

## **WCC-2016-Res-018-EN**

### **Toward an IUCN standard classification of the impact of invasive alien species**

CONSIDERING that invasive alien species are recognised as a major direct and indirect driver of biodiversity loss across the globe, and that their economic impact is estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars each year (Bellard *et al.* 2016; Simberloff *et al.* 2013; Pimentel *et al.* 2005);

RECALLING that Aichi Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Target 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for the prioritisation of invasive alien species for prevention, eradication or control;

HIGHLIGHTING that there is no global, standardised, systematic evaluation, prioritisation and monitoring process in place for invasive alien species;

RECOGNISING the need for metrics to be context specific, particularly at the population and ecosystem level given available data;

RECOGNISING the efforts carried out by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) for developing authoritative global knowledge products on invasive alien species, namely the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database and the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that, in addition to species prioritisation, pathways assessment and management are also key strategic actions in invasive alien species prevention and that IUCN work on pathways (see 'Progress toward pathways prioritisation in compliance to Aichi Target 9' UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/5) is still a priority;

ALSO RECOGNISING that many protocols and risk assessment tools are available and in use by various countries and authorities across the world;

APPRECIATING that a global and standardised framework and guidelines for implementing an IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) have recently been developed and published in the scientific literature, with the notable contribution of the SSC ISSG, following an approach similar to the Categories and Criteria of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species;

NOTING that the framework to ensure the consistent application of EICAT is now available, along with technical protocols for the assessment, review and quality assurance of the resulting classifications, following a wide testing and consultation phase with the main stakeholders to ensure that their diverse needs have been properly met; and

RECOGNISING, that the classification of species under EICAT can feed into risk assessments and statutory regulations, and that changes in classifications over time can be used as an indicator of trends in invasive alien species impacts and management at regional, national or global level;

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

1. REQUESTS the SSC and the Director General to conduct a consultation process involving all relevant stakeholders within the Union to develop EICAT, integrating the outcomes into the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, thus providing an essential background for the achievement of Aichi Target 9 (and subsequent related targets) and SDG Target 15.8;
2. REQUESTS Council to adopt the framework for the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa, once the consultation process referred to above has been completed, as the Union's standard for classifying alien species in terms of their environmental impact;
3. CALLS ON all Members, and national, regional and global institutions, and the scientific community to work in collaboration with SSC on:

- a. EICAT and the integration of its outcomes into the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database and *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, as this information is essential to prevent and mitigate the impacts caused by invasive alien species; and
  - b. fostering the formal adoption of EICAT and promotion of its use as a decision support tool; and
4. CALLS ON the scientific community to apply EICAT, in coordination with SSC, providing comprehensive supporting information to be published in the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database.

**State and agency Members of the United States** voted against this motion.