

RES 3.033 Implementation of an IUCN programme for the Insular Caribbean

CONSIDERING that the Insular Caribbean is an ecologically coherent unit, clearly identified and differentiated from the surrounding regions;

CONSIDERING also that the Insular Caribbean has been identified as one of the four hotspots of global biodiversity, containing 11% of the world's coral reefs and significant terrestrial endemism;

CONCERNED about existing threats throughout the region, such as the destruction of habitat, sedimentation, overfishing, long-line fishing, and invasive species, among others, which are causing an alarming loss of biodiversity;

AWARE that at its 19th Session, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the General Assembly of IUCN already recognized through Resolution 19.14, *The IUCN in the Caribbean*, the seriousness of the situation facing marine, coastal and island ecosystems in the Caribbean, and stressed the need for action by IUCN in the region;

AWARE that the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention, 1983) provides the legal framework for conservation and sustainable development of the region, along with the Protocol to the Convention Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) that entered into force in 2000;

CONSIDERING that there are examples in the region of management schemes whose sustainable practices can contribute to development of the global system of IUCN;

NOTING that the Marine and Caribbean programmes of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) can be strengthened by an increased collaboration and coordination of regional and international members and partners, including the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), The Nature Conservancy and others;

AWARE of the need to promote and disseminate the most recent achievements attained through the following programmes and initiatives:

- (a) Socioeconomic Monitoring of Protected Areas (SocMon) of the WCPA;
- (b) the Regional Plan for Strengthening of Marine Reserves in the Caribbean, to direct marine reserves as a tool for the conservation of biodiversity;
- (c) the Network and Forum of Wider Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM);
- (d) the identification and nomination process for World Heritage Sites; and
- (e) the cooperation within the WCPA Caribbean Programme and its potential role in the implementation of SPA; and

CONSIDERING that members of the Insular Caribbean wish to implement relative components of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;

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

REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to:

- (a) promote a greater strengthening of IUCN's presence in the Insular Caribbean, through regional implementation of relevant components of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;

- (b) assist in the formation of an IUCN Sub-Regional Committee for the Caribbean to promote the objectives of IUCN in that region;
- (c) assign a member of the Secretariat to facilitate achieving the above objectives and to assist in promoting increased membership in IUCN among Caribbean States and the Caribbean NGO community; and
- (d) review the viability of establishing a permanent IUCN Sub-Regional Office in the Caribbean.

The Bahamas National Trust, the Negril Environment Protection Trust and the Government of Jamaica wished their endorsement of this Resolution to be noted for the record.