

104 Safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral governance

ACKNOWLEDGING that a just and sustainable energy transition requires integrating climate action with biodiversity protection and [protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] [Indigenous peoples' and Local communities' (IPLCs) rights] [as appropriate];

ACKNOWLEDGING that a just and sustainable energy transition requires integrating climate action with biodiversity protection and [Indigenous peoples' and Local communities' (IPLCs) rights] [recognising the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as those of local communities];

CONSIDERING that the global shift to renewable energy and decarbonisation has significantly increased the demand for energy transition minerals, such as lithium, nickel, copper and bauxite;

CONCERNED that poorly regulated mining for these minerals drives biodiversity loss and habitat destruction, including of IUCN Red-Listed species, water insecurity and pollution, and [may lead to] violations of [human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] [IPLC rights], disproportionately affecting critical rainforests, wetlands and protected areas;

ALSO CONCERNED that such mining may cause the severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment, [drive attacks on environmental human rights defenders,] exacerbate climate vulnerability, and affect women and other groups who may be in vulnerable situations due to social, economic and environmental inequalities;

[REAFFIRMING the importance of guaranteeing the good health of local populations by working to reduce the health impacts of mining activities, particularly in the context of illegal mining;]

[MINDFUL of the fact that over 50% of energy transition minerals are located on or near IPLC land;]

APPRECIATING United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 6/5 (UNEP/EA.6/Res.5) *Environmental aspects of minerals and metals* and the 2024 UN Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals Towards Equity and Justice, prioritising environmental protection, human rights and equitable benefits for all stakeholders;

REAFFIRMING that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change emphasise the need to halt biodiversity loss and recognise the critical role of forests, wetlands and biodiversity in combating climate change;

NOTING that healthy ecosystems, including protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), [and Indigenous and traditional territories] are vital for ecological balance, climate resilience and planetary security;

STRESSING that the participation [of Indigenous peoples] and [the principles of] free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) [of IPLCs] [as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples], including the right to say no, are fundamental for equitable and responsible resource management [in accordance with local circumstances]; and

RECALLING Resolution 7.121 *Reducing the impacts of the mining industry on biodiversity* (Marseille, 2020) urging precautionary approaches to minimise mining impacts on ecosystems;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to:

a. develop, with the technical expertise from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and IUCN Members, and share guidance on, responsible energy transition mineral governance, including best practices for safeguards, no-go zones and [IPLC] engagement [with Indigenous peoples, and with Local communities]; and

b. facilitate collaboration among governments, companies, [IPLCs] [Indigenous peoples and Local communities] and civil society organisations to advance these objectives; and

2. [CALLS on] [ENCOURAGES] governments to:

a. promote [[reduced] [sustainable] energy and mineral consumption, and] circular economy approaches to [enhance efficiency of energy and resource consumption and] reduce waste;

b. ensure socially and ecologically sound mineral governance, respecting and strengthening national policies to protect ecosystems, water resources, biodiversity and [IPLC rights] [human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] [as appropriate];

c. [consider appropriateness to] designate and enforce no-go zones for mining in [critical] ecologically or culturally significant areas, such as World Heritage and Ramsar Sites, Key Biodiversity Areas, [Indigenous and traditional] [Indigenous Peoples' lands and] territories, sacred sites, protected areas, deep sea, watersheds and other areas vital for biodiversity, carbon storage or [IPLC well-being] [the well-being of Indigenous peoples and Local communities];

d. [expand] [strengthen] [consider expanding] the network of protected areas, including OECMs [and Indigenous and traditional territories]], designating these as no-go zones for mining [if appropriate];

e. foster [meaningful participation] [full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making] of [IPLCs] [Indigenous peoples and Local communities], including women and youth, respecting their [human] rights, [including FPIC and the right to say no] [and the rights of Indigenous peoples, including the principle of FPIC as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] [as appropriate];

f. implement the recommendations contained within the 2024 UN Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals Towards Equity and Justice to ensure fairness and justice across the transition mineral value chains; and

g. ensure that mining practices, including post-mining rehabilitation, comply with [the highest] [all] [States'] human rights [obligations] and [with the highest] environmental [standards] [obligations] [as reasonable] [and minimize negative impacts on local populations' and workers' health], [and embed zero tolerance policies for attacks on human rights defenders and whistleblowers into the transition mineral supply chain].