

WCC-2016-Res-038-EN

Establishing an IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Task Force on Protected Area Friendly System

RECOGNISING that biodiversity plays a vital role for the survival of human beings, but that, according to the 2015 WWF Living Planet Index, during the last 40 years, the global population of terrestrial vertebrates has been reduced by nearly 50%, and the index for freshwater ecosystems has declined by 76%, yet the severity and urgency of the crisis has not been recognised or the world alerted;

ALSO RECOGNISING the critical role of protected areas in biodiversity and geodiversity conservation, but that through urbanisation and industrial and agricultural development, nature ecosystems have been continuously destroyed and degraded;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that once ecosystems and especially wildlife populations have declined to a certain point – the so-called 'Eco-security Bottom-line' – nature would no longer be able to provide sufficient ecological functions and human beings would not be able to survive and develop on the earth;

RECALLING that most protected areas have a high geological value and that Resolution 5.048 *Valuing and conserving geoheritage within the IUCN Programme 2013–2016* (Jeju, 2012) stated that the geodiversity is important as a natural factor determining biological, cultural and scenic diversity and as a parameter to be taken into account in the conservation, evaluation and management of protected areas, and that geological heritage is a constituent of, and inseparable from, natural heritage, and possesses cultural, aesthetic, landscape, economic and intrinsic values that must be preserved and transmitted to future generations;

ALSO RECALLING Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 that protected area coverage should reach 17% of the world's terrestrial area and 10% of its marine area by 2020, but that even for existing protected areas, surrounding uncontrolled development has posed serious threats to these areas, including the use of poisonous and deleterious agricultural chemicals, the introduction of monocultures and alien species with high economic value, disturbance from excessive tourism (which poses negative impacts for the survival of endangered species), illegal hunting, reclamation, and road and dam development, all of which are quickly destroying remaining protected areas;

REFERRING TO successful examples internationally, such as Rainforest Alliance (RA) certification, which is widely accepted, and Bird Friendly Certification Criteria developed by ecologists from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, as well as many others, such as Fair Trade and certifications for marine products and palm oil certifications, which play important roles in biodiversity conservation;

TAKING NOTE of the successful operation of a Protected Area Friendly System (PAFS) in China over the last two years;

AWARE that in 2015, PAFS conducted work in 15 protected areas covering over 40,000 km², in which PAFS grew to over 2,600 members, conducted a total of more than 10,000 km of patrols, cleared nearly 7,000 wildlife snares, reduced use of agriculture chemicals by more than 18,000 kg, and produced 15 products friendly to protected areas, including rice, wheat, wild vegetable, walnuts, honey, sheep, tea etc., and undertook conservation education reaching over 30,000 people; and

NOTING that it is important for people to adopt lifestyles that are friendly to protected areas globally;

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

REQUESTS the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) to consider establishing a Task Force on 'Protected Area Friendly System' to:

- a. coordinate international cooperation on PAFS theory research as well as practice, demonstration and promotion activities in a global context;

b. promote and facilitate the development of international cross-industry and cross-profession linkages between organisations, individuals and resources to conduct in-depth cooperation and information sharing;

c. initiate, promote and actively support sustainable lifestyles friendly to protected areas; and

d. restore and improve integrated capacity for man and nature to live harmoniously together and to effectively preserve and enlarge protected areas worldwide.

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.