

ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH LOCAL ACTION

From Abu Dhabi to Ghanaian Landscapes

Translating the resolutions of the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress into community-led conservation, restoration and environmental accountability in Ghana

As an IUCN Member, ABC is committed to turning global conservation commitments into practical, locally led action across Ghana's forests, farms, wetlands and communities.

July 2026 | Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC)



Figure 1. Ghana National Committee Members at the Congress (Source: Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation)

In October 2025, more than 10,000 conservation leaders, government representatives, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, researchers and businesses gathered in Abu Dhabi for the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The Congress adopted 144 Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions designed to guide international conservation action in the years ahead.

Source: [IUCN World Conservation Congress concludes in Abu Dhabi](#)

For Ghana, the practical test is whether these commitments can improve how landscapes are restored, how communities participate in environmental decisions, and how conservation finance reaches the places where nature and livelihoods are most closely connected.

For Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC), these resolutions are more than global policy statements. They provide a framework for strengthening the work already taking place in Ghana's forests, agricultural landscapes, wetlands and communities.

Restoring landscapes with communities

Several of the resolutions speak directly to ABC's work on forest and landscape restoration. Resolution 001 calls for the right trees to be planted in the right places and for the right purposes. Other resolutions promote trees in agricultural landscapes, soil biodiversity, sustainable forest management and dedicated funding for community stewardship.

These priorities are already reflected in ABC's work with farmers and communities in the Bosomtwe landscape, where restoration links tree planting, cocoa agroforestry, community nurseries, livelihood improvement and long-term monitoring into one landscape approach.

ABC's approach recognises that successful restoration is not simply about counting the number of seedlings distributed. It is about selecting ecologically appropriate species, improving tree survival, restoring ecosystem functions and ensuring that farmers and communities have both the incentives and capacity to care for restored landscapes.

Through its emerging Community Restoration and Stewardship Programme, ABC will connect landscape restoration with youth employment, women's participation, community enterprises and locally generated conservation data.

Strengthening environmental rights and responsible mining

The Congress also adopted resolutions addressing environmental crime, safe civic participation, human rights and biodiversity protection in mineral governance. These issues are particularly relevant in Ghana, where mining and other extractive activities continue to affect forests, agricultural land, water bodies and community livelihoods.

ABC's work in the Bosomtwe landscape is helping communities understand their environmental rights, participate in decisions affecting their natural resources and advocate for the restoration of degraded land.

Building on this foundation, ABC intends to strengthen community environmental monitoring, facilitate dialogue between communities and public institutions, and promote responsible approaches to land reclamation and mineral governance.

The objective is not only to identify environmental damage. It is also to ensure that communities have accessible channels for reporting concerns, contributing evidence and participating safely and meaningfully in decisions that affect their land and livelihoods.

Advancing high-integrity nature and carbon finance

Nature and carbon markets are expanding rapidly, but finance directed towards climate mitigation must also protect biodiversity, respect community rights and deliver credible benefits at the landscape level.

IUCN Resolution 043 calls for biodiversity conservation to be integrated into carbon-pricing and trading programmes. Other resolutions address biodiversity credits, corporate disclosure, nature-positive business and private-sector participation in conservation.

Reference: [Explore the 2025 IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations](#)

For ABC, this creates an important opportunity to contribute to the development of high-integrity nature finance in Ghana.

ABC will work to ensure that restoration and carbon initiatives are built on credible biodiversity baselines, meaningful community engagement, equitable benefit-sharing, safeguards and transparent monitoring. We also intend to support businesses and project developers seeking to move beyond broad environmental claims towards measurable and verifiable contributions to nature and communities.

This work can help Ghana attract responsible investment while reducing the risk that carbon or biodiversity finance becomes disconnected from ecological integrity and local realities.

Protecting wetlands and building coastal resilience

Wetlands and coastal ecosystems are among Ghana's most productive but threatened landscapes. They support fisheries, local livelihoods, biodiversity, flood regulation and climate resilience.

The 2025 Congress prioritised wetland restoration, river conservation, regenerative blue economies and coordinated action for coastal ecosystems. These commitments align with ABC's community-engagement experience within the Muni-Pomadze, Songor and Keta Lagoon Complex landscapes.

ABC plans to advance a community-centred coastal wetlands initiative combining mangrove and wetland restoration, blue-carbon assessment, water-quality monitoring, sustainable livelihoods and local governance.

Communities must be recognised not only as beneficiaries of wetland conservation but as custodians, knowledge holders and long-term partners in managing these ecosystems.

Women, young people and citizen science

Across all these priorities, ABC will place special emphasis on women, young people and community-generated evidence. The Congress adopted resolutions on gender equality, youth empowerment, ecological mentorship and citizen science. Resolution 125 recognises citizen science as a way of supporting and democratising conservation. ABC is therefore developing a Community Nature Stewards model through which trained community members can monitor trees, biodiversity, water quality, livelihoods and environmental safeguards, while contributing evidence that can inform local action and wider conservation reporting.

This will strengthen the evidence available for decision-making while creating opportunities for young people and women to build conservation, technology and green-enterprise skills.

From resolutions to measurable results

The true value of an international resolution lies in what happens after it is adopted.

ABC will progressively align its programmes with the most relevant IUCN resolutions, track their implementation within Ghanaian landscapes and share evidence of what works. We will also use the resolutions to strengthen collaboration with communities, government institutions, research organisations, development partners and responsible businesses.

In the next phase, ABC will identify the resolutions most relevant to its current programmes, translate them into landscape-level priorities, and document progress through community monitoring, partner reporting and public learning products. This will help move the resolutions from policy language into practical milestones that communities, funders and institutions can track together.

From cocoa farms and bamboo restoration sites to wetlands and mining-affected communities, ABC's focus will remain the same: connecting international conservation ambition with the priorities, knowledge and leadership of local people.

The journey from Abu Dhabi to Ghanaian landscapes has begun. ABC invites funding partners, businesses, public institutions, researchers and fellow civil society organisations to collaborate in turning these global commitments into measurable outcomes for people, nature and climate.

ADVOCATES FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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