

091 Strengthening conservation efforts for fungi and invertebrates

RECALLING Goal A of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), that "Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels";

ALSO RECALLING Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 (Life below Water) to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development", and 15 (Life on Land) to "protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss";

NOTING that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2021–2030 as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and that ecosystems rely on important functions of all biota;

NOTING ALSO the findings of the Convention on Migratory Species report UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.2 on Insect Decline and Its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations;

RECOGNISING that invertebrates and fungi represent >75% of all described species, and likely >90% of all extant species on the planet;

ALSO RECOGNISING that The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (version 2024.2) has 6,772 invertebrate and fungi species at risk of extinction that are listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable;

CONCERNED that conservation management and protection of threatened invertebrates and fungi are largely neglected;

APPRECIATING the steps taken by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to improve representation of invertebrate and fungal expertise in the Commission; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the vital role of the world's protected areas in providing valuable care for these species;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas to ensure that invertebrates and fungi are fully integrated into the objectives of protected and conserved areas, and are used for evaluating the long-term effectiveness of sites through the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas;

2. REQUESTS the Director General and SSC to take the necessary steps to ensure that the 2030 Barometer of Life target to assess the IUCN Red List status of 77,400 invertebrate species and 23,500 fungi species is achieved;

3. ENCOURAGES governments to ensure proper consideration of invertebrates and fungi, particularly rare, threatened and socio-economically important species, in their national biodiversity strategies, and, together with the scientific community, to increase efforts to build capacity for invertebrate and fungal conservation and sustainable use;

4. ENCOURAGES Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) National Coordination Groups to fully make use of invertebrate and fungi population and distribution data for the identification of KBAs;

5. CALLS ON conservation authorities, in particular protected area managers, to include threatened invertebrates and fungi in management plans for protected areas;

6. URGES the scientific community and conservation practitioners to collaborate on developing effective conservation plans and associated actions for invertebrates and fungi;
7. URGES national authorities in addition to consider policy measures and best practice to increase the health of ecosystems including soils, fungi, invertebrates and other biodiversity outside protected area systems, including through promoting sustainable forms of agriculture and land management that benefit biodiversity and people and reduce the use of harmful pesticides; and
8. CALLS ON donors to support efforts that aim at improving the conservation status of invertebrates and fungi.