

14 January 2022
Bozeman, Montana (USA)

Re: Third Round Inputs to the Ministerial Declaration – UNEA-5

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) is the global hub of collaboration working to reverse the fragmentation of nature and protect the interconnections of ecosystems and people. CLLC promotes large-scale conservation efforts around the world, including providing guidance and tools to communities, governments, agencies, managers, and practitioners to achieve the most effective strategies that maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity. The Convention on Migratory Species defines ecological connectivity as “the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth”.¹ UNEP has identified a key transformational change needed to achieve a sustainable future as “increasing connectivity between fully or partly protected areas [to make] them more resilient to climate change and more able to sustain viable populations of threatened species”.² As a contribution to ensuring a relevant and ambitious UNEA-5 ministerial declaration, CLLC kindly proposes the following amendments noted as tracked changes to the formulations of the current draft:

Re operative paragraph 13:

We commit to working across sectors and levels of government, **and between governments**, to halt the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of ecosystems, focusing on areas of particular importance for biodiversity; sustainable land, **sea and water** use, effectively **connecting**, managing **and designating** protected areas **and parks**, safeguarding especially vulnerable habitats, types of nature and ecosystems, and addressing deforestation, wildlife **trafficking**, illegal mining, illegal, **unreported and unregulated fishing**, and other unsustainable activities, crimes and **conflicts** that have serious impacts on the environment.

Re operative paragraph 14

We commit to promoting conservation and sustainable use and management of nature and its resources, to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through **sustainable and resilient infrastructure**, resource efficiency and circular economy policy approaches, and by **applying appropriate** valuation of nature and assessment **methods** of nature-related risks in policymaking.

Re operative paragraph 15

We commit to promoting and strengthening **ecosystem based approaches** and nature-based solutions, **including** by actively **maintaining ecological connectivity**, **reducing deforestation and forest degradation**, and by protecting, **actively conserving**, sustainably managing, and restoring degraded land and ecosystems that provide us with food, water, and energy, **and** are habitats for biodiversity **and that** provide carbon storage and sequestration, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for example natural forests, wetlands, **peatlands**, mangroves **and coral reefs**, **thus** underpinning our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.12.26_rev.cop13_e.pdf

² <https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34948/MPN.pdf>

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation
P.O. Box 1587, Bozeman, MT 59771 • 406.586.8082

www.largelandscapes.org

