

096 Setting area-based targets on scientific evidence and reversing historic injustices

RECALLING Resolution 7.125 *Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive* (Marseille, 2020), calling on “all components of IUCN to recognise the evolving science, ... which supports that protecting, conserving and restoring at least half or more of the planet is likely necessary to reverse biodiversity loss ...”;

RECALLING ALSO Resolution 7.129 *Avoiding the point of no return in the Amazon protecting 80% by 2025* (Marseille, 2020), which “encourages ... resource mobilisation mechanisms, to increase support for direct, sustained and equitable financial and technical support, at least at a level equal to that invested in protected areas, to Indigenous peoples to conserve and sustainably manage their territories ...”;

RECONCILING these resolutions into a strategy that gives nature space to heal while also helping to heal from displacements of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities

OBSERVING that recognizing, promoting and empowering Indigenous peoples' and Local communities' cultural heritage and custom is an inclusive and equitable way to ensure a more sustainable relationship with nature;

CONSIDERING that protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and Indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable are recognised as approaches to achieve the aims of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);

RECALLING FURTHER the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as those of local communities, including their free, prior and informed consent taking into account national and local circumstances

NOTING resolutions adopted at the 12th World Wilderness Congress (WILD12), which simultaneously called for strengthening traditional land tenure in tandem with resourcing and support for Indigenous peoples and Local communities to steward territories for the benefit of all life and to contribute to the area-based conservation targets

ALSO NOTING the observation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that “Maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on ... conservation of approximately 30% to 50% of Earth’s land, freshwater and ocean areas ...”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the qualitative aspects of area-based conservation – such as a focus on ecosystem integrity and connectivity, areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services and equity – are equally as important as the quantitative ones, in terms of area covered; and

UPHOLDING that Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard, as stated in Article 25 in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

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

ALT

[1. ENCOURAGES relevant components of IUCN to achieve the KMGBF Target 3 of at least 30% and endeavour to surpass this target through rights-based approaches including approaches that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples under UNDRIP as well as the rights of local communities under national or international human rights laws in line with national circumstances;

2. CALLS ON relevant components of IUCN to prioritise resourcing and capacity-building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to uphold their governance systems, and to achieve conservation outcomes as a significant component of KMGBF Target 3;]

1. ENCOURAGES relevant components of IUCN to contribute to the implementation of Target 3 of the KMGBF, and, consistent with the best available science, to endeavour to reach at least 50 percent of the planet's lands, inland waters, and ocean areas effectively conserved, protected, and restored, through rights-based approaches including approaches that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples under UNDRIP as well as the rights of local communities under national or international human rights laws and to recommend achieving this target including through the strengthening and expansion of Indigenous land tenure;

2. CALLS ON relevant components of IUCN to prioritise resourcing and capacity-building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to uphold their governance systems, and to achieve conservation outcomes as a significant component of achieving the scientific target of at least half;

3. ENCOURAGES IUCN State and Government Agency Members and other competent authorities to implement area-based targets in accordance with human rights obligations including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in full observation of Section C of the KMGBF, utilising methods appropriate to regional conditions through participatory, knowledge-based spatial planning processes that include identifying and conserving protected areas, OECMs and Indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable:

- a. Key Biodiversity Areas and equivalent national priorities,
- b. areas important for ecological connectivity, including for migratory species;
- c. areas representative of all ecosystem types;
- d. remaining intact natural ecosystems, including globally significant areas of exceptional ecological integrity; and
- e. culturally important areas and species identified by Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and

4. INVITES the Director General and the Commissions and in close consultation with the Indigenous Peoples members to carry out a review of the scientific basis and possible mechanisms for supporting increased area-based targets based on best available science and acknowledging that there are scientists and studies that state a 50% or greater area-based conservation target is needed;