

REC 3.084 Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

RECALLING the decision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

CONCERNED that climate change is already having a serious impact on the world's biodiversity and human society, as well as on the need to find new ways to achieve sustainable development;

EMPHASIZING the significance of environmental aspects in international policy and the increased attention of the world community to these issues;

STRESSING the critical importance of the Kyoto Protocol, the only international agreement aimed at slowing global warming, in the implementation of UNFCCC decisions and in the development of economic, social and environmental instruments for conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources;

EMPHASIZING the crucial role of civil-society structures and, in particular, national and international social forums, in ratification and further implementation of the Kyoto Protocol;

ACKNOWLEDGING the particular role of forest and wetland ecosystems in keeping the natural balance of the planet and mitigating global climate change;

CONSIDERING that the Kyoto Protocol stipulates that it must be ratified by industrialized countries whose combined 1990 emissions exceed 55 percent of that group's total, and that with the Russian Federation accounting for 17.4 percent, it was one of only a very few countries that could push the agreement over that threshold and bring it into force; and

RECOGNIZING the potential and important role of IUCN in further development and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol;

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

1. CONGRATULATES the Russian Federation on its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on 5 November, 2004;
2. NOTES that the decision of the Russian Federation provides for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force, in accordance with the formal procedure, on 16 February 2005;
3. APPEALS to states to develop national action plans on implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, taking fully into account the conservation of biodiversity in these action plans; and
4. CALLS UPON states that have not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so as soon as possible.

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.