

WCC-2012-Res-055-EN
Consolidation of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems

NOTING that Resolution 4.020 *Quantitative thresholds for categories and criteria of threatened ecosystems* approved by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), called for the initiation of “a consultation process for the development, implementation and monitoring of a global standard for the assessment of ecosystem status, applicable at local, regional and global levels”;

ALSO NOTING that during the last quadrennium the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems has achieved recognition as one of the key emerging knowledge products of the Union, due to the joint efforts of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme (EMP), in close collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Global Species Programme (GSP);

HIGHLIGHTING that draft categories and criteria for the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems have been publicly available in the three IUCN official languages for examination and testing since 2010 – generating considerable interest among the Union’s membership and networks of experts – and that detailed feedback has been received from participants in 17 conferences and 18 workshops carried out in 20 countries on five continents;

RECOGNIZING that this consultation process has led to improvement in the draft categories and criteria for assessing the status of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, to the development of guidelines on how to implement the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems concept at both the national and global scale, and to the compilation of a portfolio of case studies from different ecosystems and regions of the world;

CONSIDERING that the greatest policy impact of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems in global conservation efforts, such as the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as well as in national efforts, such as the development of National Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, will be achieved by seamless integration with the other IUCN knowledge products: *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, Key Biodiversity Areas, and World Database on Protected Areas;

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* are intended to be complementary tools providing different windows into the measurement of biodiversity status and trends, and therefore each can provide important insights that the other might not detect;

ANTICIPATING that global coverage of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems will be coordinated and managed by IUCN by integrating and sharing tools, knowledge and expertise with the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, and engaging experts primarily from CEM, EMP, SSC and GSP, but also from the Union more generally;

ANTICIPATING that national ecosystem risk assessments will probably be undertaken by local, national and international organizations, primarily IUCN Members, such as governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia, which will have varying levels of prior experience and knowledge of the categories and criteria of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that achieving seamless integration with the family of IUCN knowledge products, as well as accomplishing global coverage of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, providing support to emerging national assessments, and assuring maximum relevance of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems to policy processes from the global to the

local level, will all require strengthening existing technical and scientific capacity at the Secretariat, the IUCN Commissions and among the membership; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the fundamental role that funding agencies, in particular the MAVA Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation have played in providing support to the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems during the past quadrennium;

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

1. WELCOMES the significant progress of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems;
2. CALLS on IUCN Council, once the draft categories and criteria have been rigorously tested, to take the necessary steps for formal approval of the categories and criteria as an official IUCN data analysis protocol for use by Members and any other stakeholder interested in ecosystem risk assessment, after they have been finalized and are submitted to Council by CEM and the Secretariat;
3. REQUESTS CEM to work with the support of SSC and the Secretariat to raise the necessary funds for the development and implementation of an operational plan for The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems which includes a strategy for its integration with the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* and other knowledge products. This should ensure that adequate staff, financial and technical resources are made available for the integration of these two IUCN Red Lists, such that their databases are linked, and users are able to conduct simultaneous searches on the status of species and ecosystems, including the coverage by Key Biodiversity Areas and the World Database on Protected Areas;
4. URGES CEM and the Secretariat to assess the status of the world's terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in order to be able to report on progress towards achieving Aichi Target 5: "By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced;"
5. REQUESTS CEM and the Secretariat to develop a mechanism for providing technical support and training for developing national ecosystem risk assessments, such that they are carried out in alignment with approved categories and criteria, making use of the best available data, and aimed at achieving maximum impact on biodiversity conservation policies, and at assuring human livelihoods and well-being; and
6. CALLS ON donors to view the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* as products which will eventually be integrated and not as alternatives to each other, and therefore to support the enhancement of both.