

WCC-2020-Res-114-EN

Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises

WELCOMING the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, as well as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that document: (i) the role of climate change as a direct driver of biodiversity loss that also exacerbates other existing pressures on biodiversity, (ii) the role of ecosystem loss and degradation as a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and driver of climate change and reduced resilience, (iii) the need to prioritise the protection and restoration of ecosystems as an essential mitigation and adaptation action, and (iv) the irreplaceability in relevant time frames (2030–2050) of primary ecosystems for addressing the climate change and biodiversity crisis;

WELCOMING the growing recognition of the critical contribution of healthy ecosystems in providing effective nature-based solutions to climate change;

ALSO WELCOMING the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decision 1/CP.25 (para 15) which underlines the essential contribution of nature to addressing climate change and its impacts and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner;

RECOGNISING the definition and framework of Nature-based Solutions adopted at the World Conservation Congress 2016, in Hawai'i, through Resolution 6.069 *Defining Nature-based Solutions*;

STRESSING the importance of appropriately implementing these Nature-based Solutions, with the appropriate environmental and social safeguards and any recognised rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC), including, as appropriate, rights set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), in order to maximise benefits for both biodiversity and human well-being, enhance the integrity, stability and adaptive capacity of ecosystems, and avoid adverse outcomes;

RECALLING Resolution 5.097 *Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which calls for ensuring that the principles of UNDRIP are observed in the work of the Union;

NOTING the important functional role of biodiversity in underpinning ecosystem integrity, stability and adaptive capacity and the importance of protecting and restoring ecosystem condition as a matter of urgency to address both the biodiversity and climate crises and improve the outlook for sustainable development;

RECALLING that IUCN Members have adopted several Resolutions expressly referring to the role of ecosystem-based approaches in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation;

RECALLING in particular Resolutions 5.086 *Integrating protected areas into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies* (Jeju, 2012) and 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies* (Barcelona, 2008);

FURTHER RECALLING the objectives of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

ALSO RECALLING that CBD Technical Series numbers 41 Forest resilience, biodiversity, and climate change and 43 Connecting biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation noted the feedbacks and interconnections between biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and climate change;

NOTING the significance of climate change to marine biodiversity and ocean acidification, and mindful of the ongoing discussions on an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of IUCN Members in advancing Nature-based Solutions to climate change;

RECOGNISING the work of the Climate Change Task Force in furthering IUCN's ambitions on the climate and biodiversity crisis;

ALSO RECOGNISING the role of science and indigenous and traditional knowledge in understanding the links between climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, as well as in informing climate change and biodiversity strategies, public policies and actions;

STRESSING the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the UN Decades on Ecosystem Restoration and on Ocean Science 2021–2030 and the UN Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030 for the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2021–2024;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the findings of the IPCC and IPBES Reports mentioned above and their projected impacts on biodiversity and human well-being;

RECOGNISING their scientific conclusions, including that in model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050. For limiting global warming to below 2°C CO₂ emissions are projected to decline by about 25% by 2030 in most pathways and reach net zero around 2070; and

WELCOMING the inclusion of climate change as a prioritised programme area in the proposed IUCN Programme 2021–2024;

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

1. REQUESTS as a matter of urgency, the Director General and Commissions, in line with the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, to:

- a. intensify efforts to pursue, monitor and adaptively review integrated approaches to solving the biodiversity and climate crises;
- b. ensure that enhanced climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives promote biodiversity conservation, sustainable management, and the sustained protection of ecosystem integrity and promote improved synergies between climate and biodiversity initiatives;
- c. prioritise the urgent protection/conservation, sustainable management and restoration of carbon-dense ecosystems while considering the benefit of sequestered carbon in long-lived products of those ecosystems;
- d. focus restoration action on regeneration and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, especially those with high biodiversity value and carbon intensity value, and buffering and reconnecting primary ecosystems;
- e. support indigenous peoples and local communities to conserve natural ecosystems, in order to maintain their heritage and livelihoods; and
- f. emphasise conservation of threatened, endemic and evolutionary and functionally distinct species;

2. ENCOURAGES Council and all relevant components of the IUCN, avoiding any duplication of work, to:

- a. create a comprehensive and integrated climate change and biodiversity policy framework to help guide and coordinate work in these areas across all IUCN components that is coherent with the findings of the UNFCCC and the CBD and commensurate with the urgency and scale of the climate and biodiversity crises, in order to represent an accelerated and ambitious IUCN response;
- b. in cooperation with the other relevant organisations, take the initiative to contribute to 'learning platforms' to share latest knowledge on climate change and biodiversity, in coordination, and avoiding duplication, with other similar platforms;
- c. to propose options to develop a global partnership on climate change and biodiversity conservation to mobilise IUCN's membership and youth towards greater ambition and action; and
- d. call on the Members of IUCN and the experts to urge their governments at all levels and their private sector organisations to speed up an equitable transition to sustainable energy mix, to phase out their dependence on fossil fuels, and to end their subsidies for fossil fuels;

3. CALLS ON Commissions, Members and partners to:

- a. recognise that the world community faces global climate and biodiversity crises that are inexorably interlinked, both in their causes and solutions;
- b. be informed in their work by IUCN's integrated climate change and biodiversity policy framework, with the aim of implementing it effectively; and
- c. take ambitious action to combat climate change and biodiversity loss and, appropriate to their mandate, support IUCN's climate and biodiversity work;

4. INVITES governments and donors to support research on the interactions between climate and biodiversity, particularly on the necessary synergies and possible trade-offs, in order to propose appropriate responses to enhance ecological ambition;

5. ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGES governments to, as appropriate:

- a. reinforce synergies between UNFCCC, CBD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and other relevant conventions, as well as between the IPCC and IPBES;
- b. support the deployment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that promote biodiversity conservation while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, appropriately involving the actors concerned at the relevant scales, and that deliver significant multiple benefits for climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and people, thereby contributing to the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- c. raise the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and integrate NbS into the implementation of their NDCs, National Adaptation Plans and long-term strategies, as well as other national, local and sectoral plans; and

6. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members and other states, government agencies, and non-state actors to promote the implementation of commitments within the climate and biodiversity action agendas in a transparent and accountable manner, using appropriate indicators for monitoring the efforts.