

081 Supporting the economy transformation towards a regenerative economy

RECALLING the dependence of economic activities on fundamental ecosystem services;

CONSIDERING the significant impact of economic actors on nature, due to the activities carried out throughout their value chains, as well as their technical and financial capacities to undertake actions to restore ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that a “net zero” approach or the mitigation hierarchy are no longer sufficient on their own to halt the degradation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services and that it is now necessary to contribute to regenerating biodiversity;

WELCOMING government policies aimed at reducing impacts and dependencies on nature;

WELCOMING the progressive recognition by economic players of the importance of ecosystems, of their dynamics and their services;

RECOGNISING and WELCOMING the role that businesses can play in going beyond the application of regulations through voluntary initiatives and voluntary contributions from certain economic actors;

NOTING that to date, voluntary and regulatory actions have failed to halt biodiversity loss;

CONSIDERING that a new form of economy, known as the regenerative economy, would contribute to the implementation of the integrated “Nature-Positive” approach developed by IUCN as well as to a regenerative Blue Economy, and sustainable agricultural and food systems, two of the eight key transformational changes identified in IUCN's 20-year strategic vision;

MINDFUL that the emergence of new so-called “regenerative” economic models should be consistent with ecosystem dynamics; and

MINDFUL OF the lack of official scientific and methodological definition (normative framework) of the concepts of regenerative business or regenerative economy;

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

1. ASKS the Director General to establish:

- a. a working group composed of IUCN Members and Commission experts to draft a document defining and characterising regenerative economy models; and
- b. a working group composed of IUCN Members and Commission experts to review existing frameworks for regenerative agriculture and make recommendations for the adoption of a common framework by IUCN at the next World Conservation Congress;

2. INVITES IUCN Members to contribute to:

- a. defining criteria that would allow an economic model or activity to be qualified as part of a regenerative economy;
- b. examining ways to guide economic actors towards these models, taking into account, in particular, the classification of economic activities based on the materiality of their impacts on natural ecosystems and the mitigation actions undertaken throughout the value chain and beyond, building on existing work and initiatives such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TFND);
- c. collecting experiences already implemented; and
- d. identifying opportunities to integrate climate change adaptation and ecosystem-based approaches into regenerative economic models, in line with national adaptation plans and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and

3. PROPOSES to base the regenerative economy on the following principles:

- a. the recognition and interdependence of living and non-living systems, including human systems;
- b. the maintenance or even the restoration of the functional and evolutionary capacity of ecosystems, thereby improving their resilience;
- c. the respect for planetary limits through collective governance at appropriate scales leading to improved resilience;
- d. for a given economic activity, the demonstration of direct and indirect positive effects on nature that far outweigh its negative impacts; and
- e. spatial and temporal coherence at a relevant territorial or landscape scale, of human activities with ecosystems, enabling integrated, reproducible monitoring of the dynamics of co-evolution, based on the 12 principles of the ecosystem approach, as presented at the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.