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The importance of nature conservation criteria in land-use planning policies

ASSUMING that it has not been possible to curb the global processes of habitat degradation and biodiversity loss worldwide through conservation strategies and programmes aimed at biodiversity conservation, and that there is a consensus on the need to revise the models and principles currently in force with regard to biodiversity conservation;

RECOGNIZING the importance of ecosystem services for the general well-being of society, and in particular the role played by ecosystems in carbon sequestration, the regulation of the water cycle, the supply of water, materials and food, as well as many other ecological services and processes;

NOTING that the land-use matrix is a physical medium, which guarantees the supply of ecosystem services, and that actions with very variable objectives are projected onto this matrix, subject to the resolutions established by land-use planning policies;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of natural and semi-natural areas in the configuration and ecological quality of the land-use matrix, as elements of connectivity, irrespective of the level of legal protection;

CONSIDERING that land-use planning is a key policy, which allows for the design of appropriate strategies, capable of reconciling the conservation of the ecological quality of the land-use matrix with the introduction of the structures and activities required for socio-economic development; and

RECALLING relevant documents on this subject, such as: Resolution 4.062 *Enhancing ecological networks and connectivity conservation areas*, adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008); the core area of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016 on Valuing and conserving biodiversity*, and more specifically the global result 1.2 Policies in support of biodiversity conservation; goal 1.2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, to integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function; the European Union's green infrastructure initiative, as part of its post-2010 biodiversity policy, which aims to incorporate biodiversity fully into EU policies; and Strategic Goal A of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to "Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society";

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

1. CALLS ON States, sub-national governments and local Member organizations with powers in the domain of land-use planning, to plan and manage land bearing in mind both natural and semi-natural components, and the ecological processes that take place in them, because their conservation and restoration has a direct impact on human societies and their quality of life;
2. CALLS ON States, sub-national governments and local Member organizations to incorporate natural heritage conservation criteria into all sectoral policies, which, in addition to land-use planning, are related to land use and management;
3. PROPOSES that States, sub-national governments and local Member organizations with powers in the area of land-use planning establish a land-use model in which human settlements, transport and energy infrastructure, farming, cattle-raising, forestry, fishing

and mining activities and all other economic activities are developed in harmony with the conservation of biodiversity and the natural heritage;

4. RECOMMENDS that this land-use model be defined using land-use planning tools and other land-use planning techniques, which include the definition of a representative system to protect natural values, including protected areas, and that guarantees the ecological permeability of the land-use matrix and allows for the development of ecosystem services; and
5. URGES the Director General to:
 - a. highlight in the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*, and within the medium-term priorities regarding the strengthening of policies and governance, the importance of land-use planning as a key policy for establishing conservation criteria applicable to the entire land-use matrix;
 - b. disseminate the value of green infrastructure and the land-use matrix as a basis for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic heritage elements;
 - c. develop guidelines regarding the promotion of green infrastructure through land-use planning; and
 - d. support existing initiatives, such as the *European Green Infrastructure*, whose objectives coincide with the objective of this motion.