084 Developing ~~a circular and sustainable~~ a bioeconomy that is circular and sustainable for sustainable food and agriculture

RECOGNISING that sustainable and resilient food systems must be based on ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient practices. Ecological processes and biodiversity can help food and agriculture systems adapt to climate impacts while maintaining or enhancing ecosystem integrity. Climate adaptation and circularity are explicit operational components of bioeconomy strategies. Models (in the following) fields align closely with circularity, sustainability, and resilience in bioeconomy strategies:

> **(Agroforestry and Intercropping**, which increase biodiversity, improve soil structure and water retention and reduce vulnerability to drought;
> **Restorative aquaculture techniques** that rehabilitate coastal ecosystems while sustaining food production;
> **Soil conservation and composting systems** that reduce input dependency and enhance carbon sequestration;
> Sustainable biomass can decarbonise economic activity in the **energy, construction and manufacturing sectors.)**

RECOGNISING that bioeconomy covers all biomass production and transformation activities, whether forestry, agriculture or aquaculture, and represents new opportunities for farming and forestry operations;

AWARE that bioeconomy can contribute to more efficient, resilient, equitable and sustainable agri-food systems by ensuring greater food security, mitigating climate change, preserving biodiversity, addressing land degradation, stimulating economic growth, promoting innovation, optimising consumption of resources and reducing production of waste;

RECALLING that bioeconomy can protect the livelihoods of rural territories, particularly in least developed countries, and provide employment opportunities for women, young people, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

WELCOMING the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the field of bioeconomy and RECALLING that, according to it, bioeconomy is based on the production, use, conservation and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology and innovations, to deliver sustainable solutions (information, products, processes and services) in all economic sectors and enable the transition to a sustainable economy; and

NOTING that bioeconomy is growing significantly, with strategies being implemented in 23 countries and three regions;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General to support the dissemination and implementation ~~of sustainable and circular bioeconomy practices~~ of a bioeconomy that is circular and sustainable in its projects and programmes for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems;

2. ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to implement national policies, strategies and action plans ~~on sustainable and circular~~ for a bioeconomy that is circular and sustainable, promoting inclusive stakeholder participation;

3. INVITES States and IUCN Members to consider sobriety, sustainability and circularity, which encompass recycling and optimising the use of biological resources throughout their life cycle;

4. INVITES States and IUCN Members to implement ~~sustainable and circular~~ a bioeconomy that is circular and sustainable and gives high priority to food security, nutrition and ecosystem protection, taking into account all potential risks and effects of bioeconomy to biodiversity through sustainable

and resilient production systems while identifying and addressing the financial, logistic and market barriers faced by small producers in adopting biodiversity-friendly and circular practices.

4.b INVITES integrating ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient practices into sustainable and circular bioeconomy strategies, particularly in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, to enhance biodiversity protection, food security and community resilience in the face of climate change.

5. ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to develop a sustainable and circular bioeconomy that is not only based on the research of new technologies, but also Indigenous knowledge(s), science and practices ~~traditional knowledge~~ and on the development of innovative Nature-based Solutions such as agroecology; and

6. INVITES States and IUCN Members to pursue research and to develop a bioeconomy that is circular and sustainable and relies on transparent, comparable, measurable, and science-based criteria and methodologies. The ability to demonstrate and trace the benefits of sustainability is important for social licence and public trust, to monetise environmental attributes in bioeconomy markets, as well as to measure the impact of bioeconomy on food security targets.