

WCC-2012-Res-053-EN

Strengthening the participatory and equitable governance of the indigenous communities and peoples of Mexico

RECALLING previous IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations that recognize and promote the appropriate implementation of conservation policies and practices that respect the human rights, roles, cultures and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, in accordance with international agreements and their right to self-determination;

APPLAUDING the approval of the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which gives unprecedented endorsement of indigenous peoples' rights to their lands and natural resources, including Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs);

EMPHASIZING the *Millennium Development Goals* (which focus on poverty reduction and environmental sustainability) and country commitments under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, ratified by Mexico in 1993, and which urges Contracting Parties, by 2008, to:

...Ensure that indigenous and local communities are participating fully and effectively in identifying, implementing and managing new protected areas...the signatory countries must:

- *Recognize civil society's conservation capacity;*
- *Participate in the participatory research, planning and management with indigenous peoples and local communities;*

...Rules, criteria and best practices have been developed for planning, identifying, creating and managing their own national and regional ways of working with the protected area systems, learning about the different types of protected area governance in certain areas and territories being conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) - Establish and comply with the principles of "good governance";

ALSO EMPHASIZING the American *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which guarantees indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, prior and informed consultation and to the ownership, use, management and conservation of the biodiversity and natural resources on their territories;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 4.041 *Following up on actions called for by the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas (Bariloche, 2007)* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), which called for: "... the participatory planning of protected areas, applying the principles of good governance such as transparency, fairness, accountability and access to conflict management ...";

EMPHASIZING the fact that Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plans (ENBPA) of 2000 established four strategies by which to achieve the objectives of the CBD and included: "promoting the sustainable and diverse use of components of biodiversity";

FURTHER RECALLING that the Mexican legal framework recognizes, promotes and calls for the rights of indigenous and local communities to land, along with their right to participate in its conservation;

CONSIDERING that Mexican legislation establishes that:

- a. indigenous peoples and communities have the right to self-determination and autonomy in order to use and enjoy the natural resources in the places inhabited and occupied by those communities;

- b. the Federation, States and Federal District shall design, develop and apply economic tools that encourage compliance with the objectives of environmental policies, and through which attempts will be made to grant incentives to those who carry out actions promoting the protection, preservation or restoration of the ecological balance; and
- c. the indigenous communities and peoples that designate their territory as a Community Conserved Area (CCA) must enjoy full rights and access to the services and incentives in accordance with Mexico's legislation and the international treaties which this country is party to;

BEARING IN MIND that Mexico is one of the world's megadiverse countries (being fourth overall in terms of its wealth of species) and, for example, in the case of the State of Oaxaca, due to the confluence of two mountain ranges, this has given rise to an abrupt topography, and wide variations in climate and microclimates, which make it one of the most biologically and culturally diverse states in Mexico. This favours in particular the development of community forestry (forests cover 64% of the State's territory) and creates a wide range of soil types, which in turn give rise to a very high level of biodiversity. Given all of the above, a diverse portfolio of tools is required for the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources;

BEARING IN MIND that local communities and indigenous peoples have developed traditional techniques for adapting to the different micro-environments in which they live. Likewise, for example, each of the 15 ethnic groups found in Oaxaca is managing its resources in a different way through its own institutions and organizations, alongside its own traditional resource management system, which has survived down the centuries;

CONSIDERING in this same context that there are already bodies with a new organizational structure in Oaxaca that have been incorporated into traditional government mechanisms, and that these have been capable of developing territorial management plans to address the comprehensive environmental and socioeconomic needs of the communities, through the integrated management of their lands. There are 126 Community Conserved Areas in Oaxaca, 14.5% more than in the National Action Plan, which has been transposed into the State's legal framework by way of a decree. Only 43 of the 126 CCAs are recognized at a national level; and

INTERESTED in providing relevant information in order to ensure that CCAs are certified by the Mexican Government, and to promote the adoption of these conservation schemes, in view of the rights and needs of the indigenous communities and peoples of Mexico;

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

CALLS on the IUCN Secretariat to:

- a. request the Mexican Government to strengthen other instruments recognized by Mexican nature conservation legislation, such as CCAs, which should present a coherent management plan, drawn up by the indigenous communities and peoples' management bodies, with the technical advice that the latter define; and
- b. request the Mexican Government to increase its investment in the human and social capital of the indigenous communities and peoples, without which the long-term conservation of natural capital is unsustainable. Moreover, request the Mexican Government to promote and support the creation of new sources of income from natural resources, such as those provided by environmental services, sustainable use plans and community tourism.

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.