

## **052 Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and combat 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, whistleblowers 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;

ALARMED by the industrial scale, transnational and organised nature, and severe impacts of these crimes, as expressed in multiple reports from the United Nations, INTERPOL, the World Bank, and other international and civil society organisations.

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;

[RECOGNIZING that environmental crimes often occur in contexts of poor governance, corruption, and lack of safeguards, and they can disproportionately impact Indigenous Peoples, women, and vulnerable communities, and violate their human rights;]

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

[NOTING that Marseilles resolution 115 on environmental defenders and whistleblowers remains to be implemented by IUCN and CEC. CEESP and WCEL; 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. CALLS UPON the IUCN Director General to provide for IUCN participation in UNCAC COSP 11 and UNTOC COP 13; and]

3.2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, 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, where appropriate and upon request, ~~to provide~~ technical assistance, ~~upon request,~~ to States in their efforts to fulfil the requirements detailed in Paragraph 43 below; and

4.3. ENCOURAGES States to:

a. adopt and implement effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment by enhancing their implementation of the UNTOC, the UNCAC and other relevant international agreements, by strengthening legislation, international cooperation, capacity building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts; [and promoting whistleblower protection and incentives; and ]

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

c. take stock of the application and collective implementation of the UNTOC in addressing crimes that affect the environment;

d.e. 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

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