

RES 3.071 International cooperation on forest management

RECALLING Resolutions 1.20 *Biological Diversity and Forests* and 1.21 *Forest Concessions* of the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) and Resolution 2.39 *Corruption in the forest sector* of the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

RE-EMPHASIZING that:

(a) forests play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity and embody complex ecological processes that are the basis for the present and potential capacity to provide resources to satisfy a wide range of human needs and environmental services, and as such their sustainable use and conservation are of ongoing concern; and

(b) the maintenance of forest ecosystems is critical to the protection of these needs and services and to the conservation of biodiversity well beyond their boundaries;

NOTING the outcome of the United Nations Conference for the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, Geneva, Switzerland, 26–30 July 2004; and the further negotiations to be held in Geneva, 21–25 February 2005;

FURTHER NOTING the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Ad Hoc Expert Group's 7–10 September 2004 meeting on *Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on all Types of Forests*;

WELCOMING the upcoming country-led initiative that will build on the technical and scientific advice already provided by the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Expert Group and which will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 25–28 January 2005 in support of the upcoming fifth session of the UNFF to be held in New York, 16–27 May 2005; and

RECOGNIZING IUCN's contributions to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to ensure the Union's continued participation in, and active role at, regular meetings of the UNFF, the ITTO, and any fora that may result as an outcome of the proceedings mentioned above; and

2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, in cooperation with the other components of IUCN, to:

(a) widely distribute the results of IUCN work, for example under the Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, to those fora;

(b) further the future work and synergies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as well as the Country-Led Initiative in support of the fifth session of the UNFF;

(c) contribute knowledge for assessing existing regional and international instruments and processes that would determine the nature of an international arrangement on forests; and

(d) take into account any reports prepared by the UNFF, whether arising from the Ad Hoc Expert Group or otherwise, which relate to the feasibility of an international legal framework on forests.