

2.7 Implementation of the IUCN Component Programme for the Mediterranean

CONSCIOUS that the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) already recognized the seriousness of the situation facing the marine, coastal and insular ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea as a result of demands created by demographic concentration, economic activities, and pollution;

AWARE of the approval by the United Nations of the first Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean in 1975, of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention), which provided a legal framework in 1976, of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), and approval in 1995 of the Barcelona Convention's Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean;

NOTING that there are several action programmes which affect the Mediterranean as the result of international conventions and the work of international organizations, for example:

- (a) the Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) of the European Union in implementing its EuroMediterranean policy; and
- (b) the regional action programme against Desertification and Drought of Appendix IV of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

CONSIDERING that there are many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, socio-economic participants, and local, regional, and national administrations working to improve and protect the Mediterranean basin that are organized through networks and international organizations in order to be more effective in their work;

RECOGNIZING the important work carried out by networks of NGOs, such as the MED Forum – the Network of Mediterranean NGOs for Ecology and Sustainable Development – which comprises 102 NGOs in 23 Mediterranean countries, and international NGOs working in the Mediterranean region such as the WWF Mediterranean Programme, Greenpeace, and Friends of the Earth;

NOTING the existence of action programmes of international governmental organizations and international NGOs, such as the MED Forum Agenda 2000, the Mediterranean NGO Programme for Sustainable Development approved by 100 NGOs in Barcelona in November 1998 during the V Mediterranean Environmental Forum organized by MED Forum, the WWF Mediterranean Programme and the Greenpeace Mediterranean Forum, among others;

RECALLING Resolution 1.10 *IUCN's Work in the Mediterranean*, which was adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), which requested the Director General to establish an IUCN Programme for the Mediterranean to survey IUCN members' needs, for the purpose of establishing complementarity among the activities of the regional programmes and the Mediterranean Programme and to create links with international conventions applicable to the Mediterranean;

RECALLING ALSO that Recommendation 19.17 *An IUCN Office for the Mediterranean* adopted by the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994) was sponsored by the delegation of Spain and calls for the creation of a new operational region and the opening of an IUCN Office for the Mediterranean; and

CONSIDERING that during the World Conservation Congress in Amman, IUCN, the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de España (Ministry of Environment of Spain), and the Consejería de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de Andalucía (Ministry of Environment of the Autonomus Regional Government of Andalusia) have signed a Declaration, which will allow the Parties to conclude an Agreement for the establishment of an IUCN Office and Programme for the Mediterranean;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to:

- (a) establish the IUCN Office for the Mediterranean in Malaga, Spain, as soon as possible, thereby giving an impetus to programme activities approved for the Mediterranean in line with objectives fixed in Resolution 1.10 adopted by the World Conservation Congress held in 1996 in Montreal;
- (b) ensure that IUCN's Component Programme activities for the Mediterranean be carried out by members, especially networks of NGOs and international NGOs present in the Mediterranean, such as MED Forum – Network of Mediterranean NGOs for Ecology and Sustainable Development, and the WWF Mediterranean Programme, among others, as well as the National Committees; and
- (c) ensure that the IUCN Office for the Mediterranean has, as its primary function, the support and promotion of the activities of the Mediterranean members of IUCN and cooperation with other organizations which share the Union's objectives, and not to undertake activities that can be carried out by the members;

2. RECOMMENDS that the Director General accelerates participation of IUCN in international conventions such as the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its action plan, the Convention to Combat Desertification and its action programme and other conventions applicable to the Mediterranean.