

RES 3.001 Precedence clause – Establishing precedence in regard to IUCN general policy

NOTING that IUCN was established in 1948 and subsequently its members have convened 19 sessions of the General Assembly and three sessions of the World Conservation Congress;

NOTING ALSO that, in total, 788 Resolutions and Recommendations have been adopted by the members at these sessions of the General Assembly and the World Conservation Congress;

OBSERVING with approval the establishment by the IUCN Director General of an electronic database that includes all previous Resolutions and Recommendations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the World Conservation Congress, and by implication the predecessor General Assembly, is “the highest organ of IUCN” as set forth in Article 18 of the Statutes, and as such has the responsibility “...to define the general policy of IUCN...”, as set forth in Article 20(a) of the Statutes;

THEREFORE NOTING that the World Conservation Congress is the general policy-setting body within the Union;

NOTING FURTHER that the role of IUCN’s Council as provided for by Article 46(a) of the Statutes is “to give rulings on policy and to determine complementary policy guidelines” within the general policy of IUCN as adopted by the General Assembly and World Conservation Congress;

NOTING ALSO that the IUCN Director General is “responsible for implementation of policy and the programme of IUCN as established by the World Congress and the Council” according to Article 79(b) of the Statutes and that he/she is “authorized to issue statements in the name of IUCN” according to Article 79(e) of the Statutes;

RECOGNIZING that through the succession of sessions of the General Assembly and World Conservation Congress, there are several instances in which Resolutions or Recommendations are inconsistent, and even contradictory, on particular issues;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that there has been no mechanism to rescind previously adopted Resolutions or Recommendations that were inconsistent with positions subsequently adopted at a General Assembly or World Conservation Congress; and

ACKNOWLEDGING THEREFORE the need to provide clarity to Council and the IUCN Director General in their roles, as well as the members, in interpreting IUCN policy in those instances where the body of adopted Resolutions or Recommendations is contradictory on an issue;

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

1. AGREES that in those cases where Resolutions or Recommendations are inconsistent on an issue, the most recent Resolution or Recommendation be accepted as providing the basis for interpretation of IUCN policy on the matter;
2. CALLS on the IUCN Council and the IUCN Director General, and the components of the Union, to adopt this approach in interpreting IUCN’s policy position on matters; and
3. URGES, to the extent practicable, sponsors of all motions submitted for consideration at the World Conservation Congress to expressly provide for the rescission of previously adopted Resolutions or Recommendations that are inconsistent with the motion forwarded for consideration.