

### **RES 3.075 Applying the Precautionary Principle in environmental decision-making and management**

NOTING that the Precautionary Principle, as set out in Principle 15 of the 1992 *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, has been widely endorsed in international environmental agreements and declarations and provides guidance for responding to scientific uncertainty;

AWARE that implementation of the Precautionary Principle to anticipate and prevent potential environmental damage presents crucial challenges for environmental governance and management;

RECOGNIZING the fundamental importance of the Precautionary Principle for conservation and sustainable development and prevention of environmental degradation;

DESIRING to promote shared understanding of the Precautionary Principle;

MINDFUL of the need to ensure that the Precautionary Principle is not applied in isolation, but in conjunction with other principles relevant to conservation and sustainable development;

RECALLING Resolution 1.45 *The Precautionary Principle* adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), and NOTING efforts made by IUCN and its members toward fulfilling Resolution 1.45;

APPRECIATING the engagement of IUCN members and others towards developing guidance on the implementation of the Precautionary Principle;

NOTING concerns raised in *The Precautionary Principle in Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management* the report of a workshop held in Manila, June 2004;

DESIRING to encourage more effective and appropriate application of the principle through international and domestic legal frameworks that create legally binding and enforceable obligations for decision-makers in the public and private sectors; and

MINDFUL of discussions concerning various interpretations of the Precautionary Principle;

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

1. CALLS ON IUCN members, their representative bodies (e.g. Regional and National Committees), the Commissions, and the IUCN Director General, to:

(a) promote and develop tools for the appropriate and effective application of the Precautionary Principle in all areas and at all levels of environmental decision-making for conservation and sustainable development;

(b) investigate the relationship of the Precautionary Principle with other principles, such as public participation in decision-making, intra- and intergenerational equity, and common but differentiated responsibility; and

(c) promote a greater understanding of the legal application and operational implementation of the Precautionary Principle;

2. CALLS ON IUCN to establish an Inter-Commission Working Group on the Precautionary Principle, working with members representative of regions and disciplines, building on work carried out by IUCN members and others; and

3. FURTHER CALLS ON IUCN to encourage all decision-makers to apply the Precautionary Principle in ways that enhance conservation and sustainable development in all decisions relating to the environment at international and national levels.

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.*