

079 Regulate financing mechanisms based on biodiversity certificates and guarantee positive effects on nature

RECALLING that Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) calls for the mobilisation of US\$ 200 billion annually by 2030, and that it explicitly mentions credits as a potential solution for financing and achieving the target;

RECALLING that Target 2 of the KMGBF calls for the restoration of 30% of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by 2030, and that Target 3 calls for the conservation of at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas, in particular areas of great importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services;

AWARE of the urgent need to reconcile the development of economic activities with the protection of biodiversity, and the challenges of valuing nature and ecosystem services;

WELCOMING the growing recognition by economic stakeholders of the existence and future values of biodiversity, and the interdependence between humans and nature;

CONCERNED about the risks of greenwashing as illustrated by the numerous controversies on the integrity of credits on the voluntary carbon market;

CONCERNED that Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs), who are often the stewards of nature dependent on ecosystems, are not sufficiently involved in designing mechanisms to finance the protection of nature, nor in the fair sharing of their benefits, leading to additional pressures and/or inappropriate projects;

RECALLING the adoption of IUCN Resolution 6.059 *IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets* (Hawai'i, 2016) and in particular that biodiversity offsets must never be used to circumvent responsibilities to avoid and minimise damage to biodiversity, or to justify projects that would never otherwise be created;

AWARE of the growing interest expressed by private economic actors to support the ecological transition including through supporting financing mechanisms that guarantee confidence and impact; and

CONSIDERING that, if well designed, biodiversity certificates could contribute to increasing private finance for nature;

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

CALLS ON States to put in place legal frameworks based on biodiversity certificates mechanisms that:

- a. produce a robust and transparent evaluation of biodiversity gains;
- b. demonstrate efforts to perpetuate impacts, and contribute to the KMGBF targets and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- c. are fit for different scales, contributing to ecological transition, conservation and/or restoration of both remarkable and ordinary biodiversity;
- d. are not used as biodiversity offsets nor as substitutes for existing financing mechanisms;
- e. involve multi-stakeholder governance for locally-rooted projects, that ensures a clear distinction between the roles of project developer, certifier and investor;
- f. fully take into account IPLCs by:
 - i. involving them in the design and implementation of biodiversity certificates projects;

ii. respecting their rights and their free, prior and informed consent; and

iii. ensuring a fair distribution of benefits;

g. avoid speculation, multiplication of intermediaries and liquidity of biodiversity certificates into secondary markets; and

h. include external verification and certification to ensure the “fairness” of economic actors’ contributions to the KMGBF through biodiversity certificates that are:

i. complementary to ambitious corporate strategies for biodiversity;

ii. consistent with implementation territories; and

iii. preventing claims of direct equivalence between biodiversity loss and certified biodiversity gains.