



Motion 036

Implementation of nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean Basin

RECOGNISING the framework for defining nature-based solutions (NbS) adopted at the World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawai'i by Resolution 6.069;

NOTING that the NbS concept has been identified by the European Commission as a strategic solution for the development of more sustainable cities;

NOTING the recommendations of the Mediterranean symposium "Implementation of nature-based solutions to tackle climate change" held in Marseille in January 2019;

CONSIDERING that the Mediterranean Basin is one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, but also one of the regions of the world most vulnerable to climate change, with effects on ecosystems, the economy, and human well-being that are significantly higher than the global average;

CONSIDERING that the social challenges NbS aim to address (food security, climate change, water security, human health, disaster risks, economic and social development) are particularly acute in the Mediterranean Basin due to the historical relationship between humans and nature, but also due to recent strong demographic developments, tremendous pressure on scarce water resources, the concentration of economic activities and urbanisation in coastal regions, and dependence on climate sensitive agriculture;

RECOGNISING the key role played by Mediterranean ecosystems in responding to these social challenges, but also the extreme pressures affecting their resilience and their potential role as NbS, and aware of the need to protect and restore these ecosystems;

ALSO RECOGNISING, that NbS are efficient and inexpensive, and offer an unprecedented opportunity to increase the resilience of Mediterranean society in responding to climate stress and help accelerate the transition to a sustainable and inclusive green and blue economy;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Marseille, France, 11-19 June 2020:

1. CALLS ON governments and civil society in the Mediterranean Basin to actively implement NbS whenever appropriate, and multiply the effects of NbS through networking, especially in watersheds.
2. CALLS ON governments in the Mediterranean Basin to take NbS into account under the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy, under the Ramsar convention and its Mediterranean wetlands Initiative (MedWet), to include them in their "nationally determined contributions" under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, but also in all relevant sectoral policies.
3. CALLS ON local authorities in the Mediterranean Basin to use NbS whenever possible, especially as part of their strategies for managing natural areas and urban land use, and to make them a priority in regional and urban planning policies.
4. CALLS ON governments, financial institutions, and private funders who are stakeholders in the Mediterranean Basin to mobilize NbS funding and systematically consider them as alternatives or complements to their financing of 'grey' infrastructure projects.
5. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and relevant regional offices to promote NbS in the Mediterranean Basin, ensure experience sharing in this area, and ensure the networking of the stakeholders involved.