

RES 3.048 IUCN Guidelines for protected area management categories

RECALLING the endorsement of the protected area management categories by the IUCN General Assembly at its 19th Session, held in Buenos Aires in January 1994 (Resolution 19.4 *National Parks and Protected Areas*), which led to the publication of the 1994 IUCN *Guidelines* on this topic;

WELCOMING the results of the research work *Speaking a Common Language* undertaken in preparation for the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress – WPC (Durban, 2003) on the impact of the IUCN protected area management categories, the final report of which was completed in preparation for the present Congress and which contains valuable lessons on the operation and development of the system;

WELCOMING Workshop Recommendation V.19 *IUCN Protected Area Management Categories* noted by the WPC, which clarifies the role of the system as “an internationally recognised conceptual and practical framework for the planning, management and monitoring of protected areas”, and which makes a number of recommendations that seek to improve use of the categories at national and international levels;

MINDFUL of the importance of Decision VII/28 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which, *inter alia*, calls on governments and relevant organizations to assign protected area management categories to their protected areas and to provide information consistent with the IUCN protected area management categories for reporting purposes;

RECOGNIZING that there is a need to broaden understanding of the IUCN protected area management categories in order to respond to Workshop Recommendation V.19 noted by the WPC and CBD Decision VII/28; and

WELCOMING the action of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in setting up a Task Force on the system of protected area management categories;

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

1. REAFFIRMS the value to conservation of the 1994 system of protected area management categories, and in particular, that the six-category, objectives-based approach should remain the essential foundation for the system;

2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, WCPA, and other IUCN Commissions as appropriate, to work closely together to:

(a) undertake, as a priority, a review and update of the 1994 IUCN *Guidelines on Protected Area Management Categories*, including their application in marine areas;

(b) work with governments on the application and use of the IUCN protected area management category system as part of their response to CBD Decision VII/28; and

(c) in light of (b), develop and implement programmes for further guidance, awareness raising, capacity building, monitoring and research, along the lines indicated in Workshop Recommendation V.19 noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress and taking into account the lessons learnt from *Speaking a Common Language*, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the application and use of the category system, and specifically including improved assignment of categories of protected areas; and

3. ENCOURAGES all IUCN members to support governments in implementing the above programmes.