

RES 3.042 Biodiversity in Southern Sudan

RECALLING the 20-year old war in the southern regions of Sudan and its tragic impacts such as the deaths of millions of people and animals, extensive destruction of property, displacement of about four million citizens and widespread decline in living conditions to sub-human standards;

MINDFUL of the serious damage inflicted by the war on natural ecosystems including the eighteen protected areas and one of the world's most extensive wetlands (the Sudd region) together with special habitats such as the equatorial mountain areas;

THANKFUL to the international community for its efforts in promoting the conclusion of the peace agreement and for its promised support; and

CONSCIOUS of the fact that during the six-year transitional period provided for in the agreement, the priorities of donors will centre on resettlement of the displaced population, rehabilitation of urban and rural support systems, creation of livelihood opportunities, construction of infrastructure and provision of basic services;

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

REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to:

- (a) assess the impacts of the war on the natural resources of southern Sudan with an emphasis on special habitats and protected areas;
- (b) develop a conservation strategy for southern Sudan; and
- (c) develop urgent action programmes for addressing conservation and sustainable development issues such as capacity building for biodiversity conservation, and management of protected areas and special habitats.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

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.