

WCC-2012-Res-137-EN

Support for a comprehensive scientific review of the impact on global biodiversity of systemic pesticides by the joint task force of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

RECOGNIZING the mission of IUCN in promoting the conservation of biological diversity since its inception;

AWARE that over the past decade neonicotinoid insecticides have rapidly become the most widely used and fastest-growing class of insecticides worldwide following their introduction to the market in the mid-1990s, now with a global market share of about one-third of the world insecticide market, with seed treatment as their major application and having been registered nowadays in more than 120 countries;

REMINDED that neurotoxic neonicotinoid pesticides which are highly persistent and act systemically and cumulatively, entering the plant sap through the roots, making the whole plant permanently toxic to insects, including beneficial pollinators, and being unique in their application and in the way they affect insects and other invertebrates through sub-lethal doses and chronic exposure;

NOTING that neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides are suspected by many scientists of being a factor in contributing to the worldwide honeybee disorders, to the decline of wild pollinators, and to observed declines of entomofauna at large, and so better insight into the ecological risks associated with the use of these pesticides is urgently needed;

ALARMED at the continuously increasing loss of biodiversity in all its components, including species, ecosystems and genes;

WELCOMING the establishment of a Task Force on Systemic Pesticides (TFSP) under the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) in March 2011; and

ALSO WELCOMING the task of the TFSP to carry out a comprehensive, objective, scientific review and assessment of the impact of systemic pesticides on biodiversity, and on the basis of the results of this review to make any recommendations that might be needed with regard to risk management procedures, governmental approval of new pesticides, and any other relevant issues that should be brought to the attention of decision makers, policy developers and society in general;

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

1. CALLS ON all IUCN Members to support the TFSP in its endeavours so that it can complete its review and recommendations in a timely fashion;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to assist SSC and CEM in fundraising for the work of the TFSP so that it can complete its work during the 2013–2016 quadrennium;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, based on the outcomes of the scientific assessment by the TFSP, and in close collaboration with the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC), to provide the necessary assistance to CEM and SSC, and to other stakeholders as appropriate,

regarding any legislative and regulatory consequences that might arise with regard to the implementation of the recommendations from the TFSP; and

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to write to governments to seek national-level information on the levels and trends of use of systemic pesticides.