

2.52 Consolidation of IUCN's Component Programme for South America

CONSIDERING that the 2000–2005 Component Programme of IUCN in South America is the result of a widely participatory and consensual process among the membership, Commissions, and Secretariat, from within the region;

OBSERVING that the South American constituents of the Union have concluded that IUCN must be the regional leader and facilitator in the development of concepts, strategies, and tools for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and biological diversity, through the synergetic activities of its constituents' network, the linkages between the global, regional, and national levels, the search for agreements between the public and private actors, and the integration of the social dimension into its action;

FURTHER OBSERVING that the South American Component Programme is focused on five processes which are degrading natural resources and considered as priorities for action: deforestation, degradation of water sources and wetlands, desertification, genetic erosion, and degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems; and that the Component Programme also focuses on strengthening IUCN's management capacity in the region;

FURTHER OBSERVING that the Component Programme seeks to alleviate these five processes of degradation by focusing its efforts on critical ecosystems and improved understanding of the underlying causes and options for solutions;

RECOGNIZING that in South America, IUCN is supporting a valuable decentralization and regionalization process of its activities, consistent with principles discussed during the 1st World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

OBSERVING that there are intermediate governance structures properly constituted and active in this region – in particular a Regional Committee and National Committees – that involve all constituent sectors of the Union, and are able to coordinate IUCN's actions and extend its reach and effectiveness;

CONSIDERING that Resolution 19.13 *Increased IUCN Presence and Influence in South America*, adopted by the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), calls for actions to support regional constituents and construction of regional and national structures; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that there is a need to support these processes by a participatory Regional Component Programme that is congruent with the environmental and social realities of South America;

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

1. INVITES South American governments, multilateral organizations that are active in the region, environmental NGOs and interested citizens, whether IUCN members or not, to take advantage of the capacity of the Union (represented by 96 government and non-government members, hundreds of specialists who are members of Commissions, and an active and

expert Regional Office), to develop work alliances that contribute to the solution of the five processes of degradation with the aim of a just world that values and conserves nature;

2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN's Council, in addition to the budgetary support provided to the South American Component Programme, properly framed within the Overall Programme and Financial Plan of the Union, to support and implement as soon as possible, procedures to link regional and national donors and investors, to co-finance the South American Component Programme;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) undertake a participatory evaluation of the South American Component Programme prior to 2002, to elucidate the regional experience in terms of:
 - (i) decentralization;
 - (ii) interactions with Headquarters;
 - (iii) influence over regional processes; and
 - (iv) effectiveness in fulfilling the Mission; and
 - (b) present the results and lessons learned at the upcoming 3rd World Conservation Congress, as a case study to be shared with the rest of the Union.