

134 IUCN Red List solvency and private-sector initiatives

EXPRESSING the full trust that IUCN Members and the global community place in biodiversity knowledge products mobilised using IUCN Standards, highlighting their value in strategic decision-making and the ongoing work by Members to support and expand the influence of these knowledge products;

RECOGNISING the IUCN Secretariat's extensive experience of managing The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, as well as derivatives and/or related works;

APPRECIATING the voluntary contributions of the Red List Partnership, thousands of Species Survival Commission members, and IUCN member organisations in generating and directly or indirectly supporting Red List data for use by diverse end-users;

EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN regarding the global biodiversity crisis and the role of private and public sectors in facilitating its primary drivers;

ACKNOWLEDGING Target 21 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for accessible data to guide decision makers, practitioners and the public;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.131 *Ensuring adequate funding for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (Marseille, 2020) and the ongoing challenges in maintaining sustainable funding for the IUCN Red List and other biodiversity knowledge products;

AWARE of challenges in securing consistent funding for Red List assessments and the Red List Unit within the IUCN Secretariat;

RECOGNISING ALSO that the Red List Partners raise funds to contribute millions of dollars annually, in kind and in cash, to support the maintenance, update, expansion and management of the IUCN Red List;

HIGHLIGHTING the considerable additional resources generated by licensing commercial services, based on IUCN Red List, data through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), and the fact that the revenue generated is redistributed to the foundational biodiversity datasets within the tool, including the IUCN Red List;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that this funding plays a critical role, alongside Red List Partner contributions, in making the IUCN Red List a viable and influential biodiversity knowledge product, and that this funding has grown by >60% per year since 2020;

AWARE that IBAT already provides governments with free and unlimited access to its core biodiversity datasets and services based upon these, and that free accounts (with more limited functionality) in IBAT are also available to businesses and financial institutions;

ALSO RECOGNISING IUCN's and its Members' roles in driving policies and actions to transform private sector systems and actors and highlighting their crucial role as partners;

AWARE that the IUCN Red List Terms and Conditions of Use (hereafter T&Cs) are agreed between the Red List Partners and are set out in the Red List Partnership Agreement signed by all 15 Partners;

NOTING that these T&Cs follow the IUCN Principles for Use of Biodiversity Data and define "Commercial Use" as "a) any use by, on behalf of, or to inform or assist activities of, a commercial entity (an entity that operates 'for profit'), or b) use by any individual or non-profit entity for the purposes of revenue generation";

FURTHER NOTING that these T&Cs also state that "If you wish to use the information obtained from The IUCN Red List for such commercial purposes, please contact IUCN directly" so that users can seek permission for a waiver to these T&Cs from IUCN (on behalf of the Red List Partnership) to use Red List data or derivative works for commercial use, including for private sector transformation. This

is to ensure that such use is associated with a fair contribution to the costs of generating and maintaining the Red List data, and/or does not undermine IBAT's role in generating such contributions; and

NONETHELESS CONCERNED to ensure that the T&Cs, compliance with them, and criteria to obtain a waiver, do not inadvertently hinder action or compromise existing systems for raising funds to support the maintenance and development of the Red List data, by IUCN Members working with the private sector and/or complex value chains to reverse biodiversity loss;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General to recognise, promote and publicly communicate the substantial contributions of Red List Partners in resourcing the maintenance and development of the IUCN Red List, and the significant and rapidly accelerating contribution of IBAT to this cost through revenue generated from licensing commercial services using the IUCN Red List;
2. FURTHER CALLS ON the Director General to prioritise funding for IUCN's contribution to managing, maintaining, updating and expanding the IUCN Red List;
3. ADDITIONALLY CALLS ON the Director General to recognise the role of Red List Partners and other IUCN Members in applying the Red List and other knowledge products to support voluntary and regulatory corporate sustainability initiatives, and to recognise the private sector's indispensable role in achieving a nature positive future within safe and just planetary boundaries;
4. CALLS ON relevant IUCN Members to raise awareness of IBAT and to encourage its use by the private sector as appropriate, recognising its critical role in enabling companies to assess, report and disclose their biodiversity risks and impacts, and to take actions to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, while simultaneously generating revenue to support foundational biodiversity datasets;
5. INVITES relevant IUCN Members interested in supporting the maintenance and development of the IUCN Red List, including through provision of financial and in-kind support, to consider applying to join the IUCN Red List Partnership; and
6. REQUESTS that the Director General direct the IUCN Secretariat to, within one year:
 - a. develop, for posting on the IUCN Red List website, a clear explanation of: why the IUCN Red List has a commercial restriction in its T&Cs; definitions and examples of commercial use and derivative works; the process of requesting a waiver to the T&Cs; and how such requests are processed, by whom and on what timescale;
 - b. request the Red List Partnership Committee to convene a working group of interested IUCN Members, and other relevant stakeholders, to review these explanations and clarifications of process, to ensure they are sufficiently clear, readily understood, and transparently operational, in line with the varied use cases of Red List data, including for informing corporate sustainability, and to seek feedback on perceived or actual barriers to conservation work posed by the current wording in the T&Cs relating to derivative works, with specific attention to cases from the Global South and those involving partnerships between IUCN Members and Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs); and
 - c. compile and make public:
 - i. a detailed assessment of the costs of maintaining, managing, updating and expanding the IUCN Red List, and of making the IUCN Red List accessible through the IUCN Red List website;
 - ii. an explanation of the role of IBAT in licensing services based on IUCN Red List data and in generating revenue to support the maintenance and development of foundational biodiversity datasets such as the IUCN Red List, including how IBAT licenses use of IUCN Red List data in third

party tools and platforms (including those developed by IUCN Members), and including a breakdown of costs and revenue;

iii. an assessment of the implications (for conservation, policy, commercial use of services based on IUCN Red List data through IBAT, and hence revenue-generation for the maintenance and development of the IUCN Red List) of potentially revising the T&Cs to enable use of IUCN Red List data and other derivative works by Members in support of their work with private sector entities or initiatives (i.e. for commercial use) without contributing to the costs of generating and maintaining the IUCN Red List;

iv. an assessment of potential alternative or additional sustainable financing models for the IUCN Red List, including opportunities for alignment and integration of the IUCN Red List with any existing initiatives related to financing biodiversity data as a public good; and

v. identification of safeguards and enabling conditions under which IUCN Members may apply Red List data in commercial and revenue-generating partnerships, particularly where such collaborations support restoration, sustainable use, or biodiversity conservation in high-risk landscapes.