



**ONE NATURE, ONE HUMANITY, ONE FUTURE:
THE ABU DHABI CALL TO ACTION
15 October 2025**

"We spare no effort in caring for the environment because it is one the essential ingredients of our history and heritage. Our forefathers have lived on this land in co-existence and with respect to its land and marine environment, knowing by nature and perception the need to preserve it, taking only what they needed from it, and saving what would be useful for the coming generations". **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**

Nearly 10,000 participants from government, civil society, conservation organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, faith and spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia from more than 189 countries gathered at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi from 9–15 October 2025. These were not just dates on a calendar, but a time to listen, to reflect, to care, to speak out, to share and to commit to act without delay.

Through more than 1,000 events, including pavilions, posters, plenaries, a learning zone and knowledge hub, participants concluded that the world has reached a critical juncture, and nature faces a serious crisis, despite decades of conservation and restoration efforts. Climate change, degradation, biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, pollution, and global health crises are being compounded by over-exploitation of our planet's resources and growing instability, geopolitical and economic tensions, crimes that affect the environment such as wildlife trafficking, governance challenges, and socio-economic disparities, with devastating, often irreversible effects on the natural systems on which both nature and humanity's survival depend. The global community must take immediate bold actions across every sector of society to reverse these trends, as time is running out.

With five years remaining to meet the 2030 targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Congress in Abu Dhabi calls on the world to significantly increase ambition and collective action to scale up and implement transformative and collaborative solutions that address the needs of both nature and people. In particular, participants emphasised the importance of seizing the current momentum to enhance synergies between the multilateral environmental conventions and secure ambitious actions for a net-zero, resilient, and nature-positive future at UNFCCC COP30 in Belém and beyond.

Longstanding efforts by the global conservation community have shown that collective, multilateral actions can bring about positive outcomes for nature. However, there remains an urgent need for stronger, coordinated efforts, leveraging the unique structure and power of the Union, including States and government agencies, sub-national governments, non-governmental organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, Commissions and the

global Secretariat, to deliver the actions that will result in a just world that values and conserves nature.

The World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi calls upon the global community, with the leadership and support of IUCN, to catalyse urgent, practical, and impactful actions in five key directions for the future of nature, our planet and its peoples:

1. **Reaffirming nature as the foundation of human and planetary well-being.** We call for increased and sustained commitment to protecting, restoring and conserving the vast diversity of life on earth, both in its own right, and as the basis for all human health and well-being, social, cultural and economic development, and quality of life. We are stewards of this extraordinary planet, each of us with a role to play in ensuring present and future generations will live on a habitable planet. We call for the identification, recognition, support and defence of the custodians of nature, including Indigenous Peoples, and respect for the diversity of life that inspires, feeds, clothes and sustains us all. We must take advantage of the power of nature to help address societal challenges especially through local and community-led action. We urge scaling up efforts to protect, conserve and restore the integrity of all land, freshwater and ocean ecosystems, including polar regions, and to educate and nurture a society that places nature at the centre of our concerns and actions.
2. **Strengthening multilateralism and the power of collective action, cooperation, and leadership.** We call for a transformative and radical change in thinking, and joint, collective and effective multilateral action, ensuring that all sectors of society are involved and strategically aligned to promote cooperation globally and regionally. We call for ensuring that international environmental and economic governance systems meet global challenges. We also call for adherence to the Rule of Law, justice, and respect for international obligations, supported by ambitious national and local policies that integrate nature across all sectors, and enhance accountability. IUCN will continue to lead, through policy, action, advocacy and bringing people and organisations together in a spirit of respect, and through peace and cooperation at regional, subregional and transboundary levels for the common purpose of protecting and conserving our planet.
3. **Ensuring justice and inclusive and equitable participation by the whole of society.** We call for acknowledging the diversity of perspectives and the shared responsibility to address the existential threats facing nature, our planet, and all peoples. We will strive for the involvement and empowerment in shared decision-making of all sectors of society, from local to global in an intergenerational partnership through a rights-based approach inclusive of gender equality and women's rights, engagement of children, youth, elders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the protection and empowerment of environmental defenders. We urge the fostering of a sense of responsibility, justice, fairness, equity and opportunity for all, to achieve the IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature.
4. **Advancing science, knowledge, innovation and education for action.** We call upon the global community to build on our extensive heritage of scientific, traditional and Indigenous knowledge of nature, society, and the economy, drawing strength from diverse experiences and interdisciplinary approaches. We will provide a strong foundation for evidence-based, forward-looking, and effective actions, to protect and conserve nature and for the common good. We call for increased investment in research, education, citizen science, and innovative and collaborative approaches that harness the power of sustainable technologies and empower knowledge holders to scale up our efforts to secure a habitable planet.

5. **Scaling up and aligning resources for nature and climate action.** We call for a decisive shift in global investment, to increase, diversify and align human, technological and financial resources towards our common goals of a climate neutral, resilient and regenerative economy. We also call for the redirecting of financial flows away from unsustainable exploitation, destruction of wildlife, geodiversity and other natural resources, and the elimination of harmful subsidies and incentives, towards nature-positive and nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate, including those that empower local direct action by communities to increase their own resilience. We call for expanding innovative conservation financing mechanisms for risk management and resilience-building at local level. We call for a transition to a regenerative economy, particularly in rapidly growing cities and urban areas, promoting circular and sustainable resource use and linking biodiversity, food, water and energy systems to create long-term prosperity beyond carbon neutrality.

Turning intentions into action, through the IUCN World Conservation Congress, we:

Adopted a new 20 year Strategic Vision for IUCN, committing “to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is both equitable and ecologically sustainable”, by (1) conserving biodiversity effectively; (2) addressing the interconnectedness between biodiversity, geodiversity, water, food, health and climate change to ensure nature continues to support all life on the planet; and (3) advancing a more just and equitable society. Solutions lie in halting and reversing biodiversity loss and the impacts of other change processes in a more integrated manner and by more comprehensively addressing the drivers of nature loss.

Approved a bold new IUCN Quadrennial Programme for 2026–2029 to continue to lead and influence the global environmental agenda, with actionable outputs and outcomes that will help guide every component of the Union to achieve measurable impact.

Embraced not just a Call to Action, but practical, implementable and measurable steps to pursue these intentions before the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Adopted 148 motions and resolved to pursue policy directions on:

- Conserving forests, grasslands, freshwater ecosystems and coral reefs and other marine ecosystems
- Effective area-based conservation, including through effective protected and conserved areas to secure ecological integrity
- Species recovery for threatened taxa
- Sustainable use and exploitation of wild species
- Invasive alien species prevention
- Combatting crimes that affect the environment (including wildlife trafficking and illegal fisheries)
- Conservation and human rights
- Addressing the nexus between the climate and biodiversity crises
- Nature-based solutions
- One Health
- Synthetic Biology in relation to nature conservation

Announced a number of global and Union-wide initiatives and announced the selection of the **Republic of Panamá** to be the host country for the next **IUCN World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress** in September 2027 – the world’s premier global forum for setting the agenda for protected and conserved areas.

Moreover, we called the Global Community to unite in Action and Hope

Realising the catalytic power of the Union, with all components acting together with resolve and determination, we undertook to embrace and expand the reach of multilateral cooperation, to accelerate collective action for nature and for all people. We endorsed the need for a planetary pact so that nature and humanity thrive together; accelerating urgent, science-based action and equitable partnerships to assert the rights of nature, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems and building a climate-resilient, nature-positive future that secures well-being and justice for all life on Earth.

From Abu Dhabi, we reaffirm our collective commitment to defending life on Earth. We are the voice of nature and we stand united – One Nature, One Humanity, One Future – a global movement of individuals, communities, organisations, and nations determined to turn the tide for a just, resilient and nature-positive world. Together and united in action, we will move from promises and commitments to action.

Yes, together we can – and together, we will!