

M083**The conservation and protection of the world's indigenous temperate grasslands**

CONSIDERING that indigenous temperate grasslands provide a wide range of ecological services for life on Earth: as a source of food, water and fibre for human livelihoods and well-being; for cultural and biological diversity; and the sequestration of carbon, particularly in the face of global climate change;

ACKNOWLEDGING that indigenous temperate grasslands, that occur on every continent except Antarctica, have been modified by human activity to such a degree that very little remains in its natural state and that they are currently considered by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) as one of the most at-risk ecosystems in the world;

CONFIRMING that indigenous temperate grasslands have a global level of protection of only 4–5%, the lowest of all terrestrial biomes, and that many new, large and ecologically viable protected areas need to be established to achieve conservation and protection on a landscape scale to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Target of 17%;

RECOGNIZING that the remaining areas of indigenous temperate grasslands continue to be threatened by inappropriate policies that lead to further loss through conversion and unsustainable land use and management practices;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many indigenous temperate grasslands play an important role in poverty and hunger alleviation and food production, and thus are not only strategic

- c. Compiled a list of existing protected areas in the grasslands biome and identified priorities for future conservation and protection;
- d. Assessed the current state of knowledge on the economic value of intact indigenous temperate grasslands; and
- e. Observed an increase in the level of protection for this biome of 600%, from 0.69% to 5%, since the TGCI's inception in 1996;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and the IUCN Commissions to:
 - a. Acknowledge that indigenous temperate grasslands are one of the most imperilled and the least protected ecosystem