

**WCC-2012-Rec-180-EN**

**IUCN's engagement in the implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020***

ALARMED that the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3)* made clear that the target of reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity was not met, either nationally or internationally, in any part of the world, and that the principal drivers of biodiversity loss are intensifying as a result of human actions, and realizing that there are multiple indications of continuing decline in biodiversity in all three of its components – ecosystems, species and genes – with species extinction rates up to 1,000 times greater than the average rates in pre-human times and increasing;

AWARE of the fact that biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being, and that without rapid action such services will be lost;

FURTHER NOTING that targeted conservation action results in conservation success, but the current level of action is far outweighed by the magnitude of threat, so that conservation responses need to be substantially scaled up;

NOTING that, in response to the above, in 2010 the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* at its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Nagoya, Japan, to inspire urgent action for biodiversity conservation by all countries and stakeholders;

EMPHASIZING that the vision of the Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”;

FURTHER NOTING that this plan also comprises a mission which seeks to reduce and eventually halt the loss of biodiversity at global level, as well as strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets (for 2015 or 2020), collectively known as the Aichi Targets;

WELCOMING that Parties to the CBD have agreed to translate this framework into national level targets incorporated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) by 2012;

APPRECIATING THAT IUCN is the leading global authority on biodiversity conservation, and has a long history of creating and providing credible and trusted knowledge on biodiversity through its flagship knowledge products such as the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* and (with UNEP-WCMC) the World Database on Protected Areas, and therefore has a significant leadership role to play in supporting the achievement of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*; and, critically, the basis of key indicators to measure progress in their achievement;

RECOGNIZING that the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity is a major opportunity to scale up resources and promote significant action for the implementation of the *Strategic Plan*;

RECOGNIZING the role of civil society, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to actively participate in actions contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Targets including promoting good practices and overcoming challenges;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the important but under-appreciated link between environment and development issues and the outcome of Rio+20 *The Future We Want*, and

AWARE that the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP11), to be held in Hyderabad, India, 8–19 October 2012, will adopt a framework of indicators to facilitate measurement of progress in achievement of the Aichi Targets;

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

1. EMPHASIZES that achievement of the 2020 Aichi Targets are dependent on extremely urgent and bold action being taken by governments, civil society and the corporate sector prior to 2015 to combat drivers of biodiversity loss, because of the time lags inherent in ecological systems;
2. ASKS that all stakeholders support, communicate and promote the achievement of the Targets at every available opportunity, including through celebrations linked to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity;
3. CALLS ON governments to set rigorous and robust targets at the national level (within the 'flexible framework') noting that the global Aichi Targets will only be achieved if the individual national level targets 'add up' to the equivalent of targets set at the global level;
4. URGES governments to meaningfully address all five strategic goals which encompass the need to tackle the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and efforts to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as taking action to decrease the direct pressures on biodiversity and safeguard and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable, and capacity building;
5. CALLS ON governments to demonstrate real commitment by adopting ambitious resource mobilization strategies to greatly increase funding to biodiversity conservation;
6. URGES the donor community to incorporate the plan into their strategies;
7. CALLS FOR the international environmental and development communities to utilize action taken to the achievement of the *Strategic Plan* to strengthen international development goals that contribute to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty;
8. URGES the private sector to assume accountability for relevant parts of the Aichi Targets and thereby proactively support their implementation;
9. CALLS ON the Parties to the CBD at COP11 and subsequent meetings to take any necessary measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the Targets;
10. ASKS the Parties to the CBD at COP11 to adopt a clear and robust indicator framework which allows for appropriate measuring of the extent of achievement of the individual Targets;
11. DECIDES that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* (and subsequent Programmes, 2017–2020), must contribute to the implementation of all five goals of the *Strategic Plan*;

12. CALLS ON IUCN Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees, as well as the Secretariat to demonstrate their contribution to all 20 Aichi Targets through monitoring and reporting; and
13. REQUESTS the Director General to:
  - a. ensure that the IUCN Secretariat maintains a strong focus on the delivery of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, given that it is a key underpinning framework for the IUCN Programme for the next decade (2013–2016; 2017–2020); through supporting the identified IUCN Aichi Target ‘lead champions’;
  - b. strongly encourage IUCN Members, Commissions and National and Regional Committees to maintain a strong focus on contributing to the achievement of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets;
  - c. support the strengthening and integration of IUCN's key flagship knowledge products to underpin work for the achievement of the Targets and the development of indicators at the global and national level; and
  - d. strongly encourage IUCN Members, Commissions, and National and Regional Committees to support work to integrate the Aichi Targets into the Sustainable Development Goals, to be developed for 2015.