

086 IUCN assessments of critical issues pertaining to the status and trends of nature and natural resources

AWARE of the growing number of complex, controversial and often urgent issues that the conservation movement needs to address;

RECOGNISING that making progress on addressing such issues usually requires broad agreement and participation from different parts of the conservation community;

EMPHASISING that IUCN can play a critical role in preparing objective and impartial assessments and analyses of these issues, thus laying the ground for further work by multiple stakeholders;

WELCOMING the publication of several highly-regarded assessments and analyses by IUCN of complex and controversial topics since at least 2010;

NOTING that such work is pursuant to the Objectives of IUCN (Article 3 (g) of the Statutes);

FURTHER NOTING that Article 3bis of the Statutes states that “In working towards the objectives outlined in Article 3 (g) ... the IUCN Secretariat and the IUCN Commissions are required to uphold high standards of scientific work and other knowledge systems and will be free from undue influence or conflict of interest in this regard”;

APPRECIATING the support of Members and donors who have supported these past assessments;

AWARE ALSO that the considerable expertise in the Commissions can be crucial to the success of these analyses;

ACKNOWLEDGING the key role often played by the Secretariat in coordinating and managing complex assessment projects;

FURTHER AWARE that, as a result of preparing assessments and analyses such as those referred to above, IUCN (both in the Commissions and Secretariat) has gained significant expertise and understanding on how to develop and carry out such work in a professional, objective, independent and fair manner;

CONCERNED that such expertise should not be inadvertently lost in the event of staff turnover or changes in Commission membership; and

ANTICIPATING that work in pursuance of Article 3 (g) is likely to increase in the coming years;

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

1. CALLS on the Director General to constitute a working group, in consultation with Commissions, to develop policies and procedures for undertaking IUCN assessments and analyses (projects) in line with the following principles:

- a. clear and transparent planning of such projects, including budgeting full costs, and identification of funding that does not compromise the independence of the work (thus complying with Article 3bis);
- b. guidance on defining the scope of a project to maximise its focus and impact;
- c. respective roles of Members, Commissions and Secretariat in project implementation;
- d. role of a project leader, who should have credible expertise able to lead the work impartially;
- e. role of a project steering group that is balanced in terms of expertise, geography, viewpoints and gender;

- f. the importance of scientific rigour and the use of all relevant knowledge systems, including traditional ecological knowledge;
 - g. open calls for input and provision of materials prior to beginning a project; and
 - h. clear guidance on procedures for draft assessments and analyses to undergo very broad review within IUCN (Members and Commissions), with all those who make comments receiving transparent feedback; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General to submit the draft policies and procedures developed by the working group to Council, with a view to it being formally adopted by Council.