

REC 3.091 Fulfilling the right to optional use of the official languages in the internal and external communication documents of IUCN and its members

REMEMBERING that *Part XVI – Official Languages* of the IUCN Statutes, Article 100, states: “The official languages of IUCN shall be English, French and Spanish”;

CONSIDERING that the achievement of IUCN objectives, as established in *Part II – Objectives* of its Statutes, requires a constant stream of dialogue and exchange of knowledge between members of the organization and between these members and their different social frameworks for action;

WARNING that levels of effectiveness of this vital intercommunication are currently reduced due to the existence of language barriers within IUCN, a problem which could be overcome and which slows down the organic functioning process of the organization; and

RECOGNIZING that the current consideration of English as the *lingua franca* of international relations must not lead to the unintentional alienation of the French- and Spanish-speaking communities;

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

1. RECOMMENDS members of IUCN to ensure the fulfilment of the right to optional use of any of the official languages at international meetings of IUCN, and also to promote the translation of internal and external documentation of a general nature into these languages; and
2. URGES members of the organization to issue their documentation, in so far as is possible, in the three official languages of IUCN – English, French and Spanish – when it is directed to areas in which a different language from their own is spoken.

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.