

## 2.67 Invasive alien species

CONCERNED that invasive alien species are now one of the most serious global threats to ecosystem integrity and species survival;

CONCERNED that these threats are increasing with globalization and growth in the volume of trade and international movements of people;

AWARE that climate change, habitat degradation, and other negative impacts on ecosystems can assist the establishment and spread of invasive alien species;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the direct economic costs of the global damage caused by invasive alien species is many billions of dollars annually, yet awareness of the full costs and their causes is low in many countries;

APPRECIATING the high level of interest in these issues in the workshop sessions of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) and of the activities of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission;

WELCOMING the approval of the *IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Caused by Alien Invasive Species* by the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council in February 2000; and

NOTING that the components of IUCN are actively contributing to national, regional, and global initiatives relating to invasive alien species, including processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Invasive Species Programme;

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

1. SUPPORTS the range of initiatives underway within the Union to address invasive alien species issues and welcomes the focus in IUCN's Overall Programme on combating invasive alien species;
2. URGES IUCN members to actively disseminate and promote the *IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Caused by Alien Invasive Species* to the appropriate government and management agencies, and to support the guiding principles outlined therein;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to take an active role in working with States, trade organizations, and financial institutions to ensure that international trade and financial agreements, codes of practice, treaties, and conventions take into account the threats posed to biological diversity and the financial costs and economic losses associated with invasive alien species.

*The delegation of the United States provided a formal Statement for the Record indicating inter alia that "guidelines will be most effective if they focus on initial efforts that could be undertaken by a wide range of governments, encourage collaboration among countries, and are realistically founded on the current state of scientific knowledge and technical ability". The full statement of the US delegation is contained in the Congress Proceedings.*

