

WCC-2012-Rec-155-EN

Restoration and conservation of Jeju's Hanon Maar Crater

UNDERSTANDING that Jeju volcanic island was formed more than 1.8 million years ago from numerous volcanic activities, designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site, and Global Geopark, has four Wetlands of International Importance ('Ramsar sites') and thus, is an exemplary case worldwide for the conservation of nature;

EMPHASIZING Hanon, with the total area of 127.6 hectares, located in Seogwipo City, Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea, where the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress is hosted, as an important natural heritage like a 'time capsule of the Earth's environment,' preserving invaluable scientific information that reveals the process of the Earth's climatic and ecological environmental changes through pollen, spores and yellow sands accumulated as thick as 15 metres inside the lake and wetland sediments of the crater over the last 50,000 years;

RECOGNIZING that the Hanon area can be a good place for climate prediction by closely investigating the fluctuation of varying climates in East Asia from the analysis of the ancient climate and vegetation in and around the concentrated and accumulated maar sediments in the crater, as the area is influenced by the maritime tropical air mass and continental polar air mass, and the westerlies from the distinct climatic characteristic changing seasonally between continental and oceanic climates;

CONCERNED that topographical damage continues in the area despite cessation of farming by indigenous farmers around the area, that the crater lake and wetland also continue to disappear, which results in serious damage of the original vegetation around the crater, and furthermore, that the area has been exposed to imminent threats from thoughtless attempts to develop the area as a sports, tourism and entertainment complex;

CONSIDERING that the municipal government and civil organizations have recognized the importance of the geological, climatic, ecological and environmental values contained in the Hanon crater, and thus, have continued campaigns urging actions for restoration and sustainable conservation of the area, while hosting four international symposiums in cooperation with the municipal government and the private sector to re-examine the values of the Hanon crater and present the appropriateness and a vision for environmental education and environmentally-friendly use, with eco-tours when restoration is completed and actions for conservation are put into place, as an effort to create both national and international consensus;

NOTING that restoration of the Hanon crater lake and wetland environment and conservation of the sediments in the lake are consistent with the fundamentals of sustainable development to save the Earth's environment, coping with climate change, and for our future generations as pursued by IUCN and other international environmental organizations; and

RECALLING that IUCN has made various efforts and taken actions to induce efforts and practical contributions, at the State level, to emphasize the environmental importance of and to conserve the wetland ecosystem through Resolution 1.70 *Ramsar Convention Priorities* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), Resolution 3.012 *Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), and Resolution 4.036 *Best practice protected area guideline for ecological restoration* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions, together with the Hanon crater restoration and conservation project, to help achieve an effective outcome, while making restoration of ecosystems exposed to ongoing destruction become a core project for the conservation of nature and natural resources, and so that the initiatives for recovery projects can be disseminated to other States, regions and throughout the world;
2. RECOMMENDS that governments of the Republic of Korea establish and execute a comprehensive plan for restoration of the natural environment and take actions not to accelerate damage in the conserved areas, while establishing and operating environmentally-friendly utilization programmes (e.g. a protection and management programme and environmental education) in which a diversity of participants (i.e. civil environmental groups, local residents and academic experts) can join together; and
3. RECOMMENDS that governments, research institutes and environmental organizations of the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and Japan, where maar craters are distributed in the same climate zone as the Hanon crater is located, continue to make efforts to maximize mutual cooperation and exchanges in academic and educational activities that can contribute to the provision of predictions on climate change by investigating the process of changes in the monsoon climate of the Northeast Asian region.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.