

19.2 The Role of the IUCN Commissions

RECALLING Resolution 18.4 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly on the role and mandates of the IUCN Commissions, Standing Committees and Task Forces;

REAFFIRMING that the Commissions and other voluntary networks are a vital component of the World Conservation Union;

NOTING the immense success achieved by certain expert Commissions of IUCN, some of which have several hundreds, or even thousands of members;

AWARE of the potential difficulties in managing, coordinating, collating and taking account of the skills

and opinions of such a diversified group of scientists and other specialists;

NOTING that Resolution 18.4 requested the Council to establish a procedure for a mid-term and end-of-term formal independent evaluation of the performance of each Commission;

NOTING FURTHER that the Resolution requested the Council to review the role, structure, mandate and operation of all Commissions for the next triennium prior to each General Assembly, based on these evaluations;

HAVING RECEIVED the report of the review of the Commissions undertaken by Dr David Munro and Mr Gabor Bruszt, with the assistance of individuals nominated by the Chairs of each of the six IUCN Commissions, together with the comments of the Council and Director General on that evaluation;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. NOTES with approval the report of the independent evaluation of the Commissions, and expresses its thanks to the consultants for undertaking this important task;
2. REAFFIRMS that the IUCN Commissions and other voluntary networks are a distinctive and essential part of the work of the Union and should be strengthened as important agents in the pursuit of its Mission, as indicated in Resolution 19.1;
3. ENDORSES the recommendations of the review of the Commissions, except as noted below;
4. DECIDES, in addition to conclusions in Resolution 19.1, section 2 (e) and (1), that:
 - (a) the Commission on Education and Communication should have a membership focused on policy advice, advocacy and capacity building in the field of education and communication related to the Mission of IUCN and its programmes, and supportive of the work in other Commissions;
 - (b) the Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning should continue to elaborate a more clear and focused role aimed at a more manageable mandate, including exploring the potential for institutional collaboration to cover fields of special interest to IUCN;
 - (c) each Commission should be subject to a triennial end-term review, to be prepared by an independent evaluator, nominated by the Director General and confirmed by Council, and undertaken in consultation with the Chair or his/her nominee; regular mid-term reviews should not be required but Council may

commission a mid-term review of any Commission if special circumstances require it;

- (d) there should in future be an in-depth review every six years of the role, structure, mandate and operation of each Commission, carried out according to a schedule providing for three Commissions to be reviewed during each three-year period;
 - (e) the conclusions of the reviews under (c) and (d) should be reported to each succeeding session of the General Assembly;
 - (f) high priority should be given to defining performance indicators and ensuring that the mission statements and objectives are drafted in terms that enable such definition;
 - (g) Commission Chairs, in consultation with the Membership and Nominations Committee of Council, should address the task of identifying candidates for succession to their posts;
 - (h) greater effort should be made to increase the regional diversity of Commission members and to reflect the reality of regions in planning and undertaking Commission activities;
5. DECIDES to maintain five of the existing Commissions for the Triennium 1994-1996, namely:
 - (a) Species Survival Commission (SSC);
 - (b) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA);
 - (c) Commission on Environmental Law (CEL);
 - (d) Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning (CESP);
 - (e) Commission on Education and Communication (CEC);
 6. AGREES to establish a Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), requests Council in consultation with the membership and the Director General to agree on a mandate for the Commission within one year, and agrees that the inaugural chair will be the individual elected by the 19th Session of the General Assembly as Chair of the Commission on Ecology;
 7. DECIDES to adopt the mandates for each of the Commissions listed in paragraph 5, as proposed by Council and modified by discussion in the course of the 19th Session of the General Assembly.

