

WCC-2016-Res-071-EN
Global Judicial Institute for the Environment

RECOGNISING IUCN's leadership in the field of environmental law to build alliances, strengthen capacity and develop expert networks and information systems for enduring conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources;

AFFIRMING that environmental laws continue to be complemented and reinforced and that judges, attorneys general, auditors and prosecutors play an essential role in their effective enforcement and compliance;

NOTING the Johannesburg Principles on the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development (2002) and the Rio+20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability (2012);

APPRECIATING the progress made by the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) since the 5th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Jeju, 2012) to advance cooperation amongst judicial institutions and support the creation of enhanced adjudication systems dealing with environmental issues around the world;

RECOGNISING that there are more than 800 environmental courts in over 50 nations, in addition to courts of general jurisdiction that are also seized of environmental issues, and that there is increasing need to share experiences, decisions, and best practices;

FURTHER RECOGNISING expressed support amongst judges and other legal professionals for an international institute to assist national and sub-national courts to apply and enforce environmental laws;

MINDFUL that the 5th IUCN World Conservation Congress adopted Resolution 5.129 *Courts and access to justice* and approved the mandate of the World Commission on Environmental Law to explore creating an institution, organised for and conducted by professionals, with the cooperation of national court systems, their administrative offices and judicial institutes, to carry out desired activities while ensuring independence and autonomy of respective national and sub-national institutions;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that IUCN's Council, at its 86th meeting in May 2015, endorsed the proposal to establish the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment;

AWARE of the contribution that such an institute can make toward achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 to "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all"; and

GRATEFUL that the 1st IUCN World Environmental Law Congress (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) concluded three years of dialogue conducted by WCEL with legal professionals of each state and partner organisations by convening the first meeting of the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment on 30 April 2016;

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

1. CONGRATULATES WCEL, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Association of Judges (IAJ), the Brazilian Association of Judges (AMB), the Association of Judges of Rio de Janeiro (AMAERJ), and the Supreme Court of the State of Rio de Janeiro for the initiative taken to establish the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment (GJIE);
2. REQUESTS the Director General and WCEL to continue their outstanding commitment to the GJIE and to lead all components of IUCN in contributing toward meeting its objectives;
3. INVITES all Members to bring to the attention of their national and sub-national court systems and their administrative offices, as well as judicial institutes, the existence of the GJIE in order to further strengthen the capacity of the institutions and foster practices that

contribute to promotion of the rule of law in the international community, especially in environmental matters; and

4. INVITES all current and future partners to embrace the opportunity to collaborate with the GJIE and to benefit fully from the judicial experiences of all nations and regions.