

## **052 Preventing, combating and strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance to address environmental crimes**

RECALLING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/185 on *Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment*;

ALSO RECALLING the Kyoto Declaration, adopted by the 14th United Nations Congress on *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* in 2021, in which Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives of Member States affirmed their endeavour to adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment;

RECALLING ALSO previous resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), in particular CCPCJ resolution 31-1 on *Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife*, and UNTOC resolution 12/4 of 18 October 2024 on *Enhancing measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*;

RECALLING FURTHER IUCN Resolution 7.038 *Treating organized crime having an impact on the environment as serious crime* (Marseille, 2020) and Resolution 6.070 *Crimes against the environment* (Hawai'i, 2016);

RECOGNISING the important role of civil society, Indigenous peoples and Local communities, academia, the scientific community, the private sector and the media in identifying, detecting, reporting on, and raising awareness of environmental crimes and related offences;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that these crimes have become a major expression of transnational organised crime;

RECOGNISING ALSO that these crimes exacerbate environmental degradation, climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, which constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats for present and future generations, thus hindering efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that human-rights defenders in environmental matters, such as Indigenous and Local communities' leaders, whistle-blowers and climate advocates, are particularly at risk; and

WELCOMING the 15th Crime Congress to be held from 25 to 30 April 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, under the overall theme "Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age";

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General and Commissions, in particular the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), to contribute to the 15th Crime Congress;

2. REQUESTS WCEL, the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, and other civil society and international organisations with expertise on crimes that affect the environment, to provide technical assistance, upon request, to States in their efforts to fulfil the requirements detailed in Paragraph 3 below; and

3. ENCOURAGES States to:

a. adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment by enhancing their implementation of the UNTOC and other relevant international agreements, by strengthening legislation, international cooperation, capacity building, criminal justice responses and law

enforcement efforts;

b. support the creation of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group identified in UNTOC Resolution 12/4, and actively participate in its deliberations;

c. identify any gaps that may exist in the international legal framework and that could be addressed under the UNTOC to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment; and

d. consider possible responses relevant to those gaps, including the possibility, feasibility and merits of any additional protocol to the UNTOC.