

2.46 Protected areas of international importance in the Alps and the Mediterranean

CONVINCED that protected areas play an essential role in the protection of an exceptional natural heritage and that they constitute an important tool for international cooperation among the countries concerned;

AWARE of the need to protect and manage outstanding natural areas at the level of the ecosystem, even if shared among several States, and to establish ties among protected areas in order to build a truly functional ecological network;

RECOGNIZING the importance of networks for cooperation among protected areas, facilitating exchanges and the sharing of experiences, especially the Alpine Network of Protected Spaces;

APPROVING the recommendations included in the European strategy *Parks for Life*, the declaration of principles on cross-border protected areas (Cape Town, 16–18 September 1997) and the Cilento Declaration (4–7 November 1999) of the World Commission on Protected Areas;

PLEASED by the creation of the international whale sanctuary, the project for creating the Bouches de Bonifacio International Marine Park in the Mediterranean and current steps taken by the Mercantour National Park in France and the Alpi Marittime National Park in Italy for the creation of an international park in the Alps;

PLEASED ALSO by the measures taken by the French government for designation of the three French national parks (i.e. Ecrins, Mercantour, Vanoise) along with their Alpine counterparts (i.e. Alpi Marittime, Gran Paradiso, Hohe Tauern and Triglav) as World Heritage Sites;

NOTING the international importance of the Alps and the Mediterranean basin, two geographical entities harbouring a natural and cultural heritage unique in the world, but which are heavily threatened by human activities; and

SPECIFICALLY NOTING the importance of the Mont Blanc Massif, whose protection concerns France, Italy, and Switzerland, and which was the subject of Recommendation 19.93 *Conservation in the Mont Blanc Region, France, Italy and Switzerland*, adopted by the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

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

1. ENCOURAGES States to promote the creation of cross-border protected areas of international importance in the Alps and the Mediterranean;
2. REQUESTS the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Commission on Environmental Law to continue and accelerate their work on principles, guidelines and a legal framework to encourage the joint management of cross-border natural areas aimed at harmonizing regulations and involving local, regional, and national participants from the States concerned;

3. REQUESTS the Director General to intervene with concerned governmental and non-governmental bodies, within the framework of the cross-border Conference on Mont Blanc, to accelerate the implementation of the operational, international management structure for sustainable conservation of this prestigious area.

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).