

WCC-2016-Res-034-EN

Observing protected area norms in the Wild Heart of Europe

WELCOMING the call through United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 for States to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of ecosystems, to sustainably manage forests, and to preserve biodiversity;

RECOGNISING that SDG 15 endorses the primary objective of IUCN Category II Protected Areas under the guidelines endorsed in Resolution 5.040 *Endorsement and uniform application of protected area management guidelines* (Jeju, 2012) to protect biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes;

CONCERNED that the guidelines are not being uniformly applied in the largest natural forested area in Central Europe, which encompasses the National Parks Šumava and Bayerischer Wald at the borders of the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the adjacent Böhmerwald-Mühltäler protected area in the Republic of Austria;

AWARE that the National Parks Šumava and Bayerischer Wald were declared as Transboundary Parks by the EUROPARC Federation, based in part on the States' mutual commitments to work together towards the objectives of IUCN Protected Area Category II;

TROUBLED by the failure of National Park Šumava to implement the recommendations of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to accelerate its transition to a non-intervention management regime for the predominant area of the Park, an insufficiently large natural zone being incompatible with Category II classification;

RECOGNISING the need for international cooperation in the conservation of transboundary and migratory populations of National Park Šumava, National Park Bayerischer Wald, and the Böhmerwald-Mühltäler area, as well as in the preservation of wilderness areas to serve as migration stepping stones as a means of adaptation to climate change in pursuit of SDG 13; and

CONSIDERING Article IV of the Convention on Migratory Species, which encourages Parties to conclude agreements for the benefit of all transboundary populations, in conjunction with the objective of IUCN Category II Protected Areas, to contribute to the protection of wide-ranging species, regional ecological processes and migration routes;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, the WCPA, and Members in the region to confer with those responsible for National Park Šumava and National Park Bayerischer Wald as Transboundary Parks ensuring that this Resolution is understood and providing unambiguous guidance as to the uniform application of the IUCN Protected Area Category guidelines;
2. CONGRATULATES the Czech Republic and Bavaria on their commitment to managing National Park Šumava and National Park Bayerischer Wald in accordance with IUCN's Category II classification for protected areas;
3. ENDORSES Resolution 22 adopted by the 10th World Wilderness Congress (Salamanca, 2013), which emphasises the international importance of wilderness conservation in National Park Šumava and calls for the implementation of WCPA recommendations for its management; and
4. AFFIRMS that, to adhere to Category II criteria, the Czech Republic must, at a minimum, implement past WCPA recommendations by:
 - a. extending the non-intervention management zone to 30% of the National Park area immediately; and
 - b. setting out a binding timetable for further extension of this zone to at least 50% of the Park's area by 2030, in strict accordance with scientific recommendations.

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.