

### **RES 3.012 Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development**

UNDERSTANDING ‘governance of natural resources’ as the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say in the management of natural resources – including biodiversity conservation;

EMPHASIZING that the concept of ‘good governance’ includes not only clear direction, effective performance and accountability, but also rests on fundamental human values and rights, including fairness, equity and meaningful engagement in and contribution to decision making;

RECOGNIZING the close dependence of conservation and sustainable development on the governance of natural resources, as affirmed by the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development – WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) and the *Millennium Development Goals*;

ACKNOWLEDGING that all types of governance of natural resources – including government-managed at different levels, community-based, co-managed and private – can be improved towards greater effectiveness and equity in conserving biodiversity and enhancing human livelihoods;

WITNESSING the increasing number of large-scale conservation initiatives, including transboundary and ecoregional programmes, where collaboration must happen across the tiers and spheres of governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society;

OBSERVING that the world is experiencing profound socio-cultural, technological, demographic and environmental changes and that countries and civil society cope with such trends in part by adapting governance arrangements;

CELEBRATING the role that IUCN and its members have played in fostering ‘good governance’ through their resolutions and programme initiatives – in particular, policies and practices related to indigenous and local communities, co-management settings, transboundary conservation, management effectiveness, and business, the environment and trade;

WELCOMING the paper distributed by IUCN at the WSSD Bali Preparatory Committee meeting, entitled *IUCN and Governance for Sustainable Development* and the important governance work undertaken by IUCN, including at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (Kyoto, 2003);

RECOGNIZING that the Report of the International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development – the *Monterrey Consensus* (Monterrey, 2002) recognized ‘good governance’ as being “essential for sustainable development”, “necessary for ODA effectiveness” and “essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication...” and that the WSSD *Plan of Implementation* considered ‘good governance’ as being “essential for sustainable development”;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the WSSD *Plan of Implementation*, the UN *Millennium Declaration* and the *Monterrey Consensus* all highlight the importance of democratic institutions and the rule of law;

HIGHLIGHTING that the Action Plan noted by the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) identifies governance as “central to the conservation of protected areas throughout the world” (Outcome 8 of the *Durban Action Plan*), and that the Congress noted recommendations respecting the principles of good governance, and the diversity and benefits of different governance types;

EMPHASIZING that the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* adopted by Decision VII/28 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (Kuala Lumpur, 2004) includes a programme element on “Governance, Participation, Equity and Benefit Sharing” and

identifies concrete targets related to the full participation of stakeholders in the management of protected areas, better governance practices and mechanisms for the equitable sharing of conservation benefits; and

AFFIRMING improved governance of natural resources as a priority in meeting the governance challenges that arise, *inter alia*, in implementing the ecosystem approach and the landscape/seascape approach to conservation, in managing transboundary conservation areas, in applying integrated management of water resources, including river basins, and in implementing each of the governance principles identified in the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;

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

1. URGES IUCN to serve in a leadership role in relation to governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development through:
  - (a) clarifying the nature of governance at different levels and in different contexts;
  - (b) formulating principles for and approaches to ‘good governance’; and
  - (c) adopting a policy statement on this issue and advocating for ‘good governance’ as a major element in national and international policies;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to further develop capacity and specific initiatives for the implementation of the *CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas* and other relevant governance initiatives;
3. REQUESTS all IUCN Commissions, within their mandates, to coordinate and collaborate with each other, to work with the Secretariat to provide leadership and support in advancing ‘good governance’ of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development, and to formulate and implement specific initiatives on governance;
4. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy to act, within the scope of its mandate, as a key promoter and convener to:
  - (a) advance the analysis of types and quality of governance, with emphasis on stakeholder involvement, decentralization processes, Community Conserved Areas, and transboundary conservation;
  - (b) develop and disseminate advice on best practices for the governance of natural resources (*inter alia* in relation to human rights, benefit sharing, gender equity and human-wildlife conflicts); and
  - (c) promote and support capacity-building initiatives in support of improved governance, in particular via participatory action, research, participatory evaluation, and mutual learning among institutions and field-based initiatives engaged in similar efforts;
5. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, within the scope of its mandate, to promote good governance in the implementation of the treaties that are the main focus of the Environmental Law Programme, including:
  - (a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
  - (b) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention);
  - (c) World Heritage Convention;

(d) Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);

(e) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol; and

(f) UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; and

6. REQUESTS the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, through the refining of its guidance on Protected Area Management Categories and in other ways that are part of its mandate, to:

(a) recognize the legitimacy of a diversity of governance approaches for protected areas, all of which are capable of achieving conservation and other goals;

(b) advise on governance mechanisms that help integrate protected areas with the surrounding landscape/seascape and support transboundary cooperation;

(c) explore the special governance requirements of coastal and marine protected areas, in particular for those situated beyond national jurisdiction; and

(d) offer suggestions to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre for more complete reporting of governance types in the *World Database on Protected Areas* and the *United Nations List of Protected Areas*.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned convention.*

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.*