

**RES 3.058 Military activities and the production, stockpiling and use of weapons that are of detriment to the environment**

RECALLING Resolution 19.41 *Armed Conflict and the Environment* adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994) and Resolution 1.75 *Armed conflict and the environment* adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

RECALLING Recommendation V.15 *Peace, conflict and protected areas* noted by the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003);

RECOGNIZING international instruments and provisions to protect the environment during the course of armed conflict, referring in particular to the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;

AWARE that in recent conflicts provisions contained in the above-named international agreements have not been fully observed;

COGNISANT of the desk studies compiled by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the deleterious effects and lasting impact of recent armed conflicts;

WELCOMING the study entitled *Legal Regulation of the Effects of Military Activity on the Environment* prepared in 2004 on behalf of the German Federal Environmental Agency and presented to the Executive Director of UNEP;

RECOGNIZING that amongst the recommendations of the above study the Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Hostile Military Activities in Protected Areas prepared by the IUCN Environmental Law Programme appears to have the best prospect of success of any substantive reform proposal;

DEEPLY CONCERNED not only about the immediate impact of armed conflict, but also the lasting effects on the human population and the environment, including the loss of wildlife and its habitat, as well as the severe limitation of prospects for sustainable development; and

ALSO CONCERNED that the relevant multilateral legal agreements, especially vis-à-vis the stockpiling, removal and destruction of chemical weapons and anti-personnel mines, focus almost exclusively on humanitarian aspects, while putting a lesser emphasis on environmental concerns, although it has been demonstrated that even in times of peace the production and storage of such weapons can cause significant environmental harm; and

WELCOMING the work undertaken by the Member States of the United Nations to develop measures to guarantee the Observance of Environmental Norms in the Drafting and Implementation of Agreements on Disarmament and Arms Control;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to ensure that higher priority is given within the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005-2008* and its components to address the concerns listed above;
2. PROPOSES that the IUCN Director General initiates an exchange of opinions among the IUCN membership, as well as selected experts in this field, with a view to developing practical proposals for introducing appropriate legal measures;

3. INVITES the Executive Director of UNEP to act upon the recommendation contained within the above-named study to undertake a comprehensive review of the environmental effects of warfare, to which IUCN will offer its scientific expertise; and

4. INVITES the IUCN Director General in the light of IUCN Resolutions 19.41 (Buenos Aires, 1994) and 1.75 (Montreal, 1996), to respond favourably to the recommendation contained in the recent study proposing negotiations on the basis of the IUCN Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Hostile Military Activities in Protected Areas.

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.*