

089 Mobilising resources and strengthening evaluation to ensure the effective management of protected and conserved areas for global biodiversity goals

WELCOMING the renewed commitment of State Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to ensure and enable that, by 2030, at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and marine and coastal areas, especially those of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed;

WELCOMING the efforts of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People to safeguard at least 30% of the world's land and oceans;

CONSIDERING that the effective and efficient protection of protected and conserved areas (PCAs) is essential to achieving the objectives of halting and reversing biodiversity loss;

AFFIRMING that PCAs are a central tool in nature conservation policies and that they complement other regulatory and management tools in achieving biodiversity goals, maintaining ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable development of human societies;

RECALLING that PCAs must demonstrate positive and sustainable long-term results for in situ conservation of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services;

NOTING the challenges associated with ensuring the effective management and conservation of the global network of PCAs; and CONCERNED that few PCAs are equipped with a robust system for evaluating management effectiveness;

AWARE that the deficit in human and budgetary resources is a common challenge across PCA networks at the national and international levels, considerably limiting the implementation of management actions and effectiveness evaluations;

NOTING HOWEVER that the global network of PCAs is increasing in number, though few terrestrial or marine PCAs are classified as category I or II;

ALARMED at the presence of non-compatible industrial activities within PCAs; and

RECOGNISING the positive effects of integrating other conservation approaches adapted to the social, economic and ecological realities of national territories and inclusive of Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs);

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

1. INVITES the Director General and the United Nations Environment Programme to adapt the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) to collect and report high-quality data for monitoring KMGBF Target 3 and to ensure that PCAs reported are effectively conserved and managed, ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed;

2. ASKS the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and relevant United Nations agencies to develop specific indicators in the Protected Planet report to provide sound data on the effective protection and management of PCAs;

3. INVITES States to:

a. improve the legal frameworks of PCAs to systematically integrate the evaluation of management effectiveness and to identify the actors responsible for carrying out these evaluations;

b. develop sustainable financing mechanisms to strengthen the use of evaluation tools, facilitating the recruitment of experts and evaluators in the field;

c. promote exchanges between evaluators, managers, stakeholders and users in evaluation methods to explain the process transparently and systematise the results of evaluations to identify areas for improvement; and

d. develop semantic benchmarks with managers to adopt a common language for monitoring and evaluating the management of PCAs; and

4. URGES States to develop and implement methodologies for assigning IUCN protected area categories and to establish category I and II protected areas, as well as to use scientific and traditional knowledge and practices to:

a. showcase the positive and sustainable benefits of their PCAs on biodiversity;

b. demonstrate the effective management of PCAs in terms of conservation;

c. adapt the monitoring of the benefits of PCAs to different local, regional and national contexts, considering their specific characteristics; and

d. include these methods and knowledge in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.