

### **RES 3.080 Vote of thanks to the host country**

NOTING that the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress has brought together almost 5,000 participants from 160 countries, making this the largest assembly in the history of IUCN;

MINDFUL of the vital importance of locating appropriate facilities and of ensuring the smooth logistical running of such a large gathering;

AWARE that a number of significant innovations were introduced at this Congress and that these presented many challenges for the venue and local organizers;

RESPECTFUL of the fact that a gathering of this size can only occur with the support of a large team of volunteers, workers and sponsors; and

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING that these conditions were more than fully met at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress held in the Queen Sirikit National Conference Centre in Bangkok;

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

1. EXPRESSES its deepest gratitude to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit for her gracious presence and for officially opening the Congress;
2. RECORDS its warmest appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand for the very generous support given by the Royal Thai Government;
3. CONVEYS its deepest thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for his very warm and generous support, hospitality and participation in the Congress;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the invaluable support of Mr. Petipong Puengboon Na Ayudhaya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Mr. Apiwat Sretarugsa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; and Mr. Somchai Pienstaporn, Director General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, as well as all of their staff;
5. APPLAUDS the hard work and efforts of the Royal Thai Government Organizing Committee, officials and supporting staff, local sponsors, National Convention Management and Development Company Ltd., as well as the many local volunteers who gave so generously of their time;
6. CONVEYS its thanks to the people of Bangkok for sharing the beauty of their culture, customs, language and scenic sites, thus enriching the experience of all Congress participants; and
7. DECLARES this 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress to have been a successful and memorable event.