

057 Ensuring conflict-sensitive conservation and protection of the environment in fragile and conflict situations

REAFFIRMING support for conservation in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS) and for the people who sustain these efforts;

NOTING that nature underpins human security, health, livelihoods and well-being;

CONSCIOUS of the feedback loops whereby scarcities of natural resources can drive or exacerbate conflict, and conflict damages nature, societal resilience and rule of law;

RECOGNISING conflict's gendered impacts, the exacerbation of conflict from the uncontrolled circulation of arms, and the close geographic overlap between Key Biodiversity Areas and FCS;

RECOGNISING that many regions face protracted conflicts and environmental degradation, where conservation efforts are deeply impacted by insecurity, displacement, weak governance and damage to critical ecosystems;

RECOGNISING ALSO the urgent need to integrate climate adaptation and resilience planning into conservation strategies in fragile settings, and that, while the climate crisis might exacerbate the political and social causes of conflict and further stress ecosystem health, it also provides opportunities for environmental peacebuilding through mutual and constructive dialogue, cooperation over shared management challenges, and the potential for innovative and collaborative solutions;

REAFFIRMING ALSO IUCN Resolution 15/2 *Conservation and peace* (Christchurch, 1981), which recognised that "peace is a contributory condition to the conservation of nature, just as conservation itself contributes to peace through the...sound use of natural resources", and Resolution 6.068 *Prevention, management and resolution of social conflict as a key requirement for conservation and management of ecosystems* (Hawai'i, 2016), which called for IUCN to "explore options for supporting social conflict prevention";

AFFIRMING the Principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict and IUCN's engagement via IUCN Resolution 19.42 *The Conversion of Military Bases into Wildlife Conservation Areas* (Buenos Aires, 1994);

WELCOMING the first step contributions of IUCN's Flagship Report Conflict and Conservation, and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy Theme on Environment and Peace's Task Force report on Migration, Environmental Change and Conflict;

RECALLING however the numerous other IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations that require further implementation to address armed conflict and crime and support Indigenous peoples and Local communities; and

MINDFUL that even well-intended conservation can contribute to social conflicts that might degrade support for biodiversity protection or compromise the rights of Indigenous peoples and Local communities, and that conflict-sensitive conservation can better sustain nature-based livelihoods and build peace;

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

1. CALLS ON the Council to consider an appropriate mechanism to embed peace and conflict assessments and conflict sensitivity analyses into monitoring and evaluation systems;

2. REQUESTS that the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and other IUCN Commissions share knowledge, build and facilitate partnerships, and develop tools to support environmental peacebuilding;

3. URGES Members to recognise the relationship between nature, peace and security, noting that environmental damage can become a source of instability and conflict;
4. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members to develop and share human and nature-protecting strategies for responding to conflict-related emergencies and operating in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS);
5. CALLS ON humanitarian and conservation organisations across the Union to, as feasible, support fulfilment of the Principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict;
6. CALLS ON States to end practices that increase environmental conflict, and to promote peace through inclusive conservation, and to ensure accountability for intentional environmental destruction during armed conflict, in line with international humanitarian and environmental law;
7. INVITES States and other stakeholders to examine how multilateral environmental processes can better address peace and security, and to ensure that support is available for conservation activities in FCS; and
8. CALLS ON the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and donors to implement the recommendations of the Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations.