

042 Addressing the climate and biodiversity crises through fossil fuel supply-side measures and a just transition

EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN that fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – are the primary cause of climate change and that governments plan to extract more than double the amount of fossil fuels compatible with the 1.5°C temperature limit by 2030;

FURTHER CONCERNED that fossil fuel extraction and use undermine all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with significant impacts on nature and people, and that the extraction of fossil fuels has historically been associated with armed conflict, significant breaches of human rights and the well-being of Indigenous peoples and Local communities;

RECOGNISING that many States are dependent on fossil fuels for economic revenues, particularly highly indebted developing States that rely on such revenues to meet interest repayments;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of IUCN Members and constituents in advancing efforts towards phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, consumption and impacts on biodiversity, including Resolution 7.033 *Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures* (Marseille, 2020);

NOTING that current international agreements and IUCN Resolutions primarily focus on the consumption of fossil fuels, emissions or resulting impacts and that there is a legal gap in the governance of the extraction and supply of fossil fuels and the management of a just transition;

RECOGNISING ALSO that, without adequate international governance of the just transition, many developing States will continue to be locked into a cycle of fossil-fuel dependence, undermining efforts to implement other complementary international legal instruments, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and

FURTHER RECOGNISING that fossil fuel extraction and use has caused reduction and degradation of important carbon sinks worldwide, such as rainforest ecosystem, and that this action is further aggravating climate change, including in the Amazon;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and the World Commission on Environmental Law to develop an analysis to support the negotiation of a fossil fuel treaty, and transmit findings to State Members;

2. FURTHER REQUESTS the IUCN Commissions, especially the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, to provide guidance on just transition pathways for fossil-fuel dependent developing States, taking into account impacts on nature, biodiversity, climate and health, as well as the finance, capacity-building and technological support needed to assist developing States with the transition;

3. CALLS ON States to address the gap in international governance on fossil fuel supply by negotiating a fossil fuel treaty that would:

a. support implementation of existing international legal instruments;

b. create a pathway to an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas in line with the 1.5°C temperature limit and biodiversity goals;

c. end expansion of new fossil fuel projects;

d. enable finance, technology and capacity building for a just transition in consumer and producer States through alternative, nature-positive energy and development pathways; and

e. increase transparency on fossil fuel extraction and financing, including subsidies; and

4. ENCOURAGES Amazonian States and Members to declare a 'fossil fuel non-proliferation zone' prohibiting fossil fuel exploration and extraction while ensuring participation of local communities and Indigenous peoples, setting an example for zones to be declared in other biodiversity hotspots.