

## **WCC-2016-Res-096-EN**

### **Safeguarding space for nature and securing our future: developing a post- 2020 strategy**

CONCERNED that with a growing human population and demand for natural resources, we are losing Earth's last wild species and spaces;

RECALLING Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to conserve by 2020 at least 17% of global land area and 10% of the marine area, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, via well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes;

AWARE that to date, according to the Protected Planet database, only 15% of the world's land area and 3% of the marine area are protected, but that these protected areas are not always equitably governed, effectively managed or placed appropriately to conserve, (i.e. to protect, sustainably use and restore/enrich), maximum biodiversity or ecosystem services;

RECALLING the Sustainable Development Goals, which include Goals 14 and 15 on marine and terrestrial conservation and the need to "decouple economic growth from environmental degradation" (Target 8.4), "develop... sustainable... infrastructure" (9.1), "protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage" (11.4) and "strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters" (13.1);

RECALLING the Paris Agreement and recognising the critical role that intact ecosystems play in defending against climate change, sustaining other ecosystem services and protecting biodiversity;

CONCERNED about the increasing threat to intact ecosystems, protected areas, primary forests and other key areas from infrastructure, extractives and agri-business;

RECALLING IUCN Resolutions 2.34 *Multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and projects impacting on biodiversity and natural features* (Amman, 2000), 3.050 *Integrating protected area systems into the wider landscape* (Bangkok, 2004), 3.087 *Financial institutions and the World Commission on Dams recommendations* (Bangkok, 2004), 4.062 *Enhancing ecological networks and connectivity conservation areas* (Barcelona, 2008), 4.087 *Impacts of infrastructure and extractive industries on protected areas* (Barcelona, 2008), 5.046 *Strengthening the World Heritage Convention* (Jeju, 2012) and 5.089 *Dams and hydraulic infrastructure* (Jeju, 2012); and

NOTING that the report from Stream 1 of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress states that many delegates argued for protected area coverage of "around 30% of the planet for no take reserves, 50% overall protection, and 100% of the land and water managed sustainably";

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

1. INVITES the Parties to the CBD and other stakeholders to initiate a process towards the development of an ambitious post-2020 strategy including concrete targets to safeguard space for nature, based on an enhanced understanding of the planet's life support systems and the role of biodiversity and connectivity in underpinning these, and thresholds for maintaining biodiversity, which might include:
  - a. a review and expert meetings to define science-based targets for effective conservation of areas of greatest importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, in terms of percentage coverage, including of IUCN-recognised protected areas as well as other effective area-based conservation measures within wider, sustainably managed, ecologically functional landscapes and seascapes, taking into account location, size, connectivity, equitability and effectiveness;
  - b. consultation with civil society, governments, financial institutions and industry to strengthen:
    - i. transparent, sustainable, landscape-scale planning for the siting of public and private

sector- funded infrastructure, concessions and other potentially harmful industrial activities;

ii. widespread recognition that key areas such as World Heritage Sites and other protected areas should be off-limits to and not impacted by harmful industrial activities; and

iii. recognition of the diversity, quality and vitality of governance of both protected and conserved areas; and

c. development of a mechanism for joint implementation of the strategy to support the SDGs and conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Heritage Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); and

2. CALLS ON the Director General and all components of IUCN to promote and support the development of this new post 2020 strategy.

**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.