

**WCC-2012-Res-084-EN**  
**Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation**

RECALLING Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme*, adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), which requests the Director General to promote activities for ecosystem resilience to climate change, including through: buffer zones and migratory corridors; ecosystem restoration, conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems; protection of species, and maintenance of forest quality;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 4.075 *Climate change mitigation targets and actions for biodiversity conservation* adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> 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;

NOTING the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Decision VII/15 and Decision VIII/30, which refer to the role of ecosystem goods and services in adaptation;

FURTHER NOTING CBD Decision X/33, which makes direct reference to ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation, inviting Parties to recognize that ecosystems can be managed to limit climate change impacts on biodiversity and to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change;

FURTHER NOTING the report of the CBD's Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change 'Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change';

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the CBD Decision X/2 on the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, in particular Target 15;

EMPHASIZING the value of nature-based solutions to climate change, the role of biodiversity in ecosystem processes, and the increasing importance attached to and mainstreaming of the concept of ecosystem services;

RECOGNIZING that ecosystem-based adaptation can be applied to both (1) assisting natural adaptation by species and ecosystems, and (2) facilitating adaptation by people to the unavoidable impacts of climate change;

NOTING that ecosystem-based adaptation is widely recognized as an adaptation option, and is included in National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) of Least Developed Countries and Adaptation Plans and Strategies of other countries;

NOTING that the UNFCCC's Cancun Adaptation Framework invites Parties to enhance action on adaptation through, *inter alia*, building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems through sustainable management of natural resources;

NOTING that the outcomes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC agreed, *inter alia*, to pursue work on ecosystem-based adaptation in the context of the Nairobi work programme<sup>1</sup>; and

FURTHER NOTING that in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem-based adaptation provides policy coherence with other national and international commitments;

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<sup>1</sup> Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

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

1. ENDORSES the definition of ecosystem-based adaptation provided in the report of the CBD's Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change 'Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change' (2009), i.e. "Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change";
2. RECOGNIZES that an ecosystem-based approach to climate change adaptation is also relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of species;
3. CALLS ON IUCN Members and other interested parties to promote ecosystem-based adaptation in their climate change adaptation work, including through conservation and sustainable management actions that protect and restore the resilience and adaptive capacities of ecosystems;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES that ecosystem-based adaptation is best implemented as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities;
5. CALLS on donor countries and financial institutions to recognize ecosystem-based adaptation as a sustainable and potentially cost-effective adaptation option, which can complement or substitute for other modes of adaptation and which is readily available to the rural poor; and
6. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that ecosystem-based adaptation is effectively deployed as a nature-based solution within the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* and in particular by:
  - a. promoting ecosystem-based activities that are country driven, aligned to national or sub-national priorities, gender sensitive, and inclusive of local stakeholders;
  - b. exploring in depth the linkages between ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem conservation, water, disaster risk reduction and the marine environment; and
  - c. encouraging the dissemination of knowledge products on lessons learned from ecosystem-based activities and projects.