

## **Unequivocally recognize and effectively support the crucial conservation role of territories of life and their custodians: TASK FORCE (3/3)**

KNOWING that **territories of life** comprise lands, waters and the gifts of Nature governed, managed and conserved collectively by their **custodians**— Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and local communities, settled and mobile, who have **multiple links** of historical interaction with their territories, including knowledge, work, sustenance, identity, art, culture, economy, defence, sacrifice, responsibility and continuous care;

KNOWING that, when adequately recognized and supported, territories of life **can alone meet targets 1, 2 and 3 of the KM-GBF**;

KNOWING that the biological diversity of territories of life is linked to the **diversity of languages, cultures and living knowledge systems** of their custodians— essential for sustainable use and restoration;

KNOWING that territories of life provide **livelihoods** for their custodians and **ecological and climate regulating functions** for everyone;

KNOWING that territories of life are governed under **diverse socio-political arrangements**— from indigenous customary rights to traditional commons, sacred sites or collective property— and are **often affected and degraded** by unsustainable development policies and aggressive practices of extractivism, agro-industry, urbanism, as well as by growing socio-economic inequality, and ecological and cultural change;

WELCOMING the United Nations Declarations UNDRIP 2007 and UNDROP 2018 and the obligations of Parties to the CBD under Article 8j, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the KM-GBF;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of some governments to implement the CBD Decisions and IUCN World Parks Congresses recommendations relating to diversity, quality and vitality of governance and Indigenous and traditional cultures;

BUILDING UPON the **various IUCN Resolutions** related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities' role in conservation that were previously approved albeit always **implemented in a limited manner**;

### **Operational Section**

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi (UAE) **REQUESTS the Director General to establish a Task Force on Territories of Life** including IUCN Members and Commission Members and autonomous organizations of custodians to develop practical advice so that:

- **UNEP WCMC includes appropriate references to territories of life** in the World Database on Protected Areas, the OECD Database and the "ICCA Registry";
- GEF, the CBD Secretariat and Parties and international development agencies support **local and regional networks of custodians committed to individual self-strengthening and mutual recognition** to channel and disburse funds to support the territories of life and the living knowledge systems of their custodians;

- **key conservation actors** in each region **increase their capacities and improve their policies and practices** for the adequate recognition and support of territories of life and their custodians, preventing fragmentation, privatization, militarization and commercialization of lands, waters and gifts of Nature and promoting urgent specific studies, e.g. on the possible benefits and detriments of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital sequence information, and genetic modification technologies, and on the conditions that feed the vitality of governance in life territories.

## **Sponsors and co-sponsors**

**Sponsor:** FAPI, Paraguay

**Co sponsors:**

**Name:** Asociación Guyra Paraguay Conservación de Aves

**Contact:** [direccion.ejecutiva@guyra.org.py](mailto:direccion.ejecutiva@guyra.org.py)

**Name:** Fundación Lonxanet para la pesca sostenible

**Contact:** [ilopez@fundacionlonxanet.org](mailto:ilopez@fundacionlonxanet.org)

**Name :** CED PPN (Centro Europeo di Documentazione sulla Pianificazione dei Parchi Naturali), DIST-Dipartimento Interateneo di Scienze, Progetto e Politiche del Territorio, Politecnico e Università di Torino

**Contact:** [cedppn@polito.it](mailto:cedppn@polito.it) : [angioletta.voghera@polito.it](mailto:angioletta.voghera@polito.it)

**Name:** Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland

**Contact:** [bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch](mailto:bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch)

**Name:** Fundación EcoMinga

**Contact:** [javierobayo@ecominga.org](mailto:javierobayo@ecominga.org)

## **Explanatory memorándum**

Regarding territories of life and their custodians and the abbreviations used in this motion, please see the explanatory memorandum to the first motion presented on the same subject.

The need for a Task Force on Territories of life derives from the fact that— if the IUCN Director General is to unequivocally affirm the enduring role of territories of life and their custodians and begin a process of “truth and reconciliation”— a dedicated Task Force is needed not only to follow up on both but also to meaningfully integrate the work done, and the work still to be done, in other relevant areas of the IUCN programme.

The Working Group could include Members of IUCN and its regional and global Commissions and secretariats but, to ensure that the work is truly innovative, it would need to include autonomous organizations of custodians (e.g., WGII in Indonesia, ICCA networks in China, South Asia or Latin America, Iniciativa Comunales of Spain and the Italian Rete italiana dei Territori di vita in Europe, the Red de Territorios de Vida in Colombia, the Red Territorios de Vida in Ecuador, the Red de Territorios de Conservación de Pueblos Originarios in Chile, the international ICCA Consortium, etc.).

The Task Force on Territories of Life would be extremely valuable in fostering exchanges and mutual learning to restore, regenerate and conserve territories of life together with the knowledge, languages and cultures of their custodians, as well as to promote and support the

recognition of territories of life in the National Conservation Strategies of the different countries that are part of the CBD.

Particular research on new technology is mentioned because it would be crucial to understand how to prevent technologies from interfering with the intelligence of life in the territories and with the knowledge of their custodians. Similarly, particular research on the vitality of governance could shed light on how, over generations, custodians overcame attacks and hardships in the past. The same research could make recommendations for how new custodian institutions could be established today with enthusiasm, creativity and a renewed sense of collective responsibility. Other research, such as on the prevention of militarization of territories of life, would be important and should be considered.

## **A. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

### **Execution budget**

An International Task Force on Territories of Life could require a core budget of around 300,000 dólares per year, provided IUCN makes its technical capacities and structures available. If the political will exists, it would be relatively easy to find the financial budget to support it.