

8.059 Nature conservation diplomacy: integrating conservation, peace and security through international cooperation

CONSIDERING the major environmental challenges threatening ecological balance, human well-being and global security, including biodiversity and geoheritage loss, soil erosion, climate change and land degradation;

CONSIDERING ALSO that nature has always been used by humans, which has generated places of interest for its uses and traditional knowledge of geodiversity and biodiversity that urgently need to be conserved and valued, so that the memory of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is not lost;

RECOGNISING that international agreements and conventions have established sound foundations for global environmental actions; and EMPHASISING the importance of building upon these existing frameworks to enhance their effectiveness and synergy through optimised coordination;

ACKNOWLEDGING that national conservation efforts have yielded diverse solutions, and that these can, within a framework of open exchange and cooperation, be scaled up through knowledge sharing and mutual assistance;

AWARE that national economic priorities and sovereignties shape conservation strategies, and that proactive dialogue and negotiation can harmonise these interests with global conservation goals;

EMPHASISING that the coherent integration of nature conservation into foreign policies and security agendas can enhance bilateral and multilateral relations, and foster mutual understanding and trust among States, contributing to shared peace and stability;

AFFIRMING that a well-defined and coordinated nature conservation diplomacy is essential for bridging conservation, peace and security issues, while harmonising diverse sectoral international commitments within foreign policy frameworks; and

CONVINCED that IUCN, through its expertise and global network, is uniquely positioned to champion the integration of nature conservation diplomacy among its Members, providing the needed support on a global scale;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to engage strategically with global governance fora to promote recognition of the nature-peace-security nexus in international agendas;
2. ALSO REQUESTS the Director General to initiate a progressive outreach to Member States to promote nature conservation diplomacy principles and encourage monitoring to assess effectiveness, ensure evaluation and facilitate improvement based on feedback and outcomes;
3. INVITES the Director General and Commissions to convene a time-limited, interdisciplinary working group to explore the development of a global normative framework for nature conservation diplomacy, including drafting guiding principles, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and with existing international legal frameworks and peacebuilding mechanisms;
4. ENCOURAGES governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and other local stakeholders to consider the integration of nature conservation diplomacy principles and their places for their traditional uses and knowledge of geodiversity and biodiversity, once established, into their political, operational and financial frameworks; and
5. ENCOURAGES regional organisations, transboundary governance platforms, and peacebuilding mechanisms to consider context-specific integration of nature conservation diplomacy where ecosystems and conflict dynamics intersect.