



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Abu Dhabi 2025

Delivering Impact Through Sustainability:
IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025
Sustainability Report

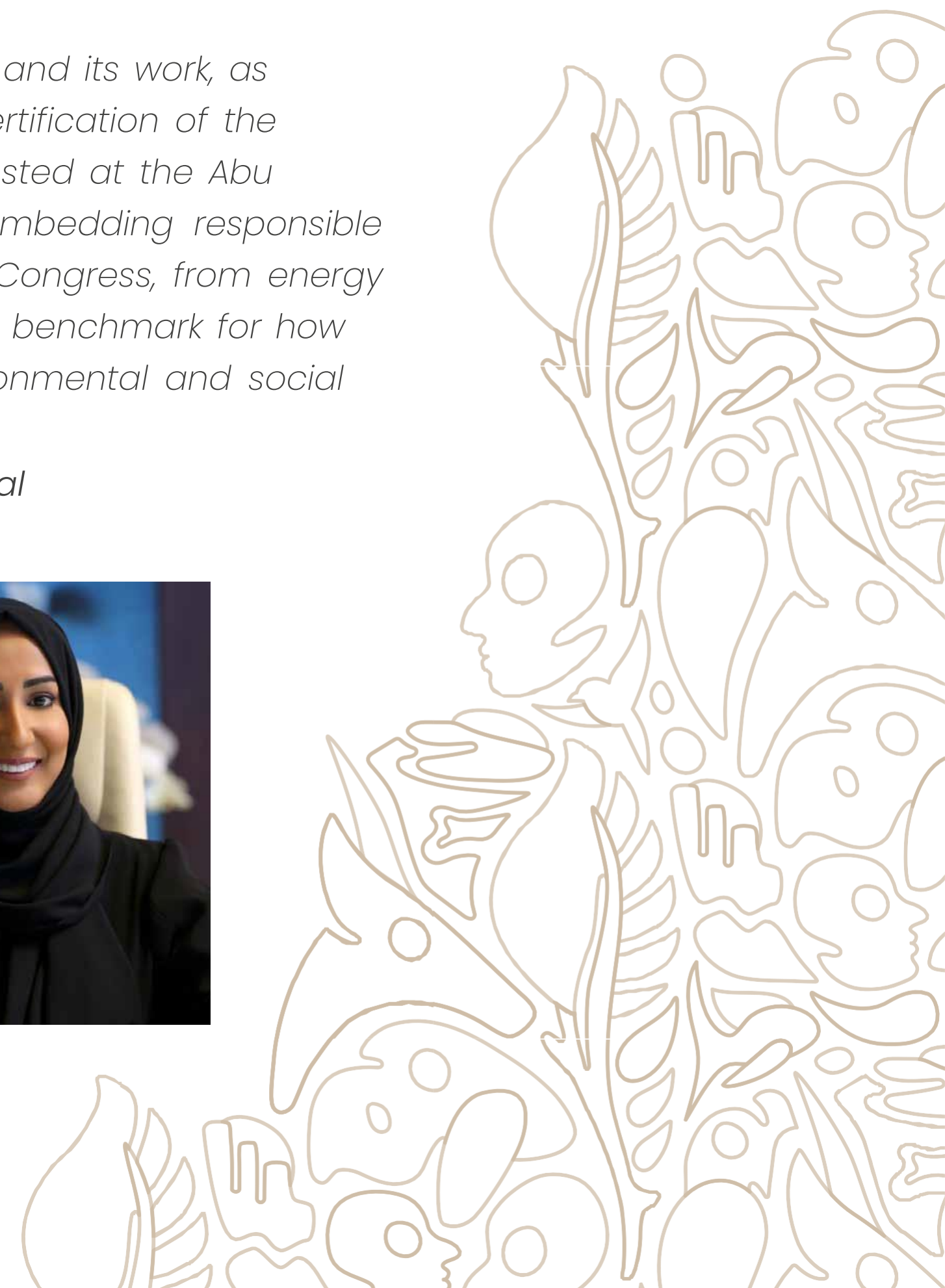
FOREWORD



“Sustainability lies at the heart of IUCN and its work, as demonstrated by the ISO 20121:2024 certification of the World Conservation Congress 2025, hosted at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. By embedding responsible practices across every aspect of the Congress, from energy use to waste reduction, we have set a benchmark for how global events can drive positive environmental and social impact.”

Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Director General

“Achieving ISO 20121:2024 certification is a testament of our partnership – demonstrating how sustainability can be embedded across every aspect of event planning and delivery. In line with IUCN’s four strategic pathways, the UAE is proud to support a Congress that strengthens environmental stewardship, drives inclusive social and economic opportunities, and promotes transparent, responsible governance. Together, we are showing that global convenings can leave a lasting legacy for nature and for people – one that advances both local action and global transformation.”
*Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri,
Secretary General of Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD)*



IUCN CONGRESS AT A GLANCE



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Abu Dhabi 2025

Location:
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Powering Transformative Conservation
9–15 October 2025, Abu Dhabi

+1300

Sessions

+10000

Members

+140

Exhibitors

+10,000

In-person
participants

+180

Countries

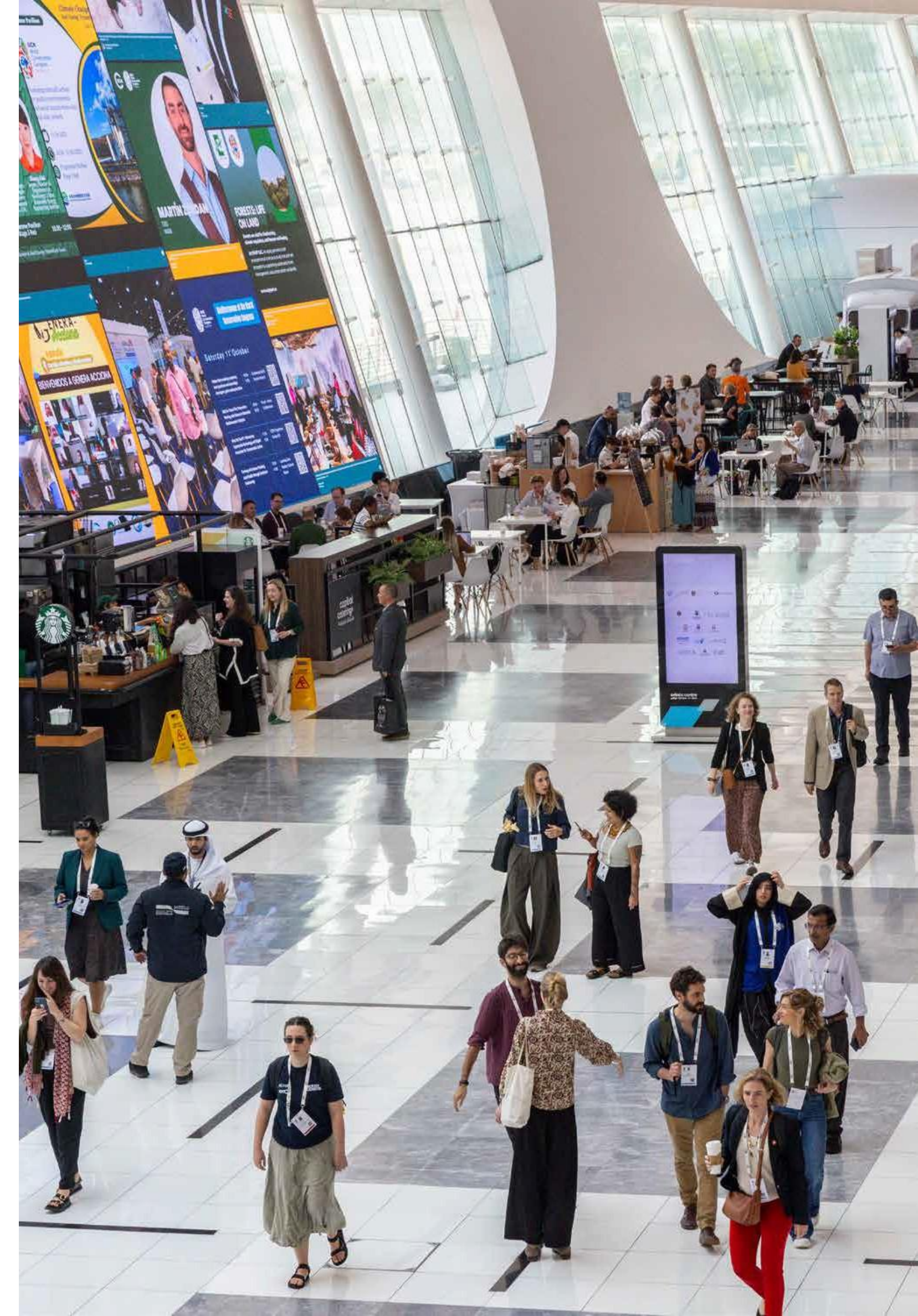
SUMMARY

Overview of the Congress

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 convened over 10,000 participants from more than 189 countries, both onsite at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) and online. The event brought together decision and policy makers from government, civil society, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, academia, and the private sector. In a historic first, the Congress hosted the World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature, creating a global platform for Indigenous leadership and knowledge. With more than 1,000 sessions and events, the Congress helped shape the future of global conservation and sustainable development.

The Congress was organised by IUCN in close partnership with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau, with the support of multiple national and international stakeholders.

The event concluded with the adoption of a [20-year Strategic Vision](#) and a four-year programme to guide IUCN's work globally, alongside the [Abu Dhabi Call to Action](#), which reaffirmed nature's role in human wellbeing and called for greater inclusion, innovation, and cooperation in conservation efforts.



A Policy-Driven Approach to Sustainable Delivery

Sustainability was embedded from the outset, guided by a dedicated [Sustainability Policy](#) that outlined IUCN's commitment for the Congress 2025 to:

- Reduce environmental impact
- Maximise positive social and economic outcomes
- Ensure full transparency and accountability

This policy provided the foundation for all decisions – from planning and procurement to operations and reporting – ensuring sustainability was not an add-on, but a core operating principle.

Four Strategic Pathways, One Integrated Vision

The Congress's sustainability strategy was structured around four strategic pathways:

- Economic/societal: Maximise local and global impact
- Environmental: Minimise the ecological footprint of the Congress
- Social: Organise a unifying event
- Governance: Strengthening organisation resilience and governance

Each pathway was supported by a tailored Sustainability Action Plan, underpinned by specific key performance indicators to track progress across areas including low-carbon mobility, sustainable catering, waste reduction, accessibility, and youth engagement.



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Full Performance and Reporting Framework

This Executive Summary presents key highlights and headline results from the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 Sustainability Report. A comprehensive account of governance structures, performance results, reporting boundaries, methodology, carbon accounting and supporting evidence is provided in the complete Sustainability Report.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT](#)

SUMMARY



Certified To Global Standards

In a significant milestone, the Congress was certified to the ISO 20121:2024 standard for sustainable event management – a globally recognised framework that ensures sustainability is embedded throughout the event lifecycle:

Plan → Implement → Check → Act → Improve.

Implementation was delivered in partnership with [GDS-Movement](#) and [Green Evénements](#), who provided expert guidance, capacity building, and performance monitoring aligned with the ISO framework.

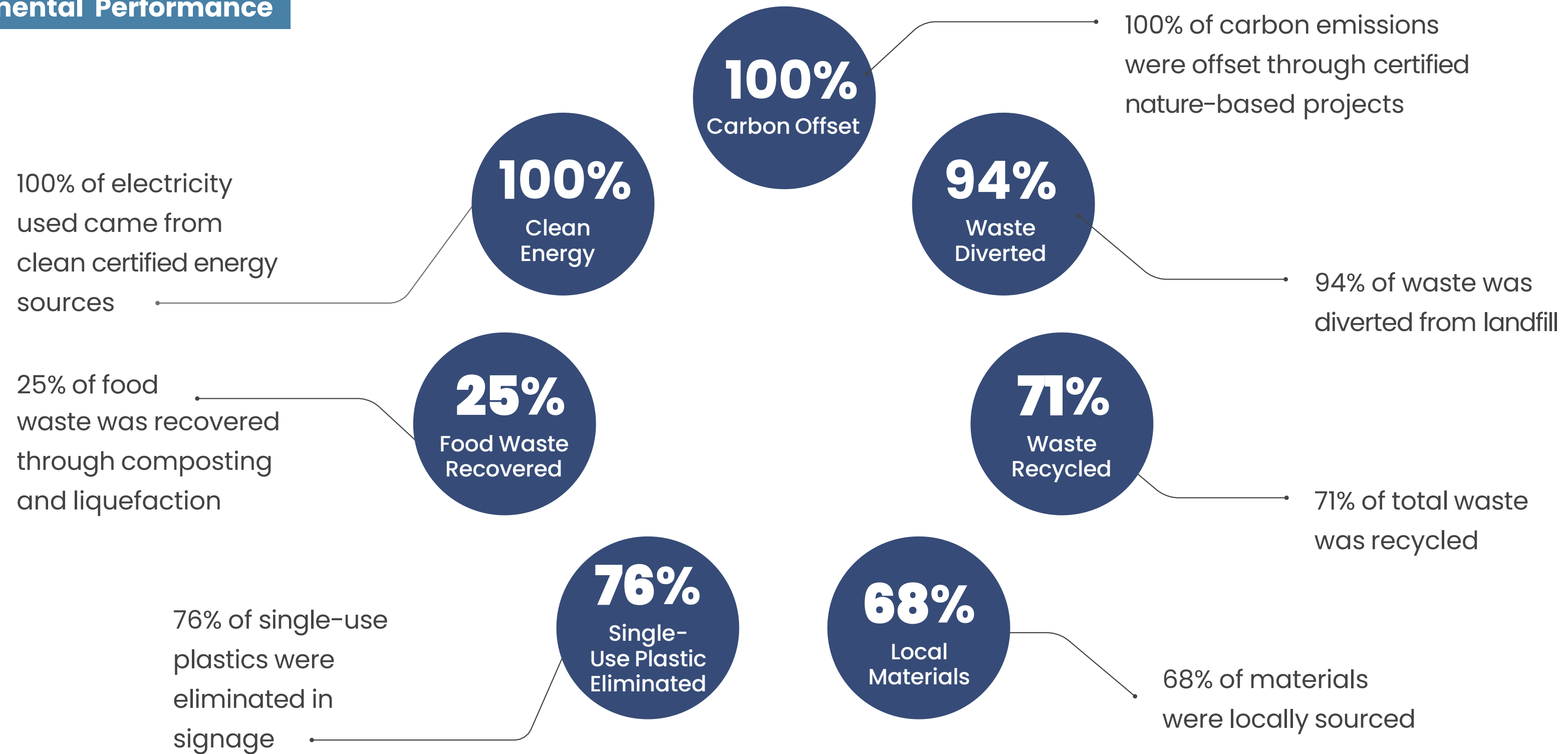
Delivering Results, Building Legacy

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 proved that major international events can be sustainable, inclusive, and impactful. It delivered clear results across environmental performance, social inclusion, and long-term legacy. By embedding sustainability holistically into planning and delivery, the Congress has set a lasting model for future global convenings, demonstrating that bold climate action, equitable participation, and operational excellence can go hand in hand.



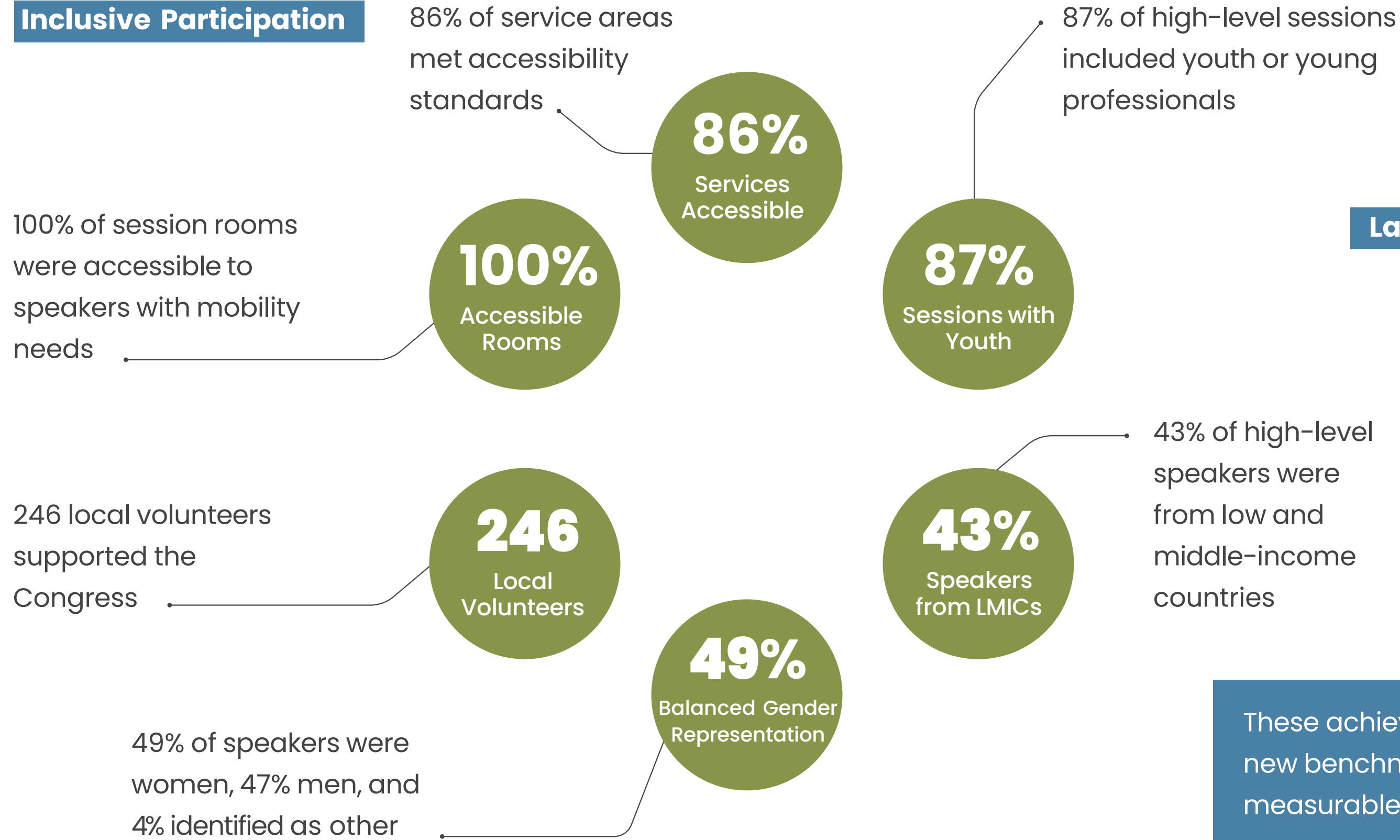
KEY RESULTS

Environmental Performance



KEY RESULTS

Inclusive Participation



Lasting Impact and Systems Change



These achievements position the Congress as a new benchmark for how global events can deliver measurable sustainability and social impact.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



وزارة الخارجية
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

abu dhabí
Convention & Exhibition Bureau



شرطة أبوظبي
ABU DHABI POLICE



مطارات أبوظبي
ABU DHABI AIRPORTS

