

014 Promoting hedgerows in agriculture to foster biodiversity, strengthen ecosystem resilience and mitigate climate change

RECOGNISING that agroecology is one of many innovative and sustainable approaches to achieving sustainable agriculture;

RECALLING the definition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) adopted in Resolution 6.069 *Defining Nature-based Solutions* (Hawai'i, 2016) and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/5 *Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development*, as well as Resolution 7/2019 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

RECOGNISING ALSO that NbS with safeguards can be efficient and cost-effective and offer an opportunity to build ecosystem resilience to climate change and help in accelerating the transition to sustainable agriculture and more sustainable food systems;

ALSO RECALLING that hedgerows are an essential component of the diversity and identity of agricultural landscapes;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that hedgerows provide multiple services to nature and human society as a natural habitat for numerous species, an ecological corridor, an agricultural auxiliary, a biomass resource and a heritage element; they contribute to carbon sequestration in biomass and soils, and create microclimates favourable to crops and animal welfare and improve water management;

FURTHER RECALLING that hedgerows are historically the natural result of the work of farmers, who are the driving force behind their development, and that they are at the crossroads of production and biodiversity conservation, as they contribute to agroecological transition, which will improve water management but also absorb carbon from the atmosphere and stock it, and thus tackle climate change;

REGRETTING that hedgerows and other high-diversity landscape features are still often perceived as a barrier to economic development and continue to suffer destruction, degradation and inappropriate management, whether in agricultural plots, along roadsides, in rural areas or in urban environments; and

WELCOMING the work of the FAO in the field of agroecology and RECALLING the definition of the FAO on agroforestry;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to support the dissemination and implementation of practices linked to the multifunctionality, sustainable management, conservation and planting of hedgerows in agricultural areas within its projects and programmes for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and for increasing landscape heterogeneity;
2. ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to develop policies and strategies for the wider development of hedgerows and other high-diversity landscape features in agriculture and to fulfil their commitments to international goals;
3. ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to develop the use of wood from the sustainable management of hedgerows in the wood-energy sector by structuring local supply chains and supporting companies;
4. REQUESTS States and IUCN Members to ensure the long-term supply of propagules of quality and traced origin, with species adapted to local and future soil and climate conditions, promoting native species and avoiding invasive alien species in planting programmes;
5. INVITES States and IUCN Members to strengthen agricultural advisory services for the sustainable management of hedgerows, and to better integrate training on hedgerows for actors in the field of life sciences; and

6. INVITES States and IUCN Members to pursue research into hedgerows and agroforestry systems, to share the results widely, and to develop monitoring methodologies and tools to establish reliable baseline data and progress reports.