

WCC-2016-Res-080-EN

System of categories for indigenous collective management areas in Central America

RECOGNISING that indigenous peoples have made an important contribution to the management and conservation of natural resources, managing to preserve large areas with forest cover, water sources and endemic species, because they are spaces that are an integral part of their territory and their strategies for life, and that forests are one of the most important natural areas for indigenous peoples and whose conservation and management are vital, both in the development strategies of the people, as also to face the challenges of the current development model, climate change and other impacts that is facing the world; and

BEARING IN MIND that it has been proven that indigenous peoples have a close relationship of respect and balance with mother nature, including land and natural resources, and in their efforts to manage and protect forests, have their own indicators (or signs) that allow them to know the main changes occurring in their management and natural resources in general;

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

1. INVITES the Director General to analyse the creation of an experts working group in order to build a proposed system of categories of indigenous collective management areas that responds to the recognition, respect and practice of collective rights of indigenous peoples, particularly with regard to the use, management and conservation of natural resources;
2. CALLS ON the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to develop an analysis and discussion on the recognition of collective rights of indigenous peoples, in promoting and respecting their own ways of life and community management of natural areas;
3. LIKEWISE CALLS ON them to grant their full support for the recognition and formalisation within the framework of IUCN categories, the system of categories of indigenous collective management areas, which recognises the interaction and the historical contribution that indigenous peoples have made in the conservation;
4. ALSO CALLS ON them to develop comprehensive strategies from conception, needs and potentials of indigenous peoples in the development of that category; and
5. URGES them, finally, to regulate the development, implementation and evaluation of projects in indigenous territories that fall within that category, implementing environmental, social and cultural safeguards, generating queries, and involving them in the implementation, evaluation and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits, according to their own systems of collective management.

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.