

## **2.34 Multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and projects impacting on biodiversity and natural features**

RECOGNIZING that multilateral financial institutions, notably the World Bank Group and the Regional Development Banks, and bilateral financial institutions, notably Development Assistance Agencies and Export Credit Agencies, are significant sources of public funds for projects that may have significant social and economic benefits (e.g. through loans, credits, guarantees, and equity investments for extractive and infrastructure projects);

RECOGNIZING, however, that investments fund extractive industries (e.g. oil, gas, mining, and timber operations) and infrastructure projects (e.g. hydroelectric projects and road building) which have the potential to:

- (a) damage marine and terrestrial ecosystems and landscapes;
- (b) lead to population declines, species extinctions and other losses of biodiversity; and
- (c) harm local human communities with social and environmental consequences;

ACKNOWLEDGING that international agreements and national legislation and policies have led to the establishment of protected areas of significant conservation value for the purpose of safeguarding their biodiversity and natural features (e.g. Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites, UN List of Protected Areas);

AWARE that many critical areas of biodiversity and conservation importance remain undesignated but may require protection in order to safeguard their biodiversity and natural features;

FURTHER AWARE that such areas include, but are not restricted to, those on published lists (e.g. Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspots, BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas); and

NOTING that IUCN, through its Commissions, has developed a range of best practice guidance which is relevant to major projects and their impact on the environment;

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

1. URGES States:
  - (a) to consider and give appropriate protection to critical areas for biodiversity and natural features, using the full range of IUCN protected area management categories and international designations; and
  - (b) in relation to projects where they are seeking international investments, to respect the status of established protected areas, including international designations;
2. CALLS ON multilateral and bilateral financial institutions not to fund projects that are incompatible with national legislation and the objectives of the established protected areas,

and to take into account published lists and other sources of advice relating to sites of importance for their biodiversity and natural features;

3. REQUESTS IUCN to further develop its dialogue with financial institutions to assist in the achievement of operative paragraph 2;
4. INVITES IUCN's Commissions to further develop best practice guidelines in relation to extractive industries and infrastructure projects which may adversely impact protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

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