

8.043 Integrating biodiversity conservation in carbon pricing and trading programmes for climate change mitigation

NOTING the urgent need to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity as essential actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

CONSIDERING the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which sets ambitious biodiversity conservation targets, including as it relates to the impact of climate change on biodiversity (Target 8);

WELCOMING the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 16/22 on *Climate and biodiversity*, supporting synergistic actions and emphasising the role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation while calling for greater policy coherence between the Rio Conventions;

FURTHER WELCOMING decision 1/CMA 5 on the *Outcome of the first global stocktake*, highlighting the importance of nature conservation in line with the KMGBF;

RECALLING that the Paris Agreement (2015) includes the development of nationally determined contributions to global emission reduction targets;

EMPHASISING that fossil fuel extraction and burning are sources of greenhouse gas emissions and that achieving net-zero emissions requires economy-wide measures as well as high integrity market and non-market approaches to limit warming within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

NOTING that some types of renewable energy projects may pose risks to ecosystems and biodiversity at local and regional levels if not implemented with appropriate safeguards;

FURTHER NOTING that some Nature-based Solutions can provide significant benefits for climate, biodiversity and ecosystem services; however poorly planned or executed Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation activities could impact existing ecosystems and alter the services derived from them if not implemented with appropriate safeguards, potentially outweighing their climate benefits and increasing risks to carbon storage;

BUT STILL NOTING their significant potential to help achieve global temperature reduction goals;

ENCOURAGING and including engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to support social and environmental safeguards; and

RECALLING Resolution 7.114 *Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises* (Marseille, 2020), Resolution 6.056 *IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement* (Hawai'i, 2016), Resolution 5.172 *Development of renewable energy and biodiversity conservation* (Jeju, 2012) and Resolution 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies* (Barcelona, 2008);

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to develop policy and guidance for how to better integrate biodiversity and ecosystem conservation into climate change mitigation projects, and to explore differentiated valuation frameworks that allow multiple ecosystem services (e.g. carbon, water, biodiversity) to be monetised transparently and independently, promoting diversified income opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

2. RECOMMENDS that States, international agencies and multilateral climate financing bodies:

a. use the United Nations Statistical Commission's natural reference level (UNSEEA Ecosystem Accounting 2021), where possible, to reflect the value of intact ecosystems and the recovery of degraded ones and explore full-cost accounting for carbon projects, considering biodiversity loss, conservation costs and ecosystem storage risks, while allowing flexibility in financing models that reflect the specific footprint mitigation priorities of buyers and supporters;

b. establish principles for carbon mitigation projects that align with the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions and Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism's sustainable development tool to help identify risks of mitigation activities, and ensuring safeguards for biodiversity and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and

c. increase funding for biodiversity conservation to address potential threats caused by climate change mitigation projects; and

3. INVITES governments and donors to enhance support for research and awareness-raising on the positive and negative impacts of climate change initiatives on biodiversity, particularly regarding global carbon credit trading, and the trade-offs in benefit-sharing and sustainability for affected communities, including evaluation of multi-benefit finance models that combine different ecosystem service markets.