

WCC-2016-Res-085-EN

Connecting people with nature globally

CONCERNED that the current level of action to prevent biodiversity, geodiversity and natural heritage loss is outweighed and outpaced by the magnitude of threats;

AWARE that new approaches are required to broaden societal support for conservation and mobilize funding and associated action to deliver on the IUCN Programme 2017-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030;

NOTING that relevance of and respect for protected areas is dependent upon public support from the citizens of the countries entrusted with their protection and management, and that this relevance and respect must be fostered by continuous citizenry connection via visitation and awareness raising;

RECOGNISING that meaningful experiences in nature whether in cities or national parks at any age, but particularly at an early age, is the foundation of enjoyment and passion for nature, the development of pro-environmental behaviour, and encourages support for nature's conservation and protection;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that there is a growing body of research confirming that spending time in nature is vital for physical, emotional, intellectual, behavioural and spiritual health;

ALSO RECOGNISING that technology is a powerful tool to engage people, especially youth, to learn about and connect with nature and to share their experiences with others;

WELCOMING the 'Promise of Sydney' Vision and related recommendations, and the diversity of inspiring solutions and commitments that were the substantial outcomes of the VIth IUCN World Parks Congress (Sydney, 2014);

RECALLING that Stream 8 (Inspiring a New Generation) of the Congress, served as a promising start for finding innovative solutions and securing commitments to action for connecting youth and other new audiences with nature;

ALSO RECALLING Resolutions 4.105 *Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) in conservation* (Barcelona, 2008), 5.008 *Increasing youth engagement and intergenerational partnership across and through the Union*, 5.039 *Healthy parks healthy people*, and 5.045 *Broadening awareness on benefits and relevance of protected areas* (Jeju 2012), 4.040 IUCN (2008, Barcelona) *Conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage*, and the need to accelerate the action called for in relation to youth engagement and connecting people with nature;

NOTING Decision XII/2C *Communication, education and public awareness and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity* of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and

NOTING ALSO the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular, its Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1 and 11;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to work in close cooperation with all Commissions, especially the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Members and partners to implement the 'Promise of Sydney' recommendations for Inspiring a New Generation, as well as World Conservation Congress Resolutions 4.105, 5.008, 5.039, and 5.045 by launching and supporting #NatureForAll within IUCN's Programme 2017-2020, which will:

a. sensitise and motivate governments, ministries of education, health, environment, educational institutions, civil organisations, persons from all sectors, including young people, to facilitate and promote opportunities for people to experience and connect with nature and encourage them to take concrete and useful actions for nature;

- b. develop and launch a global campaign to connect people with nature, wild and protected areas, as well as parks;
 - c. share knowledge, frameworks and other tools to replicate and scale-up successful #NatureForAll programme areas and accelerate advocacy for the conservation of nature and nature-linked well-being;
 - d. conduct research evidencing benefits of contact with nature and to ensure that programme areas are well-targeted, effective, and respond to emerging threats and opportunities;
 - e. ensure the future relevance of protected areas and the conservation of nature;
 - f. build a coalition, with a focus on new and non-traditional partners to champion #NatureForAll; and
 - g. actively engage all members and sectors in its design and implementation;
2. CALLS ON all components of IUCN to support governments and other stakeholders in implementing CBD Decision XII/2C; and
 3. CALLS ON Parties to the CBD to take further action and coordination for implementation of Decision XII/2C.