interdependence zone with the protected area, in a spirit of broader territorial governance;
  - f. To promote the involvement of managers in the management of surrounding territories of the protected area to ensure decision-making that is not detrimental to the protected area and nature more broadly.
4. INVITES protected area managers to assess the impacts of climate change to adapt their management by developing the concept of free-evolution spaces;
  5. INVITES states to provide the means for the availability and deployment of methods and tools for managers, enabling them to understand and take into account global changes in their management, particularly climate change, such as the tools developed in France under the LIFE Natur'Adapt project by Réserves Naturelles de France and its partners.

## Listing the Forest of Fontainebleau as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

### Title

Listing the Forest of Fontainebleau as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

CONSIDERING the cultural and ecological (intrinsic) values of natural spaces;

RECALLING the necessity to combat biodiversity erosion and the need to preserve a range of environments from direct pressures related to human activities;

RECALLING the exemplary peri-urban situation of the Forest of Fontainebleau, at the gates of the Parisian agglomeration, which concentrates 20% of the French population;

RECALLING that it was in the Forest of Fontainebleau that the first nature reserve in the world was created (exemplary value): as early as 1853, the concern for “nature protection” from an aesthetic and landscape perspective led to the withdrawal of 624 hectares from forest management, then 1094 hectares in 1861 and 1693 hectares from 1892 to 1904;

RECALLING that it was in Fontainebleau that, on October 5, 1948, the International Union for the Protection of Nature was created, which would become the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1956. It is at the place called Franchard that this international initiative is symbolically materialized by the Eye of Nations, on which the names of all the signatory countries are inscribed. As such, the IUCN is one of the actors of the Fontainebleau Gâtinais Man and Biosphere Reserve;

SUGGESTING that the cultural valorization of rare and threatened ecological environments is important, often necessary, but should not be done at the expense of the ecological qualities of these environments;

RECALLING that over-tourism or simply excessive disturbance or trampling can lead to significant losses for biodiversity conservation;

RECALLING the interest and necessity of articulating different protection measures of variable perimeters because each of these measures aims at specific objectives and relies on particular means;

RECALLING that Fontainebleau and its forest are included in several protection and valorization perimeters supported by UNESCO: inscription of the Palace and Park of Fontainebleau on the World Heritage List in 1981, creation of the Fontainebleau-Gâtinais Biological Reserve (Man and Biosphere program) in 1998, candidacy of the “Domaine de Fontainebleau” for the World Heritage List in 2020. However, these marks of recognition, while valorizing these spaces, also attract populations in search of leisure or a quality living environment;

AWARE of the need for urban populations to have access to reputedly natural quality spaces near their homes to satisfy their leisure needs (first walking trails developed by Denecourt in 1849), particularly following the Covid-19 crisis.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. INVITES the IUCN to promote the integration of cultural heritage valorization and nature conservation while emphasizing the imperative need for naturalistic and ecological assessments of the consequences of this valorization on biodiversity to control possible adverse effects.
2. URGES UNESCO to request the stakeholders of these territories (Palace and Park of Fontainebleau, Domaine de Fontainebleau, and Fontainebleau-Gâtinais Biological Reserve) to establish a clear and evaluable management plan that supports human development, protects and enhances the cultural dimension of the site while preserving biodiversity and addressing the environmental challenges of our time.
3. URGES the stakeholders of these territories, particularly local authorities (municipalities, intercommunalities, departments, regions) and the state, to commit to these perimeters for human development while preserving biodiversity and addressing the environmental challenges of our time by providing technical and financial support to these initiatives.
4. ENCOURAGES making the case of Fontainebleau and its massif an exemplary and inspiring situation for the management and conservation of natural areas located at the gates of major agglomerations.

5. ENCOURAGES balancing the increased attractiveness conferred by the labelling of the Domaine de Fontainebleau as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by strengthening or extending strong protection zones in this forest massif and its surroundings.
6. INVITES the IUCN to support the candidacy of the “Domaine de Fontainebleau: castle, gardens, park, and forest” for World Heritage status, aiming to extend the “Palace and Park of Fontainebleau” site by including the Forest of Fontainebleau.

## Education and civil society engagement

### Developing journalists’ and medias’ knowledge on nature-related issues

#### Title

Developing journalists’ and medias’ knowledge on nature-related issues

#### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING the influence of the media and their role on public opinion through the information they directly transmit to populations but also through their role in questioning economic and political spheres;

RECALLING that the responsibility of journalists is immense and notably allows a connection between the scientific world and civil society;

NOTING WITH REGRET that climate, nature, and biodiversity issues are insufficiently and poorly covered in the media, and often from an alarmist, catastrophic, and anxiety-inducing perspective;

RECOGNIZING the advantages of positive emotional communication to better reach different audiences;

AWARE of the role that the media have played in recent years in raising public awareness about the climate crisis;

NOTING the many interesting initiatives around the world, such as the charter for journalism that meets the ecological emergency adopted in France.

#### The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:

#### Operative text (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES the media to play their role in raising citizens’ awareness of current and future environmental issues such as the biodiversity crisis and climate change.
2. ENCOURAGES the media to dedicate space to nature and biodiversity through:
  - a. Recurring moments dedicated to nature and its issues
  - b. Events and special broadcasts on nature and its issues during prime time
  - c. Spaces to promote actions or events dedicated to nature conservation
  - d. Reports on Nature-based Solutions – solutions journalism
  - e. Sharing knowledge with young audiences

- f. Co-construction with stakeholders (stakeholder dialogues)
  - g. Adherence to environmental charters
3. INVITES journalists to train on nature issues (including biodiversity, geodiversity, or climate) with scientists and science communicators.
  4. REQUESTS scientists and science communicators to unite to propose a training plan for journalists.
  5. REQUESTS biodiversity and geology research agencies to promote training for journalists and political leaders to fund these training actions.
  6. INVITES journalists to cover topics related to nature in all its forms (biodiversity, soils, subsoil, air, water, past, present, and future interactions in a dynamic and evolving vision of the Earth).
  7. REMINDS the importance of source verification and citing references based on scientific consensus.
  8. ENCOURAGES the media to ensure a diversification of experts, particularly on issues of gender and age, socio-professional categories, and origin.
  9. INVITES journalists to rely on scientific knowledge, results, and documents produced by international platforms dedicated to these issues, particularly IUCN and IPBES.

## Investing in the naturalist culture of new generations

### Title

Investing in the naturalist culture of new generations

### Preamble (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

RECALLING that the Ethical Manifesto of the French Committee of IUCN attributes to every living being a value of existence, a value of memory, and a value of future, for which education in naturalist culture is a guarantor;

RECALLING that nature encompasses, alongside biodiversity, geodiversity including soils, hydrosystems, the atmosphere, the climate, and their past, present, and future interactions, and that a global culture of nature is necessary for a good understanding of our world and thus for a positive interaction with it;

RECALLING the urgency of preparing young generations for current and future environmental challenges by giving them access to available naturalist knowledge and the keys to understanding and mobilizing this knowledge;

RECALLING that scientific knowledge about biodiversity concerns at most 10% of species and that the biology of the majority of species is unknown or poorly known;

FURTHER RECALLING the importance of natural history collections as a support for research, teaching, training, and culture on nature, sustainable development, and ecological transition;

CONCERNED about the gradual disappearance of naturalist teachings at all school levels, resulting in the loss of knowledge for all audiences;

NOTING the regression of intergenerational links that favored the transmission of naturalist culture to new generations increasingly disconnected from nature;

REGRETTING the lack of consideration given to the naturalist approaches and knowledge of local communities, particularly indigenous peoples;

CONCERNED about the lack of consideration, or even the questioning, in public debate and the formulation of public policies of scientific data in the fields of natural sciences, environment, and climate.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. CALLS on States for an unprecedented engagement in favour of the need to better understand nature through a naturalist approach, namely the description of biodiversity (populations, species, ecosystems), geodiversity, landscapes, and their functions;
2. RECOMMENDS that governments, academic institutions, and NGOs establish without delay educational and training programs at all levels, necessary for this naturalist knowledge centered on local territories and field realities;
3. URGES States and local authorities to involve citizens and elected officials through awareness and citizen science programs, for example by using and strengthening existing natural history institutions (Museums, science culture centers) as centers of naturalist culture;
4. CALLS for the implementation of public, associative, and private initiatives to maintain naturalist culture as the basis for knowledge and consideration of nature and biodiversity necessary for ecological transition;
5. INVITES the deployment of work in the humanities and social sciences on the causes of the decline and disinterest in naturalist culture;
6. ENCOURAGES the development of initiatives linking art and natural sciences as a privileged vector of naturalist culture, including within urban communities or those seemingly disconnected from nature.

## Enhancing the recognition of the naturalist culture of indigenous people

**Title**

Enhancing the recognition of the naturalist culture of indigenous people

**Preamble** (max. 2,000 characters / approximately 350 words)

NOTING that the traditional knowledge of nature from indigenous populations, the first knowers and experts of the environment in which they live and derive their livelihoods through their use of nature, is on the verge of extinction;

CONCERNED to see this traditional knowledge of nature and life, which is an integral part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, one day disappear;

CONSIDERING that indigenous peoples have always known how to name, recognize, sustainably use, and protect nature, biodiversity, and their environment;

CONSIDERING that in 2016, IUCN Members approved the creation of a new category of Members for indigenous peoples' organizations, thus strengthening the recognition of their rights, participation, voice, and role within IUCN;

ALARMED by the pressures on biodiversity, particularly climate change, which is causing the disappearance of living diversity;

ALARMED by the observation that the deep relationships that indigenous peoples have woven with their natural environment and the knowledge that stems from them are no longer sufficiently transmitted to new generations;

AT A TIME when the world's linguistic heritage is in danger;

CONSIDERING finally that indigenous knowledge allows both better understanding and preservation of nature according to centuries-old traditions.

**The World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-15 October 2025:**

**Operative text** (max. 1,500 characters / approximately 250 words)

1. URGES governments to recognize the heritage value of the diversity of indigenous languages, and more specifically those of the first peoples.
2. ENCOURAGES government authorities, NGOs, and all other biodiversity actors to support projects for the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages, particularly the terms used to name species and natural environments in traditional languages, following the Latin scientific name.
3. REQUESTS biodiversity management and conservation actors to better consider and support indigenous populations in the management and conservation of biodiversity in terms of usage as well as intangible cultural heritage.
4. SUPPORTS indigenous populations in their linguistic preservation projects to ensure full ownership of their knowledge, promoting intergenerational transmission and allowing them to control the dissemination of their naturalist knowledge.
5. INVITES all actors in the fields of natural sciences, cultural and anthropological sciences, as well as education actors to contribute to the preservation of the linguistic knowledge of nature and life of indigenous peoples.