

012 Advancing the IUCN Green List of protected and conserved areas to enhance effective and equitable in situ conservation

RECOGNISING the critical role of protected and conserved areas in halting biodiversity loss, as emphasised in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Target 3, calling for the conservation of at least 30% of terrestrial and inland waters and marine and coastal areas through effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected and other effective area-based conservation measures;

NOTING that the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (Green List) has been recognised as an indicator for achieving Target 3 by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and is promoted by the CBD "as a voluntary standard to encourage protected area management effectiveness", which is currently used by over 30 countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING the urgency to expand the global network of protected and conserved areas (PCAs) while ensuring their effectiveness and equity in light of accelerating global environmental changes and increasing threats to biodiversity;

EMPHASISING that the IUCN Green List provides a globally consistent and universally applicable framework for benchmarking, monitoring, and reporting on management effectiveness and equitable governance of PCAs, thereby supporting international conventions and regional agreements;

CELEBRATING the growing adoption of the IUCN Green List Standard as a benchmark for conservation success and as a framework for incentivising and recognising effective conservation actions; and

HIGHLIGHTING the critical role of effective PCAs in securing biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services provision, and climate resilience;

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

1. ENDORSES the IUCN Green List Standard as a global benchmark for effective and equitable governance and management of PCAs;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, IUCN Commissions and Members to disseminate the Green List through communication, capacity-building, and partnerships with governments, international organisations, and civil society, integrating Indigenous peoples and Local communities;
3. REQUESTS the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other relevant bodies to continue refining and expanding the Green List, ensuring scalability, inclusivity, and responsiveness;
4. CALLS UPON IUCN Members to promote the use of the Green List across environmental conventions to advance Target 3 and other relevant conservation targets;
5. URGES IUCN Members to prioritise the designation and management of PCAs ensuring effective and equitable outcomes, aligning with the Green List, to address biodiversity loss and achieve global conservation goals;
6. INVITES IUCN Members to explore synergies with other IUCN tools and frameworks, including the Red List and Protected Planet, to create integrated systems for assessing and improving conservation outcomes;
7. ENCOURAGES countries and organisations to invest in Green List-based programmes and policies to benchmark progress, monitor effectiveness, and report achievements; and
8. CALLS FOR prioritisation of efforts to establish effective and equitable PCAs worldwide by using a universal framework such as the Green List, to ensure consistency in conservation practices.