

## **Motion on Protecting Biodiversity and Human Health Through Fast Action on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants**

OBSERVING that global climate change is the greatest anthropogenic threat to biodiversity and human livelihoods;

RECALLING Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, IUCN's Overall Programme*, Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy*, Recommendation 2.94 *Climate change mitigation and land use*, Resolution 4.075 *Climate change mitigation targets and actions for biodiversity conservation*, and Resolution 4.077 on *Climate change and human rights*;

RECALLING Resolution 4.075 that a global temperature increase of more than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels would, with a very high probability, cause severe and irreversible global and regional impacts at a rate too fast for biodiversity and society to effectively adapt;

RECOGNIZING that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions are the predominant cause of anthropogenic climate change and that deep and immediate cuts are essential;

HIGHLIGHTING that short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) including methane, black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) are significant climate pollutants which harm human livelihoods and biodiversity while also responsible for 40% or more of global climate forcing;

RESPONDING to the growing body of scientific evidence including the findings of the UNEP *Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone*; and the UNEP report *Near-Term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits: Actions for Controlling Short-Lives Climate Forcers* finding that:

- (a) If globally deployed by 2020, fourteen targeted control measures relying on existing technologies, and often on existing policies and regulatory authorities, can significantly reduce global SLCP emissions, cutting the global rate of warming by almost half and the rate of warming in the Arctic by two-thirds for the next 30 years;
- (b) Reducing SLCPs can prevent up to 4.7 million annual premature deaths from outdoor air pollution and many more deaths from indoor air pollution, while increasing annual crop yields by up to 4% globally; and
- (c) Reducing SLCPs, along with cuts to CO<sub>2</sub>, provide the greatest chance of keeping global temperatures below a 1.5°C rise above preindustrial temperatures for the next 30 years and below 2°C through 2100;

RESPONDING ALSO to the large body of scientific research findings including the UNEP report *HFCs: A Critical Link in Protecting Climate and the Ozone Layer* showing that that:

- (a) Many human-made HFCs have global warming potentials (GWPs) thousands of times that of CO<sub>2</sub>;

- (b) High-GWP HFCs are among the fastest growing greenhouse gases in many countries due to their unnecessary use as substitutes for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) being phased down under the Montreal Protocol;
- (c) The Montreal Protocol has already successfully phased out 97% of nearly 100 ozone-depleting greenhouse gases provided mitigation of up to 222 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq and delayed warming by up to 12 years worth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- (d) Phasing down HFCs through the Montreal Protocol is predicted to achieve emission reduction of over 100 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq by 2050, and unless high-GWP HFCs are avoided, the climate mitigation already achieved by the Montreal Protocol will be offset; and
- (e) Many environmentally-superior substitutes for HFCs already exist for many uses and other substitutes and alternatives are rapidly being commercialized;
- (f) The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States, Mexico and Canada have proposed amending the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs.

RECOGNIZING ALSO that places such as the Arctic, Himalayas and low-lying island states, and other with vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples and women, are most severely affected by climate change. Cutting SLCPs can protect critical vulnerable regions and communities by protecting biodiversity, protecting monsoon patterns, and reducing extreme weather events including droughts, floods and storm surges;

WELCOMING the formation of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants to coordinate SLCP reductions globally and seize the opportunity to realize concrete benefits on climate, health, food and energy;

**The IUCN World Conservation Congress at its 5<sup>th</sup> session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6-15 September 2012:**

REQUESTS IUCN's members to inform national level policy decisions for addressing SLCPs by:

- (a) Understanding and communicating the importance of SLCP mitigation particularly for protecting critical vulnerable regions and communities, and the availability mitigation technologies and policies at the national and sub-national level;
- (b) Supporting activities and policies at the national and sub-national level to fulfill the objectives of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants; and
- (c) Developing and promoting locally-relevant best practices for reducing SLCP emissions;

CALLS ON the Parties to amend the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase down the production and consumption of high GWP HFCs, as proposed by the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States, Canada and Mexico;

URGES all stakeholders and donors to providing the support necessary to reduce global SLCP emissions including:

- (a) Funding SLCP mitigation and technology transfer using additional and innovative funding mechanisms; and
- (b) Supporting capacity building for countries to develop national SLCP task forces and SLCP mitigation action plans.