

WCC-2016-Res-095-EN

Support for peace and nature in Colombia

CONSIDERING that on 24 August 2016 Colombia signed a peace agreement with the FARC guerrilla group, and that this will benefit the country, the continent and the whole world;

RECOGNISING that Colombia is one of the countries with the highest biological diversity in the world and that as a result of numerous attacks on infrastructure and deforestation, armed conflict has had serious repercussions on its natural resources and the degradation of ecosystems;

BEARING IN MIND the great opportunity that the signing of the peace agreement offers Colombian society and the sustainable management of its natural resources, which will allow solutions to be found that are based on nature, its conservation and social equity in a context of peace; and

ALSO CONSIDERING the risk facing Colombia's ecosystems within and outside of its protected areas, if during the process of the implementation of the agreements, the economy, integration and social reconciliation are not based on the valuation of ecosystem services and on integrated land use planning, as well as on respect for the communities' rights;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that the Colombian State pay particular attention so that during the process of implementing the agreements care is taken to guarantee sustainable management, the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, and the strengthening of local capacities, ensuring the equity and sustainability of the process;
2. CALLS ON the Director General to provide special support from IUCN to the Government of Colombia, so as to plan in an appropriate and concerted fashion the development of the regions, aiming at the construction of sustainable territories, ensuring respect for communities' rights and strengthening implementation and monitoring mechanisms in order to make this a reality;
3. INVITES the Director General and the Regional Office for South America to seek support, in collaboration with IUCN Members, in order to present innovative proposals that help during the transition, so as to protect and value natural resources for current and future generations and to promote inclusive governance in favour of real reconciliation of society with its natural environment; and
4. ASKS all IUCN Members, with their technical and scientific capacities, to help build stable, lasting peace in Colombia, with social equity and respect for nature.

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.