

RES 3.061 IUCN's interaction with the private sector

NOTING that the private sector can play a major role in achieving sustainable development, promoting biodiversity conservation and contributing to the *Millennium Development Goals*;

CONSIDERING that this is often not achieved because of a lack of effective citizens' and indigenous peoples' participation, illegal and unjust business practice, poor company standards and codes of conduct, and inadequate national and international policy and regulatory frameworks;

RECALLING the Recommendations of the IUCN-sponsored World Commission on Dams (WCD), the World Bank's *Extractive Industries Review* (EIR) and the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003);

NOTING that IUCN's *Strategy for Enhancing IUCN's Interaction with the Private Sector* calls for future interaction and dialogue with the private sector to be based on clear principles;

RECOGNIZING that this *Strategy* reiterates IUCN's goals of promoting a more accountable private sector, which contributes to sustainable development, including conservation and social equity;

CONCERNED that, unless interactions and dialogues with the private sector are based on clear principles and guidelines, there is a risk of tarnishing the reputation of IUCN and compromising its independence; and

FURTHER RECALLING IUCN Resolutions 1.81 *Productive Relationships between IUCN and the Private Sector*, and 1.82 *Private Sector Financial Operations*, adopted at the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) and Decision C/60/59 of IUCN's Council, taken at its 60th Meeting, on the IUCN/International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM) Dialogue;

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

1. CALLS on the IUCN Director General to initiate an open and participatory process to strengthen the principles of engagement and develop guidelines to guide further dialogue, partnership agreements and other interactions with the private sector;

2. RECOGNIZES that these principles and guidelines should be elaborated so as to inform the workplan to be prepared under operative paragraph 2 of Resolution 3.060 *Influencing private sector actions in favour of biodiversity* adopted at the present Congress;

3. NOTES THAT priority should be given to strengthening the principles and elaborating guidelines with respect to:

(a) transparency through ensuring public access to information; and

(b) participation of all stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups, in dialogues with the private sector;

4. RECOMMENDS the IUCN Director General to promote the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent, as recommended by the World Commission on Dams, the *Extractive Industries Review*, the CBD *Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization* and the CBD *Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities*, in all formal dialogues and interactions between the private sector and the IUCN Secretariat, Council, and Commissions;

5. RECOMMENDS that priority be given to cooperation with the private sector in areas which address the root causes of biodiversity loss, where – as stated in IUCN’s *Strategy for Enhancing IUCN’s Interaction with the Private Sector* – action can be most effective; and

6. REQUESTS that the IUCN Director General prepare an annual report for IUCN members on the implementation of the above-mentioned *Strategy*, including steps taken to ensure adherence to agreed-upon principles and guidelines.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey provided the following statement for the record:

The Republic of Turkey objects to any reference to the World Commission on Dams.

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

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.