

WCC-2016-Res-001-EN

Identifying and archiving obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations to strengthen IUCN policy and to enhance implementation of IUCN Resolutions

NOTING that IUCN was established in 1948 and subsequently its Members have convened in 19 sessions of the General Assembly and five sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

UNDERLINING that Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the World Conservation Congresses establish the fundamental body of IUCN policy;

FURTHER NOTING that IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations are accumulative and that to date a total of 1,193 Resolutions and Recommendations have been adopted by Members;

EMPHASISING that it is therefore a challenge for all components of the Union to comprehend and convey this large body of policy, to keep track of its implementation and to review it thoroughly when preparing motions to be submitted to Congress;

WELCOMING the recently launched IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform, which makes Resolutions and Recommendations and information on their implementation accessible to all components of IUCN;

RECOGNISING that Resolutions must be coherent and mutually reinforcing;

RECALLING that in cases where Resolutions or Recommendations are inconsistent on an issue, the most recent Resolution or Recommendation provides the basis for interpretation of IUCN policy on that matter, as stated in Resolution 3.001 *Precedence clause – Establishing precedence in regard to IUCN general policy* (Bangkok, 2004);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolutions relevant to the motions process, including Resolutions 4.001 *Strengthening the links between IUCN members, Commissions and Secretariat*, 4.002 *Coordination of the IUCN Programme*, 4.003 *Strengthening IUCN's National and Regional Committees*, 4.009 *Transparency of the IUCN Council*, 4.010 *Implementation of Congress Resolutions*, 4.011 *Development of an automated system to record members' actions on Resolutions and Recommendations to improve reporting at, and between, World Conservation Congresses* (Barcelona, 2008), and 5.001 *Strengthening the motions process and enhancing implementation of IUCN Resolutions* (Jeju, 2012); and

NOTING ALSO that Council Decision C/88/26, referring to the work of Council's Resolutions Task Force, states that "The IUCN Council ... Recommends to the next Council 2016-2020 to continue this important work on retiring Resolutions and Recommendations";

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

1. WELCOMES the work of the IUCN Council through its Resolutions Task Force in relation to the design and launch of the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform and the elaboration of an analysis of possibilities to rescind or retire Resolutions and Recommendations;
2. CALLS UPON the IUCN Council to continue its work in this field as recommended in Council Decision C/88/26 and to:
 - a. establish criteria for identifying obsolete Resolutions and Recommendations, building on the work of the Resolutions Task Force;
 - b. establish a working group or equivalent to undertake the review of IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations with the objective of applying the criteria established;
 - c. draw on the expertise of Members and Commissions in this review process; and
 - d. create an accessible archive of Resolutions and Recommendations that no longer require implementation, based on the recommendations of the working group and approved by Council, and update the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform to include only

those resolutions and recommendations still requiring implementation in order to facilitate future efficient and effective review;

3. REQUESTS the IUCN Council and the Director General to:

a. strengthen the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform and design mechanisms for motivating all components of the Union (Members, Commissions and Secretariat) to use this platform for reporting actions on the implementation of Resolutions and Recommendations;

b. support the review process for Resolutions and Recommendations and ensure that, subject to availability, sufficient resources are allocated for Secretariat participation in this endeavour; and

c. ensure that Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in future World Conservation Congresses are regularly reviewed in the spirit of the established criteria; and

4. REQUESTS the Members and the Members' Assembly, when drafting, reviewing or debating motions, to:

a. incorporate an expiry mechanism and/or criteria within the final Resolutions or Recommendations, where appropriate, so that they automatically cease to be effective after a stated period has lapsed or an objective has been achieved at which time they can be reviewed and moved to the Resolutions and Recommendations Archive; and

b. incorporate an interval period between the adoption of Resolutions or Recommendations and their review for the purposes of their implementation, possible rescindment or retirement.