

REC 3.090 Implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

WELCOMING the adoption by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (Strasbourg, 4 December 2003) of the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species*, developed in cooperation with the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC);

RECALLING that Recommendation 2.67 *Invasive alien species* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) expressed concern on the threats posed by invasive alien species (IAS);

RECALLING that Recommendation 99 on the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species* adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (4 December, 2003) recommends Parties to draw-up and implement national strategies on IAS, taking into account the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species*;

RECALLING the recognition, at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress – WPC (Durban, 2003), that “Management of IAS is a priority issue and must be mainstreamed into all aspects of Protected Area (PA) management” (*WPC Emerging Issues, No. 7*);

RECALLING that Paragraph 44(i) of the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (Johannesburg, 2002) calls for countries to “Strengthen national, regional and international efforts to control invasive alien species, which are one of the main causes of biodiversity loss, and encourage the development of effective work programmes on invasive alien species at all levels”;

FURTHER RECALLING that the issue of IAS with a biodiversity impact has recently been recognized in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other international instruments;

CONCERNED that IAS constitute one of the most serious threats to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity as well as a threat to sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING that many nations have a growing awareness of the need to address IAS threats, but that their capacity to respond is often limited because of inadequate legal and institutional frameworks; and

NOTING that a coordinated implementation of the measures recommended by the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species* will help prevent new unwanted introductions in Europe and will mitigate the impacts caused by IAS in the region;

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

1. CALLS ON European countries to develop and implement national strategies or action plans based on the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species* and to increase cooperation in addressing the threats posed by invasive alien species (IAS);

2. CALLS ON the European Union to support the implementation of the *European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species* at the regional level and to strengthen regional capacity and cooperation to deal with IAS issues;

3. URGES all governments to foster increased cooperation on IAS issues between government agencies dealing with environment and agriculture issues at national and regional levels, as well as to

foster increased cooperation and consultation between government agencies and all other relevant stakeholders on these matters;

4. URGES governments, institutions and civil society to increase their efforts to mainstream IAS management into conservation as well as into sustainable development programmes and initiatives; and

5. URGES all stakeholders to maximize exchanges of information and expertise on IAS and to support national, regional and international initiatives that contribute to this.

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.