

IUCN French Committee motion on the attack of Ukraine

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the IUCN French Committee wishes to emphasise the following points:

- At the end of the Second World War, the IUCN was created in the recognition that the protection of nature contributes to world peace;
- The future of the protection of the biosphere - our future, the object of the IUCN's mission - depends on one world acting together in peace;
- The Ukrainian State is the victim of an unacceptable attack by the State of the Russian Federation;
- The war waged by the Russian government in Ukrainian sovereign territory has severe consequences for civilian populations, victims of bombardments, as well as for the state of the environment in Ukraine, on land and at sea, through pollution and destruction of habitats;
- This war is happening in a strongly industrialised nation with numerous chemical and metallurgical factories as well as nuclear energy plants, including the former site of Tchernobyl. The consequences of an attack against one of these implantations could cause long-lasting pollution for a part of the European continent.

Accordingly, and while urging to an end of the war, the IUCN French Committee:

- Asks member States of the IUCN to support the immediate suspension of the rights to participation of the Russian Federation's government from all IUCN structures;
- Calls upon the IUCN to reconsider the invitation for the Russian Federation to host the World Parks Congress in 2024;
- Reaffirms its unconditional support to Ukrainian environmental organisations, as well as all Ukrainian experts that participate to the work of the IUCN;
- Reaffirms its support to Russian civil society, particularly its environmental associations and scientists who are engaged in the conservation of nature and peace;
- Calls upon European states to ensure the welcome and protection and of all Ukrainians fleeing conflict zones.

We only have one Earth, in which the destiny of humans and other living creatures are all linked: solidarity that is respectful of all life is the only option. As a part of the IUCN, an organisation born in order to ensure the contribution of nature conservation contributes to world peace, the IUCN French Committee condemns today, more than ever, all wars threatening the destruction of nature and human life.