

## **WCC-2012-Res-026-EN**

### **International cooperation for waterbird monitoring to support sound management**

RECOGNIZING Aichi Target 12 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* that aims to prevent extinction of known threatened species and to improve their conservation status;

NOTING that birds have been used to assess and monitor the environment throughout history and that birds are one of the best and, in some cases, the only indicators of environmental change;

RECOGNIZING that the status of waterbird populations is least favorable in Asia where about 60% of known populations are decreasing or extinct and only 10% are increasing, as well as in other parts of the world, including Africa and South America;

CONCERNED that basic threats – such as habitat fragmentation, loss of wetlands and transformation of natural landscapes – to migratory and resident waterbirds have been increasing;

RECOGNIZING that reliable and up-to-date data on waterbirds is necessary to inform improved management of wetlands to maintain and support ecosystem services provided by wetlands;

NOTING that the International Waterbird Census and related schemes could provide the best global basis for estimating population size and trends of waterbird populations, provided that the coverage of these schemes is improved;

RECOGNIZING the role of civil society, governments and other stakeholders in broad-scale environmental data collection and synthesis; and

ALSO RECOGNIZING that the goal of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) Strategic Plan is a shared responsibility, resulting in action to reduce this loss of diversity within species, among species, and of ecosystems;

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

1. ENCOURAGES the IUCN membership and others to ensure that waterbird populations worldwide are covered by international monitoring schemes that are appropriate both in their scope and methods to produce reliable international population size and trend estimates;
2. REQUESTS IUCN Members and others to provide a global platform to strengthen development and implementation of appropriate regional flyway schemes/structures to secure the necessary resources required to implement coordinated waterbird monitoring programmes;
3. SUPPORTS the enhancement of national and regional networks' capacities to undertake field monitoring of waterbirds on an on-going and long-term basis;
4. ENCOURAGES the strengthening of existing mechanisms for enhanced and timely reporting on the status of waterbird populations to support conservation measures, including management of wetlands;

5. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members to provide financial resources for waterbird monitoring and to participate in the monitoring programmes within their flyways;
6. INVITES relevant global and regional organizations including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative to support strengthening of existing schemes within their flyways; and
7. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to provide technical assistance to support national and regional activities, and to report on progress in this regard to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.