

WCC-2016-Res-083-EN
Conservation of moveable geological heritage

AWARE of the need to promote proper conservation and management of the world's moveable geoheritage, which includes fossils, meteorites and rocks of special interest;

AWARE of the increasing interest and greater commitment of States, non-governmental organisations and communities with respect to the preservation, value assessment, study and sustainable use of geodiversity and geoheritage;

RECALLING that moveable geoheritage is a constituent and inseparable element of the natural heritage, and that it possesses scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic values that should be preserved and transmitted to future generations;

ALSO RECALLING that moveable geoheritage frequently records important events, processes and periods of the geological history of the Earth that are crucial towards understanding the evolution of climate and life on our planet;

ACKNOWLEDGING the increasing impacts of economic development and international commerce on the world's moveable geoheritage, which are frequently not sustainable and inconsistent with national and/or international regulations;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that this development and commerce underestimates or even ignores the scientific and educational values of moveable geoheritage;

AWARE that most of the geoheritage is not included in protected natural areas, and that moveable geoheritage is easily prone to plundering and destruction;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the conservation and management of moveable geoheritage requires that all governments and organisations integrate geoconservation within their objectives and action plans;

RECALLING that Resolutions 4.040 *Conservation of geodiversity and geological heritage* (Barcelona, 2008) and 5.048 *Valuing and conserving geoheritage within the IUCN Programme 2013-2016* (Jeju, 2012) promote the conservation and proper management of geodiversity and geoheritage; and

BEARING IN MIND that crucial scientific information on the evolution of climates, life and humans on Earth may be lost forever if this type of natural heritage is not considered in planning and development policies, as well as international regulations;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

CALLS ON Commissions, and in particular on the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), to:

- a. promote and support national and international initiatives oriented towards the conservation and sustainable use of moveable geoheritage, including its proper management in protected areas;
- b. prepare guidelines on the protection, conservation and management of moveable geoheritage, and to promote these IUCN guidelines internationally; and
- c. promote and support, in collaboration with international stakeholders (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO, International Union of Geological

Sciences – IUGS), the discussion on the conservation and management of moveable geoheritage, in compliance with national and international regulations of its commerce.