

WCC-2012-Res-036-EN

Biodiversity, protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas

DISMAYED that the destruction and conversion of natural habitats continues to be the primary driver of biodiversity loss;

UNDERSTANDING therefore that the primary conservation response must be to safeguard places of biodiversity conservation significance within protected areas;

CELEBRATING that protected areas of all classes and governance types have long been successful as the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation action;

RECOGNIZING IUCN's leadership role in guiding such responses through the establishment of conservation standards and maintenance of data systems that allow publication by the global conservation community of data meeting these standards, and specifically the roles of:

- a. the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) in facilitating measurement of species extinction risk through the 2001 *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* and publication of the data through the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*; and
- b. the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in facilitating documentation of protected area management objectives through the *Guidelines for applying protected area management categories* and publication of data, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), through the World Database on Protected Areas, and further to Decision IX/18 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

WELCOMING the efforts of the WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, in collaboration with IUCN Members including WWF and the Zoological Society of London, partner organizations such as UNEP-WCMC, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of Queensland, and many others, to better understand how biodiversity is changing inside protected areas, determine the linkages between these biodiversity trends and protected area management, compare this with changes outside protected areas, and thereby inform adaptive management and policy decisions for conservation success;

FURTHER WELCOMING the efforts of the same WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force in consolidating standards for the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas as sites of global biodiversity conservation significance in fulfilment of Resolution 3.013 *The uses of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), providing an umbrella for existing efforts from numerous IUCN Member institutions, and supporting, *inter alia*, Aichi Target 11 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, Programme Element 1 of the CBD's *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* and Target 5 of its *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*, as well as the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the HCV Resource Network, the Alliance for Zero Extinction, and regional intergovernmental organizations such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity; and

CONCERNED, however, that the conservation community has as yet no system into which to publish either data on population trends of species inside and outside protected areas, the effectiveness of reserve management at delivering positive biodiversity outcomes, or the global significance and protected area coverage of important areas for biodiversity;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and the Director General to:
 - a. support the development of a data system for collection and publication of data linking biodiversity and protected areas, specifically:
 - i. standards for data quality and quantity;
 - ii. trends in the distribution and abundance of species inside and outside protected areas, and the linkage between species trends and protected area management inputs; and
 - iii. documentation of the global significance and protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas;
 - b. implement such data system development in ways which build from, strengthen, and collaborate with, not duplicate, complementary initiatives such as the:
 - i. Living Planet Index
 - ii. Tropical Ecosystem Assessment and Monitoring programme;
 - iii. World Biodiversity Database;
 - iv. Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool; and
 - v. Global Biodiversity Information Facility; and
 - c. undertake such data system development in ways which draw from and link to the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (and related systems such as the Global Invasive Species Database), the World Database on Protected Areas, including the associated management effectiveness data and emerging Green List of Protected Areas, and, at such a time as it becomes operational, the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems;
2. ENCOURAGES national IUCN Member institutions and other national conservation institutions in the public sector, civil society and academia to:
 - a. utilize the standards established through the scientific stakeholder consultation process established by the WCPA/SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas in guiding their efforts in monitoring species populations inside and outside protected areas, assessing the linkages between protected area management and biodiversity outcomes, and documenting the global significance and protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas within their jurisdictions;
 - b. collect, manage and publish biodiversity and protected area data not only in nationally specific systems but also in data systems to be developed for this purpose at the global scale by IUCN and others, with those institutions responsible for data collection retaining the ownership of, and rights to, these data in accordance with the Principles of the Conservation Commons; and
 - c. ensure that these data are readily available and accessible in support of decision making at all jurisdictional levels;

3. REQUESTS the Director General to mobilize the IUCN Regional Offices and global programme in support of these national efforts to collect, compile and publish data following global standards on biodiversity and protected areas; and
4. INVITES the scientific bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements to recognize the value of these standards for monitoring species populations inside and outside protected areas, and for documenting the global significance and conservation coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas, in support of their respective processes, and to utilize the data maintained and published through the IUCN data systems accordingly, further to Decision X/20 of the CBD's Conference of the Parties.