

WCC-2012-Res-086-EN

Integrating protected areas into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies

RECOGNIZING that one of the three Programme Areas for the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* is *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development*;

NOTING that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* advances ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem-based mitigation as two principal nature-based solutions to climate change, with the aim of influencing specific sectoral policies and demonstrating the effectiveness of these solutions on the ground;

FURTHER NOTING that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* does not identify contributions made by protected areas to specific approaches and results related to generating knowledge and developing solutions related to *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development* and does not include programme development initiatives related to protected areas and climate change;

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and its partners, through the publication *Natural Solutions: Protected Areas Helping People Cope with Climate Change* and related initiatives, has improved understanding of the contribution of effectively managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas as effective nature-based solutions for meeting challenges associated with climate change; and

RECALLING that Resolution 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) requested the IUCN Director General to support the development of national strategies that address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity through adequate integrated landscape and seascape management and effective protected area systems by, *inter alia*, developing guidelines and case studies of best practice in consultation with Commissions;

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

1. WELCOMES the work of the WCPA and its partners in improving understanding of the contribution of effectively managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas to ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation;
2. AFFIRMS that efforts aimed at expanding the global protected areas system enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services;
3. CALLS UPON all IUCN constituencies to support governments and other stakeholders in implementing actions related to strengthening the contribution of protected area networks to addressing climate change impacts, increasing resilience to climate change, and contributing to climate change mitigation;
4. FURTHER CALLS UPON all IUCN constituencies to support the Director General in implementing the initiatives enumerated below;
5. REQUESTS the Director General to work in close cooperation with the IUCN Commissions, particularly WCPA and all global thematic programmes, along with

international terrestrial and marine protected area organizations, indigenous peoples, learned societies, sectoral management bodies, industries, and non-government organizations to:

- a. develop guidelines and case studies of on-the-ground best practices for integrating the establishment, expansion, ecological restoration and effective management of protected area networks into national, sub-national, and sectoral policies and strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
 - b. undertake research and analysis, develop assessment methodologies and implement tools and strategies for:
 - i. assessing, qualitatively and quantitatively, the current and potential contribution of existing protected areas and protected area networks to ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation;
 - ii. expanding the protected area system in a way that takes advantage of opportunities for conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to human well-being, protecting and enhancing carbon stocks, maximizing the potential of natural carbon sequestration processes through healthy ecosystems, and providing climate change adaptation benefits; and
 - iii. managing protected areas, including ecological restoration of areas that are important for biodiversity conservation, the conservation of associated protected area values, and the maintenance and restoration of carbon stocks, such that climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity conservation and associated benefits of protected areas are maximized; and
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to include the actions enumerated above as specific approaches that will be undertaken as part of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* related to *Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development*.