

070 Nature: Integrating science, ethical approaches and harmonious coexistence with strategies for ecological recovery

ALARMED that two-thirds of species protected under the European Union (EU) Habitats Directive have poor conservation status and that three-quarters of natural habitats are in drastic decline, partly as a result of unsustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that human pressures increasingly disrupt global ecosystems without regard for nature's intrinsic value;

RECOGNISING nature's intrinsic value and the essential role of predators and other species as ecological regulators, maintaining resilient ecosystems and ecological recovery;

ASSERTING that degraded landscapes and seascapes exacerbate human-wildlife conflict;

ALSO RECOGNISING the rights and role of Indigenous peoples as set out in UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as those of local communities as set out in national and international human rights standards, including their sciences and practices, innovations, wholistic worldviews, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge, in conserving nature and maintaining the health of ecosystems;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the need for engagement of all rights-holders, including nature's intrinsic value, to ensure support for ecological recovery focused on the well-being of both nature and humans;

CONVINCED that ecological recovery requires stronger restoration strategies to enable nature to thrive beyond anthropocentric and outdated species-management approaches;

CONCERNED that existing global policies remain insufficient to keep the planet within a safe ecological operating space as evidenced by the IUCN Rewilding Guidelines;

CONCERNED by the persistence of misinformation, cultural bias and politically driven decisions that undermine conservation;

CONFIRMING that respectful and harmonious coexistence can support building ecological processes and ecosystem dynamics into restoration frameworks, for connectivity, integrity and respecting nature's intrinsic value; and

RECALLING IUCN's intrinsic support for coexistence, made effective when implemented alongside amplified restoration and science-based rewilding strategies, to mitigate biodiversity loss by combining with IUCN Resolutions, notably: Resolution 5.100 *Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN's decision making* (Jeju, 2012); Resolution 7.116 *Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework*, Resolution 7.093 *A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions* and Resolution 7.101 *Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife* (all three adopted in Marseille, 2020); and World Water Council Resolution 5 of 2024 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, all of which should be applied;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Members to:

a. ensure that deep incorporation and accountability of existing resolutions, using best available scientific evidence across Commissions, guides decision-making for rewilding, restoration and the conservation of species in human-wildlife conflict, prioritizing ecological integrity and wholistic governance;

b. respect the customary practices of Indigenous peoples and Local communities that contribute to the sustainable use of, and ethical coexistence with wildlife;

2. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) Rewilding Thematic Group (RTG) to:

- a. develop a rewilding and co-existence specific set of guidelines developed in collaboration with IUCN human-wildlife conflicts and coexistence specialists group;
- b. promote integration of rewilding and coexistence into relevant regulatory frameworks, for recovery of wild habitats and species;
- c. build on the planned work within the RTG to design & build of effective monitoring and reporting methods to inform ongoing mitigation and adaptation into rewilding and coexistence programmes by Member Organisations and States;
- d. support further research for the RTG with the aim to transition landscapes towards ecological integrity, protecting, connecting, restoring and encouraging human adaptations to reduce exploitation and loss;
- e. encourage the facilitation the exchange of experiences between Members, States and regions to scale up successful rewilding and coexistence models; and
- f. increase efforts to raise awareness among rural communities through support from Member Organisations, about required shifts and associated benefits;
- g. support development of ecological reality mapping to better guide ambitious rewilding, to support fully dynamic natural processes accounting for species behaviour and contribute to national and cross-border recovery plans.