**027 Establishment of a Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area in Macaronesia**

NOTING the exceptional biodiversity of the Macaronesia region, which encompasses the Azores, Cabo Verde, Canary Islands, Madeira and Selvagens, and its role as a hotspot for marine biodiversity in the North Atlantic;

RECOGNISING that this biogeographic region is home to unique ecosystems and numerous endemic species, as well as being a critical habitat for migratory cetaceans and other marine megafauna;

AWARE OF the ecological and economic importance of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem, and noting the presence of several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs: 30949, 26988, 30812) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the region;

CONCERNED about the increasing threats to marine biodiversity in the Macaronesia region, including overfishing, marine pollution, climate change, habitat degradation, and anthropogenic noise, which jeopardize its ecological integrity and the livelihoods of communities dependent on its resources;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 6.050 *Increasing marine protected area coverage for effective marine biodiversity conservation* (Hawai'i, 2016), which highlights the need for enhanced marine protected area (MPA) coverage as a cornerstone of global marine biodiversity conservation efforts;

MINDFUL that Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for the conservation of 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas by 2030, "through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories";

WELCOMING the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and recalling further other international commitments to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of traditional and local knowledge of coastal communities in the Macaronesia region, and the need to integrate it into conservation strategies for culturally relevant and sustainable outcomes;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to provide technical support and guidance to States and stakeholders in the development of the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area in Macaronesia;

2. URGES all States with Exclusive Economic Zones in the Macaronesia region, including Cabo Verde, Portugal and Spain, to:

a. establish a transboundary Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area (MBCA) encompassing key ecological habitats and key biodiversity areas within the Macaronesia region, ensuring adequate protection and sustainable management of its unique marine biodiversity;

b. develop and implement collaborative management frameworks, involving governments, scientific institutions, local communities and international organizations, to ensure the effective governance of the MBCA; and

c. conduct a comprehensive assessment using the KBA Standard [in line with IUCN Resolution 6.041] to identify other sites of global significance for the persistence of biodiversity within Macaronesia; and

d. promote the adoption of science-based measures to mitigate threats to marine biodiversity, including controls on overfishing, marine pollution, underwater noise and global change impacts; and

3. CALLS ON the Governments of Cabo Verde, Portugal and Spain to cooperate with relevant regional and international entities, including IUCN, to:

a. facilitate research and monitoring programmes to enhance understanding of ecological connectivity and biodiversity dynamics in the region;

b. support capacity-building initiatives for local stakeholders and authorities to effectively manage and enforce conservation measures in the MBCA; and

c. advance the inclusion of Macaronesia as a priority area in international conservation agendas.