

8.012 Advancing the IUCN Green List Standard of protected and conserved areas to enhance effective and equitable in situ conservation

RECOGNISING the critical role of protected and conserved areas in halting biodiversity loss, as emphasised in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Target 3, calling for the conservation of at least 30% of terrestrial and inland waters areas and of marine and coastal areas through effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

RECOGNISING ALSO the fundamental role of protected and conserved areas in protecting, conserving and properly managing geoh heritage;

NOTING that the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (Green List Standard) has been recognised as a complementary indicator for achieving Target 3 by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and is promoted by the CBD “as a voluntary standard to encourage protected area management effectiveness”, which is currently used by over 30 countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING the urgency to expand the global network of protected and conserved areas (PCAs) while ensuring their effectiveness and equitable governance in light of accelerating global environmental changes and increasing threats to biodiversity and geodiversity, and their geological heritage;

EMPHASISING that the IUCN Green List Standard provides a globally consistent and universally applicable framework for benchmarking, monitoring and reporting on management effectiveness and equitable governance of PCAs;

CELEBRATING the growing adoption of the IUCN Green List Standard as a benchmark for conservation success and as a framework for incentivising and recognising effective conservation actions;

HIGHLIGHTING the critical role of effective PCAs in securing biodiversity and geodiversity conservation, ecosystem-service provision, and climate resilience; and

KNOWING that geodiversity underpins biodiversity and that natural protected and conserved areas contain a rich geological heritage; also KNOWING that almost forgotten places displaying traditional uses and knowledge of geodiversity (lime kilns, snow wells, gypsum ovens, places with legends and spirituality, old quarries and mines, etc.) urgently need to be conserved and valued so that the memory of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is not lost;

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

1. RECOGNISES the IUCN Green List Standard as a global benchmark for effective and equitable governance and management of PCAs;
2. REQUESTS the Director General through the Secretariat teams, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the Green List certification on Green Listed sites and an assessment of the Certification programme;
3. REQUESTS the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to continue to support the Green List Standard, and to develop a tool for ecological monitoring or assessment of Green Listed sites;
4. CALLS UPON IUCN Members to promote the use of the Green List Standard in the implementation of environmental conventions, to advance KMGBF Target 3 and other relevant conservation targets;
5. INVITES IUCN Members to explore synergies with other IUCN tools and frameworks, including The Red List of Threatened Species™ and Protected Planet, for assessing and improving conservation outcomes;

6. ENCOURAGES countries and organisations to invest in using the Green List Standard in supporting protected area support programmes, monitoring effectiveness, and reporting achievements; and

7. CALLS FOR increased efforts to ensure that protected and conserved areas are effective and equitable worldwide, by using a universal framework such as the Green List Standard, to ensure consistency in conservation practices.