

068 Emergency action to restore 80% of ecological integrity in Amazonia by 2030 preventing cascading tipping points

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.129 *Avoiding the point of no return in the Amazon protecting 80% by 2025* (Marseille, 2020), endorsed by 1,200 organisations globally, adopted by the Government of Colombia, included in two resolutions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and mentioned in the Declaration of Belem as the utmost regional challenge;

REITERATING that Amazonia's tipping point unravels between 20 and 25% of combined deforestation and degradation, and 4°–5°C;

ACKNOWLEDGING that deforestation and degradation are rapidly advancing;

NOTING that, in 2024 alone, fires burned 46 million hectares and that, in 2023–2024, Amazonia suffered the worst drought in 122 years, affecting water, food, and energy security; extreme droughts spurring massive migrations are expected by 2030;

WHEREAS protected areas and recognised Indigenous territories comprise nearly 50% of Amazonia, exceeding the 30x30 target, and yet, these areas amount to 30% less than the threshold needed to prevent a tipping point;

HIGHLIGHTING the comparable environmental performance of protected areas and Indigenous territories in Amazonia despite the fact that less than 1% of climate finance goes to Indigenous peoples;

ALSO RECALLING IUCN Resolution 5.097 *Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Jeju, 2012), which seeks to ensure that the principles of that Declaration are observed in the work of the Union;

FURTHER RECALLING Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);

WHEREAS the resolutions of the 22nd session of the UNPFII urged Amazonian countries to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, prioritising the recognition of 100 M ha. of Indigenous territories;

STRESSING that legal or illegal pressures covering two thirds of Amazonia threaten Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs), intact forests and priority areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the groundbreaking mechanism of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin to directly finance Amazonian Indigenous peoples;

WELCOMING debt swaps and other mechanisms to protect Amazonia;

CONSIDERING the imminent implementation of the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products to stop deforestation-derived exports; and

CONVINCED that solving the climate and biodiversity crises requires equilibrium in Amazonia;

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

1. URGES the Director General and IUCN Members to support emergency action in Amazonia to restore at least 80% of ecological integrity, to prevent cascading tipping points, to end deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, to restore and protect priority areas including Key Biodiversity Areas (when information is available), to guarantee the legal security of Indigenous territories, their financial sustainability and that of protected areas;

2. REQUESTS IUCN Members to endorse a geographical exclusion of all extractive industries in intact and high integrity areas;

3. CALLS UPON States and Government Agencies to fully implement the KMGBF Target 3 by including Amazonian Indigenous territories in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the free, prior and informed consent of IPLCs;
4. URGES States and Government Agencies to fully implement the regional resolutions of the 22nd session of the UNPFII, to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, and to implement the Belém Declaration goal to achieve zero deforestation by 2030;
5. FURTHER CALLS on States to prioritise legal frameworks to protect water and food security, biodiversity, and the lives, the rights, and livelihoods IPLCs instead of extractive industries;
6. ENTREATS Amazonian States to export deforestation-free products and to develop bioeconomy alternatives involving IPLCs;
7. ALSO URGES strengthening existing funds by creating a Pan-Amazonian mechanism that, on the one hand, guarantees transparent implementation and the participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the decision-making process and, on the other, prioritizes direct financing for Indigenous Peoples, restoration, conservation and the bioeconomy, guaranteeing equitable access to all Amazonian stakeholders; and
8. ENCOURAGES international financial institutions to implement debt swaps and other financial mechanisms to protect Amazonia.