

RES 3.052 Protected areas in the Mediterranean

RECOGNIZING that the Mediterranean region, due to its particular geomorphological formation and its history, is one of the areas of the world with the greatest biological and landscape diversity, harbouring unique endemism and ecosystems;

RECALLING that throughout the millennia the Mediterranean basin has been the cradle of development for great civilizations representing some of the most extraordinary examples of human culture in our time;

OBSERVING that the Mediterranean region is an area of special importance for global biodiversity, characterized by a continual influence of agriculture, fishing and tourism, as well as by its history, economy and landscape;

STRESSING the importance of maintaining the agrarian cultural landscape and breeds of domestic animals and horticultural varieties associated with traditional farming and livestock practices;

EMPHASIZING that the cultural relations existing across the different coastal countries have given rise to the formation of a cultural substratum shared by all of the peoples and a strong sense of identity and solidarity with respect to a common sea;

CONSIDERING that protected areas in the Mediterranean are often of relatively small dimensions with high interaction with local communities;

OBSERVING the growing number of protected areas in the Mediterranean region with significant development of innovative management models and solutions;

MINDFUL that most Mediterranean countries share common themes of conservation and economic development, despite the existence of significant differences among coastlines in terms of gross national product and percentage of national territory under protection;

RECALLING Resolution 1.10 *IUCN's Work in the Mediterranean* adopted by the 1st World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

RECOGNIZING the work carried out by IUCN through its Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation to establish cooperative ties and programme exchanges in the Mediterranean region;

RECALLING also the important role of Mediterranean ecosystems and culture in the achievement of objectives set for 2010 by the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals*; and

MINDFUL of the *Naples Declaration* adopted at the IUCN Mediterranean Members Meeting in June 2004;

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

REQUESTS all Mediterranean countries and IUCN to:

(a) coordinate their actions with the aim of promoting strategic plans for conservation of the most significant environmental systems in the Mediterranean; and

(b) increase cooperation among states and organizations for the purpose of establishing a protected areas system representative of marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the Mediterranean and effective

management of such protected areas, suitably mindful of the April 2004 'Malibu Declaration' concerning *Cities and Conservation in Mediterranean-type Ecosystems*.

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.