WILD10
MAKE THE WORLD A WILDER PLACE
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WILD10 STATEMENT FROM SALAMANCA
(Summary)
October 2013

PREAMBLE

"Making the World a Wilder Place" is a call for action to create a society that understands that human health and prosperity are dependent upon wild nature. Such a society respects both a decent standard of human living and the role, rights, and values of wild nature, because the two are inextricably linked. To do this, our work involves changing the development paradigm that regards nature as a storehouse to be looted for short-term gain, to one that integrates a new imperative to protect the life-supporting services – and the beauty, mystery and magic – of wild nature.

TAKING STOCK of the planet's environment since WILD9, we note that many conservation projects and innovative initiatives offer hope and an emerging framework for action. However, we must stop or re-direct the following trends:

- We have failed to slow biodiversity loss: Earth has entered the 6th great extinction crisis, the first to result from anthropogenic pressures.
- At least 13 million hectares per year of tropical forests are destroyed, causing massive carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.
- 41% of the Earth's ice-free land has been converted.
- The ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1998, carbon emissions reached a record high in 2011, atmospheric carbon exceeds 400 parts per million and a 2°C rise in temperatures may be inevitable.
- The oceans have warmed .7^{o}C and are 30% more acidic than pre-industrial levels.
- The proportion of marine fish stocks that are overexploited, depleted or recovering rose from 10% in 1974 to 32% in 2008.
- Earth's human population is projected to increase from about 7 billion to about 9.5 billion by 2050, further exacerbating the human footprint.

We may be approaching a global "state-shift" more profound even than the end of the last ice age. The rural poor who depend on ecosystems for their livelihoods will suffer most, but all will suffer from the erosion of natural life support systems.

SOLUTIONS AT HAND: There are reasons for hope and many sources of inspiration. <u>Consensus over the essential elements of a global conservation strategy has never been stronger</u>:

- Protected Areas are indispensable. We need more Protected areas (PAs) and comprehensive, representative, well-managed and viable Protected Areas (PA) networks.

- Large land- and seascape conservation efforts linking core PAs are necessary for environmental protection. Large-scale connectivity conservation initiatives are moving forward and cooperation between governments is extending to the development of conservation strategies for entire cross-border wilderness landscapes.
- Much more must be done to support indigenous and community conservation initiatives and to implement rights-based approaches to conservation.
- Private protected areas are making a substantial contribution to conservation efforts globally.
- The role of civil society in environmental stewardship and governance is more accepted. There is a huge increase in environmental NGOs in developing countries.
- The planet can often heal itself if given the opportunity. In Europe, where WILD10 convenes, there are substantial new opportunities for re-wilding.
- Conservation and human well-being are inextricably linked; protecting biodiversity and ecosystems is necessary to protect livelihoods and spending time in nature is essential for human health and well-being.
- The failure to halt biodiversity loss has been estimated to cost $550 billion a year; there is increasing attention to integrating the value of natural capital into National Income Accounting and Corporate Accounting processes.

THEREFORE, WE CALL UPON GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO:

I. Communicate the extent and impact of industrial development activity more effectively.

II. Increase the global Protected Areas estate, and connectivity between Protected Areas, to the extent necessary to protect biodiversity and maintain the full range of ecosystem services.

III. Make full use of available governance mechanisms to achieve conservation objectives.

IV. Protect primary forests and other intact habitats on land and at sea.
   a. Develop the potential to meet global wood supply needs through plantations or in heavily modified and degraded forests.
   b. End subsidies for industrial logging in primary tropical forests and redirect logging subsidies to local communities, indigenous groups and Protected Areas.
   c. Raise awareness in key timber markets about the destruction of primary forests and about the potential for alternative sources of supply.
   d. Explore the potential for World Heritage status for the planet's remaining primary forests.

V. Provide stronger support for indigenous and community conservation initiatives and promote rights-based approaches.

VI. Integrate conservation and development planning more effectively.
   a. Provide funding and technical assistance to conduct sectoral environmental impact analyses systematically in developing countries and increase capacity for conducting, interpreting and responding to environmental impact analyses.
   b. Define no-go zones for industrial activity.
   c. Increase capacity for conducting biodiversity offset analyses and provide assistance to developing countries to design and implement national offset strategies.

VII. Link and harmonize international agreements relating to biodiversity conservation, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

VIII. Fully value natural capital and end subsidies that create incentives for the destruction of natural resources.
IX. Defuse the illegal wildlife trade crisis.
X. Link the human population and nature conservation agendas.

CONCLUSION

With a healthy foundation of wilderness, we can realize our full potential as humans. But when wilderness is degraded, the promise of human societies dims. Without wilderness, the legacy for future generations is a deeply impoverished planet: biologically, culturally, economically and spiritually. We must act immediately to keep intact Earth's remaining wilderness.

COLLABORATORS

Cyril Kormos

The WILD Foundation

IUCN/WCPA Vice Chair, World Heritage

Bittu Sahgal

Sanctuary Asia

Prof. Brendan Mackey

Nature and Society Forum, Australia

Christof Schenck

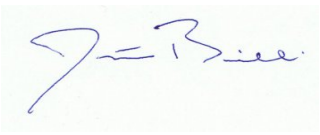
Frankfurt Zoological Society

Toby Aykroyd

Wild Europe

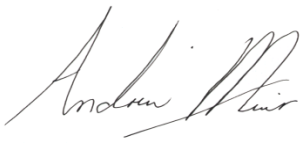
Frans Schepers

Rewilding Europe



Jonathan Baillie

Zoological Society of London



Andrew Muir

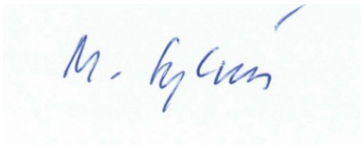
Wilderness Foundation, South Africa

Russell Mittermeier

Conservation International

Vance G Martin

The WILD Foundation



Magnus Sylvén

Co-Chairman, WILD10

Harvey Locke

Yellowstone to Yukon

Conservation Initiative

Ernesto Enkerlin

Chair, IUCN-World Commission

on Protected Areas

Barbara Zimmerman

The International Conservation Fund

of Canada

Sean Foley

The Samdhana Institute

Virginia Young

Australia Rainforest Conservation Society

Dominick DellaSala

Geos Institute

THE WILD10 STATEMENT FROM SALAMANCA
(Full Version)
October 2013

PREAMBLE

"Making the World a Wilder Place" is a call for attention and action, for a society that understands that human health and prosperity is fully dependent upon a thriving resource of wild nature. Such a society respects with equal measure a decent standard of living, as well as the role, rights, and values of wild nature – because the two are inextricably linked.

In reflecting upon the changes in the world between WILD9 (the 9th World Wilderness Congress, Mexico, 2009) and WILD10 (the 10th World Wilderness Congress, Spain, 2013), we recognize that our collective work to create this wilder world involves nothing less than an evolutionary shift in thinking and acting, from a development paradigm that regards nature as a storehouse to be looted at-will for short-term gain, to one that integrates a new imperative to protect the essential, life-supporting services provided by wild nature, as well as its beauty, mystery and magic. It is a common-sense call for a new relationship based on respect and cooperation between all people, in all cultures, on behalf of a world in which wildlands and seas exist in partnership with a healthy, prosperous, and peaceful global human society. A wilder world is a better world…for all people and all life on Earth.

TAKING STOCK of the planet's environment since WILD9, the 9th World Wilderness Congress in Mérida, Mexico in 2009, we note that many existing and successful conservation projects – as well as many innovative and visionary initiatives around the world – offer hope and an emerging framework for action.

It is important to note at the outset, however, our great concern that the juggernaut of development continues on a course of systematic global destruction of the ecosystems and biodiversity upon which we all depend. Therefore, we provide this very brief review of some of the active trends we must stop or re-direct:

- We have not succeeded in slowing biodiversity loss (CBD 2010, Butchart et al. 2010): extinction rates are 100 to 1000 times higher than background rates, about 20% of the Earth's vertebrates are threatened with extinction (IUCN 2010) and an average of 52 species of mammals, birds,

and amphibians move one category closer to extinction each year (Hoffmann et al. 2010). We are entering the Earth's 6th great extinction crisis (Barnosky et al. 2011), the first to result from anthropogenic pressures.

- We have lost approximately half of the planet's forests and less than a third of what remains (about 15% of the original extent) are primary forests. Tropical forests were converted at a rate of at least 13 million hectares per year over the last decade (FAO 2010a), causing massive carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.

- 36% of the Earth's land surface (41% of the ice-free surface) has been converted to agricultural use or human infrastructure (MAHB 2013) and only 10% of the planet's land area is more than 48 hours travel from a major city (Joint Research Centre 2009).

- The ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1998 (Hansen et al. 2013), carbon emissions reached a record high in 2011 (IEA 2012), atmospheric carbon exceeds 400 parts per million and a dangerous 2°C rise in temperatures may be inevitable.

- The planet's oceans are .7°C warmer and 30% more acidic than pre-industrial levels. Increased acidity threatens the calcium carbonate shells of marine organisms, including coral reefs (Crowder et al. 2012, Veron et al. 2009), with potentially devastating consequences for marine food chains, which in turn will exacerbate climate change. Rising temperatures will alter species distributions and breeding times, with major impacts on marine ecosystems (Poloczanska et al. 2013, Orr et al. 2009).

- The proportion of marine fish stocks that are overexploited, depleted or recovering rose from 10% in 1974 to 32% in 2008 – only 15% of fisheries were underexploited or moderately exploited (FAO 2010b).

- Earth's human population is projected to increase from about 7 billion to about 9.5 billion by 2050 (Population Research Bureau 2012), further exacerbating the human footprint.

We have altered our natural environment so profoundly that we may be approaching a human-induced global "state-shift" that could even exceed the ecological changes brought about by the most recent state-shift at the end of the last ice age (Barnosky et al 2012).

In the short-term, the rural poor who depend on ecosystems for their livelihoods will suffer most from the consequences of this rampant degradation (Human Development Report 2013, GEF 2010). In the long-term, the consequences will be felt by everyone: we are rapidly eroding our natural life support systems.

Several recent events, including the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, the Rio +20 anniversary in 2012 and IUCN's 6th World Conservation Congress in 2012, have provided opportunities for warning the public and decision makers of the consequences of destroying the planet's wild places. A steady stream of publications have sounded the

alarm that over-consumption, particularly by a rapidly expanding middle class, is threatening the diversity of life on earth, depleting the planet's natural resource base and degrading ecosystem services (MAHB 2013, Club of Rome 2013, United nations 2012, Ehrlich 2012, Barnosky et al. 2012, Hooper et al. 2012, Brundtland et al. 2012, Planet Under Pressure 2012, Living Planet Report 2010, TEEB 2010, OECD 2010, Rands et al. 2010, Dudley et al. 2010, Rockström et al. 2009, WILD9 2009, Butler and Laurence 2008, MEA 2005, Pimm *et al.* 2005, Kendall 1992).

These warnings are not being heeded. Industrial development projects continue to encroach on natural habitats everywhere, including in some of the planet's most biologically unique and vulnerable places where there is clear international consensus that industrial development should not occur. Many Protected Areas are under siege and severely threatened, including many World Heritage sites that are some of the most iconic places on the planet. Natural areas of great cultural importance, such as sacred natural sites and indigenous and community conserved areas, are also being destroyed (Verschuuren et al. 2010).

In many cases, the destruction is encouraged. Non-renewable energy sources received six times more in subsidies (USD 523 billion) in 2011 than renewable energy (IEA 2012). Fishing subsidies were estimated at USD 15-35 billion in 2008 (UNEP 2008). Calls for more subsidies to industrial logging in primary forests continue despite the fact that it is demonstrably unsustainable (Putz et al. 2012).

CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS ARE READILY AVAILABLE. There are many reasons for hope – and an abundance of sources of inspiration – despite the obvious challenges before us. The main ingredients needed are political will, community and social involvement, and enforcement. We know which interventions can succeed in protecting nature (Hoffman et al. 2010) and in many cases we already have the tools we need at our disposal to implement them. Some solutions can be implemented quickly – sometimes at the stroke of a pen. Though there is much to do, consensus over the essential elements of a global conservation strategy has never been stronger:

- Protected Areas are widely acknowledged as indispensable to protect biodiversity and our remaining intact areas (Laurance et al. 2010, Brooks et al. 2009, Geldmann et al. 2013) and to provide natural solutions to climate change (Dudley et al. 2010). The global Protected Areas estate has increased dramatically in recent decades and continues to expand (IUCN and UNEP-WCMC 2011, CBD 2010), including in the marine biome where conservation efforts have lagged but where we are now witnessing an increase in large marine Protected Areas (Wilhelm et al. 2011, Kormos 2011). We need additional resources and more Protected Areas to ensure comprehensive, effective, representative and viable Protected Areas networks, but we are making progress.

- Large landscape and seascape conservation efforts linking core terrestrial and marine protected areas are necessary for long-term protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Worboys et al. 2010, Soulé and Terborgh 1999), including climate change mitigation and adaptation. Large-scale connectivity conservation initiatives are moving forward around the world (Worboys et al. 2010), often across borders (Mittermeier et al. 2005) and often at continental scales – from the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative to the Eastern Pacific Conservation Marine Corridor. Cooperation between governments is extending beyond

transboundary protected areas to the development of conservation strategies for entire cross-border wilderness landscapes – for example the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area Treaty and the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Other Protected Areas. Support for *Nature Needs Half (www.natureneedshalf.org)* (Locke, 2013) is growing, as is the popularity of the wilderness concept (Kormos ed. 2008) and its application in protected areas. In August 2013 the European Commission published its first ever (non-statutory) guidelines for management of wilderness and wild areas across the Natura 2000 network.

- Indigenous peoples and local communities make enormous contributions to protecting the planet's biodiversity (Ricketts et al. 2010, Kothari 2008, Berkes 2009, Corrigan and Hay-Edie 2013), as do faith leaders and the custodians of lands that are sacred or hold special spiritual value (Baghwat and Palmer 2009, Verschuuren et al. 2010). The area protected in indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) is likely as large as or larger than the approximately 13% already in protected areas – and many current protected areas were originally ICCAs (CBD et al. 2011). Much more can and must be done to support indigenous peoples and local communities in their conservation efforts, and to implement rights based approaches to conservation (Springer et al. 2011).

- Private protected areas – established by individuals, NGOs, foundations or corporations are also making a very substantial contribution to conservation efforts. From private game reserves in Southern and Eastern Africa, to a wilderness area designated on corporate lands in Mexico, to very large areas in the United States and Australia, to large reserves in the Amazon region, private protected areas play an important role in conservation – and could play an even greater role.

- The essential role of civil society in environmental stewardship and governance is more accepted than ever before (UNGA 2012, WEF 2013), although the process of formal inclusion of civil society in international conventions and other bilateral and multilateral fora is gradual (Gemill and Bamidele-Izu 2002). The huge increase in local environmental non-governmental organizations in developing countries also provides good reasons for hope.

- The planet can often heal itself if given the opportunity, and restoration and re-wilding efforts can accelerate the process. In Europe, where WILD10 convenes, there are substantial new opportunities for wildlands conservation and restoration and many wildlife populations are increasing, including populations of large mammals and predators. (Deinet, et al, 2013) While restoration is more feasible in temperate zones, inspirational stories abound of human communities around the world making huge sacrifices to bring back wildlife populations – from tigers in India, elephants in Mali, lions in Mozambique and chimpanzees in Guinea.

- Conservation and human well-being are inextricably linked (Martin and Randall 2013). We know that protecting biodiversity and ecosystems is necessary to protect livelihoods and for poverty alleviation (GEF 2010, Turner et al 2012). We know that spending time in nature is essential for human health and spiritual well-being, and is a well-documented and successful aspect of many

therapeutic regimes and programmes for addressing social challenges amongst under-served, adjudicated, or challenged youth.

- We know that healthy ecosystems are the foundation of green economies. The failure to halt biodiversity loss on land and sea has been estimated to cost $550 billion a year (TEEB 2009) and there is increasing attention to integrating the value of natural capital into National Income Accounting and Corporate Accounting processes (UNEP and GCP 2012, WAVES 2012, TruCost 2013, TEEB 2010, TEEB 2009).

Several major events and political processes in the next few years will play an important role in setting new conservation and development agendas. The IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014 will guide the Protected Areas agenda for the next decade. The United Nations will update the Millennium Development Goals, articulate new Sustainable Development Goals and formulate a post-2015 development agenda in 2014-2015. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is aiming to have a new climate agreement negotiated by 2015.

We therefore have the opportunity to reframe the global conservation debate. In 2009, the *Mensaje de Merida* issued by WILD9 focused to a significant extent on the role of wild nature in addressing climate change. Felipe Calderon, then President of host country Mexico, agreed with this by announcing at the Congress that wilderness, particularly intact forest ecosystems, played a key role in mitigating climate change

However, in the years since WILD9, the increase in large-scale industrial projects that was already in evidence (Butler and Laurance 2008) has continued to expand dramatically (Pearce 2013) with devastating impacts on intact habitats. Mitigating and adapting to climate change remain critical priorities (Hansen et al. 2013) but, the wave of large-scale industrial activity sweeping the earth is unprecedented in scale and intensity and its impacts are being felt well before climate change impacts are expected to become severe.

THEREFORE, BUILDING UPON THE *MENSAJE DE MERIDA*, WILD10 DELEGATES AND COLLABORATORS RECOMMEND the following areas for immediate and continuing action by governments, the business community, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organizations, and civil-society to ensure the ecological integrity of the planet and to protect the natural life-support systems upon which we all depend:

I. Communicating and understanding the extent and impact of industrial development activity:

The wave of industrial activities that is transforming the planet is not clearly understood by the public and decision makers. Raising awareness of the intensity, speed and scale of this transformation, and of the massive consequences of wiping out our natural capital, is critically important in developed countries and in emerging economies with rapidly growing middle classes. We do not lack in solutions; rather we often the lack political will to undertake necessary changes because the public and decision makers are not sufficiently aware of the scale of the problem. **To a large extent, the challenge we face is one of communications: how to convey the depth and**

urgency of the global environmental crisis and the costs of failing to act, while also conveying that the crisis can be averted. We must harness the power of the full range of media, including artists, film makers, writers and musicians to communicate the scale of the problem we face more effectively.

II. Understanding how much intact and functional wild nature is needed in Protected Areas, increasing Protected Area coverage of all governance types (government, private, indigenous etc.) corresponding to categories I-VI of IUCN's Protected Areas categories and increasing connectivity between Protected Areas:

Scientists now realize that significantly-sized intact wild areas on land and seas need to remain intact and interconnected to provide the ecological services required to support life. At a landscape and bioregional level, this varies from 25-75% of ecosystems (Noss et al. 2012, Schmiegelow et al., 2006, Terborgh 2006). More analysis is necessary to understand how much needs to be protected at national scales to ensure ecosystem health, protect biodiversity and ensure species recovery. **However, current Protected Area targets under the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity should be far more ambitious: the 17% terrestrial and 10% marine Protected Areas targets are essentially political and should be increased based on sound scientific analysis. The long-term objective should be 50%** (Locke 2013).

III. Making full use of available conservation mechanisms at our disposal to achieve our conservation objectives:

World Heritage designations, connectivity corridors, agreements between countries to work together across borders to protect ecosystems and ICCAs are all important mechanisms that complement protected areas. ICCAs in particular deserve more attention and support. It is also important to fill gaps in the World Heritage List to ensure a representative network of World Heritage sites. The World Heritage Convention could play a key role in bolstering efforts to protect primary forest and other wilderness areas, as well as recognizing the often unique interplay between communities and large landscape conservation.

IV. Wilderness on land and sea – Protecting Primary Forests and Intact Habitats:

Prioritizing the protection of the planet's remaining primary forests is essential to protect biodiversity and ecosystems services, and for the hundreds of millions of people who depend on primary forests for survival. **Industrial logging in primary forests has not achieved sustainability and results in substantial carbon emissions and biodiversity loss** (Zimmerman and Kormos 2012, Shearman et al. 2012, Keith et al. 2009, 2010). In the tropics, industrial logging very often leads to forest conversion to industrial agriculture. Best practice logging in primary forests should be viewed as a mitigation strategy to limit the impacts of unsustainable industrial activity rather than as a conservation strategy. Therefore:

a. **More work should be done to understand the potential to meet global wood supply needs through plantations or in already heavily modified and degraded forests on lands of low biodiversity value.**
b. **Industrial logging in primary tropical forests should not be subsidized,** e.g., via climate funding such as REDD+.
c. **Subsidies for sustainable forest management in the tropics should be directed to local communities, indigenous groups and Protected Areas** as these are the constituencies most likely to keep primary tropical forests intact.
d. **Key markets should be educated about the damage from primary forest loss and alternative sources of supply**
e. Progress has been far too slow on building policy frameworks that support the protection and restoration of natural carbon stocks. There is still little understanding that biodiversity confers resilience on ecosystems which helps buffer species from stressors and stabilize natural carbon stocks (Thompson et al. 2009). **Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, and in particular primary forests, is the most effective and sustainable climate change action at the landscape level** yielding both mitigation and adaptation benefits.
f. The potential for World Heritage status for the planet's remaining primary forests should be explored.

V. Promoting Rights-Based Approaches:

Respect for the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, including full compliance with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is essential. Conservation must at all times be based on a full process of free prior and informed consent, respect for land tenure rights and for sacred sites. The Conservation Initiative on Human Rights is an important step in support of this objective.

VI. Integrating Conservation and Development Planning:

Development planning is still largely separate from conservation planning. These processes must be better integrated.

a. **Sectoral environmental impact analyses should be undertaken more systematically in developing countries**, with much greater support from bilateral and multilateral development agencies, to ensure that the current and future industrial development footprint, its cumulative impacts, and how to avoid these are clearly understood.

b. The capacity for conducting, interpreting and responding to environmental impact analyses in developing countries should be greatly increased.

c. **Defining no-go zones is important.** There is consensus that certain areas should be "no-go zones" i.e. off limits to industrial development. IUCN and its members have

established that mining is inappropriate in Protected Areas Categories I-IV (IUCN 2000). There is also consensus that mining is inappropriate in World Heritage sites (ICMM 2003) regardless of protected area category. However, further work is necessary to:

i. **Better define the concept of "no-go areas" to extend its application to environmentally sensitive areas that are not yet protected as well as natural areas of great cultural significance, such as sacred natural sites.**
ii. **Planning exercises at national levels to identify the full range of areas that should be considered off limits to industrial activity (not just mining)**.

d. **Capacity for conducting biodiversity offset analyses should be increased. Bilateral and multilateral assistance should be provided to developing countries to design and implement national offset strategies for areas outside of no-go zones** (Kormos et al. in press) based on the full cumulative impacts of development in a country as identified by sectoral impact analyses. These strategies should define no-go zones, allow for the aggregation of offsets and integrate offsets with national biodiversity strategies for conservation, Protected Areas and endangered species recovery (Kormos et al. in press).

e. **Capacity for understanding and negotiating economic and business concepts in the conservation sector must be increased,** through more widespread usage of appropriately qualified personnel, and widening of conservation management qualifications.

VII. Linking and harmonizing International Agreements Relating to Biodiversity Conservation:

The Failure to build effective linkages between the UNFCCC, The Convention on Biodiversity and other UN conventions addressing biodiversity and nature conservation must be addressed (Locke and Mackey 2009). Current proposals in the UNFCCC (for example treating natural forests and plantations as if they were the same) continue to create a serious risk of perverse outcomes for biodiversity. The objectives of the Rio Conventions are inextricably linked – they should never undermine each other and current mechanisms linking the Rio Conventions (e.g. the Joint Liaison Group) are not ensuring the necessary linkages.

VIII. Valuing Natural Capital: the private sector and governments should more effectively value and account for natural capital and ecosystem degradation.

Advances are being made in developing national systems of environmental and economic accounting (Ajani et al. 2013). We must also internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards (ECI 2010). Mechanisms to implement this imperative include: applying the polluter pays principle systematically; applying the full cost recovery principle; providing incentives such as payments for ecosystem services; removing perverse subsidies; and investing in Protected Areas and conservation.

IX. Defusing the Illegal Wildlife Trade Crisis:

The illegal wildlife trade is the second biggest driver of species loss after habitat destruction. It generates tens of billions of dollars and is increasingly driven by organized crime using sophisticated and powerful weaponry. The illegal wildlife trade impacts the most iconic species – as well as hundreds of little known plants and animals, in many cases driving them towards extinction. It also has far reaching indirect impacts – from impacting local livelihoods to creating major national security threats. Strengthening the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) so that it is fully funded, has the technical capacity necessary to operate and to list additional species as appropriate, and supporting the application and enforcement of CITES at the national level around the world is critically important. Strengthening the capacity of national governments to end poaching is also critically important. Finally, awareness campaigns are essential.

X. Linking the Population and Conservation Agendas:

The conservation community should engage more closely with organizations working on family planning in developing and developed countries. There are many linkages and areas of clear strategic overlap between family planning and the environment, including advocacy for women's rights and improving education for young girls (MAHB 2013). Stronger partnerships between these closely related causes can help leverage mutually beneficial results.

We are consuming too much, sacrificing the integrity and stability of our planet for short-term profit, and robbing future generations of a chance to live on a planet with healthy ecosystems and the full richness and diversity of life. We are increasingly severing ourselves from the wilderness resource from which we all originate and upon which we all depend. We must reverse this trend.

Conservation is not a luxury. It is a basic human necessity: essential for our health and material well-being and just as importantly, for the strength and vitality of the human spirit.

WILD10, the 10th World Wilderness Congress therefore recalls the *Mensaje de Merida,* and restates in the *Statement from Salamanca:*

With a healthy foundation of wilderness, we can realize our full potential as humans. But when wilderness is degraded, the promise of human societies dims. Without wilderness, the legacy for future generations is a deeply impoverished planet: biologically, culturally, economically and spiritually. We must act immediately to keep Earth's remaining wilderness intact.

By: Cyril Kormos (Vice President for Policy, The WILD Foundation; Vice Chair for World Heritage, IUCN-WCPA); and Vance G. Martin (President, The WILD Foundation; Chairman, Chair Wilderness Specialist Group, IUCN-WCPA)

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