

Wildlife Watch Group (WWG) activities during WCC in Jeju, 2012

- **WWG co-sponsors the motion "Promotion of the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON)" at WCC, Jeju**

The main sponsor for the motion "Promotion of the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON)" is The Ecological Society of Korea and the co-sponsors are Ministry of the Environment, Japan; Nature Policy Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; Korea Forest Service, Korea National Park Service, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Bureau of Environment, Korean Association for Conservation of Nature, Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment, Korean Society of Nature Conservation, Republic of Korea, Korean Wetlands Society, National Nature Trust and The Korean Society of Oceanography from Republic of Korea; Wildlife Watch Group, Nepal; Center for Natural Resource Studies, Bangladesh and Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC, Shizen Kankyo Kenkyu Senta), Japan.

The major components of the motion include:

Acknowledging that biodiversity is very important for economic, social and sustainable development as well as poverty alleviation in developing countries;

Noting that the degradation of nature and its structure and function ultimately affects the lives of future generations;

Recalling Decision X/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) which invited the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), working through organizations including, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and IUCN, to publish an information document entitled "Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to support the 2020 Aichi Targets" for evaluating existing observation capabilities relevant to the targets contained in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

Acknowledging that observation and monitoring of the status of nature in biodiversity and ecosystem services are among the key tools in designing and implementing successful interventions toward conservation of nature and sustainable use of natural resources in forests, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural lands, human dominated urban areas, coastal areas and oceans, deserts, alpine tundra, etc., at local, national, regional and global scale;

Also acknowledging that integration of current activities on biodiversity observation in the Asia-Pacific region is one of the key activities in valuing and conserving biodiversity, which is one of the two Core Programme Areas of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016* in the region;

Understanding that GEO BON was established under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) with a view to developing a worldwide biodiversity observation network to collect, manage, share and analyze the data and information on the status and trends of the world's biodiversity, and enabling decision making in support of the conservation and improved management of natural resources and that AP-BON was established as the regional network for biodiversity observation in the Asia-Pacific region with a similar mandate;

Acknowledging the generous support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan for the AP-BON since 2009 and the kind sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea in the proposal of this motion for the promotion of AP-BON;

Understanding that this regional Biodiversity Observation Network (BON) is being integrated from the national level BON activities including such countries as Japan (J-BON), the Republic of Korea (K-BON), Nepal (N-BON) and Bangladesh (B-BON), and that establishments of similar BON activities are being encouraged in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region;

Emphasizing that the networking activities of biodiversity observation will bring synergy in conservation of biological diversity at local, national, regional and global levels; and

Further recalling that some gaps remaining among biodiversity observation networks could be bridged utilizing the frameworks of IUCN and the capacities of its Member networks in the Asia-Pacific region;

A workshop at 2012 Jeju World Conservation Congress (WCC) was held to discuss the prospects of the motion on 8 September 2012 at Jeju International Congress Center titled " International Workshop to Develop Key Strategies for the Establishment and Promotion of Asia Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON) at local, national and regional levels" which was organized by Ecological Society of Korea.

Introduction was given by Eun Shik kim of Ecological Society of Korea.

All the co sponsors of motions presented upon the significance of AP BON at local, national and regional levels.

The presenters were Kazuhiko Takeuchi (UN University), Tetsukazo Yahara (Kyushu University, Co-chair of AP-BON), Sheila Vergara (ACB), Gary Geller (GEO-BON, Nasa), Peter Arzberger (PRAGMA), Chan-ho Park (Korea-BON) and Mangal Man Shakya (Nepal-BON).

The voting for the motion was done on 13 September 2012 and the motion was approved at WCC.

- **WWG and IPSI members bonding in Jeju**

During the workshop of the motion Mr. Mangal Man Shakya along with other Nepali delegates met with senior officials of different IPSI member organizations. He met with Wataru Suzuki, Secretariat of IPSI along with Fumiko Nakao and Dr. Ryo Kohsaka.

- **WWG supports Japanese candidate**

WWG organized a meeting with Mr. Shinichi Kitajima along with other Nepali delegates to support him for the position of Regional Councilor in Asia. During the meeting, Mr. Mangal Man Shakya, Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, and other institutional heads met with Shinichi Nakano, Secretary General of DIWPA, Dr. Yoshinori Yasuda of Tohoku University, Mayuka Ishida, Hiroki Katsuragawa and Teppie Dohke. With all the support, Mr, Kitajima won the position of regional Councilor. They discussed on mutual understanding and future with the IUCN Regional Council.

Prepared for WWG by Swechha Lamichhane