

101 Organisation of a Global Youth Summit prior to each IUCN World Conservation Congress

RECALLING that IUCN defines youth as people aged between 15 and 35, which therefore includes young people and young professionals, in the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030;

NOTING that young people are increasingly involved in international events, such as conferences of Parties (COPs), and in decision-making processes around the world;

CONSIDERING that the preservation, integration and restoration of biodiversity are intrinsically linked to the development of younger generations and the guarantee of a sustainable future, given that wild fauna and flora are essential pillars for human survival, while recognising the growing role of youth in awareness, mobilisation and conservation efforts;

RECALLING the successful organisation of the IUCN Global Youth Summit on the theme “Nature, Our Future”, held from 5 to 16 April 2021, which mobilised several thousand young people alongside the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021;

EMPHASISING the limited youth representation within IUCN while SUPPORTING the ongoing efforts to improve this, particularly within the expert panel of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication;

WELCOMING the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030, from which the Youth Advisory Committee emerged, and AWARE OF the work needed to adapt the Union further;

RECOGNISING the vital contributions of Indigenous youth to global conservation efforts, and the importance of inclusive mentorship that empowers their leadership, as endorsed in the 2021 Marseille Manifesto; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the mandate of the IUCN Youth Advisory Committee to support the implementation of the IUCN Youth Strategy and advise on mainstreaming youth into IUCN policy, programme, and governance;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to:

a. continue implementing the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030, in line with the work initiated since 2021, in order to facilitate the active engagement of youth in IUCN initiatives; and

b. organise an IUCN Global Youth Summit every four years, parallel to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to foster intergenerational exchange and ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of youth, including Indigenous and other marginalised youth, in shaping global conservation dialogue;

2. CALLS ON the Commission on Education and Communication to:

a. continue efforts to further integrate young people into expert groups to enhance their contributions and representation; and

b. support the drafting and presentation of positions emerging from the IUCN Global Youth Summit discussions, thereby ensuring the visibility and impact of proposals made by youth; and

3. INVITES IUCN Members and affiliate Members to strengthen youth participation in their activities by creating concrete opportunities for engagement and by valuing their contributions to the governance and implementation of IUCN projects.