

WCC-2012-Res-107-EN

Addressing the impacts of environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises on climate change, food security and biodiversity

NOTING the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* which states “people, communities, governments and private actors are underutilizing the potential power of nature and the solutions it can provide to global challenges in fields such as climate change, food security, social and economic development. IUCN terms these *nature-based solutions*”;

RECALLING many previous Resolutions and Recommendations recognizing climate change as a threat to people and biodiversity that requires immediate action for mitigation and adaptation, including Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN’s Overall Programme* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), World Parks Congress Recommendation V.5 *Climate Change and Protected Areas* adopted at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), Resolutions 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* and 3.084 *Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), and Resolutions 4.075 *Climate change mitigation targets and actions for biodiversity conservation* (Barcelona, 2008) and 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);

RECOGNIZING that environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises are operations based on chemical-intensive monocultures and genetically modified organisms, displace forestlands and other natural areas, interrupt ecological networks and threaten biodiversity, take over indigenous peoples’ community lands, and are leading to the loss of traditional knowledge about sustainable agricultural practices;

EMPHASIZING the importance of Resolution 3.017 *Promoting food sovereignty to conserve biodiversity and end hunger* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) on food security that states “hunger and poverty will not be ended by increased globalization of food production, which is linked to an increased dependency on very few species of crops cultivated as large-scale monoculture systems”;

RECALLING Resolution 4.083 *Industrial agrofuel production* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) on social and environmental problems caused by industrial-scale production of agrofuels;

RECOGNIZING the linkages between the conservation of indigenous lands and populations and the protection of food security and biodiversity, recognized in Resolutions 3.017, 3.049 *Community Conserved Areas* and 3.056 *Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and conservation of nature in the Amazon region and Chaco* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), and Resolutions 4.049 *Supporting Indigenous Conservation Territories and other Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas*, 4.050 *Recognition of Indigenous Conservation Territories*, 4.052 *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and 4.53 *Mobile indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

CONCERNED that environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises use vast quantities of water and that contaminants from industrial

agriculture, including manure, antibiotics, and chemical pesticides and fertilizers, run off into watersheds and pollute drinking water and already-jeopardized freshwater resources;

ALARMED that global demand for meat is already one of the principal contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock-generated CH₄ (methane), N₂O (nitrous oxide) and CO₂ (carbon dioxide) accounting for about one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide;

CONCERNED as well that the industrial production of meat by means of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), high-density confinement of animals in a severely concentrated area, uses and pollutes more water than all other industrial and municipal water uses combined, causes inhumane treatment of animals, and poses numerous threats to the environment and human health, including air and water pollution, infectious diseases of both animals and humans with increased risk of pandemic influenza, mounting antibiotic resistance, and decreased quality of life for communities located in CAFO areas;

RECOGNIZING that environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises pose serious threats to the global climate, biodiversity, sustainability, the survival of indigenous populations and their knowledge of traditional agriculture and the health of human and animal populations;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that these problems threaten to increase dramatically as human global population, currently projected to grow to nine billion by 2050, drives increased demand for food and energy, and increasing pressure to resort to unsustainable industrial agriculture to meet these needs; and

CONVINCED that to conserve the diversity and integrity of nature, ensure that natural resources are used sustainably, and mitigate the effects of climate change, there is an urgent need for the international community to promote a worldwide shift to sustainable agriculture by providing assistance to farmers and communities and by developing regulations that will eliminate practices that have led to the problems caused by industrial agriculture;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, DIRECTS IUCN Commissions, and CALLS ON IUCN Members to promote a worldwide shift to sustainable agriculture by advocating for an appropriate mix of nature-based and environmentally sound technological solutions to the global challenges of climate change, food security, social and economic well-being;
2. CALLS ON IUCN and its Commissions in collaboration with Members, to advocate for the effective and appropriate regulation of environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises and to provide technical assistance and incentives for conversion to practices of sustainable agriculture which will build resilience to the impacts of climate, restore the productivity of soils, and improve food security for the people of the world;
3. REQUESTS that IUCN collaboratively supports leadership in sharing information and knowledge on appropriate means of ensuring that agricultural practices have minimal adverse impacts on the environment and human health; and
4. REQUESTS that IUCN collaborates with other institutions such as FAO and IISD on holding a series of regional conferences in areas where there are conflicts between environmentally unsustainable industrial-scale agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises and nature-based agricultural practices. Such conferences will present recommendations that address the impacts of these practices on climate change,

biodiversity, sustainability, food security, environmental degradation, indigenous populations, and human and animal health, and how healthy and restored ecosystems can make cost-effective contributions to meeting global challenges of climate change, food security, and economic and social development, and highlight practical solutions and cases demonstrating efforts at reducing the negative impacts.

State and agency Members of the United States voted against this Motion.