

WCC-2012-Res-015-EN

Saving the world's most threatened species

NOTING that humans are currently causing the greatest mass extinction of species since the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, and that if present trends continue one-half of all living species on Earth will be extinct within 100 years, as a result of habitat destruction, pollution, invasive species and climate change;

FURTHER NOTING that the *Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)* engages 75 non-governmental biodiversity conservation organizations working to prevent species extinctions by identifying and safeguarding the places where species evaluated to be Endangered or Critically Endangered under *IUCN Red List* criteria are restricted to single remaining sites;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that AZE has so far identified 920 globally highly threatened species confined to some 587 single sites, and that loss of any of these sites, to habitat degradation or other threats, would precipitate final extinction events, at least in the wild;

CONCERNED that just one-third of the sites are known to have legal protection, and most are surrounded by human population densities that are approximately three times the global average;

AWARE that status of AZE sites was recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a sub-indicator for Aichi Targets 11 and 12 in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, and that nations should account for their progress in protecting AZE sites and species in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; and

CONSCIOUS that in 2010 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) proposed an initiative to help developing country Parties to the CBD scale up their investments in protection of AZE sites, adding a new line of defence for highly threatened biodiversity worldwide;

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

1. RECOGNIZES the important contribution to biodiversity conservation that would be made by protecting single site species, including for example the sites identified by the *Alliance for Zero Extinction*;
2. INVITES the world's governments to give priority to protecting sites for single-site restricted Endangered and Critically Endangered species, as a contribution to meeting their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly Aichi Targets 11 and 12 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*;
3. REQUESTS the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and the Director General to:
 - a. encourage countries party to CBD and all IUCN Members to support, as appropriate, national, regional and global initiatives directed towards the better protection of such sites; and
 - b. draw to the attention of developing countries that are party to the CBD, the opportunities for and benefits of including activities focused on improved single-site species protection in their project portfolios for potential GEF funding; and

4. REQUESTS the Director General to mobilize the IUCN Regional Offices to recognize and give support to national strategies and activities aimed at protecting such sites.

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.