

Amendment to Motion 034, [Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis] [Promoting integrated solutions to the climate change and biodiversity crises] Sections 2a and 2b.

Whereas Motion 034 purports to represent the synthesis of the measures that IUCN at its World Conservation Congress in Marseille plans to take to address the global climate crisis that is already contributing to thousands of premature deaths from unprecedented environmental damages from record storms, droughts, floods and fires; and

Whereas Motion 034 acknowledges that its climate change mitigation actions account for only 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, thus failing to address the 70% causes represented by the burning of fossil fuels for energy, transportation and industry; and

Whereas the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report issued on August 9, 2021 made the following findings that call for urgent actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost.

From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO₂ emissions, reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions. Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in CH₄ [methane] emissions would also limit the warming effect...

Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years.

In 2019, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years (high confidence), and concentrations of CH₄ and N₂O were higher than at any time in at least 800,000 years (very high confidence).

Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes; and

Whereas Motion 034 Section 2a. lacks any strong and immediate commitment to climate mitigation action, relying only on a future commitment to “initiate the development of a comprehensive [and integrated] climate change [and biodiversity] policy framework to help guide IUCN’s work on the [topic] [climate change and biodiversity] ...;” failing to make any commitment to phase out dependence on fossil fuels or terminate fossil fuels subsidies scientifically found to account for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas Motion 034 Section 2b too narrowly commits to “Support the deployment of Nature-based solutions [that maintain biodiversity while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation...,” while continuing to exclude in its definition of Nature-based solutions nature based energy from the sun, wind and oceans that the scientists have determined are essential

to meeting the 1.5 degree centigrade global temperature increase required to avert further climate change catastrophe.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress its Session in Marseille France:

Adds to Motion 034 2a:

CALLS ON the thousands of IUCN Members and experts to urge their governments at all levels and private sector organizations to phase out their dependence on fossil fuels and end their multibillion-dollar fossil fuel subsidies, with a reporting requirement and suggested schedule; and

Adds to Motion 034 2a;

CALLS ON IUCN's Members and experts to urge their governments at all levels to phase out non-essential uses of plastics and end large planned increases in plastics' production which if not prevented, alone would prevent the world from achieving the necessary limitation of global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees centigrade according to recent studies by the International Center for International Environmental Law and Columbia and Yale Schools of Law; and

Adds to Motion 034 2b:

URGES the broadening of the definition of Nature Based Solutions to include the energy based solutions to climate change that account for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating the exclusion from the definition of energy from the sun, the wind, and the oceans; and

URGES the Council to accept these provisions as a part of the Programme 2021-2024, as it has prioritized action on climate change as a principal goal of this Congress, and because these actions are necessary to protect IUCN's exemplary biodiversity work and the future of humanity.

EXPLANATION

While we are pleased that Motion 034 "[[welcome\(s\)](#)] or [notes](#) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, as well as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that document: (i) the role of climate change as a direct driver of biodiversity loss that also exacerbates other existing pressures on biodiversity, (ii) the role of ecosystem loss and degradation as a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and driver of climate change and reduced resilience, (iii) the need to prioritize the protection and restoration of ecosystems as an essential mitigation and adaptation action, and (iv) the irreplaceability in relevant time frames (2030–2050) of primary ecosystems for addressing the climate change and biodiversity crisis"; but

Regrets that despite these recognitions in Motion 034 of existential threats from climate change to biodiversity and human well-being, and despite the dire warnings in the IPCC Sixth Assessment, the action requirement in Motion 034 focuses only on precatory general future measures to address these urgent climate and biodiversity concerns.

Our Amendment therefore adds to the Motion 034 section 2a 's call for a study to determine what future actions IUCN should take to address these climate threats, a call on IUCN Members and experts to urge their governments and private sector organizations to phase out their dependence on fossil fuels and terminate their fossil fuel subsidies and to phase out non-essential uses of plastics; and to urge them to cancel proposed large new plastics' production; and amends section 2b to urge the broadening of the definition of Nature Based Solutions to include the energy based solutions to the climate crisis and to eliminate the exclusion of nature based energy from the sun, the wind and the oceans from these Solutions.

The thousands of Members and experts in the IUCN Commissions and the universities of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law are influential members of their communities and their advocacy of immediate fossil fuel action would certainly carry weight in their countries.

None of the Amendment's proposed actions requires hiring energy experts or acquiring energy expertise, since that expertise already has been acquired and published by the IPCC and other expert scientific organizations.

We have urged that our recommendations be accepted as part of Programme 2021-2024 since the asserted need to acquire expertise is the pretext on which previous similar programme motions have been rejected in a number of previous Congresses. In this Congress also the basic changes sought to be amended to Motion 034 were adopted electronically in Motion 038, but again our programme Motion 10407, similar to this amendment, was opposed by Council and prevented from a vote by Members with the adoption of the Programme 2021-2024 by electronic vote.

As the United Nations Director General has declared, climate crisis action is a highly urgent all hands on deck obligation. It is therefore incumbent on our organization to take all actions within its power to reduce global carbon buildup. Indeed, IUCN, as the largest and most prominent international environmental organization, should be leading the world in taking prompt action to address these existential climate change mitigation threats.