



High Level Segment of UNFCCC COP25/ CMP15/ CMA2

**Statement by Zhang Xinsheng, President,
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

**10 December 2019
Madrid, Spain**

Madam President,

We stand today at a critical moment in time. The impacts of climate change are being increasingly felt across the world.

This week IUCN released a new report on *Ocean Deoxygenation*. This landmark study provides a clear warning of the alarming consequences of climate change on our ocean and marine ecosystems, on the human populations that depend on them, and on humanity as a whole.

There is an urgent need, therefore, for ambitious reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot afford to delay this any longer.

At IUCN, we are particularly conscious of the critical role that the world's ecosystems – our forests, our wetlands, our soils, our oceans – can play in providing effective and practical nature-based solutions to climate change.

As countries prepare new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in support of the Paris Agreement next year, we urge them to include nature-based solutions in their national commitments in a more concrete and substantive manner.

IUCN will also host the *IUCN World Conservation Congress* in Marseille, France in June next year. 2020 is also the year when the world will be coming together in Kunming, China to decide on a new global framework for conserving biodiversity at the CBD COP-15 meeting. These will be critical moments to build greater ambition.

By investing in nature-based solutions, the world can help to address both the climate and the biodiversity crises simultaneously.

If we take better care of nature, nature will take better care of us.

Thank you.