WCC-2012-Res-093-EN
Prioritizing community-based natural resource management for social and ecological resilience

REITERATING the deep concerns that the essential conditions of life for present and future generations of human and natural communities are highly threatened by the impacts of environmental change, including climate change, natural disasters, conflict and insecurity, expressed in previous IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations, including *inter alia*:

a. Resolution 19.41 *Armed Conflict and the Environment* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

b. Resolution 2.83 *Armed Conflicts in Natural Areas* adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

c. Resolution 17.15 *The International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction* adopted by the 17th IUCN General Assembly (San José, 1988);

d. Resolution 2.95 *Drought and Flood Mitigation* adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

e. Resolution 4.078 *Appeal for action to address global environmental change* adopted by the 4th World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008); and

f. Resolution 4.077 *Climate change and human rights* adopted by the 4th World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

ALARMED that many of the world's major armed conflicts are coinciding with biodiversity hotspots and endangered cultures;

RECOGNIZING that natural disasters and armed conflicts are often interlinked phenomena that can complicate recovery strategies for human and ecological communities;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that climate change is a risk multiplier that conflates the impacts of environmental change, disasters and conflict;

NOTING that the severity of these threats impacts disproportionately on marginalized communities including, *inter alia*, women and children, people with disabilities, minority groups, rural populations, and indigenous peoples and some of the world's most critical ecosystems;

UNDERSTANDING that social and ecological resilience includes community-based disaster risk reduction, non-violent socio-environmental conflict management, human and environmental security, recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, protection of biological and cultural diversity, long-term integrity of ecosystem services, and just peace;

EMPHASIZING that top-down, external or centralized approaches to conservation, security and international aid can suppress communities' abilities to propose their own solutions and strategies for sustainable recovery and resilience to catastrophic events, armed conflict and insecurity, particularly within humanitarian and governmental programming;

RECOGNIZING the role that adaptive community-based natural resource management has in influencing the nature and severity of armed conflicts, disasters and insecurity, as well as in promoting environmental peace building and strengthening social and ecological resilience;

AFFIRMING previous IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations that have promoted community-based approaches to conservation and natural resource management:

a. Resolution 19.23 *The Importance of Community-Based Approaches* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

b. Resolution 3.049 *Community Conserved Areas* adopted by the 3rd World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

c. Resolution 4.047 *Empowering local communities to conserve and manage natural resources in Africa* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

d. Resolution 4.109 *Funding programmes for small-scale civil society projects for global biodiversity conservation* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

e. Resolution 3.022 *Endorsement of the Earth Charter* (Bangkok, 2004); and

f. Resolution 3.046 *Conservation in regions in violent conflict of West Asia – strengthening IUCN's presence to protect the natural and human environment* (Bangkok, 2004), recalling principles 23, 24 and 25 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992); and

REAFFIRMING Resolution 15.2 *Conservation and Peace* adopted by the 15th IUCN General Assembly (Auckland, 1981) that "peace is a contributory condition to the conservation of nature, just as conservation itself contributes to peace through the proper and ecologically sound use of natural resources";

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

1. CALLS UPON the international community, aid and humanitarian agencies, all IUCN Members and other organizations to recognize and promote the rights of communities to exercise self-determination in the formulation of policies and projects affecting their environment and security;

2. REQUESTS the Director General and all members of IUCN to prioritize and promote community-based approaches to disaster risk reduction, conflict management, and integrated conservation and development, so as to strengthen social and ecological resilience;

3. REQUESTS the Director General and the IUCN Commission on Environment, Economics and Social Policy (CEESP), to support community governance frameworks on matters regarding disaster risk reduction, integrated conservation and development, and conflict management; and

4. CALLS ON the Director General and the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), to identify and support customary and traditional legal systems, legal and policy frameworks, relevant international Conventions, institutions and procedures that can secure the rights of local people in the context of community-based natural resources management for social and ecological resilience.

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.