



# Resolutions and Recommendations

World Conservation Congress  
Jeju, Republic of Korea  
6–15 September 2012

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## **WCC-2012-Res-092-EN**

### **Promoting and Supporting Community Resource Management and Conservation as a Foundation for Sustainable Development**

**RECALLING** that in 1975, IUCN Members, through Resolution 12.5 *Protection of Traditional Ways of Life* adopted by the 12th IUCN General Assembly (Kinshasa, 1975), promoted the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in conservation areas;

**RECALLING** Resolution 17.28 *National and Regional Conservation Strategies* adopted by the 17th IUCN General Assembly (San José, 1988), which recognized the extensive knowledge and experience indigenous peoples have in the sustainable use of their environment—knowledge that has often been excluded from economic development and conservation strategies;

**MINDFUL** of Resolution 15.7 *The Role of Traditional Lifestyles and Local People in Conservation and Development* adopted by the 15th IUCN General Assembly (Christchurch, 1981), which acknowledges the vast reservoir of traditional knowledge within local cultures and recommends further research into the ecological aspects of traditional lifestyles, while emphasizing the need to enable local communities to play a primary role in all stages of development;

**ALSO RECALLING** the IUCN Policy Statement on *Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources* adopted at the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), which concluded that sustainable use of wild living resources is an important conservation tool, as the associated social and economic benefits provide incentives for conservation;

**AWARE** of Resolution 19.22 *Indigenous People* and Resolution 19.23 *Importance of Community-Based Approaches* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), which highlight the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge, urging IUCN to integrate these aspects into its programs and build strong partnerships with local organizations for community-based conservation;

**FURTHER RECALLING** Resolution 3.012 *Governance of Natural Resources for Conservation and Sustainable Development* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which called on IUCN to take a leadership role in natural resource governance;

**ALSO RECALLING** Resolution 4.047 *Empowering Local Communities to Conserve and Manage Natural Resources in Africa*, and Resolution 4.049 *Supporting Indigenous Conservation Territories and Other Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conservation Areas*, both adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which urged governments to grant legal rights to local communities for communal conservation and resource management;

**MINDFUL** of Resolutions 4.055 *Integrating Culture and Cultural Diversity into IUCN's Policy and Programme* and 4.099 *Recognition of the Diversity of Concepts and Values of Nature*, adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which promote the integration of cultural values and traditions into conservation efforts;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the objectives of the 9th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the need for better

integration of indigenous peoples' concerns into the IUCN Programme 2013–2016;

**NOTING** the conclusions of the 2011 Symposium on *The Relevance of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of CITES-listed Species in Exporting Countries* (Vienna, Austria);

**RECOGNIZING** the wide range of terms used for community-driven conservation and sustainable development initiatives—including *community-based natural resource management, community conservation, participatory forest management, sustainable resource management, integrated conservation and development, and decentralized land and resource management*—and acknowledging that 'community resource management' (CRM) may serve as a suitable overarching term;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that while community resource management is not a universal solution for all conservation challenges, it offers a viable response to the *Tragedy of the Commons* by enabling local communities to collectively manage and protect natural resources more effectively than governments or international treaties alone;

**EMPHASIZING** that community resource management has been most successful where legal rights have been granted to local peoples;

**RECOGNIZING** that both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of natural resources, when sustainable and linked to community resource management programs, can effectively support biodiversity conservation;

**NOTING** that adaptive management by local communities is essential for the effective implementation and monitoring of resource use;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that good governance, appropriate legislation, and equitable enforcement are critical to ensuring the success of community resource management initiatives and to preventing illegal or unsustainable exploitation of natural resources;

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING** that the success of community resource management programs is not only measured by conservation outcomes and income generation, but also by civic development, education, increased community participation in governance, more positive attitudes toward conservation, and strengthened cultural identity and pride;

**The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:**

1. **REQUESTS** the Director General and Secretariat to work with Members and governments to: a. Facilitate and enhance the exchange of information on existing community resource management programs, their successes, and challenges, among practitioners, relevant stakeholders, and international conservation and development organizations, with a focus on capacity building; b. Develop and promote policy coherence across Multilateral Environmental Agreements and conservation organizations to support biodiversity conservation through community resource management programs; c. Recognize and promote various forms of community conservation, such as *Al-Hima*, *Mahjar*, *Agdal*, *Qoroq*, *Adat*, and similar systems of

community-based management found in West Asia and North Africa, as holistic approaches that integrate local knowledge, culture, and heritage with conservation and livelihood enhancement; and d. Collaborate with IUCN Programmes and Commissions to revitalize and support traditional community-based management systems, including *Al-Hima*.

2. **REQUESTS** the Director General and IUCN Commissions to: a. Recognize and promote traditional community-based natural resource management systems as essential conservation mechanisms that support sustainable resource use through local and traditional knowledge, customary institutions, and regulations.
3. **CALLS ON** IUCN State Members and NGOs to assist in the promotion and implementation of these activities to advance indigenous peoples' interests and contribute to the IUCN Programme 2013–2016.