

WCC-2016-Res-092-EN

Urging the Congress of the Republic of Peru to shelve permanently the bill that proposes a road that will affect the Alto Purús National Park and other areas

OBSERVING that on 19 August 2016, Bill 75-2016/CR was presented in the Congress of the Republic of Peru, proposing the declaration "... of the public need and preferential national interest of the sustainable development of the Province of Purús in the Ucayali Region, where priority is given to terrestrial connectivity between Puerto Esperanza and Iñapari...";

CONCERNED because this road would run through the Alto Purús National Park, one of the most biologically diverse locations in the world, which conserves endemic and threatened species; the Purús Communal Reserve, a biologically diverse area, which is co-managed by the native communities and the Government of Peru; and the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve, established to benefit the isolated indigenous peoples, which would lead to serious, irreversible environmental and social impacts, and severely affect the isolated indigenous peoples that live there;

CONSIDERING that although this Bill mentions that it will guarantee "... respect for the Protected Natural Areas and the rights of the Native Communities, Peasant Communities and Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with the legislation currently in force...", in reality the roads are legally incompatible with the National Parks, in accordance with Peruvian legislation, and this is one of the reasons why, when this Bill was presented in 2012, it was not considered by the Congress in office at that time. On that occasion, this bill received well-founded opposing views from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Culture, the National Service of Natural Protected Areas and from the Ombudsman's Office; and

WELCOMING Article 8(a) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Article 4, paragraph 1 of the ILO Convention 169;

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

1. URGES the Congress of the Republic of Peru to consider shelving Bill 75-2016/CR permanently, given that it contradicts and violates Peruvian legislation and would affect the biodiversity of this area severely and irreversibly, especially in the Alto Purús National Park, as well as the life and integrity of the isolated indigenous peoples that live in the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve;
2. CALLS ON the Director General of IUCN to send an official memo without delay to the Presidency of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, informing them of the appeal that appears in paragraph 1, on the need to shelve Bill 75-2016/CR permanently, for the reasons set out and due to the risk of failing to honour the Peruvian State's commitments within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national climate commitments within the framework of the Paris Agreement; and
3. ASKS the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas to send a communication to the Presidency of the Congress of the Republic of Peru with all the information on the values and needs for protection of the Alto Purús National Park, as one of the most biologically diverse places in the world, of intangible character and which conserves endemic and threatened species, as well as information on the vulnerable situation of the isolated indigenous peoples in the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve, and Peru's global commitments to biodiversity protection.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.