

**IUCN Statement at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the SIDS4 conference**

April 1, 2024 – UN HQ

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The SIDS4 conference is a key milestone needed to collectively tackle the triple planetary crisis, as well as the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States. The compounding impacts of these challenges threaten not only the environmental integrity of these States, but also the very livelihoods and well-being of their inhabitants.

At the heart of our concerns lies biodiversity, the very foundation of life on Earth. The loss of biodiversity poses threats to both ecosystems and human societies, ranging from economic disruptions to public health crises. For over 75 years, IUCN has developed a wide range of tools and standards to better conserve and manage biodiversity, as well as to inform policy-making with the latest scientific knowledge. These tools include, inter alia, the IUCN Red Lists, the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), and the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. IUCN renews its call for a stronger focus on biodiversity in the SIDS4 Outcome Document and remains committed to support governments and stakeholders in their nature conservation efforts.

Moreover, IUCN urges Parties to further include Nature-based Solutions within the framework of the SIDS4 conference and its outcomes. Their implementation should be guided by the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, a robust, voluntary and facilitatory framework developed through extensive consultations.

In conclusion, we must renew our efforts for an inclusive process that promotes equity and equality, and that listens to all stakeholders' concern, especially those of Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized communities.

Thank you for your attention and time.