

## **2.42 International Biodiversity Observation Year**

AWARE of the initiative of DIVERSITAS (an international programme of biodiversity science) to launch the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY) for 2001–2002;

NOTING that IBOY is being sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union of Microbiological Sciences (IUMS), the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP);

FURTHER NOTING that IBOY was endorsed by the XVI International Botanical Congress in St Louis, United States, in August 1999;

AWARE that the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) invited Parties to find ways and means to collaborate with IBOY;

NOTING that DIVERSITAS-IBOY aims to focus global attention on biodiversity through the promotion of international and national projects that will push the frontiers of science, the forging of links between different disciplines, the development of a new cohesive science, the provision of a scientific basis for policy development, and the engagement and education of the public;

WARMLY WELCOMING the invitation made in August 2000 by DIVERSITAS encouraging IUCN to participate in IBOY; and

NOTING the importance that many members have attached to the work of the Union on biodiversity assessment, particularly in relation to Key Result Area 5 of IUCN's Overall Programme;

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

1. **STRONGLY ENDORSES** the initiative of DIVERSITAS to launch IBOY;
2. **URGES** IUCN members to contribute to IBOY;
3. **REQUESTS** the Director General to participate in IBOY through the implementation of activities on biodiversity assessment under Key Result Area 5 of IUCN's Overall Programme.