RES 3.050 Integrating protected area systems into the wider landscape

AWARE that for protected areas to be effective, and to achieve biodiversity conservation and other goals, they must be managed in the context of the broader landscape and seascape;

UNDERLINING the importance of conservation of biological diversity not only within, but also outside, protected areas in order to achieve a significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

RECALLING the *Message* of the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC, Durban, 2003) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which states that the global system of protected areas needs to comprise an ecologically representative and coherent network of land and sea areas, including protected areas, corridors and buffer zones, and characterized by interconnectivity with the landscape and existing socio-economic structures and institutions;

RECALLING the decision of the 7th Conference of Parties to the CBD that by 2015 all protected areas and protected area systems are to be integrated into the wider land- and seascape, and relevant sectors, by applying the Ecosystem Approach and taking into account ecological connectivity and the concept of ecological networks;

AWARE that protected areas, ecological networks, corridors, buffer zones, rehabilitated and restored habitats, and ecosystems can provide opportunities for protection of ecological services, stakeholder participation and sustainable planning and management, thus meeting the objectives of conserving biodiversity, sustainable use of biological diversity, the equitable sharing of benefits, and social and economic development;

RECOGNIZING that the presence and needs of human populations consistent with biodiversity conservation within and in the vicinity of protected areas should be reflected in the overall design and management of protected areas and the surrounding landscapes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of engaging indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders in participatory planning and governance, recalling the principles of the Ecosystem Approach; and

AWARE that the challenges of climate change require broad conservation strategies that include elements such as the creation of new protected areas that are specifically designed to be resilient to change and the creation of corridors to protect biodiversity from the effects of climate change;

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

1. URGES IUCN, in accordance with the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, to actively support the development of appropriate measures to integrate regional, national and subnational systems of protected areas into broader land- and seascapes, *inter alia* through the establishment and management of ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones, where appropriate, to maintain ecological processes and also taking into account the needs of migratory species;

2. ENCOURAGES IUCN to promote the application of the Ecosystem Approach and support involvement of all relevant sectors and local and indigenous communities, NGOs and private enterprises in the management of protected areas, ecological networks, buffer zones, corridors and areas which are the focus of ecological restoration;

3. ENCOURAGES IUCN to continue work on the identification of opportunities for adequate funding of protected areas and ecological networks, including through the ecological services they provide and the marketing of the benefits of sustainable management;

4. REQUESTS IUCN to contribute to the development of programmes for communication, education and public awareness in support of policy approaches that integrate protected area systems in the wider landscape and seascape; and

5. CALLS on IUCN to assist in mainstreaming protected areas and other areas important for biodiversity into national and international development planning and policy, particularly poverty-reduction strategies and implementation of the *Millennium Development Goals*.