

137 Advancing biodiversity finance with a human-rights-based approach

ACKNOWLEDGING that primary negotiations and decisions on biodiversity finance are undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity and related multilateral frameworks, and that IUCN contributes through technical expertise, capacity-building, and member support;

RECOGNISING the urgent need to close the financial gap to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the need to embed a human-rights-based approach into biodiversity finance mechanisms and flows, from all sources, at all levels;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that non-market-based approaches are essential for fostering equitable, community-driven biodiversity conservation, that such models require increased, predictable funding, and that those approaches contribute to reducing reliance on and mitigating risks associated with market dynamics;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of direct, flexible and sustained funding for Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth, which includes reducing administrative burdens, building trust through collaborative relationships that go beyond transactional donor-grantee dynamics, as well as fostering reciprocity and co-responsibility, and reinforcing community governance over financial decision-making;

REAFFIRMING that structural barriers hinder access to equitable biodiversity financing, ADVOCATING for multilingual, culturally relevant processes and the dismantling of systemic obstacles that exclude underrepresented groups, and RECOGNISING that rights-based approaches, accountability mechanisms and redress systems are essential to uphold the dignity and priorities of Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth;

NOTING that this motion builds on and seeks to enhance the implementation of key IUCN Resolutions, including Resolution 7.056 *Biodiversity Financing* and Resolution 7.041 *Ensuring funding to secure rights and secure ecologies* (both adopted in Marseille, 2020); and

EMPHASISING the importance of equitable and rights-based approaches to biodiversity financing and the need for increased, direct and flexible funding that supports the self-determined priorities of Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth while safeguarding ecological integrity and human rights;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to:

- a. ensure IUCN's funding processes address structural barriers by adopting inclusive, multilingual and culturally relevant practices;
- b. track and publicly report resource flows, disaggregated by ethnicity, gender and age; and
- c. develop and enforce grievance and redress mechanisms, accessible by Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth;

2. FURTHER REQUESTS IUCN Commissions, particularly the Commission on Ecosystem Management, the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, and the World Commission on Protected Areas, to:

- a. generate and disseminate knowledge on non-market-based approaches to biodiversity finance, including region-specific case studies from the Global South, with a focus on practical application;
- b. provide technical and capacity-building support to Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth, to implement and monitor non-market-based approaches; and

c. facilitate knowledge exchange between Indigenous peoples and Local communities, funders and policymakers to advance equitable biodiversity financing;

3. URGES States, financial institutions and multilateral funds to:

a. integrate a human rights-based approach in their biodiversity finance mechanisms and financial flows, and establish redress mechanisms;

b. request social, environmental and human-rights impact assessments before the allocation of funds, in compliance with relevant international standards;

c. provide direct, flexible and sustained funding to Indigenous peoples and Local communities, women, girls and youth;

d. advance and report on non-market-based approaches by allocating policy and budgetary attention; and

e. provide transparent mechanisms for monitoring allocation of funds and for an accountable governance in decision making in relation to the use of funds; and

4. ENCOURAGES funders and conservation organisations to:

a. co-design funding models, with local actors, that respect human rights, and foster trust-based partnerships, and ensure that community-defined priorities are embedded in funding criteria;

b. monitor, disclose and publicly report financial flows, including any impacts on human rights; and

c. collaborate with national authorities on safeguard mechanisms and, as relevant, in designing grievance mechanisms to ensure alignment with national legal and policy frameworks.