

WCC-2012-Res-012-EN
Strengthening IUCN in the Insular Caribbean

CLARIFYING that for the by-laws of the Caribbean Regional Committee of IUCN Members, and the IUCN Caribbean Initiative, the term Insular Caribbean geographically focuses on the islands of the Caribbean, including all independent countries¹ as well as the departments of France², Caribbean autonomous countries and special municipalities within the Kingdom of the Netherlands³, the dependent territories of the United Kingdom⁴ and the associated commonwealth and territory of the United States⁵;

NOTING the Caribbean's rich biological diversity which is essential for human well-being and has intrinsic value;

RECOGNIZING the accumulated vulnerability of Insular Caribbean ecosystems to threats of both extreme events and gradual changes caused by climate change;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the impacts on Insular Caribbean ecosystems due to human activities including overexploitation, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and habitat degradation and destruction;

BEING CONCERNED ABOUT these impacts on ecosystem services, livelihoods and economies through loss of natural capital;

NOTING the progress made in implementation of Resolution 3.033 *Implementation of an IUCN programme for the Insular Caribbean* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) by national, regional and international stakeholders;

NOTING the Launch of the Caribbean Initiative at the Barcelona World Congress in 2008 and the advancement of the work of the *IUCN Programme 2009–2012* in the Insular Caribbean;

RECOGNIZING the work of the IUCN Secretariat, Commissions and Members and the establishment of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee, the Dominican Republic National Committee and a 100% increase in membership to promote the objectives of IUCN in the region;

RECOGNIZING the need to continue strengthening IUCN's presence in the region through a Caribbean Programme of Work; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the increasing capacity and commitment of Caribbean institutions and IUCN Member organizations to contribute to implementation of the IUCN Programme and Caribbean Initiative;

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

² There are four French territories or departments: Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint Martin.

³ Aruba, Curaçao, and Saint Maarten are autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Bonaire, Saint Eustatius (also known as Statia) and Saba (the BES islands) are special municipalities with closer ties to the central government.

⁴ There are six Caribbean UKOTs: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, and the British Virgin Islands (which consists of the main islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke, along with over fifty other smaller islands and cays).

⁵ Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States. The United States Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas) is a territory of the United States.

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

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- a. consolidate IUCN's presence in the Insular Caribbean, through enhanced regional implementation of the relevant components of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*, including the possibility of the establishment of a Caribbean IUCN office located in the Insular Caribbean;
- b. facilitate a process with Caribbean IUCN Members, Caribbean IUCN Commission members, the IUCN Secretariat, and other key stakeholders in the area to develop an appropriate mechanism to coordinate, support and facilitate implementation of IUCN's activities in the Caribbean;
- c. enable participation of the Insular Caribbean in existing and new IUCN activities, such as the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project, the IUCN Island Initiative (Resolution 4.067 *Advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008)) and other global initiatives (e.g. the IUCN programme on EU Outermost Regions & Overseas Countries & Territories – Resolution 4.079 *The European Union and its overseas entities faced with climate change and biodiversity loss* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008)); and
- d. continue to support the Regional Office for MesoAmerica (ORMA) to implement the Caribbean Initiative, and to support reestablishment of contact and strengthening of relationships, as far as possible, between Caribbean Members and IUCN offices in North America, concerning relevant activities of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*.

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.