

4.036 Best practice protected area guideline for ecological restoration

NOTING that the first objective under the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) strategic direction for *Knowledge, Science and Management of Protected Areas* is to implement systems to assess the effectiveness of protected area management, leading to an improvement in protected area management;

FURTHER NOTING that a specific target for this objective is to develop by 2013, guidance and standards relating to ecological restoration, protected area design and other key protected area topics;

NOTING that the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) has identified Ecosystem Restoration as one of its five priority programmatic elements and has issued a joint call to action with the Society for Ecological Restoration International to further the principles of the Ecosystem Approach by identifying how ecological restoration can provide enhanced biodiversity outcomes as well as improve human well-being in degraded landscapes;

RECALLING that Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme*, adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), requested the Director General, within available resources, to promote activities to enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change through *inter alia* ecosystem restoration;

RECALLING the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* adopted by Decision VII/28 of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and particularly:

- (a) Sections 1.5.3 and 1.2.5, which call for the implementation of measures for the rehabilitation and restoration of the ecological integrity of protected areas and corridors, networks and buffer zones; and
- (b) Section 3.3.3, which calls for the development and use, as well as the transfer of, appropriate technology related to restoration; and

RECOGNIZING that Parks Canada, along with Canadian and international protected areas agencies, representatives of Canadian and international academic institutions and representatives of the Society for Ecological Restoration International and its Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network Working Group, has developed best practice *Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas* aimed at making ecological restoration effective, efficient, and socially and culturally engaging;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. REAFFIRMS the values of ecological restoration and the role and values of public education, societal engagement, and indigenous and local community knowledge in undertaking such initiatives;
2. WELCOMES progress made internationally in developing ecological restoration best practice guidance;
3. AFFIRMS that ecological restoration should be effective, practical and affordable, enable full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, and contribute to long-lasting outcomes of enhanced biodiversity, enhanced ecosystem resilience to climate change and global changes, improved protected area management, and improved human well-being; and
4. ENCOURAGES all IUCN members to support governments and other stakeholders in implementing the initiatives enumerated in paragraph 5 below;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

5. REQUESTS the Director General to work in close cooperation with IUCN's Commissions, particularly the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), with international terrestrial and marine protected area organizations, indigenous peoples, learned societies, sectoral management bodies, industries and non-governmental organizations involved in restoring the world's ecosystems to:

- (a) produce, prior to the next World Conservation Congress, a *Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration*;
- (b) work with governments on the dissemination, application and use of the Guideline; and
- (c) develop and implement programmes for further guidance, awareness raising, capacity building, monitoring and research with regard to ecological restoration in protected areas.