

038 Harnessing IUCN's power: Driving synergy for net zero, nature positive and just energy transition

NOTING the breach of the 1.5°C temperature rise threshold, and escalating impacts of human-induced climate change on nature, people, and our planet, as evidenced by the best available science;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the lack of progress and political willingness to develop, prepare, update or enhance Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;

WELCOMING the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change joint workshop, noting that the climate and biodiversity crises are intertwined and require synergistic solutions and systems change;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.114 *Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises* (Marseille, 2020);

FURTHER RECALLING the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, led by the Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidencies of the Rio Conventions;

NOTING FURTHER the critical importance of strengthening linkages between the Rio Conventions and other relevant international mechanisms;

RECALLING the IUCN Youth Strategy, Indigenous Peoples Self-Determined Strategy, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, and other relevant strategies; and RECOGNISING the vital role of civil society stakeholders in driving actions for climate, nature, and energy transition; and noting that these actions must be just, equitable and rights-based;

RECOGNISING that the world is moving towards a net zero and nature positive, and just energy transition objectives and urgently needs to accelerate action on it;

ACKNOWLEDGING that global efforts remain insufficient, and that the world is not on track to achieve 1.5°C and halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030; and

NOTING ALSO that synergies are important because they can: optimise the use of scarce resources; generate coherence in public climate and biodiversity policies; promote dialogue between public and private actors working towards these objectives; accelerate implementation; and facilitate international cooperation and resource mobilisation, among other benefits.

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, Members, Commissions and relevant constituents to:

a. promote credible and mandatory net zero systems that enable actionable public and private targets;

b. work on completing the necessary systemic elements to achieve effective net zero and nature positive outcomes;

c. advocate for nature positive to become a formally recognised goal for both public and private sectors;

d. call for collaboration and the establishment of joint work across Rio Conventions that strengthen synergies between strategies and targets, leading to a net zero, nature positive, just and rapid energy transition; and

e. urge the private sector and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the integrity and 1.5°C alignment of their net zero targets; and

2. REQUESTS the Director General to work with IUCN Members and Commissions to:

- a. advocate for a just energy transition that prioritises the protection of biodiversity and the rights of Indigenous peoples (IP) and Local communities;
- b. develop best practices and guidance on sustainable energy practices that minimise environmental and social impacts, with particular reference to infrastructure siting and mining activities;
- c. encourage the incorporation of social and environmental impact assessments as mandatory components in the approval process for renewable energy projects and critical minerals and mining,
- d. promote the implementation of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that IPs and local communities receive fair compensation;
- e. support capacity building initiatives and funding opportunities for IPs and local communities to engage in sustainable energy practices and conservation efforts; and
- f. endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative and call for its negotiation.