

WCC-2012-Res-063-EN

Support for conservation and sustainable use of Gotjawal forests in Jeju, Republic of Korea

RECOGNIZING that the Gotjawal forests of 109.87 km², covering 6% of Jeju Island, is a unique resource created by volcanic activity in Aa lava areas of Jeju Island, which serves to recharge the island's groundwater used as the main source of drinking water for the population of Jeju, and that these forests are very important in terms of ecosystem services and the application of traditional knowledge in relation to abundant biological diversity and sustainable uses of the forests;

RECALLING that in connection with Resolutions 4.040 *Conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage*, 4.067 *Advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods*, 4.094 *Impetus and support for local and regional biodiversity conservation policies*, and 4.055 *Integrating culture and cultural diversity into IUCN's policy and Programme* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), the purchasing properties in the Gotjawal forests as a National Trust Movement has been carried out to conserve these areas under the leadership of the Gotjawal Trust of Jeju since 2007;

NOTING that the Gotjawal forests, including Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes, inscribed as a Natural World Heritage site as well as a Wetland of International Importance ('Ramsar site'), are home to *Mankyua jejuense*, an endemic fern of a monotypic genus, and 36 plant species which are on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*; in addition to the bird Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*), and that traditional knowledge has been accumulated by the indigenous people in the area for ages; and

CONCERNED that large-scale developments such as golf course construction are in progress on the private lands of over 60% in Gotjawal forests, and that as such destructive developments continue, they will not only destroy the original features of the unique ecosystem of the Gotjawal forests, but also eventually threaten the livelihood of all Jeju residents;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to seek support for conservation programmes on the wise use of natural resources of the Gotjawal forests and the sustainability of livelihoods in connection to Gotjawal because the conservation of biological, geological and cultural diversity, including traditional knowledge of indigenous people of Gotjawal, is consistent with IUCN's objective, and the pattern of sustainable use by indigenous people is also consistent with the principle of Biosphere Reserve which emphasizes the mutual prosperity of biological organisms as well as human; and
2. URGES the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Jeju Special Self-governing Province, and the private sector conducting the developments, to take active part in the Gotjawal Trust Movement, to establish long-term plans and to take immediate and practical actions for the conservation of the Gotjawal forests.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.