

WCC-2012-Res-121-EN

Promoting external international responsibility with regard to impacts on global biodiversity

OBSERVING that the internationalization of the economy is common in many countries and regions of the world, and that national and regional government policies have increasing social, economic and environmental impacts on countries beyond their own geographical borders;

RECOGNIZING that although the calculation of the ecological footprint has been a strategy of great value in terms of communication, it has rarely helped reduce a country's impact on global biodiversity;

BEARING IN MIND the conclusions of recent studies, for example *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB), which propose an economic approach to the value of the natural heritage taking into account the costs and benefits of its degradation or conservation;

ASSUMING that the economic and social policies in most countries and regions, especially those with a high level of consumption of resources and energy, affect the condition of ecosystems and environmental services in the countries from which goods and energy are imported, but also have an impact on their ability to recover;

NOTING that these socio-economic policies rarely take into consideration the status of these goods and resources, whether they are being well managed or eroded by their countries of origin, or the fact that they are often located in biodiversity hotspots;

TAKING ACCOUNT OF the experience gained through the study *La responsabilitat exterior de Catalunya en la pèrdua de biodiversitat global* ("Catalonia's external responsibility for the loss of global biodiversity") (2010), and the major study carried out by the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB) on the United Kingdom's impact on international biodiversity (2008); and

SUMMING UP the contents of:

- a. the Thematic Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) devoted to Economics, Trade and Incentive Measures;
- b. the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, specifically Target 3: "...incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied...";
- c. the European Union Biodiversity Strategy up to 2020, which includes the goal of stepping up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss; and
- d. the Earth Charter and principles of ecological responsibility, global interdependence and social well-being;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) to develop criteria and guidelines, including reference to relevant existing criteria, to calculate the impact of government policies in countries and regions on the

biodiversity and incentives for conservation of the countries and regions that provide them with goods, energy resources and materials;

2. CALLS on States and sub-national governments, with a view to minimizing the negative impact and maximize the positive impact on global biodiversity, taking into account existing international obligations to consider environmental and social responsibility criteria in existing public policies or when developing public policies, and more specifically in: the import of goods and resources, the export of waste, bio-prospecting, the international trade in species, the internationalization of the economy, investment in third countries and the design of cooperation programmes;
3. CALLS on States and sub-national governments committed to implementing the CBD and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to adopt, as appropriate, the perspective of international environmental responsibility when achieving their goals and in the development of biodiversity conservation and sustainability strategies and policies; and
4. URGES the Director General to highlight, in the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* and within the Programme Area *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use* the need to adopt the perspective of countries' international responsibility as set out in international environmental agreements and international law in terms of the loss of global biodiversity.

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.