

WCC-2012-Res-103-EN

Supporting, promoting and strengthening local agri-food systems

OBSERVING that, we are in a globalized environment which is characterized by profound and rapid change, and which is facing great challenges in the quest for sustainable development, including the fight against climate change, biodiversity conservation, prevention of food health crises, and the need to provide the resources necessary for a growing population that is increasingly concentrated in urban and metropolitan centres;

CONSCIOUS of the growing pressures to which metropolitan and periurban spaces are subjected, especially in the Mediterranean where urban expansion and the development of new infrastructures pose a significant threat for agricultural and natural areas and, by extension, for the balance between urban, periurban and rural areas;

RECOGNIZING that the changes in periurban areas, not only in terms of space or soil use but also at social, economic, political and administrative levels, give rise to new tensions and expectations;

NOTING the need to work at regional level, and not only in spaces subject to protection measures, and RECOGNIZING the role of the land-use matrix in the preservation of biodiversity and its contribution to the provision of environmental services;

WISHING to propose and promote new land-use visions and new processes of creating land-use projects in those periurban spaces for the purpose of strengthening social cohesion and environmental balance, and to enable those new areas under construction to anticipate the effects of changes and to build a better future for themselves;

ASSUMING that policies are necessary, and essential, not only for protection but also for appreciation and the symbolic sense of taking ownership on the part of citizens, but also for the promotion and management of the natural and agrarian parts of those emerging periurban areas;

CONVINCED that Local Agri-food Systems, by relocating food and its functions, which are not only nutritional but also economic, social, environmental and cultural, to the centre of the living space of citizens in the areas in question, can assist in:

- a. a democratization of food according to a principle of social equity, guaranteeing access for all (in terms of availability, diversity, quality and fair prices) to food that is healthy, balanced and appetizing, as far as possible on the basis of local production and the creativity of communities;
- b. the promotion of food that is a true vehicle of universal values, as the inalienable right of every human being to live with dignity and in a good state of health, the right of every person to enjoy an environment with a quality of life and cultural transmission and creation;
- c. the promotion of food with nutritional qualities appropriate to preserving the health of all;
- d. a worldwide reduction in the ecological footprint and an improvement in the environmental situation through the development of local distribution channels and appreciation of the links between farming and the environment;
- e. a consolidation of the values, functions and environmental services of the land-use matrix of these new periurban areas, among them the maintenance of biodiversity and, in the case of agrarian areas, agrobiodiversity;

- f. a consolidation of the local socio-economic fabric and a better safeguarding of local resources, including natural resources, and incomes with support for local consumption, production and organization of the processing and sale of local products;
- g. appreciation of an 'economy of daily life' in which woman play a key role;
- h. closer links of partnership and solidarity among inhabitants of shared living spaces, and lessons in collective management;
- i. the emergence of a sense of belonging to an area for a society which includes and recognizes the role and place of each person in relation to food;
- j. creation of a land-use project through the consolidation of practices and activities which belong to the area of the project and which will be able to contribute to strengthening the protection, appreciation and management of the land-use matrix and the area's environmental services; and
- k. the opening of emerging periurban areas to the outside world, developing inter-area and regional cooperation, solidarity and the exchange of knowledge and best practice between areas as a means of enrichment and innovation for land-use projects; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the following frameworks which provide elements that assist in the development and strengthening of Local Agri-food Systems: *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, adopted 3 November 2001 at the 31st session of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference; IUCN Congress Resolutions such as 3.012 *Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development*, 3.017 *Promoting food sovereignty to conserve biodiversity and end hunger* and 3.063 *Cities and conservation*, adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), as well as Recommendation 4.128 *Setting up networks of protected urban and periurban natural areas*, adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008); the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2011/ C 104/1), published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the occasion of the 88th plenary session, in favour of promoting Local Food Systems in the territories of the Member States of the European Union; and the *European Charter on Local Governance and Food* signed in Barcelona in November 2011 by nine European local and regional authorities and adopted by, among others, the Arco Latino Association;

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

1. INVITES local authorities to develop Local Agri-food Systems in their areas of intervention, establishing and applying political strategies and action plans at local level; and
2. CALLS ON the Director General to:
 - a. support local authorities in the initiation and development of food policies integrated with other policies (land-use planning, environmental, health, social, cultural, agricultural) in order to foster and coordinate the operation of Local Agri-food Systems underpinned by numerous distribution channel initiatives for local agri-food products and to create a Local Food Strategy;
 - b. defend, support and encourage the creation and strengthening of covenants between authorities (at all levels) and actors in Local Agri-food Systems to facilitate the creation of regional governance around food as a means of guaranteeing food

production, the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable land-use management in an uncertain and complicated environment; and

- c. facilitate the sharing and exchange of tools, methods and best practices that strengthen the participatory approach, across the regions involved in this type of strategy.

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 Resolutions Process.