**WCC-2020-Res-057-EN**
**Accounting for biodiversity: encompassing ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

CONCERNED with the ongoing rapid decline of biodiversity, as highlighted in the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi BiodiversityTargets, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the negative impacts that this decline has on the benefits that living nature provides to health and well-being;

RECOGNISING the need to measure the contribution of nature to the economy and livelihoods, in order to complement the conventional system of national accounts, thereby supporting policy and decisions that take into account biodiversity and ecosystems;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution 6.058 *Natural Capital* (Hawai'i, 2016), which will contribute towards mainstreaming the incorporation of biodiversity into national policy and other decision making;

EMPHASISING that natural capital accounting must recognise, and support the discussion of biodiversity's multiple values to promote better-informed decision making and planning;

WELCOMING the progress led by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and its implementation through many programmes;

OPTIMISTIC that the implementation of the SEEA offers substantial opportunity for synergy with the development of indicators to track progress towards many SDGs, in particular goals 2, 6, 11, 12, 14 and 15, the Aichi Targets, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

FURTHER WELCOMING the progress led by the UNSD in the revision of the SEEA – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting with the objective of elevating it to an international statistical standard; and

NOTING that the Convention on Biological Diversity's definition of 'biological diversity' includes "diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems", such that biodiversity spans levels of ecological organisation encompassing genes, species and ecosystems;

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:**

1. REQUESTS the Director General, Commissions, Members and partners to engage, and to mobilise resources to facilitate such engagement, with the UNSD, other partners and leading global initiatives:

a. in the development and implementation of the SEEA to describe accounting for biodiversity at ecosystem, species and genetic levels, building on current advances in accounting for ecosystems, including the development and maintenance of relevant classifications (e.g. the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species); and

b. in the application of accounting to support the derivation of indicators of biodiversity change (e.g. with respect to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the SDGs) and to underpin the production and organisation of data for assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

2. CALLS on Members and partners, especially national governments and multilateral institutions, to support national statistical offices, relevant technical agencies and experts in implementing the SEEA, on enhancing capacity building and awareness towards its implementation; and

3. CALLS FOR Members and partners, especially national governments and multilateral institutions to test, implement and apply the SEEA accounting for biodiversity in all relevant aspects of their work.