

REC 3.109 Transboundary protected areas in Southeast Asia

RECOGNIZING that some environmental issues are transboundary in nature and that ecosystems providing environmental goods and services to rural people do cross geopolitical boundaries, giving clear ecological justification for a collaborative conservation approach;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the outcomes of several Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ministerial discussions held in recent years affirmed the need for closer cooperation among the countries of Southeast Asia for effective management of these shared ecosystems;

ACKNOWLEDGING some important initiatives underway among countries in Southeast Asia to conserve transboundary protected areas that support regional biological diversity;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the Government of Thailand, which has established a special project to create a sustainable network of partners to secure long-term conservation of biodiversity in protected areas;

NOTING the biodiversity and socio-economic surveys undertaken by the Government of Thailand in the Patam and Khaeng Tana National Parks for the establishment of the Patam-Khaeng Tana transboundary conservation areas on the Thai-Laos-Cambodian border; and

FURTHER NOTING that the Government of Thailand also organized a workshop on regional cooperation in protected area management in Southeast Asia during the present IUCN World Conservation Congress, and that it was agreed that the sharing of information and past experiences of collaborative efforts was particularly important, as was the development of a framework, with clearly defined objectives, and mechanisms for transboundary conservation management;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November, 2004:

1. URGES the Governments of Southeast Asia to recognize the importance of transboundary forest and marine areas for conservation of national ecosystems; and
2. RECOMMENDS that the Governments of the Southeast Asia region formulate transboundary conservation strategies in collaboration with the international community for all important shared ecosystems, especially where existing transboundary protected areas provide an institutional and management framework for cooperative action.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.