Addendum to IUCN's position on selected issues on the agenda

Convention on Biological Diversity
Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA14, 10-21 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya) and Third Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI3, 24-28 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya)

In-Depth Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Work (POW) on Mountain Biological Diversity (agenda item 3.1.1)

Mountains, as sources of many rivers, are essential for multiple ecosystem services including the supply of fresh water for people and downstream habitats, and are fundamental to the food security of communities vulnerable to changing climates. IUCN welcomes progress in protecting the mountain biome with about 14.4 % of the mixed mountain system biome protected. However, it is important to note that these are not all effectively managed protected areas. In addition, many mountain ecosystems remain poorly represented in protected areas, including community conserved areas.

Mountains contain nearly half of Alliance for Zero Extinction species (and sites) and therefore many key biodiversity areas important for conservation. The establishment, formal recognition and effective management of multiple large-scale connectivity conservation areas in mountains in all 8 Biogeographic Realms of Earth by 2015 would contribute significantly to both biodiversity conservation and a strategic response to climate change.

Ensuring coherence with the implementation of the revised Strategic Plan and implementation of many programmes of work and cross-cutting issues within the Convention is critical to effective conservation in mountain biomes. IUCN's recommendations on the Programmes of Work on Protected Areas (PAs), the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and on Biodiversity and Climate Change are particularly relevant to achieving the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in mountain ecosystems. There are many obstacles to implementing the POW on Mountains and protecting mountain biodiversity. IUCN strongly supports the ways and means to overcome these obstacles identified in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/2.

The development and implementation of regional initiatives that improve the conservation of mountain biomes is fundamental to effective conservation. IUCN urges Parties to identify as yet unprotected key biodiversity areas in mountains, where appropriate, using these initiatives to promote transboundary cooperation. The successful implementation of large scale connectivity conservation projects can maintain ecosystem integrity and support climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Such approaches require Parties to strengthen synergies between agencies

concerned with poverty reduction, economic development and biodiversity conservation.

In this context, IUCN commends the "Natural Solutions" publication (IUCN-WCPA, TNC, UNDP, WCS, WB and WWF, 2009) to further promote greater understanding on the role PAs can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

In addition, the publication "Connectivity Conservation Management – A Global Guide" (WCPA Mountains Biome and Connectivity Conservation Theme (2010)), provides practical guidance on how protected area managers can assist with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

IUCN urges SBSTTA14 to recommend that COP10 invites Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to:

- ✓ Enhance the effectiveness of management in existing mountain PAs;
- ✓ Establish new effectively managed PAs in line with the CBD POW on PAs and inland waters, as well as in accordance with Article 10 (sustainable use), to safeguard the highest priority key biodiversity areas in mountain ecosystems;
- ✓ Establish conservation corridors, ecological networks and transboundary mountain PA systems to facilitate connectivity, taking into account the need to integrate protected areas into wider landscapes and objectives of surrounding ecological/social/ economic systems;
- ✓ Reduce deforestation and promote the ecological restoration of degraded mountain forest ecosystems, and wetlands, to enhance the provision of critical ecosystem services;
- ✓ Study the effects of climate change as well as the effects of adaptation and mitigation measures on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies; and
- ✓ Recognize and incorporate activities that link upland and lowland management strategies to provide climate change adaptation options including: mountain watershed management, establishment of both horizontal and vertical connectivity migration corridors and transboundary mountain PAs, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, avoiding deforestation, and a reduction in human pressure on biodiversity.