

## **WCC-2012-Res-094-EN**

### **Respecting, recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas**

AWARE that a considerable part of the Earth's biological and cultural diversity is concentrated in the customary territories and areas of indigenous peoples and traditional communities, including both mobile and sedentary peoples;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant role that such Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) play in the global preservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystem functions and cultural (including linguistic and spiritual) values, in the prevention of natural disasters and in local adaptation to global change, including climate;

UNDERSTANDING the intrinsic value and irreplaceable nature of our global biocultural heritage for future survival and well-being;

STRESSING that ICCAs embrace customary and contemporary collective efforts for sustainable livelihoods, culturally sound development and the practice of *buen vivir* among indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities around the world;

CONCERNED that the commercialization of life, militarization of economies, inequitable "development", massive infrastructure and large-scale, unsustainable extraction and use of renewable and non-renewable resources pose enormous threats to the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities and to the unique biocultural diversity embedded in their territories and areas;

ALSO CONCERNED that indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities are often disproportionately affected by the costs of imposed development and conservation measures, including dispossession from customary territories and areas, exclusion from decision-making processes, and lack of free, prior and informed consent before activities are undertaken that affect them;

AWARE that lack of respect and inadequate or inappropriate recognition and support for ICCAs by governments, conservation organizations and donors, among others, undermine their integrity and conservation effectiveness and violate a range of procedural and substantive rights;

CELEBRATING the 2007 adoption of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) by the United Nations General Assembly and the endorsement by IUCN of UNDRIP;

RECALLING that the *Durban Action Plan* of the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) called for global action to recognize and support ICCAs and thus secure the rights of indigenous peoples, including mobile indigenous peoples, in relation to natural resources and biodiversity conservation;

REAFFIRMING Resolutions 4.049 *Supporting Indigenous Conservation Territories and Other Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas*, 4.050 *Recognition of Indigenous Conservation Territories*, 4.052 *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 4.053 *Mobile indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation*, 4.056 *Rights-based approaches to conservation*, and Recommendation 4.127 *Indigenous peoples' rights in the management of protected areas fully or partially in the territories of indigenous peoples*, all adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

EMPHASIZING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* (PoWPA) in 2004, including its Programme Element 2 on *Governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing* and 13 suggested activities of relevance to ICCAs;

HIGHLIGHTING the adoption of Decision X/31, paragraphs 31–32 on fair and equitable sharing of costs and benefits, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities in governance, and recognition of ICCAs as a type of protected area governance at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD;

STRESSING the essential role that ICCAs can play towards fulfilling Aichi Targets 11, 14, and 18 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* as either fully recognized protected areas or “other effective area-based conservation measures”; and

WELCOMING the important advances made by some governments, international organizations, and donors to respect and appropriately recognize and support ICCAs;

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

1. CALLS UPON all IUCN Members, Commission members, Secretariat and Council to respect and appropriately recognize and support ICCAs by promoting, adopting and fully implementing laws, policies and programmes that:
  - a. recognize and uphold indigenous peoples’ rights to self-determination, self-governance, full and effective participation in decisions that affect them, equitable sharing of costs and benefits, and other essential rights and responsibilities enshrined in UNDRIP, ILO Convention No. 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and other international human rights instruments;
  - b. recognize indigenous peoples’ and traditional and local communities governance of and rights to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;
  - c. recognize and engage accordingly with customary laws, institutions, protocols and decision-making processes and practices, also by using indigenous and local languages, as relevant;
  - d. refer to indigenous peoples as “indigenous peoples”, in accordance with UNDRIP and their right to self-identification;
  - e. recognize and support ICCAs in situations where they overlap with protected area or other designations, including through customary mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution;
  - f. encourage and strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities to monitor, document and assess ICCAs and all values therein;
  - g. uphold the intrinsic natural and cultural values present in ICCAs; and
  - h. support the CBD Secretariat and Parties in relevant regional and sub-regional capacity-building initiatives, in particular those concerning the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision of Element 2 of the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* and of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;

2. URGES the IUCN Council, the Director General and Commissions to strengthen support to the CBD Secretariat, through appropriate mechanisms and collaboration, such as with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the ICCA Consortium, to enhance the commitment and capacity of the Parties to the CBD to:
  - a. strengthen international, national and sub-national environmental and other laws and policies and their implementation in accordance with international human rights standards, particularly UNDRIP;
  - b. respect and appropriately recognize and support ICCAs in the implementation of all aspects of the CBD, including but not limited to the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, Articles 8(j) and 10(c), and Aichi Targets 11, 14 and 18, without impinging upon customary governance and management systems;
  - c. utilize and further develop and support available resources such as the Global ICCA Registry, hosted by UNEP-WCMC, on conservation by indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities; and
  - d. promote the increase of contributions to the CBD Voluntary Fund to support the participation of indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities in relevant decision-making processes;
3. FURTHER URGES the IUCN Council, Director General, Commissions and the Secretariat in particular to call upon global financing mechanisms, including but not limited to the Global Environment Facility, the UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership, official development assistance, LifeWeb, and international financial institutions and lenders, to establish new or strengthen existing policies, programmes, mechanisms and procedures to ensure appropriate recognition of and support for ICCAs and associated rights and responsibilities in all aspects of their funding processes; and
4. REQUESTS the Director General, given the impending CBD COP11, to take timely and forceful action on the previous paragraphs in IUCN's direct communication liaison initiatives with the CBD Secretariat and Parties.

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.