

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 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 the dynamics of living things;

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 this new form of economy would contribute to the implementation of the Nature-Positive approach developed by IUCN as well as to a regenerative Blue Economy, one of the eight key transformational changes identified in IUCN's 20-year strategic vision;

WORRIED that the emergence of new so-called “regenerative” economic models is 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 working group composed of IUCN Members and Commission experts to draft a document defining and characterising economic models for regeneration;
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; and
 - c. collecting experiences already implemented; and
3. PROPOSES to base the regenerative economy on the following principles:
 - a. the interdependence of living systems, including human systems;
 - b. the maintenance or even the restoration of the functional and evolutionary capacity of ecosystems;
 - c. respect for planetary limits through appropriate collective governance at the global level, key to resilience;
 - d. human activities that enable the regeneration of ecosystems, such that their positive effects on nature are greater than their negative impacts; and

e. a scale of defined territories, in a spatial and temporal coherence allowing temporal monitoring of co-evolution dynamics.