

### **RES 3.026 Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network**

RECOGNIZING the Union's significant knowledge on conservation management and sustainable development, and the strategy of empowerment contained in the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;

RECALLING IUCN's Mission to encourage, assist and influence societies, and IUCN's work with many organizations in the field of capacity development;

AWARE that in today's knowledge-based societies, learning is life long and many individuals and organizations can benefit from capacity development in conservation and sustainable development;

CONVINCED that many sectors make decisions that negatively impact on conservation and sustainable development due to a lack of knowledge, skills or attitudes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the presentation to IUCN Council in 2003–2004 of the efforts made by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) to initiate the *World Conservation Learning Network (WCLN)*;

WELCOMING the initiative taken by CEC to establish the WCLN; and

NOTING that the role of the WCLN will be to provide a framework to further advance professional capacity-building for sustainability at global, regional and national levels through courses, electronic learning, research, exchange and related activities;

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

1. REQUESTS IUCN Council to give urgent consideration to this endeavour within the Union's overall Programme before the next World Conservation Congress;
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and the CEC to facilitate the establishment of a network of universities and training institutes, under the auspices of the CEC or some other network associated with IUCN, with the aim of working with IUCN to expand access to programmes for professional development that integrate the issues of conservation and sustainable development;
3. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and the Chair of CEC to take into account, and collaborate with, existing international and regional capacity-development networks and institutions and to develop a detailed statement of goals, functions, structure and legal form of the WCLN for the consideration of Council; and
4. INVITES all IUCN members with an interest in advancing the WCLN to provide all possible assistance to the IUCN Programme in this regard.

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.*