

## **WCC-2016-Rec-105-EN**

### **Cooperation between the protected areas of the Guiana Shield and northeastern Amazonia**

CONSIDERING that northeastern Amazonia, including the Guiana Shield (Brazil, France, Guyana, Suriname), forms one of the largest expanses of protected tropical forest in the world, almost 90% of which is intact and containing over 15% of the fresh water on Earth;

CONSIDERING that this region sequesters over 4 billion tonnes of carbon;

NOTING that this region contains over 30 million hectares of protected land and that 40% of the ecosystems enjoy protected status;

WELCOMING the progress made since the adoption of Resolution 2.32 *Nature conservation on the Guiana Shield* (Amman, 2000) asking for the continuation of the implementation of conservation measures and the establishment of a coherent network of protected areas;

WELCOMING the voluntary commitment to conservation made by the Guiana Shield countries through the creation of connected protected areas such as the Central Suriname Nature Reserve in 1998, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, the Tumucumaque Mountains National Park in 2002, the Guiana Amazonian Park in 2007, as well as the network of natural and forest reserves in Guiana and the South Suriname Conservation Corridor in 2015;

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the continued practice of illegal mining activities that cause irreversible damage to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and significant pollution involving mercury in particular, which affect not only the environment but also the health and way of life of human populations; and

AWARE of the importance of ensuring the sustainable, socio-economic development of local populations and their well-being;

### **The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:**

1. ASKS the managers of the protected areas on the Guiana Shield and other forested land, such as indigenous lands and right-of-use zones, to set up a working group focusing on the exchange of ideas in order to build their capacities, ensure the protection of their ecosystems and associated ways of life, and to help create a coherent, integrated strategy for protected areas and other forested land;
2. ASKS the States involved (Brazil, France, Suriname) to facilitate the establishment of this working group focusing on the exchange of ideas, by mobilising technical and financial means in particular;
3. ASKS the other stakeholders (local authorities, representatives of communities, national, regional and international conservation organisations, scientific organisations, regional platforms and networks such as REDPARQUES and the Guiana Shield Facility) to provide technical and financial support for the establishment of this exchange and working group as well as collaboration in the implementation of its 2017-2025 programme; and
4. ASKS the Brazilian, French and Surinamese States to cooperate more extensively with Guyana, Venezuela and Colombia in order to protect local forests and populations in northern Amazonia and to continue their efforts to combat illegal and informal mining operations, as well as all trafficking related to this activity.

**State and agency Members of the United States** abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.