

### **RES 3.002 Improving the transparency of the IUCN Council**

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN Council is elected by the members at each World Conservation Congress and that the Council is subject to the authority of the World Congress (IUCN Statutes, Article 37);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that Article 37 of the IUCN Statutes also states, “Subject to the authority of the World Congress, the Council shall have responsibility for the oversight and general control of all the affairs of IUCN”;

NOTING that Article 58 of the IUCN Statutes states, “The work of the Council shall be conducted with transparency. The minutes shall be available to the members of IUCN and a report on decisions shall be communicated to them”;

ALSO NOTING that Article 50 of the Regulations states only that, “Notice of ordinary meetings of the Council, with draft agenda, shall be circulated to those entitled to be present at least forty-five days in advance of the meeting”;

CONCERNED that the work of the Council, including draft agendas, materials and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat, reports of decisions, and minutes are not readily available for members;

NOTING that the current Regulations do not provide for a timely dissemination of agendas, documents and minutes of Council meetings; and

CONCLUDING that in its oversight and general control of the affairs of IUCN, the work of the IUCN Council should be more transparent to the members of IUCN to whom it is responsible;

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

1. RECOGNIZES the importance of transparency of Council deliberations and decisions;
2. CALLS UPON the Council to establish firm procedures to improve transparency, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (a) informing IUCN members of issues to be dealt with by the Council; and
  - (b) making decisions and minutes of the Council available to IUCN members in a timely and specified way, such as by posting them on the web; and
3. REQUESTS the Council to consider the possibility of practical and equitable access to Council meetings by IUCN members.

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.*