

2.94 Climate change mitigation and land use

RECALLING Recommendation 18.22 *Global Climate Change* adopted by the 18th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990);

RECALLING Recommendations 1.71 *Climate Change*, 1.72 *Climate Change, Biodiversity and the IUCN Programme*, and 1.73 *Protocol or Other Legal Instrument to the Framework Convention on Climate Change* adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

NOTING that the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are increasing largely due to human activities, that global climate is changing and is expected to change in the future, and that the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on the Earth's climate;

RECALLING Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which states that the ultimate objective of the Convention is to achieve a stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system and within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner;

AWARE that the UNFCCC has been ratified by over 180 countries;

RECALLING that the 3rd Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC negotiated the Kyoto Protocol and agreed to legally binding commitments among Annex I countries to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;

REAFFIRMING that the Kyoto Protocol is a first step towards addressing climate change, and that subsequent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will be needed to fulfil the ultimate objective of the Convention;

RECALLING that Article 3.3 of the Kyoto Protocol allows Annex I countries to utilize a limited set of land use, land use change, and forestry activities, limited to afforestation, reforestation, and deforestation to meet their commitments under Article 3.1 of the Protocol;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol provides Annex I countries with the option of undertaking additional human-induced activities in the agricultural soils and land use, land use change, and forestry categories to meet their commitments under Article 3.1 of the Protocol;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol provides that Annex I countries may transfer to, or acquire from, any other such Party, emission reduction units from projects aimed at reducing emissions or enhancing removals in any sector of the economy, including land use change and the forestry sector;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol defines a clean development mechanism to assist Parties not included in Annex I in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention, and to assist Annex I countries in achieving their commitments under Article 3.1;

AWARE that the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC had been signed by 84 countries and ratified by 22 countries, as of June 2000;

ALSO AWARE that the Protocol will not enter into force unless and until it has been ratified by 55 Parties including those in Annex I which accounted in total for at least 55 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990;

RECOGNIZING Recommendation 7.1 of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) *A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands*, adopted at the 7th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties, which:

Expresses deep concern for carbon loss due to peat fires and other human induced factors throughout the world;

Emphasizes the need to include all wetland carbon sinks and sequestration initiatives as key issues in the global discussion concerning the Kyoto Protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and

Identifies as a research priority the need for further information on the greenhouse gas implications of the utilization of peatland resources;

NOTING that the IPCC 'Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry' concluded that land use, land use change, and forestry activities provide an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere by avoiding deforestation, and to increase the uptake of carbon from the atmosphere into the terrestrial biosphere through afforestation, reforestation, and improved forest, cropland, and rangeland management;

ALSO NOTING that the Special Report identified the risks associated with land use, land use change, and forestry activities;

NOTING FURTHER that properly designed land use, land use change, and forestry projects can promote sustainable development goals and protect watersheds, habitats, and biodiversity through reducing deforestation and soil loss;

CONCERNED that improperly designed land use, land use change, and forestry projects and activities can be abused, creating incentives for clearing native forests, destroying primary forests, removing people from their land, and continuing emissions from industrial sources;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the continuing and catastrophic loss of forest and other biodiversity makes a substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions;

EMPHASIZING that anthropogenic climate change presents one of the greatest threats to biodiversity; and

RECOGNIZING decision V/4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), *Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity*, which:

“URGES the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its Kyoto Protocol, to ensure that future carbon sequestration activities are consistent with, and supportive of, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”;
and

“REQUESTS the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to prepare scientific advice on integrating biodiversity considerations, including biodiversity conservation, in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol”;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. CALLS ON:

- (a) all Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, under which the predominant share of reductions must come from reductions in fossil fuel emissions;
 - (b) UNFCCC Parties (taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities), corporate sector entities and energy associations, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere and promote the use of new, energy-efficient, and environmentally-sound technologies in order to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;
 - (c) all countries to recognize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and desertification, and therefore, to adopt only those measures for greenhouse gas reduction that are consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), the Regional Seas Conventions, and other multilateral environmental agreements; and
 - (d) International Financial Institutions to integrate biodiversity and social considerations into their continuing work on climate change;
2. REQUESTS the 6th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to recognize the primary role of fossil fuel emissions and the important role that land use, land use change, and forestry activities play in climate change;
 3. URGES the 6th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to ensure that any land use, land use change, and forest activities under Articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol are environmentally sound and, where appropriate, meet the following criteria, and that any such activities accepted under Articles 6 and 12 of the Kyoto Protocol are also environmentally sound and, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

- (a) a short- and long-term net positive reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, with permanent reduction as the ultimate goal;
- (b) reductions are additional to any that would occur otherwise with funding primarily coming from private sector sources;
- (c) effective measures to prevent, or quantify and discount, the loss or displacement of carbon benefits due to the shifting of emissions-producing activities;
- (d) authoritative, timely, and transparent information;
- (e) scientifically valid monitoring and verification protocols, as well as transparent reporting;
- (f) consistency with the goals of the CBD, Ramsar Convention, Regional Seas Conventions, and UNCCD;
- (g) involvement of relevant stakeholders including local communities and indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of projects;
- (h) sustainable development activities that provide economic benefits to local communities, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples;
- (i) prohibition of crediting for sequestration projects where native ecosystems were converted after adoption of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (j) adoption of the precautionary approach in the use of genetically modified organisms and invasive species;
- (k) protection of biodiversity and habitats, transfer of technology, and capacity building for developing country stakeholders;
- (l) enhancement of:
 - (i) ecosystem resilience to climate change through activities such as protection of important buffer zones and habitat for migratory bird species,
 - (ii) restoration of native ecosystems and species, protection of coral reefs, maintenance and restoration of mature forest cover, and
 - (iii) protection of important functional ecosystem services and groups of species;
- (m) contributions are made to broader conservation goals, which include measurement, monitoring, and evaluation of the ecological and social effects of projects; and
- (n) the number of credits available to Parties from land use, land use change, and forestry projects should be no more than the proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions attributable to emissions from land use, land use change, and forestry.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia and New Zealand indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).