

WCC-2012-Res-104-EN

Food security, ecosystem restoration and climate change

OBSERVING that the deforestation and degradation of land in the entire equatorial belt, notably in Central America, reduces food security and access to clean water for human consumption, affects the lands belonging to indigenous peoples, as well as biodiversity, and increases vulnerability to climate change;

CONSIDERING that the demand for food increases with growth in the world's population;

CONSIDERING that the accumulated knowledge, practices and experience in relation to the sustainable production of food and the restoration of degraded ecosystems are now accessible;

RECOGNIZING that the knowledge and the practice of traditional cropping systems such as the so-called 'Guama Model', which includes 'alley cropping' with plants of the genus *Inga* (family Fabaceae), or similar have, among others the following applications:

- a. the production of basic grains, vegetables, and in general 'clean' crops or those that do not require shade to ensure the variety of food species;
- b. the generation of family income by producing shade over crops such as cocoa, coffee, black pepper etc.; and
- c. the establishment of biological corridors for the restoration of ecosystems with native species, which improves the microclimate and the conditions required for the reestablishment of fauna populations such as invertebrates, reptiles, mammals, and birds);

RECOGNIZING that these applications include important aspects such as:

- a. the stabilization of deforestation;
- b. the restoration of soil productivity;
- c. the restoration of sources of water;
- d. adaptation and resilience to climate change;
- e. the mitigation of carbon emissions; and
- f. the reduction of vulnerability to the risk of disasters;

RECOGNIZING that the implementation of these types of initiative will require sufficient funding for dissemination, the development of skills, and the provision of supplies; and

CONCERNED because there is a need for urgent action, and for the formation of coalitions and alliances, in order to obtain results;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General, the IUCN Commissions, Members and Council, especially within the equatorial belt, to use available resources as well as any others that

can be raised, to strengthen work on food security, ecosystem restoration and the promotion of traditional, indigenous practices for managing natural resources, as follows:

- a. establishing the current situation and trends for expansion of the agricultural and logging frontier in countries of the equatorial belt, using satellite technology and other available technologies to create corresponding maps that reveal the seriousness of deforestation and environmental degradation; and
 - b. defining the impact of the expansion of deforestation on indigenous peoples' territories, with special focus on their land rights;
2. RECOMMENDS that the Director General and the IUCN Commissions, Members and Council, especially within the equatorial belt, begin to take action at a community level with a global vision regarding:
- a. the establishment of land-use planning in areas where deforestation is expanding, defining the potential use of the land and the integrated management of micro-basins;
 - b. the establishment of initiatives for food security and land and ecosystem restoration bearing in mind the Guama Model, and other similar models; and
 - c. the establishment of management for water-supplying micro-basins; and
3. URGES the Director General and the IUCN Commissions, Members and Council, especially within the equatorial belt, to establish alliances with governmental and non-governmental institutions, and with international cooperation, to become more effective in terms of results, using impact indicators in the drive for sustainable food security, the restoration of natural ecosystems and the use of traditional practices for managing natural resources and the protection of lands inhabited by indigenous peoples.

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.