

WCC-2016-Res-028-EN

Recognising the Centennial of the US National Park Service

RECALLING that "the 'cleft' or 'gorge' in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, known as the Yo-Semite Valley," was created on June 30, 1864, as the first area in the United States to "be held for public use, resort, and recreation inalienable for all time" by the US Congress and President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864;

FURTHER RECALLING the creation of the first National Parks in the United States – Yellowstone National Park (1872), and Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks (1890) – also for permanent protection of their scenic beauty and important scientific values, following the example of the reservation of Yosemite Valley;

REMEMBERING the efforts of John Muir, first President of the Sierra Club, and others, including US President Theodore Roosevelt, to promote the permanent protection of many important scenic and wilderness areas in the United States;

CELEBRATING the creation by the US Congress and President Woodrow Wilson of the National Park Service as a unit of the US Department of the Interior on August 25, 1916, stating that "The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations [for] the fundamental purposes ... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations";

RECALLING that from its beginnings in the United States of America, the national parks and protected areas movement has now spread across the globe, with well over 100,000 parks and protected areas now found in nearly every country, representing over 15% of the world's terrestrial area and over 3% of the marine realm;

ALSO RECALLING with appreciation the critical role the US National Park Service has played over many decades in promoting the national park idea across the globe, providing technical assistance and advice to hundreds of parks and protected areas in nearly every country in the world, and to thousands of protected area professionals;

WELCOMING the programme of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas that developed and promotes the IUCN Protected Areas Categories System giving global prominence to the importance of National Parks and Monuments; and

WELCOMING ALSO the effort of States and international, national and local organisations, including indigenous communities, to continue to promote establishment and proper management of National Parks within their jurisdiction;

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

1. CONGRATULATES the US National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior on the centennial of its founding in August, 1916;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to communicate these congratulations by a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, and the Director of the US National Park Service;
3. CALLS ON all states and their regional and local governments to support and implement the National Park idea and give permanent protection to critical scenic and natural areas and the wildlife therein and to manage them with responsible stewardship for the full protection of all their features over the long term and for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations; and
4. FURTHER CALLS ON all international, national and local non-governmental organisations to support global and local efforts to create and maintain permanent protection of critical scenic and natural areas and to promote their responsible management in order to assure their full protection over the long term.