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Third International Conference on Financing for Development

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Message from IUCN

1. IUCN – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature - strongly supports the **post-2015 development agenda** and its **sustainable development goals designed to be universally applicable**. This is a unique opportunity to craft a unified, integrated and transformative vision to take the world to a path of sustainable development with sufficient integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions. This is why IUCN calls on all governments to commit to provide this framework with the necessary resources to ensure its success, and to ensure that **the level of commitment matches the level of ambition** of the SDGs package.
2. The agreement and resolutions from this Addis Ababa Third Conference on Financing for Development will send a strong message to the world and that message should be one of **full commitment and alignment** behind this new universal undertaking.
3. **ODA** is important, even though obviously not sufficient to implement the post-2015 development agenda. At a minimum, reaffirming the fulfilment of the commitments of 0.7% GNI for ODA would be a strong political signal that past promises are being respected; but **other sources of funding** need to be unlocked, building on the Monterrey objective in order to achieve the new vision embodied in the post-2015 development agenda.
4. IUCN believes that there is much to explore in terms of **innovative financial mechanisms** to fund global public goods, especially **nature conservation**, as this yields multiple dividends, including enhancing livelihoods and fighting climate change. The work of the Leading Group on Innovative Finance for Development should be supported as it could provide new financial schemes with significant impact.
5. One avenue to explore is the removal of **environmentally harmful subsidies** which could be redirected to support sustainable development initiatives including those aiming at promoting **biodiversity-positive investments** in the spirit of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010.
6. IUCN believes strongly in the **role that nature** plays in contributing to solve some of the most pressing global challenges the world faces – in relation to climate change, food security and socio-economic development, among others. We thus welcome the **integration** of the environmental dimension with the social and economic dimensions as envisioned in the package of the SDGs currently being finalized. Funding for sustainable development should take fully into account this new vision and promote investing in **nature based solutions** – i.e. interventions that deploy well managed or restored ecosystems as a direct and cost effective response to major societal challenges. By so doing, they provide tangible human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

7. IUCN attaches great importance to the discussion on the **Means of Implementation** of the post-2015 development agenda. The **HOW** is as important as the **WHAT**. We welcome the inclusion of a **follow up and review** mechanism for the SDGs and we believe that it should include a robust follow up and review mechanism to track the **financial contributions** and to know how much is being invested and where, so as to show the **interlinkages and gaps**, and allow for investment decisions to be adjusted accordingly.
8. Achieving the post-2015 development agenda will require **partnerships involving all actors**, ranging from governments, the private sector and civil society. Each has a role to play and having a **good governance framework at all levels** to enable all roles and responsibilities to be leveraged adequately will be critical.
9. It is the **role of government** to provide for the common good and set the rules to ensure social inclusiveness, effective environmental protection and fair economic development.
10. **Civil society** has an important role to play in working hand-in-hand with governments and the private sector actors to raise accountability, to gather relevant data, to ensure public participation in decision-making, among other things.
11. The contribution of the **private sector** is crucial to keep the business cycle, generate employment and contribute innovative funding mechanisms and operations. The private sector invests for profit and will of course not do large scale philanthropic investments. However, we need to demonstrate, and companies need to internalize, the environmental costs of their footprint.
12. But beyond that, both governments as well as the private sector need to move **beyond the prevailing short-termism**. Internalizing natural capital and environmental services will begin to shift us in that direction. And at the end of the day, this will not only pay a return to the environment and to sustainability, but will also pay a return on supply chain security and the financial bottom line.
13. **Partnership is the foundation on which IUCN is built**: a Union of around one thousand and three hundred members including States and Government agencies, hundreds of NGOs ranging from large international to small local ones, and with a vast worldwide network of some thirteen thousand experts from various disciplines grouped in the six IUCN thematic Commissions. Drawing from our 67 years of experience in building coalitions between donors, governments, practitioners and local communities to solve problems, our Union stands ready to play its part in taking forward the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, working with all of you.

THANK YOU.