

REC 3.095 Nomination of large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes

RECALLING Recommendation V.4 *Building Comprehensive and Effective Protected Area Systems* noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), which calls on States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention “to encourage the nomination of global physiographic, natural and cultural phenomena as large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes to serve as frameworks for local and transboundary World Heritage sites and protected areas”;

RECOGNIZING the significance of large-scale physiographic phenomena (also referred to as ‘mega phenomena’), which occur throughout the world, for the world’s biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the contribution of such phenomena to the holistic approach of conservation, essential for maintaining the interconnection between natural and cultural resources;

UNDERLINING the value of these phenomena for the formation of transboundary protected areas and corridors, which are of extreme importance for biodiversity conservation;

EMPHASIZING specifically the global significance of these phenomena as potential multi-state serial World Heritage Routes such as the Great Rift Valley and the Gran Ruta Inca as mega phenomena which encompass many valuable resources;

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the loss of precious habitats and sites along these routes which threaten the very interconnection between the routes’ phenomena; and

NOTING that the adoption of this motion by IUCN members does not compromise the IUCN Secretariat’s advisory role to provide independent technical evaluation of nominated sites for World Heritage listing;

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

1. RECOGNIZES Recommendation V.4 noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, which calls on States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention “to encourage the nomination of global physiographic, natural and cultural phenomena as large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes to serve as frameworks for local and trans-boundary World Heritage sites and protected areas”;

2. INVITES the Committee of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to:

(a) encourage the concept of large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage nominations as one means for implementing the World Heritage Convention;

(b) consider examining specifically the concept of selected large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage nominations, as part of the emerging global strategy, by providing support for regional experts’ meetings to be held in order to consider, and if appropriate develop and promote, the implementation of initiatives such as those for the Great Rift Valley and Gran Ruta Inca; and

(c) consider providing international assistance to relevant State Parties so that they may prepare tentative lists of sites that may merit inscription in the World Heritage list and their subsequent nomination;

3. CALLS UPON the States Parties to promote the identification and establishment of protected areas along these Routes and to nominate those that have potential for World Heritage listing; and

4. CALLS UPON IUCN, national and international non-governmental organizations and foundations to play a full part in regional expert meetings, and to provide support for the development of tentative lists and for promoting coordinated management of the protected areas, identified during such regional expert meetings, that have potential for World Heritage listing.

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

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.