Landscape, Seascape, and Connectivity Conservation:
Related Resolutions and Recommendations
Adopted by the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress

The IUCN Members's Assembly adopted a diversity of resolutions and recommendations in 2020 related to landscape, seascape, and connectivity conservation. To enhance access and understanding, this document lists out and provides excerpts identified by the Center for Large Landscape Conservation and the IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group.

List of related resolutions and recommendations

- **WCC 2020 Res 002 Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning indigenous peoples**
- **WCC 2020 Res 008 Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate**
- **WCC 2020 Res 009 Protecting and restoring endangered grassland and savannah ecosystems**
- **WCC 2020 Res 013 Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity**
- **WCC 2020 Res 014 The importance of a cross-border approach to prioritise biodiversity conservation, adaptation to climate change and risk management in the Río de la Plata Basin**
- **WCC 2020 Res 015 Cooperation on transboundary fresh waters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development**
- **WCC 2020 Res 017 Protection of natural flows of water for the conservation of wetlands**
- **WCC 2020 Res 027 Seascapes working for biodiversity conservation**
- **WCC 2020 Res 031 The implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin**
- **WCC 2020 Res 032 Ocean impacts of climate change**
- **WCC 2020 Res 034 Ecological integrity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**
- **WCC 2020 Res 035 Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021-2030**
- **WCC 2020 Res 036 Declaration of global priority for conservation in the Amazon Biome**
- **WCC 2020 Res 048 Contributions of the Conservation-enabling Hierarchy to the post-2020 CBD framework**
- **WCC 2020 Res 071 Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure**
- **WCC 2020 Res 073 Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels**
- **WCC 2020 Res 075 Transboundary cooperation for conservation of big cats in Northeast Asia**
- **WCC 2020 Res 080 Recognising, reporting and supporting other effective area-based conservation measures**
- **WCC 2020 Res 081 Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity**
- **WCC 2020 Res 085 Rewilding**

- **WCC 2020 Res 090 Continental conservation priority for the jaguar (Panthera onca)**
- **WCC 2020 Res 093 A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions**
- **WCC 2020 Res 101 Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife**
- **WCC 2020 Res 108 Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains**
- **WCC 2020 Res 111 Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects**
- **WCC 2020 Res 114 Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises**
- **WCC 2020 Res 116 Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework**
- **WCC 2020 Res 120 Towards a Policy on Natural Capital**
- **WCC 2020 Res 125 Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive**
- **WCC 2020 Res 127 Strengthening the protection of primary and old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible**
- **WCC 2020 Res 128 Acting for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction**
- **WCC 2020 Rec 021 Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean**
- **WCC 2020 Rec 086 Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes**
- **WCC 2020 Rec 089 Preventing the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps) in India**
- **WCC 2020 Rec 099 Strengthening great ape conservation across countries, in and outside of protected areas, involving local actors**
- **WCC 2020 Rec 126 Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation**

Excerpts

WCC 2020 Res 002 Strengthened institutional inclusion concerning indigenous peoples
BEARING IN MIND that the proposal for the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 provides for the active participation of indigenous peoples in order to achieve the Union's objectives regarding governance, conservation and the sustainable use of nature and that indigenous peoples have tenure rights over at least 38 million square kilometres in 87 countries, representing over a quarter of the planet's land surface and intersecting with approximately 40% of all the terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes;

WCC 2020 Res 008 Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate
KNOWING that river systems must retain their four-dimensional connectivity to support freshwater species, ecosystems and many of their services;

NOTING Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 for terrestrial, freshwater and marine conservation through "well-connected systems of protected areas" and Strategy 1.7 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to "ensure… policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)…particularly concerning…catchment/river basin management";

UNDERSTANDING that connected rivers transport organic matter and nutrients to and from floodplains and release them in deltas, supporting important agriculture and fisheries, and homes and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people;

KNOWING that many freshwater and terrestrial species must move along rivers to survive and that connected rivers are diminishing with only one-third of long rivers remaining free-flowing;

1. ENCOURAGES the Director General, Commissions, Members and states to promote the inclusion of river protection and connectivity within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.6;

3. ENCOURAGES governments to:
c. restore rivers or stretches, and their associated ecosystems, in which sufficient connectivity and flows could feasibly be restored;
e. use the IUCN Guidance for Conserving Connectivity through Ecological Networks and Corridors;

WCC 2020 Res 009 Protecting and restoring endangered grassland and savannah ecosystems
2. CALLS ON IUCN Commissions and Members to support the preparation of a Global Status Report on grasslands and savannahs identifying:
a. areas of chief conservation concern, including existing and projected conversion fronts and degradation trends, fragmentation of landscapes and Key Biodiversity Areas;

WCC 2020 Res 013 Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity
STRESSING that strengthening the management and efficient use of water and land resources in the Mekong Delta necessarily requires recognition that these resources are transboundary in nature, that cooperation with upstream countries is also necessary for the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta, and that initiatives that promote the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity are therefore needed;

WCC 2020 Res 014 The importance of a cross-border approach to prioritise biodiversity conservation, adaptation to climate change and risk management in the Río de la Plata Basin
ASKS the Director General of IUCN to:
a. call on South American States to:
iv. conserve the Paraguay-Paraná River Corridor as a global reference system based on its conditions of free flow and the connectivity of flood plains;

WCC 2020 Res 015 Cooperation on transboundary fresh waters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development
RECOGNISING that transboundary water cooperation is key for the sustainability of ecosystems, particularly transboundary ecosystems, and the livelihoods of populations living there;

WCC 2020 Res 017 Protection of natural flows of water for the conservation of wetlands

2. ALSO REQUESTS the Director General, in collaboration with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), to ensure that IUCN programmes protect remaining natural wetland habitats and restore functioning wetland ecosystems, promote wetland habitats as nature-based solutions to flood mitigation and carbon sequestration, and develop Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) activities on the importance of protecting and restoring the natural flow of water and its connectivity;

WCC 2020 Res 027 Seascapes working for biodiversity conservation

NOTING that waters outside protected areas represent substantial biodiversity conservation potential in their own right, interact ecologically with protected areas, and therefore are equally important for conservation, hence emphasis on "mainstreaming biodiversity" in the 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancun;

WCC 2020 Res 031 The implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin

(Generally applicable re NbS)

WCC 2020 Res 032 Ocean impacts of climate change (Generally applicable re NbS)

b. promote nature-based solutions to climate change through protected areas and conserving and restoring marine ecosystems, including coral reefs and coastal blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, recognising their multiple benefits for climate adaptation, mitigation, habitat provision and disaster risk reduction;

WCC 2020 Res 034 Ecological integrity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

FURTHER AWARE that Earth's ecological integrity depends on intact ecosystems and connectivity between them, and therefore intactness, connectivity and species migration require increased international cooperation and must be addressed through any new global biodiversity framework;

WCC 2020 Res 035 Promoting IUCN leadership in the implementation of the UN Decade on Restoration 2021-2030 (Generally applicable)

5. INVITES governments and all stakeholders to meaningfully address the drivers of ecosystem degradation while investing efforts to restore what has been degraded already.

WCC 2020 Res 036 Declaration of global priority for conservation in the Amazon Biome

1. RECOMMENDS that the Director General and Members recognise the Amazon Biome as the largest continuous tropical forest and freshwater ecosystem representing a fifth of the world's forests playing an important role in supporting global and continental climate stability and safeguarding 10% of the world's biodiversity;

WCC 2020 Res 048 Contributions of the Conservation-enabling Hierarchy to the post-2020 CBD framework (Generally applicable)

STRESSING that the most important step in the mitigation hierarchy is avoidance of biodiversity loss, which requires exploring multiple development options in the earliest phases of planning, in order to avoid areas of high environmental or socio-cultural importance; and

AWARE of emerging evidence that policies incorporating a mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity impacts of development can, given necessary conditions, result in neutral or positive net biodiversity outcomes;

1. ENCOURAGES the Director General, Commissions and all Members to work, as appropriate, with their national-level and other counterparts engaged in the CBD to encourage them to consider the following elements in its discussions, advocacy and advice relevant to the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through the CBD:
a. explicit mention of those irreplaceable and/or culturally indispensable biodiversity features that are vitally important to protect (for example, sacred sites);
b. explicit reference to the Conservation-enabling Hierarchy of sequentially preferred actions (avoid, minimise, remediate, offset, additional conservation actions) as an operational structure for assessing biodiversity losses and gains from human activities, with the aim that the latter outweigh the former (i.e. seeking net gain); and
c. a requirement that conserving existing wildlife and natural habitats should be prioritised, and that any biodiversity losses due to economic development should be addressed in order of sequentially preferred actions and at least compensated for by comparable biodiversity gains, consistent with IUCN's Biodiversity Offsets Policy

WCC 2020 Res 071 Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure (see full text)

WCC 2020 Res 073 Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels (see full text)

WCC 2020 Res 075 Transboundary cooperation for conservation of big cats in Northeast Asia

1. REQUESTS the Director General, SSC, WCPA and the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) to provide support to:
a. working with relevant government authorities, and within existing established agreements, create a Russian-Chinese Natural Reserve 'Land of Big Cats' including the Biosphere Reserve 'Kedrovaya Pad' (Russia), National Park 'Land of Leopard' (Russia) and North East National Park of Tiger and Leopard (China) for conservation of Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard, as well as a number of other transboundary Russian-Chinese nature reserves in the Amur river basin;

WCC 2020 Res 080 Recognising, reporting and supporting other effective area-based conservation measures
(Generally applicable)

WCC 2020 Res 081 Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity
NOTING Resolution 6.087 Awareness of connectivity conservation definition and guidelines (Hawai'i 2016) which encouraged the raising of awareness around the guidelines for ecological corridors and their implementation to develop, designate, plan and manage ecological networks of connectivity;

1. CALLS UPON governments at all levels to:

a. develop or update spatially explicit conservation plans to incorporate sites and areas of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity across multiple taxa and ecosystems (KBAs), along with the connectivity required to ensure biodiversity persistence, and use these to inform plans to expand networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

2. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions and their Specialist Groups to:
a. promote the development or updating of spatial conservation plans at national level, specifically by:
i. identifying and mapping sites of significance for the global persistence of species and ecosystems (KBAs), for multiple taxonomic groups and ecosystems;
ii. incorporating these and existing KBAs, plus other important sites identified with tools such as Spatial Biodiversity Planning, or sites important for regionally/nationally red listed species;
iii. identifying corridors linking these sites, to provide the required connectivity where appropriate;

3. ENCOURAGES Members and the donor community to:
b. apply guidelines for connectivity, such as the IUCN "Guidance for Safeguarding ecological corridors in the context of ecological networks for conservation", to identify vital corridors;
c. work with local, regional, and national governments to support the integration of these plans into multi-sectoral spatial land-use plans; and
d. monitor species and ecosystems for which sites are identified and corridors established, and adapt plans where necessary based on measures of success.

WCC 2020 Res 085 Rewilding

NOTING the emergence of rewilding as a new, cost-effective approach to enhancing biodiversity, connectivity, ecological resilience and ecosystem service delivery;

WCC 2020 Res 090 Continental conservation priority for the jaguar (Panthera onca)

1. ASKS the Director General to:
vi. ensure that in the inclusive, participatory planning, with a budget for the execution and the monitoring of the management units in the jaguar's distribution range, the need for implementing connected corridors for the populations of this species and its natural prey is considered, and that these corridors are integrated into territorial management plans, including differentiated incentives and sanctions;
vii. strengthen the integration of protected natural areas and buffer zones, with private natural areas and biological corridors into the territorial management of the jaguar, including cross-border territories;

WCC 2020 Res 093 A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions

2. ENCOURAGES that consideration of genetic diversity should be incorporated, where possible, into protected area planning, ex situ conservation, species conservation, reintroduction and restoration initiatives, natural capital assessments, and biodiversity monitoring using appropriate tools, indicators and databases; and

WCC 2020 Res 101 Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife (Generally applicable)

3. URGES governments to:
a. incorporate the needs of both wildlife and human populations (including HWC risks) into well-informed spatial and temporal plans that form part of holistic cross-sectoral national and sub-national

development plans, and which maintain functional, ecological connectivity, minimise HWC, and optimise opportunities for benefit creation from sustainable wildlife management;

4. URGES the private sector to:
b. adopt best management practices to minimise HWC, ensure safe working conditions, conserve agro-biodiversity, and maintain and restore natural habitat connectivity and ecological processes across production sites;

WCC 2020 Res 108 Deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains

2. STRESSES the urgent need to eliminate loss, degradation and fragmentation of forests and other natural ecosystems, especially that linked with agricultural commodity supply chains, while achieving food security;

WCC 2020 Res 111 Protection of Andes-Amazon rivers of Peru: the Marañón, Ucayali, Huallaga and Amazonas, from large-scale infrastructure projects

(see full text for many references to Andes-Amazon connectivity)

WCC 2020 Res 114 Integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises

1. REQUESTS as a matter of urgency, the Director General and Commissions, in line with the IUCN Programme 2021–2024, to:
d. focus restoration action on regeneration and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, especially those with high biodiversity value and carbon intensity value, and buffering and reconnecting primary ecosystems;

WCC 2020 Res 116 Develop and implement a transformational and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Generally applicable)

2. CALLS ON IUCN Members and INVITES CBD Parties, other governments, intergovernmental organisations, all stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to work, as appropriate, with national-level and other counterparts engaged in the CBD to encourage them to join forces to develop, adopt and implement a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that:
f. includes the following critical elements in the 2030 Milestones:
i. increase in the area, connectivity and integrity of ecosystems and zero human-induced extinctions of species, and recovery of the population abundance of species and safeguard genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species;
i. at least 30% of terrestrial areas and inland waters (Note: 'inland waters' –as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention) and of coastal and marine areas, respectively, are effectively and equitably governed, protected and conserved with a focus on sites of particular importance for biodiversity, in well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) by 2030, with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, and with appropriate recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources, as set out under UNDRIP , and support for the full and effective participation of local communities in the protection and conservation activities, with the recognition of customary and local governance practices as appropriate, along with their diverse knowledge system;

WCC 2020 Res 120 Towards a Policy on Natural Capital (Generally applicable)

Principle 13. Mitigation hierarchy
Where biodiversity offsets and related compensatory mechanisms are used, there should be strict

adherence to the IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets, including the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, minimisation, rehabilitation/restoration and, as a last resort, offsetting. Offsetting must never be used as justification for development.

Principle 15. Complexity of ecosystems
Application of the concept of natural capital should recognise that components of natural capital are connected in complex, interdependent ecosystems. When considering the value and management of one component of natural capital, these connections and interdependencies should be recognised and understood using best-available science in order to avoid unintended impacts on the ecosystem as a whole. This necessitates a precautionary approach to the design and application of natural capital approaches. The elements of this complexity of natural systems, the lack of knowledge on the functioning and composition of ecosystems as well as the evolutionary potential must also be taken into account in the valuation of the capital, in particular by taking into account phylogenetic diversity which sums up both this complexity and this potential for evolution.

Principle 17. Species diversity and habitat integrity
Living natural capital encompasses not just the genetic and species diversity and abundance in a given area but also the relative habitat integrity of that area, which may be species-rich or naturally species-poor.

WCC 2020 Res 125 Setting area-based conservation targets based on evidence of what nature and people need to thrive (Generally applicable)

RECOGNISING evidence that at least 30% and up to 70% or more of the world should be protected, conserved and restored in an interconnected way to safeguard biodiversity, stabilise the climate and provide a foundation for a sustainable relationship with the Earth;

2. CALLS ON all components of IUCN to support, at a minimum, a target of effectively and equitably protecting and conserving at least 30% of terrestrial areas and of inland waters (Note: 'inland waters' as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention) and of coastal and marine areas, respectively, with a focus on sites of particular importance for biodiversity, in well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) by 2030 in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

5. ENCOURAGES State and Government Agency Members and other competent authorities to implement area-based targets in ways that are appropriate to regional conditions through participatory, knowledge-based spatial planning processes that include identifying and conserving in effectively and equitably managed protected areas and OECMs:
b. areas important for ecological connectivity, including for migratory species;

WCC 2020 Res 127 Strengthening the protection of primary and old-growth forests in Europe and facilitating their restoration where possible

3. ENCOURAGES State Members and forest managers in Europe to save old-growth forests, even the small ones, by:
b. catalysing protection and restoration efforts for primary and old-growth forests, including focusing on the expansion and linkage/reconnection of long-untouched forests.

WCC 2020 Res 128 Acting for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction

1. URGES states to expeditiously conclude the negotiation of a new and ambitious international legally binding instrument, under UNCLOS, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ, to:
b. ensure that the final text provides for:
i. expeditious identification, establishment and management of an ecologically representative, well-connected, well-managed network of effective MPAs, including a substantial portion of which are highly and fully protected, and other area-based management tools (ABMT) in ABNJ through a transparent, science-based process;

WCC 2020 Rec 021 Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean

RECOGNISING that the main driver of threats to biodiversity in the region is the destruction and/or fragmentation of habitats;

WCC 2020 Rec 086 Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes

(see full text for many references to large landscapes)

WCC 2020 Rec 089 Preventing the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps) in India

(especially re wind, solar, and other power infrastructure)
CONCERNED that deaths due to collisions with power lines have adversely affected the already fragmented and depleted populations of these birds in semi-arid regions and grassland habitats, most of which are wrongly categorised as 'wastelands' in Indian Government records;

WCC 2020 Rec 099 Strengthening great ape conservation across countries, in and outside of protected areas, involving local actors

CONCERNED by the 70% decline of the great ape populations since 1980 and by the numerous threats, varying in each country in their nature, extent and magnitude, but all caused by habitat loss and fragmentation due to industrial agriculture, mining, logging and major infrastructure projects, human-wildlife conflict, poaching for bushmeat, illegal live animal trade and diseases;

2. REQUESTS that these networks protect great apes in and outside of protected areas, develop long-term surveys of great ape populations (monitoring their size and viability), and contribute to local development;

3. CALLS ON all countries and the private sector, including lending banks, to avoid initiating/financing/supporting/promoting agricultural, mining, forestry and infrastructure projects that impact great ape habitat and to establish and implement policies against trade of products deriving from deforestation;

WCC 2020 Rec 126 Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation

1. ASKS States to reinforce the protection of marine mammals by:
g. associating regional networks of marine protected area managers in the definition and implementation of strategies for the protection of marine mammals, in order to allow for an effective and consistent management at a biogeographic level, including migratory corridors;