

## **WCC-2012-Res-106-EN**

### **Safeguarding the contribution of wild living resources and ecosystems to food security**

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the significant challenge of feeding a global population of nine billion by 2050, particularly as more than one billion people, 70% of whom live in rural areas, still live below the poverty line and strive daily to find the minimum amounts of food to sustain their lives;

STRESSING SUPPORT for global commitments to the *Millennium Development Goals*, including the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1);

NOTING WITH CONCERN the impacts of volatile commodity and food prices in undermining the nutritional status and food security of the poor and vulnerable, as well as sustainable development and poverty reduction more broadly for developing countries;

NOTING that industrial-scale food systems tend to be characterized by growing carbon and ecological footprints, high water demands and use of agrochemicals that damage the health of wildlife and humans, and that agri-food corporations exert significant control over food commodities, agricultural inputs, and global markets;

RECOGNIZING that food security depends on the availability, access to and utilization of food, as well as the stability of the food system (as defined in the 2010 Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action of the United Nations High Level Taskforce on the Global Food Security Crisis);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that an approach to food security that extends beyond growing, gathering and catching food, taking into account wider livelihood and ecosystem considerations, is necessary to provide long-term resilience, security and development opportunities for men and women;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fundamental role biodiversity and ecosystem services play in achieving food and nutrition security, as also recognized by the above-mentioned Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action, and the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* (and Aichi Targets 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18);

STRESSING that gender and food security are closely interrelated given that in many societies women play the main role in the provision, access and utilization of food and in assuring nutritional standards for children, and yet they often suffer greater vulnerability than men due to a lack of access to production inputs, support services, land, facilities and decision-making processes over the resources needed to ensure food security at household level;

CONVINCED that achieving food security in the world is not only a matter of assisting the vulnerable, but is above all an ethical imperative determined by the right of everybody to be free from hunger and to live in dignity, and therefore requires strong approaches of social equity and support to the realization of human rights, including the right to food;

NOTING that the IUCN Congress has adopted several resolutions highlighting the links between ecosystems and food security and providing a mandate and guidance to IUCN to contribute, from its Mission, to the objective of eliminating food insecurity and hunger in the world;

RECALLING in particular Resolution 3.014 *Poverty reduction, food security and conservation* adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), that called for IUCN initiatives and actions to be “concentrated, as a priority, on ensuring tangible contributions from biodiversity conservation to equitable food security, within the framework of the strategic areas proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in application of Principle 20 of the *Rio Declaration* (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)”;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 3.017 *Promoting food sovereignty to conserve biodiversity and end hunger* also adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which urged all IUCN Members, Commissions and the Director General to “give due consideration to policies in support of food sovereignty as they relate to achieving the Mission and Vision of IUCN and to their application in all stages of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and poverty eradication”;

REITERATING the guidance provided in Resolution 2.29 *Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild and Living Resources* adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) which highlights the necessity of minimizing losses from biodiversity when wild living resources are used and that enhancing sustainability of such resources requires on-going improved management;

CONVINCED that a wide range of approaches are needed to meet the food security objectives in differing national contexts of countries affected by ecosystem degradation, food insecurity and hunger;

ALARMED by the insufficient recognition in food security and national development strategies of wild living resources and ecosystems in contributing to the food security of rural and coastal communities, considering, for instance, that 25–30% of the income of forest-dependent communities comes from forests and forest products, and forest goods and services are valued at least at an estimated US\$130 billion a year;

STRESSING also that fisheries and aquaculture provide the primary source of animal protein for a billion people worldwide and recalling agreement at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) to “Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015”;

HIGHLIGHTING that if the use of wild living resources or ecosystems as a contribution to food systems is not sustainable the resultant decline in biodiversity will ultimately undermine people’s food security;

CONFIRMING the need to address the problems of ecosystem degradation and food insecurity using a system-wide approach that integrates all relevant ecosystems and the goods and services they provide, including water ecosystems, as requested by Resolution 4.065 *Freshwater biodiversity conservation, protected areas, and management of transboundary waters* adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) which called for integrated river basin management that supports sustainable solutions for improving access to affordable food, energy, water and sanitation, especially for the poorest communities; and

EMPHASIZING ALSO the importance of including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities in decision-making processes which affect their rights, lifestyles, capacity, and access to traditional lands and natural resources which are critical for their food security and nutritional requirements;

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

1. URGES governments, civil society, United Nations agencies, development and humanitarian agencies, the private sector and the media to recognize the role of sustainable management and conservation of wild living resources and ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, in achieving the four dimensions of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability), and to implement an ecosystem-based approach to complement and enhance sustainability in food security strategies;
2. CALLS on IUCN Members, Commissions and the Director General to:
  - a. advocate for increased equity and sustainability in the use of natural resources and ecosystem services between small-holder farming and fishing systems and industrial large-scale food production, with a particular focus on the importance of safeguarding the integrity of local food systems;
  - b. contribute to initiatives and cooperation frameworks aimed at reducing the impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, and to strengthen the governance of the seas, fisheries resources and coastal territories, including through encouraging full application of the FAO *International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas* and implementation of the 1995 *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* and its related International Plans of Action, in order to secure rights of access to marine and coastal resources for communities that depend on them; and
  - c. raise awareness concerning the need to manage carefully the expansion of industrial agricultural land in such a way as to avoid compromising the integrity of sites of high biodiversity value and corridors essential for maintaining wildlife, not least the many natural systems that act as important sources of wild food for local communities;
3. CALLS on IUCN Commissions, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and other relevant partners, to develop state-of-the art knowledge concerning the role and extent of ecosystem goods and services at landscape, river basin and seascape level in supporting the four dimensions of food security;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to proactively build partnerships within the food security community to:
  - a. in close collaboration with the IUCN Commissions, document, quantify and widely disseminate the scope and extent of the direct contribution of wild species and natural ecosystems to the food security of both local and indigenous, rural and coastal communities;
  - b. demonstrate actions that improve food security through ecosystem management, incorporating the promotion of social and gender equity, to strengthen the provision of ecosystem goods and services;
  - c. advocate appropriate policy change at national, regional and global levels, such that food security is enhanced while sound ecosystem stewardship is rewarded through the sustainable and equitable production and distribution of food; and
  - d. advance understanding, knowledge and learning as to how to better conserve and sustainably manage wild species for food and nutritional needs, safeguard key

centres of diversity of wild crop relatives, assist in recovery of wild species used for food where these have been depleted and apply sustainable, locally-controlled conservation and management regimes; and

5. REQUESTS the Director General to use IUCN's convening ability to work with all relevant actors to identify options that reconcile the competing demands of small-scale and large-scale food production systems and to ensure that all are underpinned by principles of ecosystem sustainability and social equity.

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.