

WCC-2012-Rec-164-EN

Altitudinal corridors: an adaptation strategy in the Andes

RECALLING Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action*, adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies*, adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona 2008);

CONSIDERING that in the Andean region the mountain ecosystems are important biodiversity refuges, which, despite the fact that they are under pressure and being fragmented by various extractive activities, have led to the Andean region (Tropical Andes) being classified as one of the planet's biodiversity hotspots;

RECOGNIZING that various ecosystems in the Andean region are fragmented and that, due to their isolation, the biodiversity of this area is threatened with extinction;

OBSERVING that several studies reveal that, due to the effect of climate change, some species of flora and fauna will migrate along an altitudinal or humidity gradient within the mountain ecosystems of the region; and

CONCERNED because within the countries of the region, most of the natural areas that protect mountain ecosystems will not allow for the process of altitudinal migration by biodiversity, given that when they were declared protected natural areas the effects of climate change were not taken into account;

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

1. URGES the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to incorporate into their national plans and strategies measures to ensure the conservation of the biodiversity of the systems within the protected natural areas in tropical and subtropical mountainous regions;
2. ASKS the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other interested parties to provide information on strategies for helping biodiversity adapt to climate change in protected areas within mountain ecosystems;
3. CALLS ON the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to systematize the experiences and share them with IUCN Members;
4. CALLS ON the IUCN South American National Committees to recognize and support local strategies to connect, at a landscape level, the protected areas in the Andean region in terms of altitude, and to promote working programmes on this subject;
5. RECOMMENDS that the authorities and governments in the Andean region, when planning the declaration of protected natural areas, give priority to landscape connectivity along altitudinal gradients, as a strategy to support the migration of species in the face of the effects of climate change; and
6. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that donors interested in the conservation of the Amazon Basin and the Andean region should support this altitudinal connectivity initiative in terms of landscapes within protected natural areas.

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.