

RES 3.029 Capacity building of Young Professionals

DEFINING Young Professionals as individuals worldwide between the ages of 20 and 35, committed to conservation at local, regional and/or global levels as their profession;

ACKNOWLEDGING the support already given to younger generations by IUCN through Outcome 6 of the *Durban Action Plan* noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003);

WELCOMING the initiatives of individual member organizations in establishing programmes to involve Young Professionals in their conservation efforts;

RECOGNIZING the ability of Young Professionals to contribute to member organizations and their conservation achievements by bringing innovative knowledge, techniques, diverse perspectives, open-mindedness and enthusiasm to decision-making processes; and

CONCERNED by the difficulty that young people face when trying to enter the conservation arena in a professional and meaningful way;

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

REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to:

- (a) establish a Young Professionals Programme within IUCN;
- (b) establish a coordinating mechanism that assists member organizations in developing programmes for Young Professionals such as fellowships, internships, exchange programmes, and mentorships, according to their capacity, and collects and disseminates to Young Professionals information about these programmes; and
- (c) ensure that IUCN and its member organizations make their programmes accessible to Young Professionals from developing countries.

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.