

WCC-2012-Res-007-EN

Establishing an Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IPO) membership and voting category in IUCN

NOTING the deep links of indigenous peoples with conservation of nature;

RECOGNIZING that conservation processes should integrate both natural and cultural heritage;

MINDFUL that pressures affecting the integrity of ecosystems frequently also affect the survival of indigenous peoples and their cultures;

CONCERNED by the current trend towards the disappearance of indigenous and tribal peoples of the world due to the loss of their habitats and livelihoods;

RECOGNIZING that under Articles 4 and 5 of the IUCN Statutes, the IUCN membership comprises membership categories and subcategories as follows: Category A – (a) States and Government Agencies, (b) political and/or economic integration organizations; Category B – (c) national non-governmental organizations, (d) international non-governmental organizations; and, Category C – (e) affiliates;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that Article 12 of the IUCN Statutes confers certain rights and obligations to its Members who qualify under Categories A, B or C, and in particular, provides exclusive rights for Category A and B Members to nominate candidates, submit motions, and vote at sessions of the IUCN World Congress;

OBSERVING, in particular, that there is a distinction between Category A and Category B with respect to government/political Members in the former, and non-government Members in the latter;

NOTING that the current IUCN Members that are indigenous organizations representing their respective indigenous constituent populations, regions and communities are listed entirely under membership Category B as either (c) a national non-governmental organization or (d) an international non-governmental organization;

ACKNOWLEDGING that there are a number of non-indigenous IUCN Member organizations under Category B who are either national or international non-governmental organizations that work with or in support of indigenous peoples and their rights and issues within IUCN;

RECALLING that as early as 1975, and up to the present, IUCN has adopted a number of policy decisions and positions supporting and recognizing indigenous peoples' rights, knowledge, stewardship and interests in relation to, but not limited to, environmental and wildlife conservation, sustainable and wise use of natural resources, protected areas, traditional practices, livelihoods, trade, and the spiritual and cultural connections that exist between indigenous peoples and the natural world;

RECALLING FURTHER that the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in 2008 adopted Resolution 4.052 *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, by which the Union endorsed UNDRIP and more specifically requested, "that the Director General make indigenous peoples' role in conserving biological diversity a main concern of IUCN and future World Conservation Congresses...";

AWARE that there are many indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations whose organizational structures do not correspond to the categories of non-governmental organizations and government agencies that are recognized by the Statutes of IUCN;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN needs to modernize its structures to meet the new challenges posed by the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage;

CONSIDERING and WELCOMING the IUCN Council's decision at its 76th meeting and its current efforts to strengthen IUCN's work on indigenous peoples' issues with respect to: encouraging more indigenous peoples' organizations to apply for membership; seeking further opportunities and possibilities for strengthening involvement of indigenous peoples' in IUCN; and reviewing current membership categories in order to build a stronger IUCN membership base; and

ACKNOWLEDGING and SUPPORTING the use of the term Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IPO), within the business, decisions and policies of IUCN, as one that appropriately describes those organizations that: (a) have been established by indigenous and tribal peoples and are mandated to represent them; (b) are distinct from other IUCN Member organizations due to the complex and unique nature of their rights, interests and representation; (c) have representative constituencies which may be non-governmental or governmental in nature, or a mixture of both; (d) have representative constituencies which may be located in more than one country; and (e) have representative constituencies which may be composed of an association or network of indigenous groups within a given geographical region;

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

1. RECOGNIZES the important role that indigenous and tribal peoples around the world play in valuing and conserving nature and in the effective and equitable governance of nature's use;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Council to contribute positively toward the strengthening of indigenous peoples' roles and involvement within the Union, recognizing their own forms of organization, representation and governance; and providing a catalyst for appropriate streaming and leadership on indigenous related policies and positions within and for the Union;
3. RECOGNIZES the need for due process, including support to allow other IPOs to be involved and governments, NGOs and Commissions to be consulted, and analysis of options and implications to be undertaken; and
4. REQUESTS the IUCN Council to:
 - a. establish an intersessional Council working group including IUCN Members which are indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations and technical staff appointed by the Director General, to establish options on how IPOs could be better represented within the structure of IUCN, including the option of the establishment of a fourth membership and voting category; and
 - b. consult with the IUCN membership well in advance of the Congress on such options with a view to preparing a recommendation for the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.

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.