

### **RES 3.049 Community Conserved Areas**

AWARE that a considerable part of the Earth's surviving biodiversity is located on territories under the ownership, control, and/or management of indigenous peoples and local communities, including mobile peoples;

NOTING that such peoples and communities are conserving many sites within these territories through traditional or other means, and that such sites: add considerably to humanity's efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity, serve as examples of how to reconcile the objectives of conservation, livelihood, food sovereignty, and local sustainable development, and often demonstrate how to manage diverse landscapes and seascapes that contain both wildlife and agricultural diversity;

RECALLING Workshop Recommendation V.26 *Community Conserved Areas* noted by the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) which defines Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) as "natural or modified ecosystems, including significant biodiversity, ecological services, and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities through customary laws or other effective means", and provides a clear direction on the need to recognize and support CCAs;

RECOGNIZING that the world includes a wealth of CCAs that meet the objectives of at least one of the protected area categories in the IUCN protected area management categories system;

WELCOMING the relevant parts of the *Durban Accord* and the specific targeted actions for the recognition and support of CCAs, in the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, adopted by decision VII/28 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (Kuala Lumpur, 2004);

AWARE that, at present, most CCAs remain unrecognized in national and international conservation systems, and are largely outside official protected area networks;

RECOGNIZING that many CCAs are facing threats, such as those resulting from unclear and insecure tenure arrangements, unsustainable development projects, de-legitimization of customary rights, centralized political decision-making processes, inequities of a social, economic and political nature, loss of knowledge, cultural change, and commercialization of resources; and that communities need support and facilitation to be able to respond to these threats; and

CELEBRATING the importance given to CCAs in the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*;

The World Conservation Congress, at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand 17–25 November 2004:

1. RECOGNIZES and affirms the conservation significance of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, including mobile peoples, in managing such sites;

2. URGES IUCN to provide leadership and supportive roles in local, national, and international recognition of CCAs, including through:

(a) promoting the recognition of CCAs as a legitimate form of biodiversity conservation, and where appropriate and communities so choose, their inclusion within national and subnational systems of protected areas;

(b) providing guidance and case materials to members, countries and communities, that would help in the implementation of the *Durban Action Plan* and the relevant elements of the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*;

(c) supporting existing CCAs, and facilitating new ones, through measures including support to the restitution of traditional and customary rights, consistent with national laws, and other means considered appropriate by the communities concerned;

(d) advocating support to communities to protect CCAs against external threats, by applying the principles of Prior Informed Consent, participatory environmental impact assessments, and other measures as elaborated in CBD decision VII/28; and

(e) facilitating self-monitoring and evaluation of CCAs by relevant communities, participatory monitoring and evaluation by outside agencies/actors, and the establishment of effective mechanisms of internal and external accountability;

3. REQUESTS the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to:

(a) ensure that the concept of CCAs forms part of the governance dimension in the forthcoming revised IUCN Guidelines on protected area management categories, and work towards identifying examples of CCAs that fit into each of the categories;

(b) guide relevant bodies in the revisions to, or updating of, the *World Database on Protected Areas*, the *UN List of Protected Areas*, the *State of the World's Protected Areas*, and any other such databases or documents to ensure appropriate inclusion of CCAs;

(c) promote the conservation values of CCAs; and

(d) include substantive work on CCAs within its 2005–2008 programme;

4. REQUESTS the Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) to:

(a) commission or support inventories and participatory studies of CCAs in various parts of the world, in particular regarding best practices and lessons learnt so far;

(b) guide relevant national and international bodies on issues at the interface of CCAs and livelihoods, food security and food sovereignty, poverty eradication, equity/gender and other social issues (including problems of human-wildlife conflicts); and

(c) facilitate the development of guidelines for the participatory assessment and monitoring of CCAs;

5. URGES WCPA and CEESP to work together on the above activities, with other IUCN Commissions as appropriate; and

6. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to develop Secretariat capacity and specific initiatives for carrying out the above effectively.