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Establishing a forum for transboundary protected area managers

RECOGNIZING the fundamental importance of protected areas in addressing interconnected global and regional issues of environmental change, degradation of biological and cultural resources, human and environmental security, and in the provision of essential environmental goods and services for human and other ecological communities;

GRATEFUL that the establishment and governance of protected areas have been a priority for IUCN and its member organizations;

NOTING however that there is a limit to the areas which can be set aside as protected areas, and that those areas reserved have geographically fixed, legally defined boundaries;

HIGHLIGHTING the vital role that ecological networks play in the conservation of biological and cultural diversity in the face of environmental change or insecurity, through, for example, improving the resilience of ecosystems and species mobility;

OBSERVING that there have been a growing number of transboundary protected areas and increasing experience in cross-border collaboration for protected area management;

ACKNOWLEDGING that transboundary collaborative conservation fosters peaceful relations while addressing common environmental threats;

AWARE that the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has published a study on *Transboundary Protected Areas for Peace and Co-operation*, and that many States have furthered biodiversity conservation and peace by establishing collaboratively managed transboundary protected areas;

CONCERNED that despite efforts to promote conservation beyond borders, transboundary protected areas face unique challenges arising from the presence of international or subnational jurisdictional boundaries, including, *inter alia*, laundering and trafficking of natural resources, inter-jurisdictional legal barriers concerning the movement of rangers, weapons and veterinarian forces or equipment, limited resources to support collaborative programming, difficult fundraising for cross-border activities, regional insecurity, instability of high-level political support, and limited awareness about transboundary conservation experiences in other parts of the world; and

BELIEVING that the effective management of transboundary protected areas will improve through co-learning between protected area managers based on sharing information and experiences related to in-field challenges, concerns, best practices and opportunities specific to transboundary conservation areas;

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

1. CALLS UPON the Director General, WCPA, the WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and Theme on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) to establish a forum for protected area authorities engaged in transboundary conservation that promotes knowledge and information sharing, capacity building, and collaboration in addressing common concerns and interests, building on the World Parks Congress networks; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Members to facilitate the participation of relevant protected area authorities, managers and rangers in the transboundary conservation forum.