

WCC-2012-Res-126-EN

The development of an Evaluation and Certification System for World Environmental Hubs

RECOGNIZING the importance of the role of local government in achieving IUCN's vision and goal as adopted in Resolution 2.5 *Regionalization of IUCN – The World Conservation Union* by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), Resolution 3.003 *Engagement by IUCN with local and regional government authorities* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), Resolutions 4.003 *Strengthening IUCN's National and Regional Committees*, 4.004 *Strengthening IUCN's institutional presence in South America*, and 4.008 *Including local and regional governmental authorities in the structure of the Union* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to extend opportunities for strengthening the conservation of nature by incorporating urban components, as adopted in Resolution 3.063 *Cities and conservation* by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) and Resolution 4.094 *Impetus and support for local and regional biodiversity conservation policies* by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) and the Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) signed in 2007;

CONCERNED that even though a wide range of activities by local governments over the world has resulted in model cases at regional level rather than at national level, numerous cases of environmental deterioration occur as a result of indiscriminate urban expansion undertaken by local governments;

RECALLING that IUCN's vision and goal can be achieved by promoting environmental policies at local level as an integrated framework for development covering environment, economy and society;

RECALLING that local authorities are in a unique position to promote sustainable development, in particular in the management of natural resources, sustainable production and consumption processes, including through their purchasing policies, and that sustainable public procurement as a concept is gaining ground in various parts of the world;

NOTING that the organizational activities of local governments, such as the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and ICLEI, for the conservation of the world's environment would be enhanced through the development of an Evaluation and Certification System recognizing World Environmental Hubs at local level in harmony with the vision and goals of IUCN;

CONVINCED that the promotion of such an endeavour will guide future socioeconomic development towards ecologically and environmentally sustainable ecosystems and habitats;

ALSO CONVINCED that the effort to set up World Environmental Hubs can be implemented on the basis of inputs from IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat as adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) in Resolution 4.001 *Strengthening the links between IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat*;

FURTHER CONVINCED that this project would enable the Commissions to implement various relevant programmes as adopted in Resolution 4.002 *Coordination of the IUCN Programme* by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) to build capacity to achieve sustainable development, and the ability to solve problems related to globalization as adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) in

Resolution 3.083 *Improving capacity to achieve sustainable development and address the consequences of globalization*, and to establish regional institutions and improve their capacity building ability as adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) in Resolution 4.004 *Strengthening IUCN's institutional presence in South America*; and

RECOGNIZING that Jeju, the host venue of the 2012 World Conservation Congress, is an ideal location for launching this endeavour since several steps have already been taken towards setting up an environmentally sustainable habitat, such as:

- a. three UNESCO-designated sites: Biosphere Reserve, Natural World Heritage site, and Global Geopark;
- b. four Ramsar Sites;
- c. the 2011 selection of Jeju as one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature, demonstrating that Jeju is a place where human beings and nature co-exist in harmony;
- d. the designation of Jeju by the Republic of Korea's Government as a model for climate change and environmental education, and for being carbon neutral; and
- e. the development of *The Comprehensive Programme for Promoting World Environmental Hub* in 2010, implemented since 2011;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, with assistance from organizations with expertise in developing certification systems, such as the International Standards Organization (ISO), and with support from IUCN Members, Commissions and the Secretariat, to work on the development and implementation of an evaluation and certification system for World Environmental Hubs;
2. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to convene a Working Group on World Environmental Hubs composed of IUCN Members, relevant Commission members and other constituents such as national and local government organizations/representatives; and
3. URGES the Director General to host the first meeting of the Working Group in Jeju at the earliest opportunity and within available resources, together with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in order to prepare a concrete long-term roadmap and practical programmes for the Evaluation and Certification System for the establishment of World Environmental Hubs.

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.