

Unequivocally recognize and effectively support the crucial conservation role of territories of life and their custodians: COLLABORATION with the CBD (2/3)

KNOWING that **territories of life** comprise lands, waters and the gifts of Nature governed, managed and conserved collectively by their **custodians**— Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and local communities, settled and mobile, who have **multiple links** of historical interaction with their territories, including knowledge, work, sustenance, identity, art, culture, economy, defence, sacrifice, responsibility and continuous care;

KNOWING that, when adequately recognized and supported, territories of life **can alone meet targets 1, 2 and 3 of the KM-GBF**;

KNOWING that the biological diversity of territories of life is linked to the **diversity of languages, cultures and living knowledge systems** of their custodians— essential for sustainable use and restoration;

KNOWING that territories of life provide **livelihoods** for their custodians and **ecological and climate regulating functions** for everyone;

KNOWING that territories of life are governed under **diverse socio-political arrangements**— from indigenous customary rights to traditional commons, sacred sites or collective property— and are **often affected and degraded** by unsustainable development policies and aggressive practices of extractivism, agro-industry, urbanism, as well as by growing socio-economic inequality, and ecological and cultural change;

WELCOMING the United Nations Declarations UNDRIP 2007 and UNDROP 2018 and the obligations of Parties to the CBD under Article 8j, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the KM-GBF;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of some governments to implement the CBD Decisions and IUCN World Parks Congresses recommendations relating to diversity, quality and vitality of governance and Indigenous and traditional cultures;

BUILDING UPON the **various IUCN Resolutions** related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities' role in conservation that were previously approved albeit always **implemented in a limited manner**;

Operational Section

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi (UAE) **CALLS ON the Director General to activate the collaboration between the IUCN Commissions - in particular CEESP, CEL and WCPA - and the CBD Secretariat** so that:

- The **Parties to the CBD recognize territories of life** as spaces of natural and cultural diversity, well-being, learning, spirituality, collective commitment to conservation both **within and outside** national protected area systems and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) contingent upon the **free, prior and informed consent of custodians**;
- The Parties to the CBD urgently enable appropriate forms of recognition of life territories as a *sui generis* **“third way”** to achieve conservation outcomes in the landscape and seascape as spaces of **sustainable self-determination for their custodians**;

- The Parties to the CBD—in line with Target 14 of the KM Global Biodiversity Framework—**protect the territories of life** from unsustainable, exploitative and extractive activities that directly and indirectly harm them and develop national policies to support the custodians of territories of life—including via economic support, but not only;
- The IUCN Commissions and CBD Parties **document, respect and learn from** the governance institutions and living knowledge systems of the custodians of territories of life.

Sponsors and co-sponsors

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Explanatory memorandum

Regarding territories of life and their custodians and the abbreviations used in this motion, please see the explanatory memorandum of the first motion presented on the same subject.

The need to work closely with the CBD Secretariat is to influence as soon as possible the policies and practices of States for an appropriate and effective recognition of the conservation values of territories of life. This has to happen not only 'in theory' but in practice, maintaining and valuing the living knowledge systems of the custodians, bequeathed to different languages, histories and cultures.

In turn, adapting to conditions that accommodate different historical, political and cultural situations implies the need to develop the capacity to recognize in a *sui generis* way the values and governance institutions of the custodians of the territories of life. These values and institutions are at the heart of the capacities to conserve the territories of life and the living knowledge systems of their custodians, unique to each culture. These are incomparable values often sacrificed to the forces of economic and cultural homogenization that control the present political situation worldwide. This must stop.

It is important that the parties to the CBD place relevant and appropriate value on the territories of life and their custodians, also for their roles in sustaining food systems, local livelihoods and

moral economies. Contrary to most States, moral economies often adopt limits to local material consumption and value frugality, wellbeing, peace and all dimensions of social, environmental and climate justice within and beyond the territories of life. These are precisely the values that can conserve biodiversity and save the planet's climate. In this light, territories of life and the cultures that support them offer examples of resilient and sustainable use of biodiversity which can be inspiring to others in tackling local and global problems.

It is also important that the parties to the CBD not only recognize the territories of life but also protect them from unsustainable, exploitative and extractive activities, in particular military activities, mining and logging concessions and all kinds of commercialization and financialization of Nature incompatible with the restoration, regeneration and long-term conservation of local natural and cultural values. This should be part of the discussions to be opened between the IUCN and the CBD.

A. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Execution budget

A contact group between IUCN and the CBD Secretariat existed in the past and presumably exists at present. It should be relatively easy to extend the work of this contact group in relation to territories of life and their custodians. It may be necessary to facilitate additional studies and meetings and for this a budget of around 50,000 dólares per year is estimated if IUCN makes its technical capacities and structures available. If the political will exists, it would be easy to find this economic budget.