

WCC-2012-Rec-158-EN

Support for the Bonn Challenge on restoration of lost forests and degraded lands

RECOGNIZING that IUCN has played a central role in developing and promoting forest and landscape restoration;

AWARE that forest and landscape restoration can enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services including reduced pressure on existing habitats, greater supply of improved habitats, and enhanced connectivity, as well as carbon sequestration, food, fuel, fibre, erosion control, improved water supply, etc.;

NOTING that more than 2 billion hectares of deforested and degraded lands in tropical, temperate and boreal areas offer opportunities for forest and landscape restoration, according to global analyses by IUCN, the World Resources Institute and other IUCN Members;

ALSO NOTING that a Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration has been formed and that the members include the secretariats of IUCN and of the Convention on Biological Diversity, other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations, and business corporations; and

FURTHER NOTING that the *Bonn Challenge on Forests, Climate Change and Biodiversity* of 2011 aims to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020, with benefits for climate change, biodiversity and forest-dependent communities;

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

1. URGES Governments, civil society organizations, corporations, research institutions and the donor community to:
 - a. recognize that forest and landscape restoration produces multiple benefits and captures synergies among international commitments already made;
 - b. define specific pledges as contributions to the *Bonn Challenge* target of restoring 150 million hectares of lost forest and degraded lands by 2020; and
 - c. develop strategies for meeting the *Bonn Challenge* and make available sufficient resources for doing so; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - a. ensure that the IUCN Secretariat supports the *Bonn Challenge* by maintaining a strong focus on forest and landscape restoration consistent with the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*; and
 - b. strongly encourage IUCN Members, Council, Commissions and National and Regional Committees to actively support the *Bonn Challenge*.

The State Member United States of America provided the following statement for the record:

“The United States commends the work of IUCN and the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration. We were pleased to pledge to restore 15 million hectares domestically to the Bonn Challenge in Rio this past June. Restoration of lost forests and degraded lands has historically been the foundation of conservation on both public and private lands in the US. Increasing the pace and scale of restoration globally is critical and we are working internationally to this end.”