

2.4 Establishment of Arabic as an official language of IUCN

RECALLING that the Arabic-speaking members of IUCN – The World Conservation Union and especially the new members, suffer from difficulties of communication with each other;

NOTING that simultaneous interpretation into Arabic is expensive and not always available, that there is a lack of documentation in Arabic, and that these circumstances hinder the Arabic-speaking members from realizing the full benefit of their participation, and of communication among themselves during IUCN meetings;

RECOGNIZING that even when simultaneous interpretation and documentation is made available in other languages, it is evident that direct communication and exchange of thoughts and ideas is easier and more palatable when participants can use their mother language;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the number of Arabic-speaking members is ever-increasing and that there is a desire to use the Arabic language among the Arabic-speaking members; and

CONSIDERING that the Arabic language is not an official language of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, and that the issues related to the Secretariat's Component Programmes are the same in all Arab countries;

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

1. ENCOURAGES the Arabic-speaking members of IUCN to establish appropriate consultative machinery among themselves, applying, if appropriate, to the Council for its recognition as part of the intermediate machinery of IUCN;
2. REQUESTS the Council, in dialogue with Arabic-speaking members of IUCN, to review and identify the measures and resources necessary, including the need to amend the Statutes, in order to have the Arabic language designated an official language of IUCN, and to make an appropriate proposal to the next session of the World Conservation Congress;
3. RECOMMENDS that the Arab countries take the necessary measures in the future to have the Arabic language designated as an official language of IUCN.