

8.038 Harnessing IUCN's power: Driving synergy for a net zero, nature positive and just energy transition

NOTING the record-breaking global temperature reached in 2024, the World Meteorological Organization's best estimate of global warming as of 2024 of 1.34–1.41°C, and escalating impacts of human-induced climate change on nature, people and our planet, as evidenced by the best available science;

UNDERSCORING the need for Parties to prepare, update, communicate and maintain nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement ahead of COP30, including ambitious, economy wide emissions reductions targets aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C as well as exploring synergies with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;

WELCOMING the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change joint workshop, noting that the climate and biodiversity crises are intertwined and require synergistic solutions and systems change;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.114 *Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises* (Marseille, 2020);

FURTHER RECALLING the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, led by the Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidencies of the Rio Conventions;

NOTING FURTHER the critical importance of strengthening linkages between the Rio Conventions and other relevant international mechanisms;

RECALLING ALSO the IUCN Youth Strategy, Indigenous Peoples Self-Determined Strategy, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, and other relevant strategies; and RECOGNISING the vital role of civil society stakeholders in driving actions for climate, nature and the energy transition, noting that these actions must be just, equitable and rights-based;

RECOGNISING the urgent need for the world to move towards net zero, nature positive and just energy transition that is democratic and respectful of planetary boundaries and human rights to accelerate action on it;

ACKNOWLEDGING that global efforts remain insufficient, and that the world is not on track to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030;

RECOGNISING the need to incorporate principles of climate justice, redistribution and resource sovereignty at the core of the energy transition;

TAKING NOTE of the marked inequalities in energy consumption patterns, both among countries and regions and within them, and recognising the need to reduce excessive and unsustainable levels of consumption; and

NOTING ALSO the importance of synergies to optimise the use of scarce resources; generate coherence in public climate and biodiversity policies; promote multistakeholder dialogues working towards these objectives; accelerate implementation; and facilitate international cooperation and resource mobilisation, among other benefits;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, Members, Commissions and relevant constituents to:

a. promote credible and sustainable net zero greenhouse gas emissions pathways that enable public and private actions;

b. work towards overcoming systemic barriers to achieve effective net zero and nature positive outcomes;

c. advocate for nature positive in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals, in line with the consensus definition of 'halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050', and contributed-to by both public and private sectors;

d. call for identification of existing and emerging areas for collaboration to strengthen synergies across Rio Conventions, leading to a net zero, nature positive, just and fair and equitable energy transition; and

e. urge the private sector and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the integrity and 1.5°C alignment of their net zero targets; and

2. REQUESTS the Director General to work with IUCN Members and Commissions to:

a. advocate for a just energy transition that is aligned with the protection of biodiversity and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as those of local communities;

b. ensuring mandatory social and environmental safeguards, with effective public participation and full respect for free, prior and informed consent processes – including Indigenous Peoples' right to withhold consent – and ensuring the protection of environmental human rights defenders, at all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation of transition-related measures;

c. develop best practices and guidance on sustainable energy practices that minimise negative environmental and social impacts, with particular reference to nature-safe design and operation and infrastructure siting and mining activities, and with the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders, and that wherever possible result in demonstrable net gain of biodiversity;

d. encourage the use of pre-emptive strategic environmental assessments to guide the siting of energy-related development and proper observance of the mitigation hierarchy, following best practice in nature-safe design and operation, and the incorporation of social and environmental impact assessments as mandatory components in the approval process for renewable energy projects and critical minerals and mining;

e. promote the implementation of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms;

f. support capacity building initiatives and funding opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, as well as those of local communities, to engage in sustainable energy practices and conservation efforts;

g. promote the implementation of the collective goals agreed as part of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, including transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 in keeping with the science, and enhancing efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030; and

h. promote voluntary or mandatory uptake of disclosure frameworks for companies to report on their nature impacts and dependencies, and the development and implementation of science-based targets for climate and nature.