

127 Recognising and reporting ecological corridors

HIGHLIGHTING the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Resolution 14.16 *Ecological Connectivity* that defines ecological connectivity as “the unimpeded movement of species, connection of habitats without hindrance and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth”, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity recognition in a 2008 COP decision, Annex II, which explicitly identifies ‘connectivity’ as one of the five ‘Required network properties and components’ for selecting areas to be part of networks of marine protected areas (COP 9 Decision IX/20);

RECOGNISING the diversity of terms used across countries and sectors – including ecological, biological, biocultural, geological and fauna-flora corridors – and the need for harmonised language to enable coherent policy and governance across ministries responsible for conservation, agriculture, infrastructure and rural development;

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTING ecological connectivity as an indicative criterion for identifying marine protected areas under the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has approved undertaking the “methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity”;

CELEBRATING the founding in 2024 of the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity;

OBSERVING commitments of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) for connectivity, including in Target 3, to achieve “well-connected” systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

NOTING at least 20 countries with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans with connectivity objectives, including conserving “ecological corridors” and “ecological networks”;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that ecological corridors are not exclusively for conservation purposes, but must also reflect the multiple cultural, productive, and social functions of landscapes, especially in territories managed by Indigenous peoples and Local communities;

RECALLING 30+ related IUCN Resolutions, including 7.073 *Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels* (Marseille, 2020) calling on Members “to promote use of the IUCN ‘Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors’” (hereafter “IUCN Connectivity Guidelines”) and inviting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to use them for establishing and implementing area-based targets;

FURTHER RECALLING that the IUCN Connectivity Guidelines provide definitions of “ecological corridor” and “ecological network” for contiguous or non-contiguous applications across terrestrial, freshwater, marine and/or aerial realms;

ACKNOWLEDGING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/271 *Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use* encouraging Member States to maintain and enhance the connectivity of habitats, including through increasing establishment of “ecological corridors”; and

APPLAUDING efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in partnership with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group, to develop a World Database on Ecological Corridors as part of Protected Planet;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General, the Secretariat, Commissions and Members to:

a. recognise the value of, and advocate for, a multilaterally agreed definition and frameworks for ecological corridors as a spatially explicit conservation measure that reflects biocultural diversity and supports multifunctional landscapes, assisting in the full implementation of the KMGBF, especially for Target 3, and to encourage further actions to advance this work, in line with the IUCN Connectivity Guidelines and the KBA (Key Biodiversity Area) Standard;

b. engage across a full range of appropriate governance authorities and other partners to identify potential ecological corridors in line with the IUCN Connectivity Guidelines and supported by the KBA Standard and other complementary tools;

c. strengthen overall commitment, funding and capacity toward the design, governance, management, monitoring and implementation of ecological corridors and ecological networks at site level using the IUCN Connectivity Guidelines; and

d. encourage the adoption of corridor typologies, such as biocultural corridors, that promote coexistence between biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods, particularly in productive landscapes shaped by traditional practices and agroforestry systems;

2. INVITES Members, governments and other institutions to use the IUCN Connectivity Guidelines to identify and, as relevant, recognise/designate ecological corridors;

3. INVITES Members, governments, donors, finance institutions and the private sector to support further development of the World Database on Ecological Corridors and other complementary tools to facilitate reporting; and

4. ENCOURAGES donors, finance institutions and the private sector to provide appropriate financial support for ecological corridors to sustain long-term effective conservation.