

1.109 Beringian Heritage International Park

RECOGNIZING that the Bering Sea is one of the key areas of the Earth for maintaining biological diversity;

APPRECIATIVE of the endorsement by the former USSR and the USA in June 1990 for the establishment of the proposed Beringian Heritage International Park between Chukotka in Russia and Alaska in North America;

AWARE that the Chukotka Autonomous Region in the Russian Federation has prepared plans for areas of the International Park on the Chukotka Peninsula, and that the State of Alaska has supported inclusion of national park units bordering the Bering Sea as components of the International Park in Alaska;

CONCERNED that progress towards establishing the Beringian Heritage International Park needs to be accelerated;

BELIEVING that establishment of the International Park will further ecotourism, wildlife conservation and sustainable development generally;

NOTING that a significant purpose of the park is to maintain the cultural heritage of the region, and that indigenous peoples in the region should be actively involved in planning the proposed park;

RECALLING the support of the 17th and 18th Sessions of the IUCN General Assembly for the Park;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS upon the States of the Russian Federation and USA to establish the proposed Beringian Heritage International Park as soon as possible;
2. URGES responsible agencies of the Russian Federation, the administration of Chukotka and other relevant authorities in Russia to consult together to identify the legal and managerial options for establishing the Park.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.

The use of the term “indigenous peoples” in this Recommendation shall not be construed as having any implications as regards the rights which may attach to that term in international law.