

WCC-2012-Res-113-EN

Management of secondary environmental damage from natural disasters

MINDFUL OF the significant impact on human life and the environment of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, landslides, floods, volcanic eruptions and other disasters;

RECALLING that damage caused by disasters to human beings and the environment can come from the secondary damage through industrial accidents after a natural disaster;

UNDERSTANDING that we cannot stop a natural disaster itself; however, we can prevent, prepare and respond to the secondary environmental damage from a natural disaster in order to reduce the frequency and severity of the damage;

AWARE that many industrial zones and nuclear power plant complexes are located on watercourses exposed to flooding or coastal zones vulnerable to storms or tsunamis;

AFFIRMING that all prevention measures to reduce serious adverse effects of secondary industrial accidents by natural disasters on human beings and the environment are necessary;

ENCOURAGING the promotion of rational, economic and efficient use of preventive, preparedness and response measures to enable environmentally sound and sustainable economic development;

AWARE of the necessity of a natural disaster action system through a manual for disaster emergency response, disaster recovery and ecological restoration;

EMPHASIZING restoration research through consistent monitoring regarding environmental damage by natural disasters;

CONSCIOUS of the role played in this respect by governments, non-governmental organizations and the public;

AFFIRMING the importance of public access to information on natural disasters and subsequent industrial accidents, and subsequent measures;

NOTING that secondary damage to the environment influences areas outside a single nation's domestic jurisdiction;

AFFIRMING the need to promote active international cooperation among the States concerned before, during and after an accident, to enhance appropriate policies and to coordinate action at all appropriate levels for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to, the transboundary effects of natural disasters and subsequent industrial accidents;

RECALLING the significant adverse impact of the Fukushima nuclear accident to human well-being and ecosystem services;

NOTING that the Republic of Korea, Japan and China reached common recognition in May 2011 after the Fukushima accident to start discussion on establishing an early notification framework in case of an emergency, exchange of experts, and to contemplate an exchange of information regarding the analysis and forecast of air-flow trajectory on a real-time basis in case of a nuclear accident;

DESIRING consensus on the role of international governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations based on new global governance in the international environmental regime; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the early and prompt notification rule regarding natural disasters and subsequent industrial accidents, and subsequent measures for the management or mitigation of the damage;

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

1. AFFIRMS that urgent action is necessary for the prevention and post-management of secondary environmental damage from natural disasters;
2. CALLS ON government agencies to:
 - a. review their prevention and post-management systems for secondary environmental damage from natural disasters;
 - b. make a manual for disaster emergency response, disaster recovery and ecological restoration;
 - c. cooperate with other countries in the appropriate region that could be affected in the case of natural disasters and industrial accidents resulting from natural disasters, including the establishment of regional agreements for early and prompt notification and consultations;
 - d. cooperate for the exchange of experts regarding disaster emergency response and ecosystem monitoring action; and
 - e. recognize the right of the public to access the information provided by affected countries, taking into account also the non-discriminatory rights of the foreign public;
3. CALLS ON non-governmental organizations to:
 - a. enhance public awareness of public access to environmental information related to natural disasters and secondary damage from natural disasters;
 - b. urge governments to develop and establish transparent and effective systems for access to relevant information; and
 - c. hold stakeholder meetings in regional groups for discussing systems for public access to relevant information;
4. CALLS ON the Director General to:
 - a. participate in monitoring projects in ecosystems destroyed by natural disaster;
 - b. include the issue of management of secondary environmental damage by natural disasters to biodiversity and ecological services when implementing the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*; and

- c. contribute to the work of relevant organizations to assess the vulnerability of protected areas to natural disaster and support the introduction of early notification systems; and
5. REQUESTS North East Asian countries, including the Republic of Korea, China and Japan, to discuss an early notification framework in the case of a nuclear accident and/or natural disaster, as the three countries decided on 22 May 2011, as a pilot programme for this Resolution.

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.