

## **WCC-2016-Res-056-EN**

### **IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement**

BUILDING UPON IUCN's general policy for climate change, including Resolutions 5.083 *Advancing the role of nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and their potential to contribute to the global climate change regulatory regime*, 5.084 *Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation*, 5.085 *Climate change justice and equity considerations*, and 5.086 *Integrating protected areas into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies* (all adopted in Jeju, 2012);

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant work undertaken by the Director General and Commissions in developing and improving IUCN's strategic policy input to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process as an Observer Organisation and promoting action throughout the Union to advance nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

RECOGNISING the role of Council's Climate Change Task Force in developing IUCN's policy recommendations on climate change and the key role this played in ensuring IUCN's involvement in UNFCCC processes, including the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP21 – Paris, 2015);

WELCOMING the adoption by Parties of the Paris Agreement at UNFCCC COP21 and those provisions most relevant to the work of IUCN, including to:

- note the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity when taking action to address climate change;
- respect, promote and consider inter alia their respective obligations on human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as gender equality and intergenerational equity;
- take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as per Article 4, paragraph 1(d) of the Convention, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems;
- encourage action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for policy approaches and positive incentives for actions related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; and
- take into account ecosystems in adaptation action and planning;

NOTING the opportunities arising from the Paris Agreement for nature-based solutions that build upon conservation and ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation, and for IUCN to work with Parties to assist them in meeting their pre- and post-2020 actions and commitments, including their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

ALSO RECOGNISING the need for coordination within and between all components of the Union for the full potential of conservation for climate change solutions to be realised and perverse outcomes for biodiversity conservation avoided; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the Energy Law and Climate Change Specialist Group of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), to advance IUCN's engagement in the transition to renewable energy;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to:

- a. promote further synergies and coordination between the Secretariat, Commissions and Members in advancing nature-based solutions for climate change bearing in mind biodiversity protection, human rights safeguards, intergenerational equity, gender and other relevant IUCN general policy including on protected areas, biodiversity offsets and primary forests;
- b. advance ecosystem-based mitigation programmatic work including on forests, oceans,

coastal ecosystems, wetlands, mountains, water basins and grasslands that maximises benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and human well-being;

c. further develop, document and communicate ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, including through engaging with relevant professionals, stakeholders and indigenous peoples, contributing to the resilience of vulnerable species, ecosystems, and indigenous, local and other communities at risk;

d. update and implement IUCN's 2008 Carbon Offset Policy to reflect mitigation efforts consistent with the Paris Agreement and to assess the climate change risks of IUCN's built and financial assets; and

e. support, as appropriate, IUCN Members, Commissions and programmes that are assisting Parties to the Paris Agreement with the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions;

2. ACKNOWLEDGES the work of Council's Climate Change Task Force and REQUESTS Council to continue with an appropriate governance mechanism for overseeing ongoing development of IUCN's climate change policies and engagement in light of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, experiences gained from programmatic work, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) science updates, and the work of relevant agencies including the Green Climate Fund;

3. ENCOURAGES all Members and Parties to the Paris Agreement to accelerate implementation of renewable energy production;

4. CALLS ON all Members to strengthen their efforts towards implementing the Paris Agreement, including through ecosystem-based approaches, noting the significance of non-Party stakeholder contributions as well as those from State Parties, the need for rapid and deep reductions in emissions to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and that adaptation efforts should take into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and enhance understanding, action and support with respect to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change; and

5. ENCOURAGES IUCN State Members to move towards ratification, approval, or acceptance of the Paris Agreement as quickly as possible.