WCC-2012-Res-077-EN
Promoting Locally Managed Marine Areas as a socially inclusive approach to meeting area-based conservation and Marine Protected Area targets

NOTING the 2010 decision by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to set the global target for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures at 10% (Aichi Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020);

NOTING IUCN’s leadership in promoting equity, good governance and human rights and elements of protected area management effectiveness;

RECALLING that a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) is an area of nearshore waters and its associated coastal and marine resources that is largely or wholly managed at a local level by the coastal communities, land-owning groups, partner organizations, and/or collaborative government representatives who reside or are based in the immediate area;

NOTING the important work done by the LMMA network and other agencies in the Pacific Region to promote the use of traditional and Locally Managed Marine Areas as the foundation of national MPA systems;

NOTING also the important work by many indigenous peoples, local communities and small-scale fishers worldwide in sustainably managing their marine resources based on their local and traditional knowledge;

CONSIDERING that conservation has been shown to be more effective when indigenous peoples, small-scale fishers and local communities are respected as partners and custodians in site conservation, and that numerous communities have a long history of sustainably using marine resources, while providing for both biodiversity and human needs; and

CONSIDERING that climate change and overuse of resources is posing serious threats to marine biological and genetic diversity, with potentially serious consequences for food security;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General to promote awareness of the Pacific Region’s use of Locally Managed Marine Areas, as well as other similar models of community governance by indigenous peoples, small-scale fishers and local communities, as a critical foundation for achieving global MPAs and other area-based management targets and national MPA systems;

2. FURTHER CALLS ON the Director General to encourage marine and coastal resource user advocacy groups to partner with IUCN in promoting the role of indigenous peoples, small-scale fishers and local communities as custodians of these resources in achieving sustainable, equitable, effective conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment, coastal zones and reef systems; and

3. URGES States and government agencies to foster the development of MPAs and effective area-based conservation measures that, where appropriate, are managed or co-managed by local communities, as part of their efforts to achieve Aichi Target 11.