

WCC-2012-Res-008-EN

Increasing youth engagement and intergenerational partnership across and through the Union

RECALLING Resolution 4.098 *Intergenerational partnerships: fostering ethical leadership for a just, sustainable and peaceful world* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which requests the Director General to engage in and foster intergenerational partnerships for sustainability and to engage in capacity-building activities for young people in the spirit of IUCN's *Future of Sustainability* report and Young Professionals Programme;

RECALLING that Resolution 3.029 *Capacity Building of Young Professionals* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) requested the Director General to "establish a Young Professionals Programme within IUCN";

RECALLING that Outcome 6 of the *Durban Action Plan*, Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban 2003), called on the Council to establish an "inter-Commission task force on intergenerational integration within IUCN" to develop "a comprehensive programme of work to encourage institutions and organizations to engage younger generations (as well as older people) in decision-making" and "monitor the participation of younger people";

RECALLING that Resolution 8 of the 9th World Wilderness Conference (Mexico, 2009) recognized "the importance of engaging Young Professionals in international conservation work";

RECALLING Resolutions 3.026 *Establishment of World Conservation Learning Network* and 3.025 *Education and Communication in the IUCN Programme*, adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

RECALLING the closing statement at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, written and delivered by the Major Group for Children and Youth on behalf of all Major Groups, which embraced intergenerational cooperation, innovation, creativity and sustainability values as essential for bringing about the future we want;

RECALLING Resolution 3.022 *Endorsement of the Earth Charter* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which said that the *Earth Charter* should be used "... to help advance education and dialogue on global interdependence, shared values, and ethical principles for sustainable ways of living...";

ACKNOWLEDGING that IUCN's vision and mission require the hands-on participation of all generations and that issues pertaining to sustainability need the direct involvement of young people with a deep personal stake in the future of our shared planet;

APPRECIATING that the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* calls for a just world that "must guarantee equitable rights of access to biodiversity and nature's benefits across generations, gender, and economic, social and geopolitical lines";

APPRECIATING that the Secretariat, IUCN Commissions and many Member organizations have engaged young professionals in conservation work through internships, employment, leadership committees and programmes;

AFFIRMING that many young persons have well-informed, insightful and innovative contributions to make to sustainability research and decision-making processes, strategic planning and policy making, and effective action projects and programmes;

AFFIRMING that many senior professionals, and especially indigenous elders and retired conservation leaders, have a great deal to offer IUCN in terms of traditional knowledge, expertise and time; and

YET CONCERNED that the Union has not yet fully undertaken actions or made strong commitments in the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* for the constructive engagement of youth and establishment of intergenerational partnerships that help to share knowledge and experience, and inspire effective conservation action;

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

1. CALLS ON the IUCN Council to formalize the ad hoc Task Force on Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability as an inclusive, Council-level mechanism with the mandate to increase youth engagement and intergenerational partnership across and through the Union in service of the IUCN vision;
2. CALLS ON the Director General, IUCN Council, Commissions and Member organizations to:
 - a. design and implement a strategy to ensure that IUCN improves its outreach to young people and intergenerational partnerships become a day-to-day reality in the work of the Union, the IUCN Council, the Commissions, Secretariat and all existing and new Members;
 - b. ensure the meaningful integration and participation of a diversity of generations – with a special emphasis on young professionals and elders – in governance structures and processes, in the implementation of resolutions, staff positions, programmes, projects, papers and other collaborative efforts across the Union; and
 - c. ensure that, through either election or appointment, qualified people from a diversity of generations with special emphasis on young professionals and elders are on this and all future Councils, and on each and all future Commission Steering Committees; and
3. RECOMMENDS that IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat include the following projects in the implementation of the youth engagement and intergenerational partnership strategy:
 - a. building on existing Commission young professionals networks, establishment of a global network of young people committed to conservation work from the field to the global level, contributing to the realization of the IUCN Programme and supported by a Secretariat staff network coordinator;
 - b. building on the Intergenerational Wikispace, establishment of an online forum to facilitate communication, connection and cooperation among this global network in addition to allowing for debate between men and women of all ages, both professionals and non-professionals;
 - c. establishment of a broad-based mechanism to identify opportunities for conservation and governance capacity building and action, particularly focused on establishing intergenerational partnerships of youth, educators, community leaders and conservation professionals to take meaningful part in such action;
 - d. establishment of an Intergenerational Fund to support innovative on-the-ground

projects that emphasize youth leadership and collaboration across generations to achieve just and equitable conservation outcomes;

- e. establishment of an IUCN Young Champions Award leading up to the 2016 World Conservation Congress and for each Congress thereafter focused on recognizing emerging leaders taking innovative approaches toward achieving the IUCN vision; and
- f. consideration of the possibility of allowing members of organizations of young, indigenous professionals whose work in the community constitutes progress in the conservation of nature at local and community levels, and who are recognized by environmental or traditional authorities, a discount of up to 100% on membership fees.

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.