

RES 3.060 Influencing private sector actions in favour of biodiversity

CONVINCED that the actions of private sector actors have a large bearing on the goal and mission of IUCN;

NOTING that the impact of the private sector on the conservation of biodiversity can be both positive and negative;

BELIEVING that, historically, IUCN has not prioritized and often not engaged effectively with the private sector for the achievement of its mission;

NOTING that IUCN has, during the past quadrennium, taken steps to engage in dialogue with companies, including through providing expert advice on biodiversity conservation in selected sectors and undertaking expert exchanges;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN will not make optimal progress towards achieving its Mission unless and until it improves its interactions with key actors in the private sector;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that a range of IUCN members, including non-governmental organizations and government agencies, are increasingly working with the private sector to minimize its impact on the environment and to bring positive improvements in the environmental and social performance of corporations; and

AWARE of the importance of avoiding the name and reputation of the Union being used as 'green wash' to mask misbehaviour on the part of corporate actors and;

BELIEVING that the Union should adopt principles and guidelines for such engagement;

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

1. INVITES the IUCN Director General to review and make publicly available IUCN's past experience with the private sector and lessons learned, and propose compiling a workplan for a limited number of pilot initiatives with the private sector that will advance the mission of IUCN, with a view to pinpointing the optimal areas for IUCN interaction with the private sector in the future;
2. ASKS the IUCN Director General, before the end of 2005, to submit this workplan for consideration by the IUCN Council;
3. URGES the IUCN Council to explore and adopt principles, guidelines and mechanisms for engaging with the private sector, such as through the establishment of a knowledge network on biodiversity and corporate action; and
4. FURTHER INVITES the IUCN Director General to submit a detailed proposal for IUCN-private sector relations to the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.