



RESOLUTION #28

TITLE:

Trinational Conservation of the Maya Jungle and its Zones of Influence



WHEREAS

The Maya Jungle is a region shared by Belize, Guatemala and Mexico;

Climate change urgently imposes forest conservation;

The Maya Jungle, last great stretch of tropical rainforest in the American Continent north of the Amazon, degrades, burns and loses forest coverage at an alarming rate;

Too many of its thousands of ancient Maya archaeological monuments are severely deteriorating, at times irreversibly;

Even protected natural areas degrade as a result of land-use dynamics in surrounding areas;

Trinational conservation would be a clear recognition of:

- A shared responsibility by the three countries in the Maya Jungle's conservation
- Common albeit differentiated threats and opportunities in
- The ancestral social exchange dynamics at the borders
- Biodiversity and fauna do not behave according to the dictates of political frontiers (for example, during the dry some fauna migrates south).

Economic advantages would arise from the collaboration among the three countries:

- The Maya Jungle is an opportunity for the three countries to jointly promote cooperation schemes, sustainable development, conservation and funding related to global schemes such as REDD+, by offering priceless climate change mitigation environmental services
- To receive financial support from international cooperation agencies and other investors interested in the Maya Jungle's high biodiversity and cultural heritage value, it is fundamental to have an inter-institutional collaboration framework duly backed by the authorities of all three countries.

Collaboration among the countries would:

- Generate an environment conducive to implementing the environmental strategies established among the countries
- Increase the likelihood of meeting the commitments that all three countries have of contributing to mitigate climate change
- Strengthen governance at the regional level, both inside and outside protected areas
- Strengthen information and experience exchange mechanisms as well as the management and knowledge of the region's natural and cultural resources, and therefore bolster optimal conservation and sustainable development decision-making

- Facilitate the design and implementation of joint and coordinated strategies for local community economic development in the three countries, adopting conservation measures related to resource sustainability
- Favours coordination between government and non-government entities resulting, among others, in better attention to local communities
- Provide an additional layer of protection to the region
- The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor framework offers a general strategy to guarantee that outside protected areas attain implementation of both conservation and sustainable development in the region.

THEREFORE

In face of the vital importance that Mexico, Belize and Guatemala join efforts for the conservation of this shared heritage, we exhort the Foreign Affairs, Culture and Environment authorities of all three countries to:

RESOLVED

- Actively survey and promote that the region's wild areas remain free of roads and highways;
- Once again bring to the table and thence to successful completion negotiations to sign the "Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the fields of Natural protected areas conservation among the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, el Ministerio de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente de Belice y el Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de la República de Guatemala", Memorandum of understanding that was originally signed on 2005 but then expired on August 2010 without being ratified;
- Implement special control and surveillance programs for the conservation of areas that are still very well preserved, such as Chiquibul in Belize, the Mirador region in Guatemala and the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, as well as in their respective areas of influence;
- Consider conservation in the region in terms of its natural and cultural SYSTEMS, such as: Candelaria, Mopán, San Pedro, Usumacinta, Mirador-Calakmul and Río Hondo-Río Azul.

PROPOSER

Name: Beatriz Cecilia Padilla Martínez
 Position/title: Presidente, Fundación Biósfera del Anáhuac, A.C.
 Country: México
 Email: bea.padilla@gmail.com
 Mobile telephone: +52 777 225 6062 (none in Spain)

SECONDERS

Name: Joanne Roberts
 Position/title: CEO, Wilderness Foundation
 Country: UK
 Email: jo@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

Name: Zoltan Kun
 Position/title: Director, PanParks
 Country: Hungary
 Email: zkun@panparks.org