

070 Integrating science, rights-based 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 and deny nature its intrinsic right to exist;

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;

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that ecological recovery requires stronger restoration strategies to enable nature to thrive beyond anthropocentric and outdated species-management approaches;

ALARMED that the Bern Convention unscientifically delisted the first species (wolf) since 1979, without allowing full recovery, and allowed ongoing loss of natural habitats to dangerous levels, favouring likely further delistings and loss of further species and habitats beyond safe levels;

CONCERNED by the persistence of misinformation, cultural bias and politically driven decisions that undermine conservation such as the case above, despite scientific evidence highlighting the ineffectiveness of culling and ecological value of predators;

AFFIRMING that the Bern Convention and the EU Habitats Directive are valuable tools to defend against exploitation to meet human demands;

CONFIRMING that coexistence compels the Bern Convention to build ecological processes and ecosystem dynamics into restoration frameworks, for connectivity, integrity and nature's intrinsic rights; 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:

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 wolves and species in human-wildlife conflict, placing ecological integrity and holistic governance over vested interests;
- b. strengthen current levels of habitat and species protection, ensuring policy and regulatory decisions are based on the point above;
- c. develop and include national and cross-border ambitious recovery plans, informed via ecological-reality mapping to accurately guide ambitious rewilding;
- d. update coexistence guidelines to reflect resolutions;

e. integrate rewilding, coexistence, and 'restorative justice' into existing regulatory frameworks, for recovery of wild habitats and species;

f. design and incorporate effective monitoring and reporting methods to inform ongoing mitigation and adaptation into rewilding and coexistence programmes;

g. support research to transition to landscapes of ecological integrity, protecting, connecting, restoring and encouraging favourable compromise by humans, reducing exploitation and loss;

h. facilitate the exchange of experiences between Members and regions to scale up successful rewilding and coexistence models; and

i. increase efforts to raise awareness among rural communities about required shifts and associated benefits.