

Urgent call to share and use primary biodiversity *in situ* data

RECOGNISING that biodiversity is an essential component of natural ecosystems and contributes important ecosystem services to people including adequate carbon storage, seed dispersal, pollination, soil integrity and fertility, and food, among others;

CONCERNED that, according to the latest Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report, “around 1 million flora and fauna species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history”;

RECOGNISING that the greatness of science lies not only in the process of its discovery, but also in capacity and willingness to make data and information selflessly available;

NOTING that the collection of *in situ* biodiversity data has dramatically increased in the last decade due to the popularisation of passive automatic data collection sensors such as camera traps, sound recorders, drones and biodiversity eDNA collection devices;

RECOGNISING the importance of biodiversity data generated by public administrations (or on their behalf) for the implementation and monitoring of policies and the efforts of these administrations to disseminate such data in interoperable formats;

CONCERNED that, despite a large amount of *in situ* biodiversity data being collected with these new technologies, most of these data are not shared or used in conservation due to the lack of standards for data sharing, technical capacity to process and analyse them, adequate tools for data management, and trusted data repositories available at local to global scales;

AWARE that in order to manage biodiversity in an adequate and transparent manner, conservation managers and policy makers need data on wildlife populations that are current (real-time or near-real-time), primary (in their original form), geographically representative (covering most of the spatial distribution of a species), with the appropriate temporal resolution (sampling intervals of at least 10% of the estimated generation range of a species), and are readily available to the conservation, science and public community at large;

NOTING that this information is essential for the development of knowledge and management products required to measure progress and set concrete targets towards the conservation of biodiversity at local, national, regional and global scales;

RECOGNISING the role of the network of experts organised under the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Red List Unit of the Secretariat for the delivery of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species;

ALSO RECOGNISING the role of national biodiversity commissions, research centres and institutes, and other regional, national, and subnational organisations devoted to gathering, storing, organising, processing, and communicating *in situ* biodiversity data and associated information, and the contribution of global biodiversity data clearinghouses; and

MINDFUL and WELCOMING of the emergence of various wildlife and biodiversity *in situ* data-sharing platforms such as Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), eBird, iNaturalist, eMammal and Wildlife Insights among others;

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

1. CALLS ON Commissions, Members and the global community of *in situ* data collectors to:

a. consider these data as a public good for the planet and a valuable resource to manage, benefit and conserve biodiversity for the benefit of nature and people;

b. readily deposit these data in globally available repositories and platforms, or public national biodiversity repositories;

c. readily share these data at local, regional/national, and global levels using the most unrestricted Creative Commons data-sharing licences such as CC0 (public domain) or CC-BY (attribution generic); but

d. ensure and demand that these platforms comply with the ‘Sensitive Data Access Restrictions Policy for the IUCN Red List’ such that the exact sampling locations for sensitive species are obscured for their protection;

e. minimise the time that data are embargoed under any of these platforms to maximise their utility for the conservation of species, while recognising the need to keep some data partially private (for research, education or security); and

f. share needs concerning specific knowledge products at local, regional and global scales;

2. INVITES the global community of data users, including scientists, policy makers, conservation managers, private citizens and others, to:

a. readily use these data to inform knowledge of biodiversity and conservation through their application in, among others, assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, and development of biodiversity indicators;

b. develop these products in a transparent and reproducible way, while respecting corresponding data-sharing licences and any proprietary information as appropriate; and

c. promote the development of formal and creative technological tools that facilitate sharing of data on biodiversity; and

3. ENCOURAGES national and international donors, development banks, IUCN State Members, and other investors, to require that the projects they fund contribute data to open platforms for sharing of biodiversity data.