

030 Definition and principles of the regenerative Blue Economy

CONSIDERING the crucial role of marine and coastal ecosystems for climate balance, biodiversity and human well-being as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

RECALLING the threats to them and the importance of strengthening the resilience of marine socio-ecological systems, particularly in the small island states of the South;

NOTING the emergence of the concept of sustainable Blue Economy in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio;

HIGHLIGHTING the multiplicity of definitions and interpretations of the concept since 2012, and the divergences in its alignment with the objectives of the climate and biodiversity conferences of the Parties (COPs);

NOTING a growing interest in the sustainable Blue Economy since the Ocean Decade in 2020, from states, international bodies and public and private investors;

ACKNOWLEDGING the potential conflicts or trade-offs that may arise between economic growth and conservation goals;

RECALLING the imperative to adopt an ecosystem approach to all human activities that may impact marine and coastal ecosystems, in order to avoid irreversible damage to these ecosystems and the populations that depend on them;

REFERRING to IUCN Resolution 5.057 *Conserving island biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods* (Jeju, 2012), on the ability of islands to serve as green/blue economy models and to integrate different models of sustainable development;

RECALLING Resolution 7.031 *The implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin* (Marseille, 2020), on the importance of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as an unprecedented opportunity to build resilience to climate change and accelerate the transition;

RECALLING Resolution 7.021 *Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean* (Marseille, 2020), on the commitment of States to integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning;

BUILDING on previous initiatives to define and propose principles and approaches towards a sustainable blue economy, such as those proposed by the World Wide Fund for Nature, the United Nations, the Ocean Panel and the G20, among others; and

ALSO BUILDING on the IUCN publication *Towards a regenerative Blue Economy*, published in 2024, which unambiguously defines the regenerative Blue Economy by integrating five main founding principles;

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

1. REQUESTS IUCN State Members and organisations to adopt the clear definition of the regenerative Blue Economy, set out in the IUCN publication *Towards a regenerative Blue Economy*, which builds on existing definitions of the sustainable Blue Economy, and specifies its five founding principles:

- a. protecting, restoring and regenerating marine and coastal ecosystems;
- b. creating an innovative, inclusive, equitable and solidarity-based economic model;
- c. adopting inclusive and transparent governance;

d. decarbonising activities, generating positive impacts on ecosystems, establishing the circular economy; and

e. acting for and with island states and Indigenous peoples;

2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Council to actively promote the regenerative Blue Economy and related sustainable blue economy initiatives;

3. REQUESTS State Members and agencies to develop roadmaps towards the regenerative Blue Economy outlining actions, NbS and monitoring indicators;

4. CALLS for enhanced collaboration between researchers, states, and public and private stakeholders to establish reliable, transparent, and exchangeable data systems on the monitoring of the regenerative Blue Economy; and

5. CALLS on private and public investors to adopt the definition and founding principles of the regenerative Blue Economy to guide future financing, development aid.