

2.10 IUCN's relations with the United Nations System

RECALLING the request set forth in Resolution 1.80 *Relations with the United Nations System* adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) requesting the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of IUCN's relations with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and other international organizations;

NOTING the decisions of the Council, taken in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the founding of IUCN, to consult with IUCN's members, and with the Members of the United Nations General Assembly, with respect to the question of the UN General Assembly inviting IUCN to be an Observer to the UN General Assembly (UNGA);

HONOURED that the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1999 took a decision in UNGA Resolution 54/195 to invite IUCN to participate in the work of the UN General Assembly as an Observer;

RECOGNIZING that the Director General of IUCN, acting at the request of the Council, has communicated IUCN's acceptance of its Observer Status, and appointed IUCN's first Observer Mission to the United Nations;

WELCOMING the establishment since 17 December 1999 of IUCN's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations;

RECOGNIZING that the Director General will prepare, on an annual basis, a report to be submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations describing IUCN's participation in the work of the United Nations System, and will alert IUCN members to key UN documents relevant to their work;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Director General has requested the IUCN Environmental Law Programme to continue monitoring documents of the United Nations and to undertake an ongoing review of the agenda of the United Nations, in order to inform IUCN and its constituents of any agenda items and other ongoing relevant issues with which IUCN and its assembled expertise might be able to assist;

THANKFUL for the leadership of IUCN's State members as well as other States in sponsoring UNGA Resolution 54/195, and in particular Ecuador, for taking the decision in the UN General Assembly to invite IUCN to serve as an Observer;

GRATEFUL to the President and members of Council, to the past and present Directors General, to the Secretariat, to the IUCN Legal Advisor, and to IUCN's Representative at the United Nations headquarters, for the extraordinary amount of dedicated services all contributed to the consultations that led to the decision to invite IUCN to undertake Observer Status in the UN General Assembly;

MINDFUL that environmental issues continue to assume a greater role on the agendas of many multilateral organizations, that since IUCN is the only international observer organization in the UN General Assembly with expertise in issues concerned with the environment, biodiversity,

nature conservation and sustainable natural resource use, and that IUCN will therefore be called upon increasingly to contribute its expertise to the United Nations and other multilateral organizations;

NOTING that the Council has not yet completed its review of IUCN's relations with the UN specialized agencies and other international organizations, as requested in Resolution 1.80, and that IUCN continues to have obligations to implement the commitments adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as set forth in Recommendation 1.79 *Implementation of Earth Summit commitments*; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that IUCN already collaborates with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Framework Agreement signed in 1995 (especially in the fields of biological diversity, environmental law and information management) and also with the biodiversity-related conventions serviced by UNEP;

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

1. WELCOMES AND ACCEPTS the responsibilities inherent in serving as an Observer in the United Nations General Assembly;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to arrange to open an IUCN office for its Observer Mission at the UN headquarters in New York City, if possible through an appropriate agreement with an IUCN State member;
3. REQUESTS the Council to complete its review of IUCN's relationships with the specialized agencies and other international intergovernmental organizations and to report accordingly to the next World Conservation Congress;
4. DECIDES to include, as a distinct agenda item for each future World Conservation Congress, a report from the Director General on IUCN's cooperation in the work of the United Nations and related agencies and a discussion to determine those policy areas on which IUCN and its Commissions shall concentrate their work.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.