

WCC-2012-Res-134-EN

African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

NOTING that the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was adopted in 1968 in Algiers;

WHEREAS all Heads of State and Government unanimously adopted the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention) at the 2nd Summit of the African Union in Maputo on 11 July 2003;

WHEREAS the Member States of the African Union are congratulated worldwide for this most advanced legally-binding instrument, which includes all aspects of sustainable development;

WHEREAS the Maputo Convention has not yet come into force with eight of the 15 parties necessary having ratified;

WHEREAS IUCN, in particular its Environmental Law Programme, advised the African Union on this commendable Convention;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 4.095 *African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

NOTING interaction with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Africa to increase awareness of the Convention's importance;

FURTHER NOTING a Special Meeting jointly organized during the 49th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization by the Government of Tanzania, the Secretariat of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the International Council of Environmental Law to brief Member States on the importance of ratifying the Maputo Convention;

MINDFUL of Recommendation N°6 *Pact on Environment and Development* adopted by the 3rd Worldwide Conference of Environmental Law NGOs and Lawyers inviting "AU Member States to quickly ratify the Revised African Convention adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the African Union in Maputo...";

CONGRATULATING the African Union Commission for delivering letters to all African Union Member State ministers responsible for environmental matters urging those who have not yet done so to work toward ratifying the Convention;

AWARE that a decision was drafted by the African Union Commission Legal Office for adoption by a forthcoming African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, or by the African Union Summit;

ACKNOWLEDGING the instrumental role of the IUCN Country Office in Senegal in the work to produce a consultant's report developing a strategy to guide the promotion of ratification, as well as collaborating with anglophone African States to secure their commitment to ratify the Convention soon; and

CONGRATULATING the President of IUCN for his letter to Thomas Yayi Boni, President of the Republic of Benin and African Union Chair, appealing to him to place ratification of the Maputo Convention on the agenda of the 19th African Union Ordinary Session;

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

1. CALLS ON the IUCN Director General to:
 - a. devise and promote a campaign to build upon this momentum, especially in view of the President's letter and the need for African Union Member States, who have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention as soon as possible; and
 - b. request Observer status for IUCN in the African Union ; and
2. ENCOURAGES the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to engage with African Union Member States, who have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

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.