

WCC-2012-Res-109-EN

Green growth as a sustainable strategy for nature conservation and economic development

RECALLING that “Green Growth means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. To do this, it must catalyse investment and innovation which will underpin sustained growth and give rise to new economic opportunities” (*Toward Green Growth*. OECD, 2011.);

CONSIDERING that as mankind continues to expand its activities for economic growth, the global community has been faced with the issues of exhaustion of natural resources and environmental damage. Ultimately these problems will lead to increased societal costs, restricted economic growth, and impaired sustainability. Green Growth, as one of the alternative paradigms to solve these challenges, is a strategy through which sustainable development can be supported and societal benefits enhanced;

ACKNOWLEDGING that after recognizing these challenges, a number of countries have accepted ‘Green Growth’ for sustainable development. The Republic of Korea adopted ‘Low Carbon Green Growth’ in August 2008 as a national vision and strategy;

NOTING that, in the context of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*, there is common ground to be found between the IUCN ‘Greening the Economy’ and Korean Green Growth Mandates that both promote significant investments in ecosystem services; and

RECOGNIZING that green growth can be a useful means for economic opportunities based on natural resources, a key target area for IUCN initiatives. In addition, continued links between the IUCN vision and goals and those pursued by green growth, all of which endeavour to advance the value and conservation of natural resources, will serve to strengthen current sustainability efforts;

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

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- a. positively consider green growth in implementing the values and conservation of natural resources worldwide, which IUCN continues to pursue;
- b. support green growth, which seeks to provide economic opportunities through the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources while assuring sustainable economic development;
- c. improve the values and conservation of natural resources in conjunction with green growth, by considering the following:
 - i. prepare political and systematic foundations of green growth which will serve as a basis to address the diverse characteristics and realities of each country and/or region;
 - ii. prepare an evaluation tool to regularly measure and review the implementation of green growth based on the conservation of natural resources; and
 - iii. prepare strategies to deliver green growth in connection with efforts to value and conserve natural resources by ensuring participatory processes;

- d. endeavour to achieve political cooperation with the related nations and organizations for research and development and information sharing, and endeavour to establish continued cooperative relationships and partnerships with international organizations; and
- e. communicate the above, especially in relation to green growth, to Members so that they may fully recognize them.

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.