

2.16 Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme

RECALLING that the *Caracas Declaration and Action Plan* from the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, Venezuela, 1992) identified climate change as a significant issue concerning conservation of biological diversity and management of protected areas;

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

FURTHER 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 the Report of the 9th Global Biodiversity Forum (Kyoto, 1997), which emphasized that biodiversity loss is likely to accelerate because of global warming by providing an additional stress to ecosystems already facing localized pressures, and highlighted the potential for carbon sequestration projects to provide the additional benefit of conserving biodiversity;

NOTING the Report of the 11th Global Biodiversity Forum (Buenos Aires, 1998) emphasizing that the goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can no longer be achieved without taking climate change into account;

NOTING the Report of the 12th Global Biodiversity Forum (Dakar, 1998), which identified a number of shared concerns and interests on the desertification, biodiversity, and climate change agendas;

FURTHER NOTING the Report of the 13th Global Biodiversity Forum (San Jose, 1999), which concluded that the goals of wetland and water resource conservation and wise use can no longer occur without taking climate change into account; and

RECOGNIZING the Convention on Biological Diversity Expert Consultation on Coral Bleaching, (Manila, 1999), which concluded that recent mass bleaching events are a likely consequence of a steadily rising baseline of marine temperatures, and in combination with more localized human-induced stresses, pose a significant threat to coral reefs and the human populations which depend on them, particularly Small Island Developing States;

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

1. AFFIRMS that climate change represents a major and growing threat to efforts to achieve IUCN's mission to influence and encourage societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that natural resources are used equitably and sustainably;
2. WELCOMES the steps taken by IUCN to develop the strategic elements necessary to address climate change as it relates to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources;

3. LOOKS FORWARD to the findings of the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which will provide further information on the vulnerability and adaptation of ecological systems and socio-economic sectors to climate change, as well as the economic and social aspects of climate change mitigation;
4. CALLS ON the Director General:
 - (a) to facilitate the formation of an inter-Commission Task Force to advance the work of IUCN on climate change; and
 - (b) in accordance with Recommendation 1.72 *Climate Change, Biodiversity and the IUCN Programme* to develop and implement a strategy on climate change;
5. CALLS ON:
 - (a) the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to develop new guidelines for protected area management and planning aimed at minimizing and adapting to the impacts of climate change and to integrate climate change into the Vth World Parks Congress; and
 - (b) the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to develop new tools and technologies to evaluate the importance of climate change as a threatening process for particular species in particular areas;
6. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to:
 - (a) support the integration of ecological and social considerations, including those of indigenous people and local communities, into the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - (b) strengthen linkages between the UNFCCC, IPCC, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Regional Seas Conventions, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention), International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and other relevant international instruments;
 - (c) facilitate a balanced dialogue on the treatment of land-use change and forestry activities used to address climate change;
 - (d) consult with Commissions and members to develop recommended guidelines for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity whenever terrestrial sequestration of greenhouse gases is being undertaken;

- (e) promote activities to enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change through *inter alia* the:
 - (i) creation of buffer zones and migratory corridors;
 - (ii) ecosystem restoration;
 - (iii) conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, particularly coral reefs; and
 - (iv) maintenance of forest quality; and
 - (v) protection of important ecosystem services and groups of species; and
 - (f) support the work of non-governmental organizations and developing country members in building capacity to participate in the climate change debate so as to promote strong rules and activities that will allow them to meet their regional needs;
7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to report on the progress made on this topic at the next session of the World Conservation Congress and to make further recommendations, as appropriate and necessary, for implementing this Resolution.

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