

043 Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programmes for climate change mitigation

NOTING the urgent need to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity as essential actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

CONSIDERING the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) which sets ambitious 2030 biodiversity conservation targets alongside climate change considerations (Target 8);

WELCOMING the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 16/22 on *Climate and biodiversity*, supporting synergistic actions and emphasising the role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation while calling for greater policy coherence between the Rio Conventions;

FURTHER WELCOMING the Paris Agreement on Climate Change decision 1/CMA.5 on the *Outcome of the first global stocktake*, highlighting the importance of nature conservation in line with the KMGBF;

RECALLING that the Paris Agreement (2015) sets out emission reduction targets and carbon crediting mechanisms, as does the Kyoto Protocol (1998) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);

EMPHASISING that fossil fuel extraction and burning are the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions and that achieving net-zero emissions requires economy-wide measures as well as market and non-market Carbon Pricing Instruments to limit warming to 1.5°C and minimise the risk of reversal;

CONSIDERING that renewable energy projects may pose risks to ecosystems and biodiversity at local and regional levels;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation activities could harm ecosystems, potentially outweighing their climate benefits and increasing risks to carbon storage;

BUT STILL NOTING their significant potential to help achieve global temperature reduction goals;

RECOGNISING the potential conflict with Indigenous peoples and Local communities' rights and challenges for ensuring social and environmental safeguards in those projects; and

RECALLING Resolution 7.114 *Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises* (Marseille, 2020), Resolution 6.056 *IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement* (Hawai'i, 2016), Resolution 5.172 *Development of renewable energy and biodiversity conservation* (Jeju, 2012) and Resolution 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies* (Barcelona, 2008);

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to develop policy and guidelines for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem conservation into climate change mitigation projects, particularly those generating carbon credits, to ensure biodiversity integrity;

2. CALLS on States, international agencies and multilateral climate financing bodies to:

a. ensure that biodiversity protection and ecosystem integrity are central to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, policies and projects, incorporating biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem integrity indicators and ecosystem management practices into carbon crediting and trading systems;

b. use the UN Statistical Commission's natural reference level (UNSEEA 2021) to reflect the value of intact ecosystems and the recovery of degraded ones and adopt full-cost accounting for carbon mitigation projects, considering biodiversity loss, conservation costs and ecosystem storage risks;

c. adopt the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, ensuring safeguards for biodiversity and rights of Indigenous peoples and Local communities; and

d. increase funding for biodiversity conservation to address future threats caused by climate change mitigation projects; and

3. INVITES governments and donors to enhance support for research and awareness raising on the impacts of climate change mitigation initiatives on biodiversity, particularly regarding global carbon credit trading, and the trade-offs in benefit-sharing and sustainability for affected communities.