

RES 3.030 Capacity building in applied and demand-driven taxonomy

CONSCIOUS that the ongoing decline in taxonomic capacity has created a widely recognized ‘taxonomic impediment’ to the equitable and ecologically sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity;

WELCOMING the adoption by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the work programme of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) in April 2002 (CBD Decision VI/8);

RECALLING that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) highlighted the importance of the GTI in realizing the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

NOTING that the GTI work programme depends for its success on capacity building;

NOTING the key role of regional and global technical cooperation and technology transfer in cost-effective capacity building;

AWARE that IUCN is a significant end-user of taxonomy, is at the forefront of making taxonomic information widely available through its *Species Information Service* and that many components of IUCN’s programme (thematic, regional and Commissions) have a strong dependence on, or inter-relationships with, taxonomic expertise and institutions;

NOTING that IUCN, through the wide use of taxonomic information and expertise by its programmes and membership, is uniquely positioned to advise on the most urgent taxonomic demands of end-users;

AWARE OF IUCN’s keynote contribution to the Third Global Taxonomy Workshop (organized in 2002 by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the CBD Secretariat, UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention) and the resulting *Plan of Action* for demand-driven taxonomic capacity building in support of the GTI work programme; and

RECOGNIZING the urgency of capacity building to make taxonomic expertise, resources and information freely accessible in a timely manner and in forms required by users;

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

1. ENDORSES IUCN’s contributions to taxonomic capacity building, including its involvement since 2002 in member- and partner-driven initiatives in support of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI);
2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to continue supporting IUCN’s involvement in promoting and delivering taxonomic capacity building, especially where this supports the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);
3. RECOMMENDS that IUCN and its members actively participate in and help develop the GTI including, as appropriate, via participation in its Coordination Mechanism; and
4. CALLS UPON the IUCN Director General and the Commissions to work with members to identify potential synergies and taxonomic capacity-building partnerships.