

## **WCC-2012-Res-096-EN**

### **Recognizing the indigenous territories as conservation areas in the Amazon Basin**

CONSIDERING that the Amazon Basin is the largest tropical forest ecosystem in the world, covering an area of 7.8 million km<sup>2</sup>, and that it holds the greatest terrestrial biodiversity on the planet, for which it is a region of strategic global importance;

BEARING IN MIND that the Amazon is shared by more than 390 indigenous peoples who have inhabited it since time immemorial, including more than 60 peoples living in voluntary isolation;

CONSIDERING that the Amazonian indigenous peoples have conserved and continue to conserve the ecosystems and biodiversity of their ancestral territories as a guarantee of their physical and cultural existence;

OBSERVING that the indigenous Amazonian territories act as vital carbon stocks and hold a high concentration of biodiversity, that they contain biomass of high value for regulating the global climate and that they guarantee the food and medicinal security of the indigenous peoples and humanity as a whole;

BEARING IN MIND that the Amazonian indigenous territories are formed of the tropical forests in which indigenous peoples live out their daily lives, and that their social and cultural significance is thus as important as their environmental significance and importance;

FURTHER BEARING IN MIND that the indigenous peoples in isolation or initial contact live in the most intact and best conserved tropical forests of the Amazon Basin;

CONCERNED that the Amazonian indigenous territories are under constant environmental threat from extractive activities, logging concessions and the constant pressure of colonization, all of which are endangering indigenous territorial rights and ecosystem integrity; and

CONSIDERING that the Amazon's future depends on maintaining the ecological processes that enable climate change pressure and natural resource demands to be resisted, processes in which the indigenous territories play an important role in conserving biodiversity and as a strategy to face up to climate change;

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

1. REQUESTS that the Director General:
  - a. in collaboration with the IUCN Members working in the Amazon, and in particular the *Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)*, strengthens the implementation in the Amazon region of Resolution 4.049 *Supporting Indigenous Conservation Territories and other Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conservation Areas*, adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), including the state of progress of national policies and regulations relevant to protecting indigenous territories and the inclusion of this theme in its Members' programme and project implementation; and
  - b. works, in cooperation with IUCN Members, the governments of the Amazon Basin, indigenous organizations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, on a

regional initiative to protect the Amazonian indigenous territories as priority spaces for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and for maintaining and developing indigenous cultures, based on an integral management of their territories for their well-being, in the context of a strategy of climate change adaptation and sustainable development based on activities that produce lower greenhouse gas emissions;

2. CALLS on IUCN Members active in the Amazon region to support this initiative and join forces in a coordinated manner, with the active participation of the indigenous organizations;
3. INVITES the governments of the Amazon Basin, in particular, to harmonize their efforts to protect the indigenous territories and to work jointly on this initiative with IUCN; and
4. REQUESTS international cooperation agencies to support this initiative, which will benefit not only the indigenous peoples but all inhabitants of the region and planet.

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.