

2.21 IUCN Marine Component Programme

RECALLING Resolutions 1.15 *Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries* and 1.16 *Fisheries By-Catch* and Recommendations 1.17 *Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management*, 1.18 *Aquaculture*, and 1.37 *Marine Protected Areas* that were adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

RECOGNIZING the significance of the oceans as constituting the greater part of the planet's biosphere;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the socio-economic significance of marine resources to the planet's human population;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the role the oceans play in regulation of the global climate;

ALSO RECALLING Chapter 17 of *Agenda 21*, which affirms that oceans are an essential component of the global life-support system, for which new approaches are required to meet the rights and obligations of States under international law;

NOTING the responsibilities and competencies at an intergovernmental level are divided amongst a large number of UN bodies;

EMPHASIZING the need for national action, and the critical importance of regional cooperation in order to achieve implementation of global principles at a practical level;

ALSO EMPHASIZING the importance of involving all relevant disciplines and stakeholders, including user groups and non-governmental organizations in decision-making at all levels;

CONCERNED that after the 1st World Conservation Congress, IUCN terminated its Global Marine and Coastal Programme coordination unit;

COMMENDING the positive efforts now underway to reconstitute IUCN's Marine Component Programme, on the basis of interventions from IUCN's membership, including linkages to the Sustainable Use Initiative;

NOTING the opportunity that UN General Assembly Observer Status affords to IUCN in terms of advancing conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including the context of oceans;

FURTHER NOTING that a scoping meeting convened by the IUCN Secretariat in 1998 identified three principal areas of focus for IUCN (i.e. protection of essential habitats, promotion of sustainable fisheries, protection of the marine environment from land-based activities); and

CONCERNED, however, that efforts pertaining to marine and coastal issues within IUCN are fragmented amongst several Component Programmes and Commissions and do not provide the necessary leadership;

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

1. ENDORSES the reinstatement of a strong Marine Component Programme in IUCN, based upon the results of the 1998 scoping exercise and IUCN's Overall Programme;
2. CALLS ON the Director General to provide adequate support for the full range of IUCN marine-related activities, consistent with the work of the Commissions, including, but not limited to, the Marine Component Programme;
3. CALLS ON IUCN's members and partners to participate in and support the IUCN Marine Component Programme as an instrument for highlighting issues of global relevance that should be addressed through regional and national mechanisms, with an objective of maintaining and securing conditions consistent with conservation and sustainable use;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) submit to IUCN Council for consideration at its first meeting in 2001, detailed strategies for addressing marine and coastal issues in an integrated fashion;
 - (b) ensure effective arrangements are put in hand to coordinate IUCN's marine activities and outputs in such a way that the Commissions, membership, and the Secretariat's Component Programmes work together to maximize IUCN's influence on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources; and
 - (c) emphasize mechanisms for regional and national support for marine conservation and sustainable use.