

## **054 Operationalising the rights of nature through their implementation in territories**

CONSIDERING the growing number of governments in the world seeking to reverse the current trend of natural habitat degradation and biodiversity loss, by recognising and enforcing the inherent rights of nature;

RECALLING that some States and territories have already recognised, with different rationale and modalities, the rights of nature in their Constitution, like Ecuador, or in their legislation, like Bolivia, New Zealand, Spain and also Uganda;

WELCOMING the most recent developments of the international community in this field, in particular in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022, which recognises and considers “the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth, as an integral part of its successful implementation”;

CONSIDERING that protected areas are one of the most effective tools for conserving biodiversity and geodiversity against the main anthropic threats and maintaining the resilience and adaptive potential of ecosystems;

CONFIDENT that the establishment of the rights of nature, particularly in protected areas, could help reconcile humans and nature, inspire citizenship once again, and reduce the vulnerability of environments to climate change;

RECALLING that the Ethical Manifesto of the French Committee of IUCN, based on the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter, and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative, calls for rethinking our ways of interacting with the living world and landscapes and of inhabiting the Earth; and

ALIGNING with the Resolutions adopted by the World Conservation Congresses, notably Resolution 5.100 *Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN’s decision making* (Jeju, 2012);

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

#### **1. ASKS States to:**

- a. recognise the rights of nature in their diversity and to support their implementation in territories, particularly within protected areas and spaces on the IUCN Green List; and
- b. accompany this legal evolution by guaranteeing spaces for environmental democracy where civil society, including the guardians of the rights of nature, can actively contribute to the consideration of the needs and interests of nature;

#### **2. INVITES States and local and sub-national governments to plan human activities in synergy with the rights of nature and to ensure the involvement of Indigenous peoples and Local communities;**

#### **3. ASKS IUCN to:**

- a. continue to reflect on the construction of new legal regimes adapted to the rights of nature, paying particular attention to natural legal entities;
- b. conduct an experiment on the rights of nature in a network of pilot sites, particularly within protected areas; and
- c. encourage the dissemination of inspiring initiatives where the rights of nature are recognised or in the process of being recognised; and

#### **4. ASKS the World Commission on Protected Areas and the World Commission on Environmental Law to coordinate the assessment of the impact of this experimentation with the rights of nature on**

the protection of biodiversity and the conditions and lifestyles of populations, as well as to develop a replicable toolbox for disseminating the solutions identified.