

19.3 Species Survival Commission

ACKNOWLEDGING the long track record of effectiveness of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC);

APPRECIATING the very positive review that SSC received during the recent review of the IUCN Commissions;

RECOGNIZING that the high international regard for IUCN's expertise in species conservation is based largely on the work of the members of SSC;

EMPHASIZING the crucial need for IUCN to maintain and enhance its ability to provide leadership on species conservation issues in an impartial and technically rigorous manner;

NOTING the need for SSC to adapt to the changing international situation, especially since the Convention on Biological Diversity has now entered into force;

AWARE of the recommendations in the Strategy of IUCN on the need for increased decentralization of IUCN's programmes;

NOTING with satisfaction the moves already taken by SSC to develop new directions in the light of the changing international situation, most notably the current process of developing a new strategic plan for the Commission as a contribution to the overall Strategy of IUCN;

WELCOMING the increasingly close relationship between SSC and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA);

AWARE that, although the SSC strategic plan has not yet been completed, the general future directions are now emerging;

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

1. REQUESTS the Chair of SSC to guide the process of developing the SSC strategic plan to completion as soon as possible, after due consultation with key interested parties;
2. ENDORSES the general directions already apparent in the strategic plan, notably:
 - (a) the continuation of taxa-based specialist groups, with particular emphasis on continued expansion of activities on plants, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians;
 - (b) the enhancement of disciplinary activities on captive breeding, invasive species, re-introductions, sustainable use of wild species, trade and veterinary matters;
 - (c) the formation of new SSC groups at a national level, cutting across taxa and disciplines, and providing technical information on biodiversity to assist countries in the development of national plans and strategies, as required under Article 6, and identification and monitoring, as required under Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. CALLS UPON interested IUCN members to consider how they might assist in the implementation of the SSC strategic plan, in particular through the:
 - (d) the closer integration of SSC activities with those of other IUCN programmes, most notably that of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), with a particular emphasis on pursuing such integration at national level;
 - (e) a review of the ways in which SSC interacts with IUCN members to enhance species conservation with a view to improving the effectiveness of such interactions;
 - (f) an ongoing review of the effectiveness of all SSC programmes aimed at assessing conservation priorities and promoting activities to address those priorities, notably the specialist group action planning programme, the Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP) workshops, and Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVAs);
 - (g) the positioning of SSC and IUCN as the custodians of the global threatened species list;
 - (h) the development of an effective and responsive information system, integrating the data gathered by different components of SSC, based on an analysis of the overall information needs of IUCN and the other partners in the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC);
 - (i) in collaboration with the Commission on Education and Communication, improved communications concerning SSC's expertise on biological diversity to relevant audiences, including policy- and decision-makers, donors, and close partner organizations;
 - (j) improved internal communications within SSC, with a particular emphasis on new forms of electronic communication;
 - (k) improved communications between SSC and other IUCN programmes;
 - (l) a review of the role and future direction of *Species* newsletter; and
 - (m) the development of an overall fundraising plan to achieve the effective implementation of the strategic plan in a timely fashion;

provision of institutional support for national SSC groups, and increased support for the operation of key specialist groups;

4. REQUESTS the SSC Chair to report to the 20th Session of the General Assembly on progress in the implementation of the strategic plan;
5. REQUESTS the SSC and CNPPA Chairs to increase cooperative efforts between the two Commissions, to work with the other Commissions and relevant IUCN programmes to advance the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to develop methods for inter-Com-missional cooperation for biodiversity conservation at regional and national levels.