

002 Accelerating action for nature-positive, sustainable agriculture and food systems

RECOGNISING that food systems contribute significantly to the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises, and that, therefore, transforming food systems towards sustainability is essential for preventing planetary boundary transgressions;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.003 *Transforming global food systems through sustainable land management that is aligned to the UN SDGs* and Resolution 7.007 *Developing agroecological practices as nature-based solutions* (both adopted in Marseille, 2020);

RECOGNISING that IUCN has selected Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems as a key priority transformation in its draft 20-year vision and intersessional programme for 2026–2029;

ALSO RECOGNISING that the transformation towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems is critical for achieving the 2030 Action Agenda and the goals of the Rio Conventions, and should be included in national commitments (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Land Degradation Neutrality);

CONCERNED that fragmented approaches to addressing agriculture and food system sustainability may not be conducive to progress toward achieving global biodiversity targets, and that a more coordinated effort within IUCN and its members, as well as with further relevant organisations, is needed to maximise impact;

RECALLING that IUCN's role as a global leader in conservation means that it is uniquely positioned to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and integrate biodiversity and climate considerations into agriculture and food systems;

ALSO RECALLING the ministerial declaration of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, calling for the adoption of a sustainable food system approach, the UNEA-5 ministerial declaration with its proposed cooperation on transitioning to sustainable food systems, the outcomes and commitments of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, and its follow-up process to 2030; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that agroecological and other holistic, inclusive and circular approaches can make an important contribution towards achieving resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems;

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

1. REQUESTS the Council, Commission Chairs, and the Director General to:

- a. support the expansion of IUCN's membership base and facilitate new technical partnerships with organisations from the agri-food sector with a view to comprehensively reducing negative impacts on the environment;
- b. mobilise funds and co-develop impactful projects across teams with Commissions, regions and external partners to advance research and action on sustainable agri-food systems;
- c. establish a cross-Commission IUCN Working Group on “Agriculture and Food Systems and Biodiversity” to enhance collaboration, strengthen expertise, harness Union-wide knowledge, develop recommendations on IUCN procurement and other practices, and develop tools and guidance that reflect diverse environmental and social conditions, can be adapted to unique country contexts, include inputs from local and community-based actors, and consider an outcomes-based approach to transform food systems for conservation benefits; and

d. establish a Commission Expert Group on Soil Biodiversity and soils as a component of geodiversity to advance the understanding of the relationship between soil properties, including soil microbial communities, soil functions and ecosystem functions; and

2. REQUESTS IUCN State Members to:

a. ensure coherence between policies, and contribute to bridging the gap between the agriculture and conservation communities by adopting a holistic, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, with dedicated resources and established mechanisms;

b. enhance agricultural policies and support for ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions, including agroecological and other sustainable approaches to transformation of agri-food systems;

c. pursue ambitious climate, biodiversity, soils-protection and land-degradation commitments, and to report on progress; and

d. encourage multi-sectorial co-design of smart agricultural policies and investment frameworks.