

095 Wild plant conservation to ensure the future of Small Island Developing States

CONCERNED by the ongoing rapid decline of biodiversity in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are home to unique and diverse ecosystems highly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis and human-induced pressures;

RECOGNISING that intense pressures are accelerating the number of threatened species, as reflected in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, and that wild plant conservation is essential to safeguarding the integrity of ecosystems in SIDS;

ACKNOWLEDGING the pivotal role of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in setting global biodiversity targets, particularly Target 4, which calls for halting human-induced extinction of threatened species and improving their conservation status by 2030;

NOTING the relevance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which supports fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;

RECALLING the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), as well as the importance of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) promoted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for addressing climate resilience in vulnerable ecosystems like SIDS;

FURTHER RECALLING the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which highlights the need to combat land degradation and promote sustainable land management practices in fragile ecosystems;

ACKNOWLEDGING the steps taken by IUCN and its Members through Resolution 5.057 *Conserving island biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods* (Jeju, 2012), Recommendation 6.097 *Pacific region climate resiliency action plan* (Hawai'i, 2016) and Recommendation 7.021 *Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean* (Marseille, 2020), as well as the SAMOA Pathway, which emphasises the need for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in SIDS; and

HIGHLIGHTING the critical importance of ex situ conservation as a complementary measure to in situ conservation, emphasising the role of seed vault and other conservation methods to safeguard biodiversity against climate change, habitat loss and other existential threats;

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

1. INVITES national governments, multilateral institutions, conservation organisations and the private sector to enhance financial, technical and logistical support for biodiversity conservation in SIDS, prioritising vulnerable species and ecosystems;

2. URGES the development of a comprehensive ex situ conservation network, focusing on:

a. strengthening collaboration between ex situ conservation organisations, including the integration of genetic conservation strategies and advanced storage technologies for intermediate and recalcitrant seeds;

b. establishing a robust framework for knowledge-sharing, emphasising ecological data collection on flora in SIDS; and

c. linking conservation groups globally, including to facilities like the Baekdudaegan Global Seed Vault (BGSV), to ensure secure and duplicated genetic resource storage;

3. REQUESTS the national government providing legal support within networks to facilitate the transfer of seeds to the BGSV and ensure that conservation efforts align with the principles of equity and benefit-sharing under the Nagoya Protocol where relevant; and

4. COMMITTS to aligning in situ and ex situ conservation initiatives with global biodiversity frameworks (e.g., KMGBF, SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD), and ensuring measurable contributions toward halting biodiversity loss and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems in SIDS.