



**ONE NATURE, ONE HUMANITY, ONE FUTURE:
THE ABU DHABI CALL TO ACTION
FOR CONSIDERATION BY IUCN MEMBERS 09 October 2025**

"We spare no effort in caring for the environment because it is one the essential ingredients of our history and heritage. Our forefathers have lived on this land in co-existence and with respect to its land and marine environment, knowing by nature and perception the need to preserve it, taking only what they needed from it, and saving what would be useful for the coming generations". **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**

Over [nine thousand leaders] from government, civil society, conservation organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, 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 and restoration efforts that have made and sustained considerable progress. Climate change, degradation, biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, pollution, and global health crises are being compounded by over-exploitation of our planet's resources and growing instability, geopolitical and economic tensions, environmental crimes such as wildlife trafficking, governance challenges, and socio-economic disparities, 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, as time is running out.

With 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 transformative and collaborative solutions that address the needs of both nature and people. In particular, participants emphasized the importance of seizing the current 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, there remains an urgent need for stronger, coordinated efforts, 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 the actions that will result in 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, practical, and impactful 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, both in its own right, and as the basis for all human health and well-being, social and economic development, and quality of life. We are stewards of this extraordinary planet, each of us with a role to play in ensuring present and 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 especially through local and community-led action. We urge scaling up efforts to protect, conserve and restore the integrity of all land, water and ocean ecosystems, including polar regions, 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 transformative and radical change in thinking, and joint, collective and effective multilateral action, ensuring that all sectors of society are involved and strategically aligned to promote cooperation globally and regionally. We also call for adherence to the Rule of Law, justice, and respect for international obligations, supported by ambitious national and local policies that integrate nature across all sectors. No one country or community can succeed alone. IUCN will continue to lead, through policy, action, advocacy and bringing people and organisations together in a spirit of respect, and through peace and cooperation at regional and transboundary levels 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 acknowledging the diversity of perspectives and the shared responsibility to address the existential threats facing nature, our planet, and all peoples. We will strive for the involvement and empowerment in shared decision-making of all sectors of society, from local to global in an intergenerational partnership through a rights-based approach inclusive of women, children, youth, elders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the protection and empowerment of environmental defenders and whistle-blowers. We urge the fostering of a sense of responsibility, 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 and indigenous knowledge of nature, of scientific, traditional, and Indigenous knowledge of nature, society, and the economy, drawing strength from diverse experiences and transdisciplinary approaches. We will provide a strong foundation for evidence-based, forward-looking, and effective actions, to protect and conserve nature and for the common good. We call for increased investment in research, education, citizen science, and innovative approaches that harness the power of sustainable technologies and empower knowledge holders to scale up our efforts to secure a habitable planet.
5. **Scaling up and aligning resources for nature and climate action.** We call for the significant increase, diversification and better alignment of human, technological and financial resources towards our common goals of a climate neutral, resilient and

regenerative economy. We also call for the redirecting of financial flows away from unsustainable exploitation, destruction of wildlife and natural resources, and the elimination of harmful subsidies and incentives, towards nature-positive and nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate, including those that empower local direct action by communities to increase their own resilience. We call for a transition to a regenerative economy, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas, promoting circular and sustainable resource use and linking biodiversity, food, water and energy systems to create long-term prosperity beyond carbon neutrality.

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, geodiversity, 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.

Embraced not just a Call to Action, but for practical, implementable and measurable steps to pursue these intentions before the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.

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
- Invasive alien species prevention
- 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

Announced global and Union-wide commitments and milestones including:

- **Winners of the IUCN / WCPA International Ranger Awards** – 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 significant in-kind investment.
- The establishment of new Award for Excellence in Advancing the Environmental Rule of Law named after Dr Wolfgang E. Burhenne and Dr Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin.

Moreover, we called the Global Community to unite in Action and Hope

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 endorsed the need for a planetary pact so that nature and humanity thrive together; accelerating urgent, science-based action and equitable partnerships to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems and building a climate-resilient, nature-positive future that secures well-being and justice for all life on Earth.

From Abu Dhabi, we stand united - One Nature, One Humanity, One Future — a global movement of leaders, communities, and nations determined to turn the tide for a just, resilient, and nature-positive world.

Yes, together we can – and together, we will!