

132 Strengthening business engagement in climate adaptation for preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems

CONCERNED about the existing impacts and residual risks that persist even if the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are achieved, underscoring the critical need for robust climate adaptation strategies;

COGNISANT of the intricate, mutually dependent relationship between businesses and nature, relying on and influencing biodiversity and ecosystem services, which are significantly affected by the climate crisis;

THREATENED by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which reverses sustainable development advancements, destroys critical biodiversity and ecosystem services, and poses significant risks to global economic stability;

AWARE that neglecting climate adaptation poses risks to biodiversity and nature stewards, and that conservation without locally appropriate climate adaptation measures will fail;

NOTING that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 25, COP 26, COP 27 and COP 28 adopted decisions 1/CP.25, 1/CMA.3, -/CP.27 and 1/CMA.5, and the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution UNEP/EA.6/Res.4, recognising the need to synergistically address the interlinked crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss;

ALSO NOTING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 10, CBD COP 11, CBD COP 12 and CBD COP 14 adopted decisions X/21, X/33 XI/7, XII/3, XII/10 and 14/5, to strengthen the role of businesses and ecosystem-based adaptation;

RECALLING that IUCN Resolution 6.110 *Strengthening business engagement in biodiversity preservation* (Hawai'i, 2016) recognised businesses' significant social and environmental responsibility, and urged them to contribute actively to biodiversity preservation;

ALSO RECALLING the IUCN Resolutions advancing Nature-based Solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, and the role of businesses, particularly Resolutions 5.083 *Advancing the role of nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and their potential to contribute to the global climate change regulatory regime* and 5.084 *Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation* (both adopted in Jeju, 2012), and Resolutions 6.066 *Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting*, 6.069 *Defining Nature-based Solutions*, 6.102 *Protected areas and other areas important for biodiversity in relation to environmentally damaging industrial activities and infrastructure development* and 6.107 *Integration of nature-based solutions into strategies to combat climate change* (all adopted in Hawai'i, 2016);

REMEMBERING *Nature 2030*, wherein IUCN committed to mobilising the private sector in conservation partnerships and strengthening Nature-based Solutions in climate adaptation; and

EMPHASISING the urgent need for businesses to prioritise climate adaptation strategies that safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems, promoting a sustainable and equitable future;

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

1. REQUESTS as a matter of urgency, the Director General and Commissions, to:

a. actively incorporate the role of private actors in climate adaptation into forthcoming publications; and

b. develop and disseminate best practices for locally-led, ecosystem-based adaptation by private actors to IUCN Members before the next World Conservation Congress;

2. STRONGLY URGES businesses to engage in climate adaptation, and resilience-building of ecosystems by collaborating with local stakeholders at all operational sites and supply chains, to

develop replicable and scalable adaptation models, including actions across full supply chains, particularly in rural sourcing landscapes that are often overlooked in corporate adaptation strategies, to ensure long-term resilience beyond operational sites;

3. CALLS ON corporate rating agencies to integrate businesses' contributions to biodiversity conservation into their mainstream assessment systems;

4. URGES businesses to implement Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation measures that foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity and are inclusive of Indigenous peoples and Local communities;

5. CALLS ON all States to:

a. implement an inclusive framework to incentivise and oversee business engagement in climate adaptation;

b. develop binding and enabling frameworks that incentivise businesses to invest in locally-led climate adaptation, aligning corporate actions with national adaptation plans and biodiversity conservation goals; and

c. support public-private-people partnerships for building climate-resilient ecosystems and economies by fostering trust, strengthening territorial governance, and supporting local capacity building, which are essential for effective and equitable implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation;

6. INVITES all stakeholders to develop monitoring frameworks to track business contributions to climate adaptation and biodiversity preservation, ensuring transparency and the fulfilment of environmental and social commitments; and

7. ENCOURAGES governments to design incentives and policy frameworks that enable businesses to invest in Nature-based Solutions beyond their immediate facilities, particularly in areas critical for commodity production and climate vulnerability, aligning these investments with local development goals.