

**006 Promoting the model of regional or sub-national protected natural areas to achieve the global target of 30% protected and conserved areas by 2030**

RECALLING that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity sets a global target of ensuring that at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and also marine and coastal areas are conserved and managed by 2030 (Target 3);

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 6.041 *Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for safeguarding biodiversity* (Hawai'i, 2016);

UNDERSTANDING that geodiversity is the foundation of biodiversity and that regional or sub-national protected natural areas constitute a rich geological heritage requiring sustainable use and urgent conservation initiatives;

NOTING that only 17% of terrestrial and 8% of marine areas are protected;

NOTING the Edinburgh Declaration emphasising the role of sub-national governments in achieving the targets of the global biodiversity framework;

CONSIDERING that these governments often manage natural resources and that their contribution is essential for achieving the 30% target;

CONSIDERING that local governance, together with indigenous and local populations, favours conservation measures, whether contractual or regulatory; in France, significant progress has been made thanks to regional protected natural areas, covering 16% of the country and recognised by IUCN as Category V protected areas. These protected areas meet the IUCN criteria:

- a. conservation goals: protection of landscapes, ecosystems, biodiversity and cultural heritage, with sustainable resource management;
- b. shared governance: collaborative management including local authorities, local stakeholders, non-governmental organisations and Indigenous populations;
- c. quality of management: 15-year charters validated by decree, committing local stakeholders;
- d. zoning and regulation: less restrictive than national protected areas, regional protected natural areas encourage respectful practices through awareness-raising and partnerships;
- e. sustainable use: reconciliation between nature and human activities thanks to sustainable practices; and
- f. long-term commitment: sustainable protection through renewable charters and action monitoring;

WELCOMING this sub-national model as a balance between conservation and sustainable use, involving local populations; and

RECOGNISING that it can inspire other countries to achieve the target of 30% protected areas by 2030;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General and the Commissions to promote the status of regional or sub-national protected natural areas as an exemplary model to help achieve the global target of 30% protected areas by 2030, highlighting their shared governance, conservation objectives and their ability to reconcile human activities with nature conservation;
2. ENCOURAGES States and sub-national authorities and indigenous bodies, where appropriate, to collaborate and adopt similar models, taking into account the criteria defined by IUCN for the

recognition of protected areas, including geodiversity conservation, the governance of protected areas, participatory governance, sustainable management and long-term commitment;

[2*bis*. CALLS ON States, sub-national authorities and indigenous authorities, where appropriate, to use the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas to support the identification of potential regional or sub-national protected or conserved areas that host sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity;]

3. CALLS ON the Director General to provide technical and legal support to States and local authorities wishing to establish protected areas based on these regional or sub-national protected areas.