

WCC-2012-Res-083-EN

Advancing the role of nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and their potential to contribute to the global climate change regulatory regime

RECALLING Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme*, Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy* and Recommendation 2.94 *Climate change mitigation and land use* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* and Recommendation 3.084 *Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 4.075 *Climate change mitigation targets and actions for biodiversity conservation* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which urges Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate change regime post-2012 and for the regime to include, among others, the integration of ecological and social considerations, including the value of ecosystems;

RECALLING Resolution 4.077 on *Climate change and human rights*, also adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress;

REITERATING the concerns expressed in Resolution 4.075, *viz.* that a global temperature increase of more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels would cause, with a very high probability, severe impacts for ecosystems and livelihoods, and moreover that the rate of change of temperature affects the ability of ecosystems and livelihoods to adapt;

RECOGNIZING that the third Programme Area of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016 Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development* concerns the application of IUCN's knowledge to sustainable development, empowerment and poverty reduction;

WELCOMING the outcomes of the UNFCCC 2010 Cancun and 2011 Durban Conferences of the Parties, including progress on the Adaptation Framework, the mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing Countries (REDD+), and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to provide assistance to developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts; and agreement to develop a new instrument with legal force under the Convention, applicable to all Parties;

REMAINING DEEPLY CONCERNED, however, about the significant gap between the aggregate effect of the mitigation pledges up to 2020 made by these Parties and the emission pathways needed to secure a likely probability of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels¹;

NOTING that the Parties to the UNFCCC decided that the process shall raise the level of ambition and shall be informed, *inter alia*, by the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) and by the outcome of the 2013–2015 review on the adequacy of the long-term 2°C global goal, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 °C;

¹ Assessed at 5-9 GtCO₂e (depending on the policies implemented in addition to the pledges) in *The Emissions Gap Report*, UNEP, November 2010.
www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/emissionsgapreport

FURTHER WELCOMING the decision by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that the second commitment period under the Protocol would start at 1 January 2013;

EMPHASIZING the value of nature-based solutions to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and NOTING widespread acceptance of the role of biodiversity in ecosystem processes and the mainstreaming of the concept of ecosystem services; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Decision X/2 on the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, in particular Target 15: “by 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification”;

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

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- a. in collaboration with IUCN Commissions and Members, further develop and improve a strategy for IUCN's sustained policy input into the UNFCCC process and related fora including the REDD+ Partnership and the Nairobi work programme;
- b. promote coherent and prioritized action throughout the Union to advance nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including at national, regional and local level;
- c. in collaboration with IUCN Commissions, National and Regional Committees and Members, undertake a study to establish to what extent nature-based solutions to climate change can contribute to closing the “emissions gap” between global commitments and action needed to prevent dangerous climate change ; and to widely circulate this study, including to the UNFCCC;
- d. support, in collaboration with IUCN Commissions, National and Regional Committees and Members, “early action” for the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation at national, regional and local level; and
- e. develop key knowledge products that will contribute to the work of the IPCC and of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and in developing these products, draw upon, *inter alia*, regional information collected in the course of IUCN's project activities.

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.