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# **World Conservation Congress Held in the United Arab Emirates,**

## **Discussing Strategies for Nature Conservation**

– Governments, civil society, and businesses from around the world gather in Abu Dhabi to explore ways to conserve nature

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that it will participate in the “2025 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC)” to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from October 9 to 15.

The IUCN is the world’s largest international organization dedicated to conserving resources and nature, established in 1948 with the support of the United Nations. It has over 1,400 member organizations from more than 170 countries and more than 18,000 experts actively involved. The IUCN contributes to global biodiversity conservation, including evaluating sites for inscription as UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites.

This WCC is the largest international conference for discussing nature conservation and sustainable development, and South Korea previously hosted the Congress in Jeju in 2012.

The WCC consists of three main parts: the Members’ Assembly, the pre-conference forum, and the exhibition events. The Members’ Assembly, held from October 13 to 15, serves as the IUCN’s highest decision-making body, where all member organizations gather to discuss operational matters such as the IUCN’s work plan for 2026–2029 and to vote on motions submitted by members concerning

nature conservation.

At this WCC, the MCEE will participate as a national member representing South Korea, actively engaging not only in discussions on the future operational direction of the IUCN but also in key decisions related to nature conservation, such as motions on biodiversity credits\* and synthetic biology\*\*.

\* A system that allows the ecological impacts resulting from biodiversity protection and restoration activities or corporate operations to be converted into monetary value and traded

\*\* A field of biotechnology that involves the engineering, design, creation, and application of the components and systems of living organisms

The pre-conference forum, held from October 9 to 12 prior to the Members' Assembly, will feature presentations, discussions, and lectures on various topics, providing a platform to share knowledge on nature conservation and sustainable development across a wide range of fields, including economics, society, and science and technology.

The National Institute of Ecology, an affiliated organization of the MCEE, will present, together with POSCO, South Korea's public-private cooperation efforts in response to natural capital disclosure\* at the forum on October 11.

\* A system that discloses to investors information on a company's natural capital by incorporating related indicators into its financial statements

From October 9 to 13, the MCEE will operate a promotional booth showcasing South Korea's carbon neutrality policies, such as the Emissions Trading System (ETS), as well as nature conservation initiatives like the restoration of endangered species and policies supporting the transition to a circular economy. In addition, a side event will be held to present the outcomes of projects aimed at strengthening capacity for natural capital disclosure, conducted in cooperation with the IUCN.

Jeong Eun-hae, Director General for International Cooperation Bureau at the MCEE, stated, "The WCC is an excellent opportunity to promote South

Korea's outstanding environmental policies and to enhance our influence in the international community as a key partner of the IUCN." She added, "We will continue to expand cooperation in nature conservation through the IUCN and further strengthen South Korea's standing in global environmental affairs."