

WCC-2016-Res-037-EN

Harmonising the integrated management of overlapping Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks

RECALLING Resolution 5.052 *Establishment of an integrated management system for UNESCO protected areas* (Jeju, 2012);

NOTING that over 260 protected areas designated internationally under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (natural sites, mixed properties and cultural landscapes), the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and UNESCO Global Geoparks as part of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), have complete or partial spatial overlap;

CONCERNED that different management guidelines, time cycles and periods provided and monitored by different authorities for the regular evaluation of Ramsar and UNESCO designated sites impedes the establishment of a comprehensive management regime for areas with multiple international designations;

EMPHASISING that integrated management is an important part of IUCN's mission;

FURTHER EMPHASISING that the main objective of Ramsar Sites is the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, while the objective of the World Heritage Convention is the conservation of natural, cultural, mixed sites and Cultural Landscapes of outstanding universal value for future generations, the objective of Biosphere Reserves is the conservation of biological diversity in line with sustainable development and based on sound science, and the objective of UNESCO Global Geoparks is the conservation of geological heritage of international significance through local community support and education; and

CONVINCED that a harmonised management system for Ramsar and UNESCO designated areas is essential for areas designated under multiple international conventions or programmes (termed here as Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs)), as well as providing benefits to visitors and local communities, and that this approach to management complies with the fundamental concept of IUCN and contributes to the sustainable use of ecosystems;

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

1. WELCOMES the forthcoming IUCN publication on 'Managing MIDAs – Harmonising the management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas: Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks' (hereafter referred to as 'IUCN Guidance'), which provides information about the similarities and specificities of Ramsar and UNESCO designations, as well as about the benefits and challenges of MIDAs, and on the synergies that multiple designations can offer;
2. INVITES the Director General to facilitate establishing an education and training programme in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNESCO to disseminate and apply the IUCN Guidance";
3. INVITES IUCN Members and the four international designating bodies to consider implementation of the recommendations of the IUCN Guidance;
4. REQUESTS that support, including financial and technical, is sought from IUCN Members and donor agencies to facilitate the implementation of harmonised management systems for MIDAs;
5. ENCOURAGES national authorities for MIDAs to improve coordination and information sharing among different national authorities responsible for MIDAs and to align conservation policies for these areas as appropriate; and

6. FURTHER ENCOURAGES site managers to update existing management plans for MIDAs in order to comply with the requirements and reporting of the respective conventions and programmes, including ensuring harmonised visibility for all site designations, and to engage with local communities to ensure that they are fully aware of the added value of MIDAs.