

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

INVOKING 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 ...”;

INVOKING 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 grievous wounds caused by the displacements of Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs);

OBSERVING that empowering traditional lifeways is an inclusive way to significantly reduce the exploitation of nature;

CONSIDERING that both protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are recognised as conservation tools in Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);

OBSERVING the prioritisation of free, prior and informed consent within the implementation of KMGBF Target 3;

HIGHLIGHTING resolutions adopted at the 12th World Wilderness Congress (WILD12), which simultaneously called for strengthening traditional land tenure in tandem with resourcing and capacitating Indigenous peoples and Local communities to steward territories for the benefit of all life and to contribute to the scientific consensus spatial target of at least half;

HIGHLIGHTING 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 quality of nature is often directly related to the quantity of nature; and

RECOGNISING evidence that at least 30% and up to 70% of the world should be protected and restored to safeguard biodiversity and stabilise the climate;

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

1. CALLS ON all components of IUCN to support an area-based target of at least 50% and to recommend achieving this target including through the strengthening and expansion of Indigenous land tenure;

2. CALLS ON all components of IUCN to prioritise the resourcing and capacitation of Indigenous nations and communities 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 the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and KMGBF, utilising methods appropriate to regional conditions through participatory, knowledge-based spatial planning processes that include identifying and conserving in protected areas and OECMs:

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. REQUESTS all IUCN Members to support the achievement of the actions described above.