

## **WCC-2012-Res-044-EN**

### **Implementing ecological restoration best practices in and around protected areas**

RECOGNIZING that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* embraces the reality that healthy and restored ecosystems make cost-effective contributions to meeting global challenges of climate change, food security and economic and social development and that credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity should lead to better policy and action on the ground;

NOTING that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* does not identify contributions made by ecological restoration in and around protected areas to achieving specific approaches and results of the Programme;

RECOGNIZING also that ecological restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems globally is fundamental to the achievement of the goals of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, and particularly Target 14 and Target 15;

ACKNOWLEDGING that achieving Target 11 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the global results of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* will require attention to improving the management of protected areas and enhancing connectivity between protected areas, including ecological restoration of intervening terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes, and of protected area ecosystems where they are degraded;

CONSCIOUS that addressing ecological restoration priorities in and around protected areas will require collaboration among and support from partners and stakeholders to reduce pressures on protected area systems and to undertake ecological restoration actions outside protected area boundaries that contribute to the achievement of protected area goals and targets, and in particular those related to connectivity;

RECALLING Decision VII/28, *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and particularly Sections 1.5.3 and 1.2.5, which call for the implementation of measures for the rehabilitation and restoration of the ecological integrity of protected areas and corridors, networks and buffer zones; and Section 3.3.3, which calls for the development and use, as well as the transfer of, appropriate technology related to restoration;

ALSO RECALLING that Decision X/31 (Protected Areas) of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD:

- a. invited the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and other relevant organizations to develop technical guidance related to protected areas and, *inter alia*, ecological restoration; and
- b. urged Parties to the Convention to:
  - i. increase the effectiveness of protected area systems in biodiversity conservation and enhance their resilience to climate change and other stressors, through increased efforts in restoration of ecosystems and habitats and including, as appropriate, connectivity tools such as ecological corridors and/or conservation measures in and between protected areas and adjacent landscapes and seascapes; and

- ii. include restoration activities in the action plans of the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 4.036 adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which asked IUCN to develop a *Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration*, to work with governments on its dissemination, application and use, and to develop and implement programmes for further guidance, awareness raising, capacity building, monitoring and research on protected area restoration; and

RECOGNIZING that WCPA, Parks Canada and the Society for Ecological Restoration, along with other partners, have produced best practice guidelines for ecological restoration of protected areas in response to Resolution 4.036;

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

1. WELCOMES the work of WCPA and its partners in producing best practice guidelines for ecological restoration of protected areas and recognizes their relevance to restoration in and around protected areas;
2. REAFFIRMS that ecological restoration for protected areas should contribute to broad societal goals related to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and human well-being, as well as to specific protected area goals by re-establishing natural and associated values of protected areas, maximizing beneficial outcomes while minimizing costs in time, resources and effort, engaging with partners and stakeholders, promoting participation, and enhancing visitor experience;
3. CALLS UPON Parties to the CBD and their partners and stakeholders to adopt the *Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration* produced by WCPA and its partners as technical guidance to support them in implementing Decision X/31 (Protected Areas) of CBD COP10 and other relevant decisions related to the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*;
4. CALLS UPON all IUCN constituencies to support governments and other partners and stakeholders in implementing actions enumerated in Decision X/31.B.7 (Restoration of ecosystems and habitats of protected areas) of CBD COP10;
5. FURTHER CALLS UPON all IUCN constituencies to support the Director General in implementing the initiatives enumerated below;
6. REQUESTS the Director General to work in close cooperation with the IUCN Commissions, particularly WCPA and all global thematic programmes, along with international terrestrial and marine protected area organizations, indigenous peoples, learned societies, sectoral management bodies, industries and non-government organizations to:
  - a. develop, disseminate and implement assessment tools and related guidance for identifying priority locations for ecological restoration of protected areas and surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes that will efficiently support achievement of the goals and targets of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*, particularly Aichi Targets 11, 14, and 15; and

- b. develop online and other training tools and programmes for ecological restoration practitioners aimed at improving local capacity for implementing best practices in ecological restoration in and around protected areas; and
7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to include the actions enumerated above as specific approaches that will be undertaken as part of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* related to *Valuing and conserving nature* and *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development*.