

WCC-2012-Rec-162-EN

Actions to increase the protection and sustainable use of the pampas and campos of South America

NOTING Resolution 4.044 *Actions to conserve the Pampas and Campos of South America* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which urged an improvement in the conservation of the grasslands of the Río de la Plata, a region formed by the pampas (temperate grasslands) and campos (subtropical grasslands) of Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil;

OBSERVING that the savannahs in southern Paraguay share floral and physical characteristics with the grasslands of the Río de la Plata, and that it is therefore appropriate to include them in this proposal;

CONSIDERING that only 1% of the grasslands of the Río de la Plata, one of the largest temperate grassland regions in the world, with an area of nearly 750,000 km², enjoys any formal protection, and that this is an extremely small percentage, even in relation to the level of protection of the world's temperate grassland biome (only 5.5% is currently protected);

HIGHLIGHTING the fact that the rate of transformation and degradation of the environment continues to increase due to the growing importance of the region as an agricultural and cattle-raising area, with an annual 1% reduction in the area occurring during the last few decades (with this figure being as high as 10% per year in some locations);

BEARING IN MIND the important biodiversity of these grasslands, which include a large number of endangered species, endemic species, medicinal plants and genetic resources, as well as the goods and services these ecosystems provide, such as the products of livestock grazing systems (meat, milk, wool and leather), their contribution to the maintenance of the composition of gases in the atmosphere through the sequestration of CO₂ and the role they play in controlling soil erosion;

RECOGNIZING that these ecosystems are also home to traditional ways of life, which make up the cultural identity of rural communities and small producers;

CONSIDERING that the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010 adopted a series of decisions relevant to the conservation of temperate grasslands, including Aichi Target 11 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, Decision X/35 (Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands), and Decision X/31 (Protected Areas);

RECOGNIZING the achievements of the initiatives and projects carried out after the approval of Resolution 4.044, including the creation or consolidation of protected areas, the development of management models for public and private conservation units, the development of incentives for the conservation of grasslands, and the generation of production certification models;

OBSERVING that, despite the above, no significant increase in the extent of the protected areas has been achieved, and the current level of protection falls far short of achieving the global conservation goals; and

APPRECIATING that due to the above, it is necessary to establish a new Resolution, which, whilst recognizing the efforts carried out by governmental and non-governmental organizations, urges the pertinent bodies to work harder to achieve a significant improvement in the conservation status of these temperate grasslands and to update the conservation goals in order to bring them into line with global standards;

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

1. CALLS ON the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to:
 - a. intensify efforts to increase the designation of protected areas in the temperate grasslands of the pampas and the campos in South America, in order to meet Aichi Target 11;
 - b. continue to develop and promote sustainable use and management practices in the pampas and campos of South America in order to guarantee the conservation of the environmental services and the biodiversity of the grasslands, including certification models, valuation of and payment for ecosystem services, incentives, etc.;
 - c. promote and implement environmental land-use policies for the pampas and campos of South America, which include the creation of new protected areas and the sustainable development of the region, based on the development of analyses of vulnerability to climate change and the provision of ecosystem services; and
 - d. develop and maintain an up-to-date inventory with information on the public and private protected areas and the areas of sustainable use in the temperate grasslands of the pampas and campos of South America in the four countries;
2. CALLS ON the pertinent agencies of the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to:
 - a. develop integrated policies for the conservation and sustainable use of the temperate grasslands of the pampas and campos of South America, including specific actions to protect or recover endangered species and/or restore degraded areas; and
 - b. include in their agendas the development of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of natural grasslands and to raise the public's awareness of their natural and cultural importance;
3. CALLS ON the international funding bodies to increase their support for initiatives aimed at conserving the temperate grasslands of the pampas and campos of South America, supporting the regional priorities that the member governments define in a timely manner;
4. INVITES interested non-governmental organizations to promote the valuation of the temperate grasslands of the pampas and campos of South America and to disseminate their importance in terms of biodiversity, the provision of environmental services relevant to society, and their association with different cultural identities in each country; and
5. CALLS on the Director General and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), through IUCN's Regional Office for South America and the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative respectively, to promote the development of sub-regional actions and policies to improve the conservation status and promote the sustainable use of the grasslands in the Río de la Plata.

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.