

2.45 Conservation of mountain ecosystems in Europe

RECOGNIZING the value of mountain ecosystems and landscapes for Europeans, their biological importance, their fragility and their historical role as a refuge for several species of animals and plants;

CONCERNED about the heavy demands placed on several mountain regions in Europe, especially by agriculture, urban development, transportation, and tourism;

RECALLING Recommendation 17.62 *Conservation of the Alps* adopted by the 17th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (San José, 1988), which emphasizes that, as a result of accumulated serious problems, the Alps represent one of the most threatened mountain systems in the world and urges implementation of a joint conservation strategy for the Alpine regions; and

ENDORISING the work carried out within the framework of the Council of Europe and its Mountain Charter, the Provisions and Protocols of the Alpine Convention, the work of the French Committee for IUCN and the conclusions of the workshop organized on mountains during the second IUCN Pan-European Forum (27–29 October 1999, Calvia, Spain) and other important activities;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, to:
 - (a) undertake measures for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems through active participation in the International Year of the Mountain in 2002; and
 - (b) consider interest to create a Thematic Component Programme on Mountain Ecosystems;
2. URGES European countries with mountain ecosystems subject to high levels of exploitation and use to adopt the following recommendations:
 - (a) for agriculture:
 - (i) ensure limitation of intensive agriculture especially harmful to the environment;
 - (ii) develop incentives to promote quality production rewarding traditional know-how and respect for the environment; and
 - (iii) make aware and support local farmers financially in the maintenance of environmental quality in the mountains, specifically ensuring cohabitation between livestock and large predators, maintenance of open environments favourable to biodiversity, conservation of high-altitude marshes and peat bogs, and the protection of mineral springs;
 - (b) for urban development:

- (i) promote the use of traditional or existing architecture using quality materials and ensuring integration in the landscape; and
 - (ii) adopt and enforce legislation limiting the impact of urban development on the environment and promote a heightened awareness of natural risks;
 - (c) for transportation:
 - (i) take steps to decrease road traffic and the diverse means of motorized traffic that intrude on and increasingly occupy mountain habitat;
 - (ii) reach a more balanced distribution of means of transportation by promoting the use of the railway and public transportation in the next several years; and
 - (iii) intensify enforcement and increase awareness of existing European legislation, especially the measures on transportation provided for by the Alpine Convention; and
 - (d) for tourism:
 - (i) promote the development of tourism based on discovery of nature, respect for the environment and local traditional activities; and
 - (ii) limit the excessive impact of tourism through promotion of awareness using specialized training adapted for professionals working in tourism, instilling respect for the environment, providing information for users of the mountains about the fragility of mountain habitats, and by creating public/stakeholder consultations for mountain tourism and sports;
3. APPEALS STRONGLY to European States, taking into account their biogeographical ties to several European mountain chains, to:
- (a) ensure monitoring of the adoption and implementation of the Protocols of the Alpine Convention in association with the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA);
 - (b) promote the development of similar regional conventions for other mountain systems; and
 - (c) encourage implementation of projects promoting the sustainable conservation of mountain biodiversity and integrating the cultures and traditions of the local populations living in these regions.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).