

## **WCC-2016-Res-068-EN**

### **Prevention, management and resolution of social conflict as a key requirement for conservation and management of ecosystems**

AWARE that various forms of social conflict exist when different social groups have competing interests around access to and use of natural resources;

CONCERNED that social conflicts involving indigenous peoples and local communities also emerge in the context of conservation interventions affecting their interests, rights, knowledge, traditions and livelihoods;

MINDFUL that natural resource use often gives rise to conflicts involving conservation agencies, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organisations, labour groups and other social actors, where environmental and conservation issues are at stake;

CONSCIOUS that conservation of wildlife in certain contexts and conditions may create conflict with local communities, particularly around conservation actions to protect species that impact local communities from a social, economic and cultural perspective;

FURTHER CONCERNED that factors such as the expansion of the frontier of natural resource-based industries, population pressures on local scarce resources, climate change-induced alterations of habitats and availability of water, increased tensions between political competition for control over resources, land and territories, and consequent political and military conflict, are only going to increase globally with direct consequences for the environment and the livelihood security of vulnerable communities;

RECALLING Resolutions 2.040 *Natural resource security in situations of conflict* (Amman, 2000) and 3.043 *Resource-based conflicts in Darfur, Sudan* (Bangkok, 2004) concerning conflict resolution as a precondition of successful conservation and Resolutions 3.015 *Conserving nature and reducing poverty by linking human rights and the environment* (Bangkok, 2004) and 4.056 *Rights-based approaches to conservation* (Amman, 2008), as well as the many efforts undertaken by IUCN Programmes to respond to such requests within the limits of existing capacities;

RECALLING the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which addresses the rights of indigenous peoples to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;

AWARE of the unique position of IUCN as a conflict-resolution facilitator and mediator, as it can credibly convene stakeholders in search of common outcomes at various levels; and

CONVINCED that strengthening this role and capacity of IUCN will greatly benefit conservation and will further solidify IUCN;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions, in collaboration with Members and partners, to:
  - a. set up a process to explore options for supporting social conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution at all levels and to advise IUCN Programmes and Management accordingly;
  - b. support the establishment of inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms, including experts in conflict management and mitigation, bringing together scientific and local knowledge, aimed at addressing social conflicts around conservation and resource use and activities that damage environments and ecosystems;
  - c. increase capacities and recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities to prevent and solve conflicts around natural resource conservation, use, depletion and degradation;

d. engage with the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights, recognised conflict experts, and similar undertakings to minimise social conflict and further conflict management processes;

e. provide technical guidance to agencies, donors and other parties on designing and supporting interventions that reduce potential for conflict; and

f. propose a policy framework for IUCN, building on existing Resolutions and experience from IUCN Programmes, Commissions and Members, which establishes an approach to conflict prevention and resolution for consideration at the next session of the IUCN World Conservation Congress; and

2. URGES State Members and non-member States to:

a. establish measures to acknowledge social conflicts relevant to conservation, give voice to all affected parties, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, and facilitate inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus-building; and

b. seek the advice from the IUCN and its Members to support the application of both rights-based and responsibility-based approaches to conservation and good governance principles as presented in IUCN Resolution 3.012 *Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development*.