



## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (20/4/2010)

Opened by President Felipe Calderon, with: 1800 delegates from 50 countries and over 12,000 on-line participants from 130 countries; an extra-ordinary atmosphere of hope and enthusiasm; a diverse range of working sessions, and a plenary program featuring 50 world leaders such as Dr. Jane Goodall; Dr. Sylvia Earle; Dr Pavan Sukhdev; Chief Tashka Yawanawa; Grand Chief Samuel Gargan; numerous Ministers; the heads

of land management agencies from North America and other regions; Heinz Center Director Dr. Thomas Lovejoy; Nobel laureate Mario Molina; Dr. Amory Lovins; Dr Exequiel Ezcurra; and others .

- **44 targeted resolutions adopted**, and available online for discussion and reporting on outcomes;
- **The Message from Merida (*El Mensaje de Merida*)**: An international call to action with specific policy guidelines to integrate wilderness and biodiversity conservation into global climate change strategy. Delivered to Copenhagen with 85 organizational co-signers.
- **The first international agreement on wilderness conservation**, initiated by WILD and signed by the governments of Mexico, Canada and the US;
- **The first-ever Corporate Commitment to Wilderness**, a results-oriented initiative for wilderness, signed initially by 15 corporations, with others to follow;
- **New protected areas in Mexico and elsewhere**, including: a new private sector commitment of 50,000 hectares in the Carpathian mountains (Romania); the intention to create the first marine wilderness areas in the US and territories; a new coastal, Mangrove protected area in Mexico; and the commitment to significantly increase protected area coverage in the Yucatan;
- **Engaging youth and young professionals** on substantive issues of wilderness, biodiversity and climate change;
- **Creation of six new Intergovernmental Working Groups** involving US, Canadian, Mexican, and other government agencies to stimulate ongoing collaboration on conservation matters concerning Payments for Ecosystem Services, Marine Wilderness, Recreation & Visitor Experience, Fire Management, Wildlife & Biodiversity, and Public-Private Partnerships;
- Launch of WILD's **Nature Needs Half™** vision – working with world-wide partners to protect at least half of the planet, land and water, in an inter-connected way.
- **Extensive Government agency collaboration with NGOs and indigenous partners** to strengthen peer-to-peer networks and produce numerous targeted trainings, including:
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Wilderness Forum for Government Agencies,
  - Wilderness Management training (for 25 professionals from 15 countries and 4 tribal communities), plus the first accredited Wilderness Conservation training in Mexico (30 days, 25 NGO and gov. professionals)
  - Four-part Payments for Ecosystem Services workshop,
  - Climate Change Training for Protected Area Managers,
  - Wilderness Policy for Latin American Attorneys,
  - Four-part Global Wildlands Connectivity workshop,
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Native Lands and Wilderness Council,
  - Four, two day training sessions on Wildlands and Water
  - Science and Stewardship sessions involving 200 professionals; and more;
- **Prompted the creation and initial funding** of Roots 'n Shoots, Mexico (*Raíces y Retoños México*), Jane Goodall's international educational program

- **Communications and Conservation** – Integrating media, culture, public opinion, science and policy, through:
  - Launching the new concept of wilderness as *tierras silvestres* (wilderness) in Latin American public awareness, professional endeavor and culture
  - The International League of Conservation Photographers (established at the 8<sup>th</sup> WWC in 2005), convened the largest, ever-assembled gathering of conservation photographers and their work; coordinated a four day symposium; managed four large galleries; and implemented the Yucatan RAVE with 32 international photographers documenting the Yucatan for 7 weeks prior to WILD9.
  - Extensive use of new, web-based communications tools to reach a large and diverse group of international participants beyond the delegates at WILD9;
  - The world’s first series of postage stamps dedicated to international wilderness (featuring Russia, South Africa, Mexico and the US) produced by Unidos para la Conservación/WILD and the Mexican Postal Service, initiated at WILD9 by Mexico President Felipe Calderon;
  - Establishment of the International League of Conservation Writers;
  - Extraordinarily wide media coverage in national newspapers and main-stream magazines (such as Este Pais, Elle, National Geographic, in-flight magazines, etc);
  - The launch of 3 books published in Spanish and English on wilderness and protected areas;
  - Daily participation in the WILD9 Expo by thousands of Merida residents, including school groups of all ages;
  - Other outreach and cultural firsts such as: a project with local charities to create 20 life-size jaguar sculptures which now decorate the city of Merida; and “Body Painting - Applying the Ancient Art to Endangered Species and Spaces,” a stunning evening exhibition by 20 artists and models documented by five of the world’s top conservation photographers; and,
  - WildScreen Film Festival (from WildScreen UK), free of charge, that showed to 1000 local residents.
- **Marine**
  - The formal launch of the Marine Wilderness Collaborative (MWC) to engage stakeholders in a consensus-driven process to define the term “marine wilderness” and set common objectives for the management of marine wilderness protected areas;
  - Launch of a “New Vision for Protecting the Marine Wilderness of the Gulf of California”
- **Wilderness and Water** – Announcements by the Government of Mexico including:
  - A new and important national standard starting in 2010, that sets minimum standards of adequate water flow in rivers to support wild lands and natural systems; and,
  - A national inventory of wetlands to determine the current state of these ecosystems, learn about the goods and services it provides and consider measures for conservation and sustainable management.



*WILD9 was a project of The WILD Foundation, Unidos para la Conservación, and many collaborating organizations, institutions and governments from around the world.*

*More information about the outcomes of WILD9 and the history of the World Wilderness Congress (a process founded (1977) and facilitated by WILD), including photos and video footage, is available at [www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org). Contact Emily Loose, Director of Communications, [emily@wild.org](mailto:emily@wild.org), or Vance G. Martin, President, [vance@wild.org](mailto:vance@wild.org).*