

## **WCC-2012-Res-118-EN**

### **A significant role for IUCN in the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

APPRECIATING that IUCN has long been a leader in generating knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services, has contributed to virtually all of the relevant global environmental assessments, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up, has designed, alone or in collaboration with other organizations, numerous knowledge products to support policy development and implementation, including the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, the World Database on Protected Areas, the Global Invasive Species Database, and the ECOLEX database, and has significantly contributed to building capacity for enhancing the science-policy interface on biodiversity and conservation related issues;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN works closely with a number of international organizations including United Nations (UN) agencies or programmes such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), scientific networks such as the International Council for Science (ICSU) and its current programmes, and with the full range of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their scientific subsidiary bodies including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands);

RECOGNIZING that IUCN is a science-policy interface organization that has been actively participating in discussions on the establishment of IPBES for several years and has devoted resources to help this establishment;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that IUCN brings a multi-stakeholder perspective to IPBES through its constituent Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees, Secretariat and its considerable capacity to advance multidisciplinary work from the scientific and policy communities to advance thinking on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that IUCN functions as a neutral convenor for governments, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists and scientific bodies and other civil organizations; and

RECOGNIZING the benefits and effectiveness of building IPBES's structure, programme and work plan on existing initiatives and on effective involvement of IUCN;

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

1. WELCOMES the establishment of IPBES as an authoritative mechanism to foster science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services and EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to those involved in its establishment including the many governments who have participated, as well as to UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP who are working together to provide support to the future Secretariat of IPBES and to the non-governmental organizations who have contributed to the process of establishment of IPBES;
2. AFFIRMS the interest of IUCN to play a significant role in IPBES based on its major assets; and REQUESTS the Director General to pursue this role with the governments and UN agencies involved with IPBES, including support to the governance structures,

particularly subsidiary bodies such as the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, regional structures, working groups and external review groups, and provision and management of scientific data and knowledge;

3. EMPHASIZES the necessity for IPBES to build on existing initiatives and ongoing work, including those conducted by IUCN and other organizations, particularly related to assessments of status and trends of species, protected areas, ecosystem management relevant for water and food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and natural resource governance;
4. NOTES the scientific expertise of IUCN's Commissions and involvement of its government and non-governmental Members dedicated to biodiversity which IUCN can contribute to the future work programme of IPBES;
5. URGES IPBES members to provide the platform with a strong set of operational modalities including an ambitious and robust work programme for the first years of its implementation, supported by adequate funding, and to ensure that it responds to the needs expressed not only by governments but also by civil society, including the scientific community, conservation NGOs and the business sector;
6. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members, Councillors, IUCN National and Regional Committees, IUCN Commissions and the Secretariat to engage actively in IPBES as providers of knowledge and expertise and potential beneficiaries of its outputs; this involvement could take the form of, *inter alia*, nominating experts, proactively proposing tools and methodologies, offering data and knowledge, developing capacities of policy makers for the best use of IPBES knowledge and services, and disseminating and communicating IPBES activities and outputs; and
7. REQUESTS the Director General to make use of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* as the opportunity to establish early cooperation between the Secretariat, IUCN Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees, and IPBES in areas where their respective programmes of work support each other, and to report to the next World Conservation Congress.