

## **088 Task Force on exploring standardised genetic diversity assessments**

RECOGNISING that IUCN is a global leader in establishing global standards for biodiversity assessment;

ACKNOWLEDGING successful and widespread application of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (and other tools, e.g. Green Status, Key Biodiversity Areas) at national, regional and global levels, which help inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation and policy;

EMPHASISING that standardised approaches for assessing biodiversity can improve planning, action and monitoring, in line with IUCN's "Assess, Plan, Act" framework;

ALSO RECOGNISING genetic diversity as the foundational level of biodiversity, necessary for resilience, adaptability and long-term survival of species and ecosystems;

RECOGNISING FURTHER the prominent role of genetic diversity in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, alongside species and ecosystems;

APPRECIATING the work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Conservation Genetics Specialist Group and others in piloting and demonstrating genetic indicators of the KMGBF, including a Headline Indicator;

ACKNOWLEDGING the lack of a comprehensive, globally adopted, standard methodology for assessing and addressing threats to genetic diversity;

FURTHER RECOGNISING decades of scientific progress and the availability of techniques and data to quantify, map and assess genetic diversity of species and populations globally, such that large-scale assessment of genetic status is technically feasible, and that genetic knowledge is aiding conservation action;

RECOGNISING ALSO that governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other actors often lack capacity and guidance on conserving genetic diversity, and

CONCERNED about the documented decline of genetic diversity in species and populations, and the projected future losses of genetic diversity based on the best available science, which will impact population and species viability, nature's contributions to people, food security, health and well-being;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and SSC to establish a task force to develop, test and evaluate a standardised, global framework for assessing the genetic status of species and populations;
2. CALLS ON the Director General and SSC to ensure that the task force produce and submit a public report, to be submitted to the Director General and SSC prior to the 2029 World Conservation Congress, on: advantages, challenges and feasibility of a standard for assessment of genetic diversity; evaluation of metrics, thresholds and knowledge of such an assessment; logistics, data expertise, curation, storage and availability; institutions responsible; and a roadmap of timelines and the applicable scale of assessments;
3. URGES the Director General and SSC to help ensure that this task force is diverse in genders, regions, and constituencies within IUCN;
4. URGES Members, civil society, businesses and others, to engage and support this task force through inclusive consultative processes, webinars, workshops, surveys, etc; and
5. CALLS ON governments, NGOs, Indigenous groups and Local communities, financial institutions, funders and businesses to recognise the importance of assessing, monitoring, reporting on and

safeguarding genetic diversity as a vital part of sustainable development, ecological restoration and biodiversity standards.