

## **024 Declaration on the urgent preservation of high mountain wetlands in Latin America**

RECOGNISING the importance of high mountain wetlands and their ecosystem services, associated with water and climate regulation, disaster management, water security, sequestration and maintenance of greenhouse gases, maintenance of biological diversity and its food sources, etc.;

MINDFUL that the solutions to the climate crisis promoted by the dominant energy transition, focused on the expansion of renewable energies based on the use of minerals, directly threaten the integrity and functioning of these wetlands, their biodiversity and their contributions, in addition to violating human rights and socio-environmental safeguards;

NOTING that there is a gap at the regulatory, institutional and financial level to ensure the sustainable management of these wetlands, associated with the lack of information on their characteristics and contributions that allow the prioritisation of actions for their conservation and recognition as fragile ecosystems and their defence and protection;

UNDERLINING the role of local and indigenous communities in the management and conservation of high mountain wetlands and the need to recognise their value in participatory and knowledge exchange spaces with an intercultural and gender perspective and to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities; and

CONSIDERING the lack of financing from the public and private sectors and from international financial entities that allow scaling up, spatially and temporally, the scope of actions for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of high mountain wetlands based on the promotion of nature-based solutions and the development of hybrid infrastructure (natural infrastructure and grey infrastructure) for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of these ecosystems;

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

1. URGES the Director General to call upon governments, the private sector and international organisations (international cooperation, multilateral banking and others) to consider the fragility of high mountain wetlands and to adopt actions for their conservation, sustainable management and restoration; and

2. CALLS ON States, the private sector and international organisations to:

a. conserve, sustainably manage and restore high mountain wetlands, involving local and indigenous communities;

b. recognise in their policies their ecological, hydrological, social, cultural and economic value;

c. establish legal protection for high mountain wetlands and promote nature-based solutions, complementing natural and grey infrastructure and respecting human rights;

d. ensure investments for the enhancement and conservation of these ecosystems;

e. Implement economic and fiscal incentives for their protection, ensuring the participation, consultation and consent of local and Indigenous communities;

f. identify and close regulatory gaps to ensure their sustainable management; and

g. foster cooperation, multilateral banks and international organisations to promote joint agendas for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of these ecosystems with full respect for human rights in the face of pressures such as mining, urbanisation, agriculture, illegal and informal economies and other anthropogenic pressures.