

006 Promoting the models 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);

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

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

CONSIDERING that these sub-national governments promote conservation measures, whether contractual or regulatory, and that their contribution is important for achieving the 30% target;

WELCOMING the fact that this sub-national model enables effective conservation and sustainable use (with the help of 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 examples where regional or sub-national protected areas have demonstrated their contributions to all the elements in Target 3 by 2030, highlighting for example their shared governance, their conservation objectives and their potential capacity to reconcile human activities and 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 and the associated guidelines for the recognition of protected areas, including the governance of protected areas, sustainable management and long-term commitment, and taking into account the CBD definition and guidance for the recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures; and
3. ENCOURAGES States and sub-national governments to use, where appropriate, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas to facilitate the identification of potential regional or sub-regional protected areas that host sites of global importance for the persistence of biodiversity.