

8.014 Promoting hedgerows and trees in agriculture to foster biodiversity, strengthen ecosystem resilience and mitigate climate change

RECOGNISING that agroecology is one of the many innovative and sustainable approaches to achieving sustainable agriculture;

RECALLING the definition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) adopted in Resolution 6.069 *Defining Nature-based Solutions* (Hawai'i, 2016) and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/5 *Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development*, as well as Resolution 7/2019 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

RECOGNISING ALSO that NbS can be efficient and cost-effective and offer an opportunity to build ecosystem resilience to climate change, contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and help in accelerating the transition to sustainable agriculture and more sustainable food systems;

ALSO RECALLING that hedgerows and trees are an essential component of the diversity of agricultural landscapes;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that hedgerows and trees provide multiple services to nature and human society as a natural habitat for numerous species, an ecological corridor, an agricultural auxiliary, a biomass resource and a heritage element; they contribute to carbon sequestration in biomass and soils, and create microclimates favourable to crops and animal welfare and improve water management;

FURTHER RECALLING that hedgerows and trees are historically the natural result of the work of farmers, who are the driving force behind their preservation and development, and that they are at the crossroads of production and biodiversity conservation, as they contribute to further transition to sustainable agricultural practices, which will improve water management, and improved habitat, especially for pollinators and beneficial insects, and that they also absorb carbon from the atmosphere and serve as a carbon sink, and thus tackle climate change;

EMPHASISING the need to support the development, preservation and appropriate management of hedgerows and trees and other high-diversity landscape features, including in agricultural plots, along roadsides, in rural areas or in urban environments, and the need to highlight their benefits for agricultural sustainability; and

WELCOMING the work of FAO in the field of agroecology and other innovative and sustainable approaches to agriculture and RECALLING the FAO definition of "agroforestry";

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to support the dissemination and implementation of practices linked to the multifunctionality, sustainable management, conservation and planting of hedgerows and trees in agricultural areas within its projects and programmes for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and for increasing landscape heterogeneity;
2. ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to develop policies and strategies for the wider development of hedgerows and trees and other high-diversity landscape features in agriculture and to fulfil their international goals;
3. ALSO ENCOURAGES States and IUCN Members to promote the use of wood from the sustainable management of hedgerows and trees in the wood-energy sector by structuring local bioeconomy supply chains and supporting companies, as appropriate;
4. REQUESTS States and IUCN Members to enable the long-term supply of propagules of quality and traced origin, with species adapted to local and future soil and climate conditions, promoting native species and avoiding invasive alien species in planting programmes;

5. INVITES States and IUCN Members to strengthen agricultural advisory services for the sustainable management of hedgerows and trees, and to better integrate training on hedgerows and trees for actors in the field of agriculture, agroforestry and related land management fields; and

6. ALSO INVITES States and IUCN Members to pursue research into hedgerows and trees and agroforestry systems, to share the results widely, and to develop data-driven monitoring methodologies and tools to establish reliable baseline data and progress reports.