



MEDECOS XII

Linking Science to Resource Management

The International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference
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THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDECOS XII CONFERENCE ON THE ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY, AND CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN-CLIMATE ECOSYSTEMS HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION

- Whereas:** Mediterranean-type climate regimes with cool moist winters and warm dry summers occur in just five areas of the world – the Mediterranean basin, California, central Chile, the Cape Region of South Africa, and southwestern and south Australia;
- Whereas:** These five mediterranean-climate regions have been identified as globally significant hotspots of biodiversity, providing habitat for almost 20% of the world's plant species in only 2.2% of the earth's land area;
- Whereas:** These five mediterranean-climate regions share common characteristics of ecosystem structure and function despite an independent evolution of biological communities and species adapted to these conditions;
- Whereas:** Threats to biodiversity and loss of associated ecosystem services are increasing in severity due to habitat transformation, non-native species invasions, and global change; now, therefore let the following be resolved:
- Resolved:** That high priority is given to strong implementation of science and informed sustainable resource management for conservation of mediterranean-climate region ecosystems;
- Resolved:** That scientists and managers use their knowledge and experience to raise awareness of the significance and conservation challenges of Mediterranean-climate ecosystems;
- Resolved:** That scientists identify and pursue research that contributes to understanding and conserving mediterranean-climate ecosystems;
- Resolved:** That scientists engage with land use planners, resource managers, and policy makers to identify key research needs that help resolve conservation challenges in the world's mediterranean-climate ecosystem
- Resolved:** That planners, land and resource managers, and policy makers apply the best available science when implementing programs to conserve, protect, restore, and manage mediterranean-climate ecosystems;
- Resolved:** That opportunities be vigorously pursued to promote communication among scientists, managers, planners, educators, and the public about the biodiversity and conservation of mediterranean-climate regions.