

WCC-2012-Res-122-EN

Promotion of Innovative Financial Mechanisms (IFM) for biodiversity – World Conservation Congress (IUCN)

RECALLING that financing sustainable development, either by means of implementation or funding strategies, was one of the major issues of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which was held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and which concluded with a statement entitled *The Future We Want* (the *Rio Declaration*);

WELCOMING the outcomes of the Rio Conference and steps to advance the issue at the international level, in particular, through the establishment of an intergovernmental process “to assess financing needs, to consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives” (paragraphs 255 and 256 of the *Rio Declaration*);

RECALLING paragraph 267 of the *Rio Declaration* which recognizes that innovative financing can make a positive contribution to raising additional resources for development, and calling for a scaling-up of present initiatives;

RECALLING paragraph 200 of the *Rio Declaration* based on the commitment taken within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to substantially increasing resources from all sources in support of biodiversity;

RECALLING the work of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, the Permanent Secretariat of which is hosted by France, which defines Innovative Financial Mechanisms (IFM) as stable and predictable sources of funding, complementary to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and based on new partnerships between countries of different levels of development as well as on public-private partnerships;

RECALLING initiatives taken by the Leading Group for the promotion of options on IFM, including a tax on international financial transactions, proceeds of which could be used to finance sustainable development, including biodiversity;

WELCOMING the side event organized by the Leading Group in the margins of Rio+20, which gathered many high-level government officials and organizations in support of innovative financing towards sustainable development, and its environmental pillar;

RECALLING objective 20 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* adopted at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD, which states “By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties”;

NOTING the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*, which emphasizes the need for greater integration of biodiversity values in the economy to mobilize new and additional financial sources for conservation, in particular point 7 of Annex 1 *Solutions Based on Nature*, highlighting the potential to harness both public and private sources of funding for the conservation of biodiversity; and

RECALLING the objectives of Decision X/6 adopted at the CBD COP10, on the integration of biodiversity into related poverty eradication plans and strategies and development processes;

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

1. CALLS ON IUCN Members and experts, in particular through the National Committees:
 - a. in line with the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and ongoing discussions within the CBD, to contribute to reflections on innovative financing options, as complementary fundraising tools for the effective implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*; and
 - b. to enhance the identification of best practices complementing the work carried out within the CBD, including the Quito Seminar on Scaling up Biodiversity Finance (6–9 March 2012) and the Montreal CBD Workshop on Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity: Examining Opportunities and Challenges (12 May 2012); and
2. REQUESTS the Director General:
 - a. in light of the outcomes of Rio+20, to actively promote collaboration between the IUCN Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development in order to enhance synergies between the two Secretariats, and foster a shared approach on innovative financing of the environmental pillar of sustainable development;
 - b. to consider joining the Leading Group, which, with the support and expertise of IUCN, could start a joint work programme in 2013 and establish a joint taskforce on IFM; and
 - c. in line with the ongoing discussions under the CBD, and in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to follow up the work of the Quito and Montreal Seminars: identification of best practices, development of potential safeguards and support to the work of the CBD in defining the scope of IFM.

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.