

### **RES 3.014 Poverty reduction, food security and conservation**

CONSIDERING that the conservation community recognizes that world poverty has risen to alarming proportions, and that this is linked to ecosystem deterioration and biodiversity loss;

RECALLING that over 1.3 billion people living in conditions of extreme poverty, a high percentage of them women, generally in areas of high biodiversity, depend on biodiversity for their food security and health;

CONSIDERING that the international community has established the priorities defined in the *Millennium Development Goals* and the *Plan of Implementation* adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), and those international conventions which offer possibilities of strengthening actions aimed at poverty reduction and nature conservation, within a framework of social and democratic participation;

RECOGNIZING that adopting an ecosystem approach favours the rational use of natural resources and the maintenance of ecosystem productivity, and constitutes an essential supporting tool for food security and consequently poverty reduction; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of education, respect for cultural diversity and free access to relevant information in combating poverty and conserving nature;

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

1. DECIDES that IUCN should put into practice, within its Intersessional Programme 2005–2008 and within the framework of its Mission and Vision, actions that contribute to combating poverty through nature conservation;

2. CALLS UPON IUCN's Commissions, as a part of their mandate and in collaboration with members from all regions, to encourage those undertaking poverty-reduction activities to ensure that they foster sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation;

3. SPECIFICALLY CALLS UPON the Commission on Education and Communication, within the framework of the United Nations *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*, to implement a strategy for education about the commitments and activities of IUCN and its associates in contributing to the *Millennium Development Goals*, poverty reduction, and nature conservation;

4. FURTHER DECIDES that initiatives and actions should be concentrated, as a priority, on ensuring tangible contributions from biodiversity conservation to equitable food security, within the framework of the strategic areas proposed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in application of Principle 20 of the *Rio Declaration* (Rio de Janeiro, 1992);

5. DECIDES LIKEWISE to request multilateral and bilateral development and environment agencies to work together with the IUCN on activities aimed at poverty reduction, sustainable development, quality of life improvement and biodiversity conservation;

6. URGES IUCN and its counterparts to increase the implementation of integrated river basin management, applying the ecosystem approach and taking account of 'environmental flows', which are crucial for sustainable development, the conservation of natural resources and improvements to quality of life;

7. RECOMMENDS relevant institutions to promote an integrated and non-sectoral vision of water management, understanding the relationship between ecosystems and water basins, and recognizing

that, in water basins, the socio-economic and biophysical systems interact in a complex and dynamic way;

8. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that such institutions consider, in particular, the importance of an integrated, non-sectoral approach to water management in resolving problems of marginalization, poverty, environmental deterioration and ill health, and hence in ensuring the fulfilment of the *Millennium Development Goals*; and

9. CALLS UPON IUCN to strengthen, facilitate and promote the full and active participation of non-governmental organizations, rural and indigenous organizations, women and youth, and other strata in civil society, in the implementation of activities which tangibly benefit poverty reduction and nature conservation.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

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.*

The Wildlife Conservation Society provided the following statement for the record:

*We would like to bring to the attention of Congress the highly effective cooperation which took place in the contact group discussing Resolutions RESWCC3.014, 015 and 016. Working together, we reconciled our differences in approach, whilst respecting the integrity and intent of each of the three motions. All agreed that IUCN should incorporate and respect human rights approaches to conservation (RESWCC3.015), needs-based approaches to conservation with emphasis on food and water (RESWCC3.014) and biodiversity-related approaches to conservation (RESWCC3.016).*