

148 Supporting the recovery and restoration of Lebanon's war-impacted ecosystems

RECOGNISING that the 2023–2024 armed aggression on Lebanon has resulted in large-scale environmental degradation, including the destruction of terrestrial, freshwater, marine and agricultural ecosystems, with severe impacts on biodiversity, ecological connectivity and ecosystem services;

ALARMED BY the contamination of soils and waters, the accumulation of hazardous rubble and debris, the collapse of vegetation cover, and the heightened risks of wildfires, erosion and land degradation across affected landscapes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the interdependence of Lebanon's ecosystems with regional biodiversity corridors in the Mediterranean and the Arabian Peninsula, and the risks that conflict-driven degradation poses to transboundary ecological integrity;

RECALLING Lebanon's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

NOTING the urgent need for coordinated, science-based and inclusive recovery actions that place ecosystems and biodiversity at the core of Lebanon's post-war reconstruction, ensuring the resilience of communities and the sustainability of livelihoods;

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

1. URGES the Government of Lebanon to prioritise ecosystem recovery, ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation as central pillars of national post-war recovery and reconstruction strategies;

2. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions to:

a. support Lebanon in developing and applying post-war ecosystem recovery guidelines, building on IUCN restoration standards, the Red List of Ecosystems, and the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas;

b. facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries and regions recovering from conflict and environmental emergencies; and

c. mobilise regional partnerships across the Mediterranean and West Asia to safeguard ecological connectivity and biodiversity conservation;

3. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members in Lebanon and the region to actively contribute to ecosystem recovery efforts, including technical expertise, knowledge sharing, and advocacy to ensure that environmental dimensions are fully integrated into humanitarian response and reconstruction planning; and

4. CALLS UPON international organisations, UN agencies, bilateral donors and financial institutions to provide dedicated financial and technical assistance for:

a. rapid environmental and ecological assessments in affected areas;

b. rehabilitation and restoration of war-damaged terrestrial, freshwater, marine and agricultural ecosystems;

c. sustainable and environmentally sound management of rubble, hazardous debris and contaminated soils; and

d. community-based recovery initiatives ensuring the active involvement of local populations, Indigenous knowledge holders and civil society organisations.