

RESOLUTION #: 2

TITLE: Formation of a Wilderness and Indigenous People Working Group

WHEREAS: IUCN Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories, Category 1b, Wilderness Area, defines a Wilderness Area as a “Large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character or influence, *without permanent or significant habitation*, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition;” and

It is generally accepted that in many cases indigenous human populations, when present in low densities, have over long periods of time, played an integral role in the functioning of their native ecosystems by means of well-adapted livelihoods and cultures; and

Vast areas of *de facto* wild lands exist throughout the world with permanent indigenous human populations living in low densities and retaining much of their traditional livelihood and cultural systems; and

Areas with important biodiversity, ecological and wilderness qualities may be excluded from protection under wilderness designation, solely owing to the permanent presence of human inhabitants; and

Those indigenous inhabitants of wild areas, who have been and still seek to be stewards and beneficiaries, as well as dependants upon the ecological health and integrity of *de facto* wild areas may, as a result of exclusion from *de jure* protected area status, lack safeguards against exogenous exploitation of *de facto* wilderness areas.

THEREFORE: The guiding criteria used to define suitability for designation as “Wilderness Area” should be re-evaluated with respect to the question of indigenous human communities “living at low density and in balance with the available resources to maintain their lifestyle“ on a *permanent* basis within areas that would otherwise qualify for wilderness designation ensuring always that:

- (1) Their activities do not significantly compromise:
 - The health of biodiversity species and habitats,
 - Ecosystem functioning,
 - The wilderness character of the area.
- (2) The impacts of their presence are regulated through the mechanism of zonation decided upon through consultative processes with all stakeholders.
- (3) That at the outset of any wilderness area planning initiative, limits of acceptable change or other similar models, including population densities, are defined through a consultative process and agreed upon

by the indigenous inhabitants of the area.

RESOLVED:

The 8th World Wilderness Congress:

1. Endorses the formation of an *ad hoc* working group on Wilderness and Indigenous Peoples, by interested parties acting on a voluntary basis, for the purpose of consultatively reviewing, issues bearing on *defining wilderness* with respect to indigenous peoples in line with the above provisos;
2. Urges the IUCN Wilderness Task Force, in collaboration with the above group, to review issues bearing on *defining wilderness* with respect to indigenous peoples in line with the above provisos;
3. Requests both groups to present their findings both to the 9th World Wilderness Congress.

PROPOSER:

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