

WCC-2012-Res-125-EN

Promotion of the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON)

ACKNOWLEDGING that biodiversity is very important for economic, social and sustainable development as well as poverty alleviation in developing countries;

NOTING that the degradation of nature and its structure and function ultimately affects the lives of future generations;

RECALLING Decision X/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10), which invited the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), working through organizations including, *inter alia*, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and IUCN, to publish an information document entitled *Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to support the 2020 Aichi Targets* for evaluating existing observation capabilities relevant to the targets contained in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*;

ACKNOWLEDGING that observation and monitoring of the status of nature in biodiversity and ecosystem services are among the key tools in designing and implementing successful interventions toward conservation of nature and sustainable use of natural resources in forests, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural lands, human dominated urban areas, coastal areas and oceans, deserts, alpine tundra, etc., at local, national, regional and global scale;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that integration of current activities on biodiversity observation in the Asia-Pacific region is one of the key activities in *Valuing and conserving nature*, which is one of the three Programme Areas of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*;

UNDERSTANDING that GEO BON was established under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) with a view to developing a worldwide biodiversity observation network to collect, manage, share and analyze the data and information on the status and trends of the world's biodiversity, and enabling decision making in support of the conservation and improved management of natural resources and that Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON) was established as the regional network for biodiversity observation in the Asia-Pacific region with a similar mandate;

ACKNOWLEDGING the generous support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for the AP-BON since 2009 and the kind sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, in the proposal of this motion for the promotion of AP-BON;

UNDERSTANDING that this regional BON is being integrated from the national level BON activities including such countries as Japan (J-BON), the Republic of Korea (K-BON), Nepal (N-BON) and Bangladesh (B-BON), and that establishments of similar BON activities are being encouraged in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region;

EMPHASIZING that the networking activities of biodiversity observation will bring synergy in conservation of biological diversity at local, national, regional and global levels; and

FURTHER RECALLING that some gaps remaining among biodiversity observation networks could be bridged utilizing the frameworks of IUCN and the capacities of its Member networks in the Asia-Pacific region;

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

1. URGES State and government agency Members of IUCN in the Asia-Pacific region to:
 - a. support currently existing biodiversity observation network activities to be fully

functional in their States;

- b. encourage their activities to be linked with regional and global network activities through the AP-BON; and
 - c. encourage the establishment of a biodiversity observation network in those countries where one does not exist;
2. ENCOURAGES the non-governmental organization Members of IUCN in the Asia-Pacific region to:
- a. actively participate in the activities of the existing biodiversity observation networks;
 - b. work with other relevant stakeholders to create a biodiversity observation network in those States where one does not exist; and
 - c. try to link their activities with regional and global biodiversity observation network activities through the AP-BON;
3. ENCOURAGES governments in all countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to extend support to the biodiversity observation networks in their countries by:
- a. establishing its governance structure;
 - b. constructing network infrastructure to bring together the existing observation networks;
 - c. supporting research and monitoring activities; and
 - d. promoting outreach, education and capacity building activities;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to:
- a. encourage IUCN Members and Commissions to play a key role in facilitating the establishment and functioning of the biodiversity observation networks in the region as well as globally; and
 - b. promote capacity building within the network so that the network can generate valuable information on the status of species and ecosystems; and
5. INVITES the Director General and IUCN Commissions to utilize information generated by the AP-BON in the process of listing of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable management of ecosystems and protected areas, as relevant.

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.