

RES 3.053 Protection of Chile's first Ramsar site, threatened by a cellulose factory

NOTING that the Carlos Andwandter Nature Sanctuary of Rio Cruces constitutes the first Ramsar Site in Chile;

RECALLING that wetlands are high-priority ecosystems in IUCN's strategies for the conservation of aquatic resources and biodiversity;

CONSIDERING that the wetlands of Carlos Andwandter Nature Sanctuary host a wide variety of species of flora and fauna, especially birdlife, including the country's largest concentration of black-necked swans (*Cygnus melancoryphus*);

CONSIDERING that in February 2004 a cellulose factory started operations 15 kilometres upstream of the protected wetlands, authorized by a ruling issued by the competent Chilean government environmental authorities, stipulating the appropriate operating conditions; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the country's environmental agency has detected a failure to comply with the authorized environmental operating conditions and that deaths of black-necked swans have been recorded, along with strong odour emissions that have alarmed the population;

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

1. REQUESTS that the Commission on Environmental Law, World Commission on Protected Areas and Commission on Ecosystem Management lend their support to the steps being taken by the IUCN National Committee for Chile in order to preserve and conserve the endangered wetlands; and
2. ASKS the IUCN Director General to express his concern about this situation to the Chilean authorities and to recommend the strengthening of the necessary measures for the protection of these wetlands.

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.