

WCC-2012-Res-092-EN

Promoting and supporting community resource management and conservation as a foundation for sustainable development

RECALLING that already in 1975 IUCN Members, through Resolution 12.5 *Protection of Traditional ways of Life* adopted by the 12th IUCN General Assembly (Kinshasa, 1975), promoted 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 that indigenous peoples have a long and rich history of knowledge and experience in the sustainable use of their environment, which has often been excluded from economic development strategies as well as conservation strategies and activities;

MINDFUL of Resolution 15.7 *The Role of Traditional Life Styles and Local People in Conservation and Development* adopted by the 15th IUCN General Assembly (Christchurch, 1981), which considers “the still existing very large reservoir of traditional knowledge and experience within local cultures” and recommends fostering “further research into the ecology of traditional life styles”, and “provide the means for local people who maintain ecologically sound practices to play a primary role in all stages of development in the area they identify with, so that they can participate and benefit directly, in a manner which is consistent with their values, time frames and decision making processes”;

ALSO RECALLING the *IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources* at the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), which concluded that use of wild living resources, if sustainable, is an important conservation tool because the social and economic benefits derived from such use provide incentives for people to conserve them;

AWARE of Resolution 19.22 *Indigenous People* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), and Resolution 19.23 *Importance of Community Based Approaches* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), which emphasizes the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge and urges IUCN to make this a cross-cutting theme of its programmes, and urges IUCN to build strong partnerships with local organizations to further 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 urged IUCN to serve in a leadership role in relation to governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development;

ALSO RECALLING Resolution 4.047 *Empowering local communities to conserve and manage natural resources in Africa*, which “called on African governments to confer legal rights on local people to establish institutions for communal conservation and management of natural resources”, and Resolution 4.049 *Supporting Indigenous Conservation Territories and other Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conservation Areas*, both of which were adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

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 consideration of cultural values and traditions as key elements of successful conservation;

FURTHER RECALLING the aim of the 9th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

NOTING ways for a better integration of indigenous peoples' issues into the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*;

RECALLING the outcome of the 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, May 2011);

NOTING that currently, a range of terms are in use when referring to conservation and sustainable development programmes carried out by local communities (e.g. community-based natural resource management, community conservation, participatory forest management, sustainable resource management, integrated conservation and development, and decentralized land and resource management) and it may thus be timely to devise common terminology that reflects the variety of relevant activities carried out by local communities. Wherever possible and allowing for the legal system in force, community resource management (CRM) may be an appropriate generic description;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, while community resource management is not a universal panacea for all terrestrial species and ecosystem problems, for many rural areas of the world it could provide a solution to the classic problem of the Tragedy of the Commons; through collective management and self-interest, local communities can fulfil a role in protecting natural resources which is beyond the capacity of governments or international treaties;

EMPHASIZING that community resource management involving terrestrial species has proven to be most successful where legal rights have been conferred on local peoples;

RECOGNIZING that both consumptive and non-consumptive use, where sustainable and linked to community resource management programmes, can be an effective instrument to conserve terrestrial biological diversity;

NOTING that adaptive management, carried out by the communities themselves, is both a necessary and appropriate methodology for implementing and monitoring community resource use;

ACKNOWLEDGING that good governance, appropriate legislation and even-handed enforcement are essential to ensure that community resource management programmes prosper and are not undermined by illegal and/or unsustainable exploitation of living natural resources; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that conservation outcomes and income generation are only two measures of success of terrestrial community resource management programmes, with others being civic development and education, greater empowerment and participation in democratic processes, shifts to more positive attitudes and increased tolerance to wildlife, as well as a greater sense of pride in community identity and cultural values;

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 a broad exchange of information on current community resource management programmes and systems, their levels of success, or

reasons for failure to take place amongst practitioners, relevant interest groups and international conservation and development organizations, and that emphasis should be placed on capacity building to contribute to the further development of community resource management programmes; and

- b. develop and implement broad policy coherence amongst Multilateral Environmental Agreements and conservation organizations which would be beneficial to conservation of terrestrial biodiversity through community resource management programmes;
 - c. recognize the various forms and names of Community Conservation, such as *Al-Hima* (الحمى), *Mahjar*, *Agdal*, *Qoroq*, *Adat* or any similar systems of community-based management present in West Asia and North Africa, as a holistic approach that empowers local and traditional knowledge, culture and heritage, in addition to conservation of natural resources and a boost to livelihoods; and
 - d. work together with IUCN Programmes and Commissions to revitalize community-based management systems, such as the *Al-Hima* (الحمى) and others;
2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to recognize and promote the aforementioned community-based natural resource management and conservation systems as traditional community-based management systems that support the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by the local community, through adopting and applying local and traditional knowledge, and through customary institutions and regulations; and
 3. CALLS ON IUCN State Members and NGOs to assist and promote all of the preceding activities on indigenous peoples' issues in the implementation of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*.