

### **RES 3.027 Education for sustainable development**

CONSIDERING that IUCN provided the first internationally recognized definition of environmental education in 1970 and that in *Caring for the Earth* (1992) IUCN, the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), stated that “environmental education is the fundamental basis guaranteeing the participation of communities in the process of conservation of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life and the environment”;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN has supported *Agenda 21* recommendations calling for education to be reoriented towards sustainable development;

NOTING that the United Nations (UN) declared 2005–2014 the *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*;

RECALLING that governments have made commitments to educate their public and move society towards sustainable development through participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), and in their strategies to achieve the UN *Millennium Development Goals* by 2015;

AWARE that education for and about sustainable development requires new approaches to education that assist people towards future thinking, adaptive management and systems thinking, requiring creativity, flexibility and critical reflection through lifelong learning;

CONVINCED that an expanded effort is required to engage society and assist individuals, social groups and organizations to make progress towards sustainable development at local, national, regional and international levels;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in 2003 the IUCN Council welcomed the *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development* as an initiative that supports its mission and raises the profile of this work; and

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that IUCN has no policy on education for and about sustainable development;

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

1. DECLARES its support for the *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014*;
2. INVITES all IUCN members to consider how to integrate and resource education for sustainable development in their work and to contribute to the *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*;
3. ENCOURAGES IUCN members to support the integration of education for sustainable development in basic education in pursuit of the *Millennium Development Goals*, and to foster education for sustainable development in higher education, zoos, museums, botanical gardens, tourism and in other forms of adult education; and
4. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the IUCN Director General to present to IUCN Council a draft policy on Education for Sustainable Development before the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conservation Congress.

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.*