

19.5 Review of the IUCN Statutes

AWARE that the IUCN Statutes were last subjected to comprehensive revision in 1978, and that since that time there have been substantial changes in the Union's membership and mode and scale of operation and in the context within which it works;

RECOGNIZING in particular the increasing role of Regional Forums, National Committees and other gatherings of members, Regional and Country Offices of the Secretariat, and regional groups within the Commissions, and also the devolution of responsibility for the development and implementation of many of the Union's programmes and policies to the regional level;

NOTING that a number of recent meetings of members have concluded that the boundaries of the Regions used by IUCN are no longer appropriate, and that it is imperative that the composition of the IUCN Council, which is largely elected on a regional basis, should reflect the distribution of the Union's membership and be able to cover worldwide conservation issues in an informed and balanced way;

RECOGNIZING that since the system of Regions and the number of Councillors to be elected from each Region are defined in the Statutes, no changes can be made unless the Statutes are amended;

AWARE that for a number of State members, revisions of the IUCN Statutes are equivalent to revisions of treaties and require strict procedural measures;

RECOGNIZING that aspects of IUCN's Statutes are governed by applicable Swiss Law;

AWARE that under Article XIX of the IUCN Statutes, the English, French and Spanish versions shall be equally authentic, but that none the less, minor inconsistencies exist between the English and French texts, while the Spanish translation has yet to be accepted by the IUCN membership as an official text;

ALSO NOTING that there are other deficiencies in the Statutes which may be remedied at this time and that the various provisions of the Strategy of IUCN, as adopted by the 19th Session of the General Assembly, can best be reflected in and facilitated by the Statutes of the Union;

EMPHASIZING that all organizations must adapt their constitutions to new policies, developments and conditions;

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

1. REQUESTS the Council to establish in 1994 a Statutes Review Committee to undertake a full review and appropriate revision of the IUCN Statutes, and Regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;

2. DECIDES that this Committee should, *inter alia*, give particular attention to how:
- (a) the boundaries of the statutory Regions in use in IUCN should be adjusted so as to achieve appropriate geographical, environmental and cultural coherence, and meet the needs of each Region equitably;
 - (b) the role of National Committees can be optimized and, if appropriate, defined in the IUCN Statutes;
 - (c) the composition of the IUCN Council can most equitably and effectively reflect the balance of the membership and of conservation priorities worldwide;
 - (d) effect can be given to the provisions of Resolution 19.6 on North-South proportionality;
 - (e) the process of election of Regional Councillors can give due weight to regional preference;
 - (f) any inconsistencies between the English, French and Spanish versions can be reconciled and acceptance of the Spanish version facilitated;
 - (g) clear and readily applicable criteria for the admission of members can be developed and implemented;
 - (h) the process for submitting motions to the General Assembly, and the criteria for their admissibility, can be improved, for example by providing guidelines on their scope, style and format;
 - (i) consideration of General Assembly Resolutions can be streamlined, for example by greater use of the Resolutions Working Group provided for in the General Assembly Rules of Procedure (Para. 13.2) before convening the General Assembly, and by scheduling more contact discussion groups early in the Session of the General Assembly;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to establish effective machinery for assisting participation of the membership in the process of review of the Statutes;
4. REQUESTS the Council to transmit the Statutes Review Committee's report to the IUCN membership no later than six months before the 20th Session of the General Assembly, with any comments by the Council, and to provide for a Special Session of the General Assembly immediately preceding its 20th regular Session, at the same venue, with the revision of the Statutes as the sole item of business.

