

WCC-2012-Res-018-EN

Support for the development and implementation of national and regional red lists

RECOGNIZING the usefulness of IUCN's Red List Categories and Criteria for assessing the extinction risk of species and risk of collapse of ecosystems at global and national levels;

HIGHLIGHTING that national red lists provide readily available baseline biodiversity information to governments, civil society, the private sector and others responsible for planning, priority setting and conservation action;

CONSIDERING that national red lists provide essential data in support of national-level reporting required by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Decision II/17), and that such data will also be crucial for assessing the status of the natural capital of nations;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that national red lists, conducted at regular intervals, can be used to assess progress towards the achievement of environment and development targets such as the Aichi Targets of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020* of the CBD, and the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs);

NOTING that national red lists have been produced by less than half of the world's nations, and specifically recognizing those countries which have undertaken comprehensive assessment of national extinction risk for taxonomic groups (such as fishes, plants, fungi and some invertebrate groups) not yet comprehensively assessed by the global *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*;

CONCERNED, however, that a large variety of different red list criteria and categories are applied for national red lists, which prevents harmonization and international comparison of red lists;

FURTHER CONCERNED that many countries that have not yet produced a national red list are located in biodiversity-rich regions, yet lack sufficient financial and human resources to adequately protect and sustainably manage their natural wealth;

WELCOMING the efforts of IUCN and partners to support the preparation of national red lists, especially for taxonomic groups (such as fishes, plants, fungi and some invertebrate groups) not yet comprehensively assessed by the global *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, and to provide technical and financial support where needed; and

AWARE that providing assistance to the many countries seeking support for assessing and monitoring the status of their natural capital will require substantial effort;

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

1. APPLAUDS the efforts of countries that have produced national red lists, and have carried out or are planning assessments;
2. CALLS UPON IUCN to continue supporting these initiatives through the production of tools, software and training materials, as well as training local experts to lead national red list assessments, data management and analysis;

3. URGES Members to utilize the *Guidelines for the Application of Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels, Version 3.1* to promote more harmonization of red list criteria and categories used for national red lists for the sake of achieving comparable standards and results of national red list assessments;
4. CALLS UPON countries to establish national mechanisms for regularly updating national red lists and connecting them with national biodiversity conservation-related legislation, strategy, planning and actions;
5. ENCOURAGES countries to calculate national red list indices based on repeated national red list assessments, following the *Guidelines for the Application of Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels, Version 3.1*, and to use such indices to track biodiversity trends, alongside complementary indicators;
6. CALLS UPON IUCN and countries developing or updating national red lists to work more closely together to ensure that data are exchanged and assessments of endemic species are harmonized as far as possible at the global and national scales;
7. REQUESTS the Director General to provide policy support to these national red-listing initiatives, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), in conjunction with their Secretariat focal points and the IUCN membership;
8. CALLS UPON the Global Environment Facility and other national and international funding mechanisms to provide specific funds that developing countries can access to support the production of national red lists, especially for taxonomic groups (such as fishes, plants, fungi and some invertebrate groups) not yet comprehensively assessed by the global *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, as part of broader funding support for national-scale biodiversity monitoring; and
9. REQUESTS the Director General to bring the importance of performing periodic national red list assessments to the attention of the CBD and other relevant conventions, as well as to potential sources of financial support for these assessments.