



One Nature, One Humanity, One Future: The Abu Dhabi Call to Action

FOR CONSIDERATION BY IUCN MEMBERS

Over [ten thousand leaders] from government, civil society, conservation organizations, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, faith and spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia from more than [XX] countries gathered at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi from 9-15 October 2025. These were not just dates on a calendar, but a time to listen, to reflect, to care, to speak out, to share and to commit to act without delay.

Participants agreed that the world has reached a critical juncture, and nature faces a serious crisis, despite decades of conservation efforts that have made and sustained considerable progress. Climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, pollution, and global health crises are being compounded by over-exploitation of our planet's resources and growing global political instability, conflict and socio-economic inequity, with devastating, often irreversible effects on the natural systems on which both nature and humanity's survival depend. The global community must take immediate and bold actions across every sector of society to reverse these trends.

With only five years remaining to meet the 2030 targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Congress in Abu Dhabi calls on the world to significantly increase ambition and collective action to scale up and implement collaborative solutions that address the needs of both nature and people. In particular, we should seize the momentum to enhance synergies between the Rio conventions and secure ambitious actions for a net-zero, resilient, and nature-positive future at UNFCCC COP30 in Belém and beyond.

Longstanding efforts by the global conservation community have shown that collective, multilateral actions can bring about positive outcomes for nature. However, we must work together to do far more, leveraging the unique structure and power of the Union, including States and government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Indigenous Peoples' organisations, Commissions and the global Secretariat, to deliver a just world that values and conserves nature.

The World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi calls upon the global community, with the leadership and support of IUCN, to catalyze urgent and powerful actions in five key directions for the future of nature, our planet and its peoples:

1. **Reaffirming nature as the foundation of human and planetary well-being.**
We call for an increased and sustained commitment to protecting, restoring and conserving the vast diversity of life on earth, in its own right, and as the basis for all human well-being and economic development. We are stewards of this extraordinary planet, each of us with a role to play in ensuring future generations are able to live on a habitable planet. We call for the identification, recognition, support and defence of the custodians of nature, and respect for the diversity of life that inspires, feeds,

clothes and sustains us all. We must take advantage of the power of nature to help address societal challenges. We urge scaling up efforts to protect, conserve and restore the integrity of all ecosystems and to educate and nurture a society that places nature at the centre of our concerns.

2. **Strengthening multilateralism and the power of collective action, cooperation, and leadership.** We call for a step change in joint, collective and effective multilateral action, ensuring that every sector of society is involved and strategically aligned to promote cooperation globally and regionally. We also call for adherence to the Rule of Law, for justice, and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and through ambitious national policies that mainstream nature into sectoral concerns. No one country or community can succeed alone. IUCN will continue to lead, through policy, action, advocacy and bringing people and organisations together for the common purpose of protecting and conserving our planet.
3. **Ensuring justice and inclusive and equitable participation by the whole of society.** We call for setting aside differences and divisions in the common interests of facing up to the existential threats to nature, our planet, and all peoples. We will strive for the involvement of all sectors of society, from local to global in an intergenerational partnership inclusive of women, youth, elders, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples. We urge the fostering of a sense of duty, responsibility and a quest for justice, fairness, equity and opportunity for all, to achieve the IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature.
4. **Advancing science, knowledge, innovation and education for action.** We call upon the global community to build on our extensive heritage of science and traditional knowledge of biodiversity, of society and economy, enriched by our diversity of thought, experiences and knowledge systems, to provide a strong foundation for evidence-based, predictive, responsive, and defensible actions, to protect and conserve nature and for the common good. We call for increased investment in research, learning, education and innovative approaches that harness the power of sustainable new technologies, working with nature, to scale up our efforts to secure a future habitable planet.
5. **Scaling up and aligning resources for nature and climate action.** We call for the increase, diversification and alignment of human, technological and financial resources towards our common goals of a climate neutral, resilient and regenerative economy. We also call for the realignment of financial flows away from life-threatening exploitation, and destruction of wildlife and natural resources, and harmful subsidies and incentives, towards nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate that empower local direct action by communities.

Turning intentions into action, through the IUCN World Conservation Congress, we:

Adopted a new 20 year Strategic Vision for IUCN, committing “to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is both equitable and ecologically sustainable”, by (1) conserving biodiversity effectively; (2) addressing the interconnectedness between biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate change to ensure nature continues to support all life on the planet; and (3) advancing a more just and equitable society. Solutions lie in halting and reversing biodiversity loss and the impacts of other change processes in a more integrated manner and by more comprehensively addressing the drivers of nature loss.

Approved a bold new IUCN Quadrennial Programme for 2026-2029 to continue to lead and influence the global environmental agenda, with actionable outputs and outcomes that will help guide every component of the Union to achieve measurable impact.

Adopted XX motions and resolved to pursue policy directions on:

- Conserving forests, grasslands, freshwater ecosystems, and coral reefs and other marine ecosystems
- Area-based conservation, including through effective protected and conserved areas to secure ecological integrity
- Species recovery for threatened taxa
- Sustainable use and exploitation of wild species
- Combatting crimes that affect the environment (including wildlife trafficking and illegal fisheries)
- Conservation and human rights
- Addressing the nexus between the climate and biodiversity crises
- Nature-based solutions
- One Health
- Synthetic Biology

Committed to opening up bold new dialogues with constituencies who are essential to achieve conservation and societal outcomes

(headlines coming from the Congress Summits on:

Philanthropy Summit

Business Summit

Indigenous Peoples' Summit

Youth Summit

Announced global and Union-wide commitments and milestones including:

- **Winners of the WCPA International Ranger Awards 2025** – the award celebrates rangers and ranger teams around the world
- **Recipients of the John C. Phillips Medal and Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal, as well as IUCN Honorary Memberships**
- The selection of XXXXX to be the **host country for the next IUCN World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress 2027** – the world's premier global forum for setting the agenda for protected and conserved areas
- A Nature-based Education Facility for IUCN with a \$10 million in-kind donation from Esri

Moreover, we called the Global Community to Action

Realising the catalytic power of the Union, with all components acting together with resolve and determination, we undertook to embrace and expand the reach of multilateral cooperation, to accelerate collective action for nature and for all people. We called upon all

nations and stakeholders to work together to go forward from Abu Dhabi to turn the tide for nature, and for a safer, more just, and sustainable future for all.

YES, WE CAN--together!