

2.56 Land-use policies and legal tools for coastal conservation

RECALLING that ecological, economic, and social aspects of coastal conservation have become a major global concern in light of urbanization, and degradation of shores caused by abusive occupation and the expanded use of coastal areas for human activities;

NOTING that more than 60 per cent of the world's population currently lives on coasts and that according to projections this will increase to approximately 80 per cent during the next 25 years;

CONCERNED by insufficient implementation of 80 international treaties and agreements recommending conservation of the world's coastal areas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the special interest of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) with regard to wetlands of international importance, the marine and coastal programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity providing for integrated coastal management, and the protocols of the Conventions on regional seas and other agreements on coastal conservation;

RECALLING Recommendations 19.46 *Marine and Coastal Area Conservation* that was adopted by the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994) and 1.17 *Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management* that was adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996); and

ACKNOWLEDGING the protection programme for large marine ecosystems, supported by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States, the UNESCO International Oceanographic Commission and the work of the Coastal Areas Working Group of the IUCN Commission for Environmental, Economic and Social Policies created after the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to work cooperatively with, and support the implementation of, the Convention on Wetlands and other agreements dealing with coastal conservation;
2. STRONGLY URGES States with a coastline to consider:
 - (a) encouraging permanent scientific monitoring of coastal changes in order to assist with political decisions on development options by establishment of geographic information systems and creation of specific independent agencies to monitor, provide scientific warning, and to act as an interface between politicians and scientists;
 - (b) taking into consideration the social, cultural, and economic importance of the conservation of coastal areas in development planning by giving an important place to sociology and by reinforcing the presence of conservation specialists and scientists in the forums and councils created for coastal management;

- (c) creating or reinforcing legislation in order to prevent or minimize disturbances created by overexploitation or misuse of coastal resources, marine or terrestrial pollution, fragmentation of the natural environment, the demands of tourism, uncontrolled expansion of aquaculture, mariculture, and the introduction of exotic species;
- (d) preparing codes of good conduct with the participants involved;
- (e) establishing a legal regime for the public maritime domain for the conservation and management of the marine parts of the coastal zone;
- (f) extending to adjacent marine areas the protection given to terrestrial protected areas, in order to ensure coherence in the management of ecosystems and to define the protection status of sensitive ecological areas in the public maritime domain by making it possible for public or private agencies responsible for conservation and, in particular, for local communities to ensure management of these areas;
- (g) creating incentive systems, for instance economic systems that support the objectives of integrated coastal management and support and reinforce long-term conservation activities; and
- (h) carrying out policies for managing coastal areas through land protection with the cooperation and participation of all parties concerned and with legal and financial tools such as:
 - (i) preparation of a land survey or similar instrument to provide accurate information with references and maps of land holdings, occupation, and use of the coastal area that will allow the creation of a system of land taxation that is useful for conservation;
 - (ii) enforcement of the common law or unwritten law of local communities whose occupation or use of the land furthers the aims of coastal conservation;
 - (iii) provision of a permanent protection status to public land in sensitive or ecologically outstanding coastal areas;
 - (iv) facilitation of procedures for friendly land acquisition or through pre-emption, donation, or expropriation whenever necessary to the benefit of public or private agencies responsible for conservation, and the rendering of land acquired for conservation inalienable;
 - (v) promotion and facilitation of procedures or means of transferring existing rights over the public maritime domain in order to recover the conservation purposes of occupied space; and
 - (vi) promotion and facilitation of long-term conservation of private property using economic and legal means such as conventional protective constraints, land-use planning, and incentive measures.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.