

123 Accelerating equitable youth empowerment across the Union

ACKNOWLEDGING the central role of youth and future generations in all areas of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision, with their vital views, demands, rights and innovative solutions;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the world is currently not on track to meet its shared nature, climate and sustainable development vision, increasingly threatening the rights, lives and livelihoods of youth and future generations;

RECALLING Resolution 7.062 *Role of children and youth in nature conservation* (Marseille, 2020), Resolution 5.008 *Increasing youth engagement and intergenerational partnership across and through the Union* (Jeju, 2012) and Resolution 4.098 *Intergenerational partnerships: fostering ethical leadership for a just, sustainable and peaceful world* (Barcelona, 2008);

WELCOMING the growing momentum and efforts in empowering youth leadership across IUCN constituents and in other intergovernmental processes, including the establishment of the IUCN Youth Advisory Committee;

APPLAUDING the IUCN Leaders Forum Changemakers initiative as well as other youth engagement activities at IUCN events such as Regional Conservation Fora; and

NOTING that without full, meaningful and equitable implementation of the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030, the Union risks backtracking progress, and RECOGNISING the existing challenges in enabling youth organisations to become Members, as well as the active engagement and leadership of youth in various areas of the Union's work, including Commissions;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to organise a Global Youth Summit in the lead-up to or in conjunction with each future World Conservation Congress, in close collaboration with young professionals and relevant stakeholders, such as Commissions and Members, with equitable representation of Global South youth;
2. CALLS ON the Director General and IUCN Council to ensure the full and equitable implementation of the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030, outlining a detailed action plan with clear timeframe and adequate budget by June 2026, and recruiting a youth officer by 2026 to secure consistent designated capacity within the Secretariat;
3. RECOMMENDS to the IUCN Council to establish a mechanism for the inclusion of a youth representative, in order to foster intergenerational perspectives and leadership within its governance;
4. CALLS ON IUCN Commissions to embed intergenerational equity in their leadership, with at least 20% of steering committee members and leadership to be under 35 years old;
5. URGES the IUCN Secretariat, IUCN Members and all IUCN constituents to mainstream and scale up efforts in youth engagement and empowerment, including internally with their young professionals and external youth constituents including Indigenous peoples, local communities and activists; and
6. INVITES IUCN Commissions, IUCN Members and relevant stakeholders to champion and support youth engagement activities across IUCN, highlighted in the IUCN Youth Strategy 2022–2030, including through financial contributions and capacity-building activities such as two-way mentorship programmes.