

WCC-2016-Res-078-EN

Supporting implementation of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the African Agenda 2063

RECALLING the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (hereafter the Convention) adopted in Algiers in 1968 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and amended in Maputo in 2003 by the African Union (AU) Summit that called for "the conservation, utilization and development of natural resources, particularly soil, water, flora and fauna resources based on scientific principles" and sought to integrate conservation and sustainable land and environmental management strategies into social and economic development plans/policies;

NOTING that biodiversity has been a defining feature of Africa's history, culture, economic and social organisation and IUCN's pursuit of nature-based solutions;

RECALLING IUCN's technical support to the Convention in 2004, which was endorsed by IUCN Regional Directors in Africa;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in African conditions, conservation of species, ecosystems and genes (variability, diversity and integrity) is not only a conservation task but also a food security, livelihoods improvement, poverty reduction, and social and political imperative;

CONCERNED BY the pressure that Africa's heavy dependence on commodity exports places on the environment, climate resilience and livelihoods while about "half of Africa's terrestrial eco- regions have lost more than 50 percent of their area to cultivation, degradation or urbanization" (*Africa Environment Outlook 2*, UNEP, 2006);

RECOGNISING the leading goal of the African Agenda 2063 adopted at the AU Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2015 to build a prosperous and peaceful Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, which requires, among others, reducing the loss of biodiversity, respecting rights of local communities, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources and effectively managing terrestrial and marine protected areas; and

RECALLING further that Ethiopia, where the African Union Commission (AUC) is headquartered, is a founding member of IUCN;

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

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to the Convention to enable the Convention by:
 - a. encouraging further signatories to enable ratification of the Convention;
 - b. establishing a Secretariat and providing resources; and
 - c. enabling a diplomatic, transboundary work environment for Secretariat staff; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General with the support of the Commissions and Members to:
 - a. develop a comprehensive partnership agreement and working relation with the AUC to implement this Motion;
 - b. provide technical support to implement the African Agenda 2063 related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits, building of climate resilient economies and relevant sections of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
 - c. establish an appropriate institutional mechanism in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to facilitate the implementation of this Motion; and
 - d. strengthen working relations between IUCN Regional Offices and AU Organs and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in their respective regions.

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.