

048 Nature crime

RECOGNISING nature crime – criminal forms of logging, mining, fishing, wildlife trade and land conversion – as a subset of crimes that affect the environment (CAE), which is broader in scope and includes pollution crimes and the illegal trade of waste and prohibited chemicals;

RECOGNISING ALSO that nature crime poses a significant threat to conservation efforts globally;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that nature crime is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and undermines efforts to tackle environmental challenges and the ability to achieve international commitments on climate, biodiversity and sustainable development;

DEEPLY ALARMED that nature crime ranks among the world's largest illicit economies and represents a significant facet of transnational organised crime, and ALARMED ALSO by the role of corruption in perpetuating these crimes and undermining efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

RECOGNISING ALSO that nature crimes are often organised and transnational in nature, necessitating an equally organised and global response;

RECOGNISING MOREOVER the unique role that IUCN can play in combating nature crime, aligning directly with its mission and leveraging its diverse membership;

RECALLING IUCN's long-standing directives to address environmental and conservation crimes;

RECOGNISING the strong interest of many IUCN Members in nature crime, reflected in their involvement in related initiatives and coalitions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contributions of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international and regional organisations in supporting States in their efforts to prevent and combat nature crime;

WELCOMING the growing body of United Nations resolutions addressing CAE;

RECOGNISING ALSO the harm caused by nature crimes to Indigenous peoples and Local communities;

and FURTHER RECOGNISING their critical roles in preventing and addressing these crimes;

DEEPLY CONCERNED ALSO by the growing threats faced by environmental defenders and whistleblowers; and HIGHLIGHTING the urgent need to protect them; and

RECOGNISING the role of the private sector and the need for its active engagement in this fight;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General to prioritise work on nature crime and engagement with relevant intergovernmental fora;
2. INVITES the Director General and the IUCN Council to:
 - a. consider convening a task force to develop an IUCN Strategy on Nature Crime; and
 - b. engage in drawing attention to the linkages between nature crime and corruption and human rights, and promoting environmental defenders and whistleblowers;
3. CALLS UPON the Director General and the Commissions to report periodically on the status of their implementation of IUCN Resolutions addressing nature crime;

4. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members to collaborate and strengthen partnerships and join relevant initiatives that prioritise the prevention of nature crime; and
5. URGES Governments to prioritise preventing and combating nature crime.