

### **RES 3.008 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and biodiversity**

WHEREAS there is widespread concern and increasing controversy concerning the effects on biodiversity of GMOs;

RECOGNIZING the consequent importance of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and applying the precautionary approach as set out in *Principle 15* of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and as reflected in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and in numerous international treaties;

CONCERNED that current developments in GMOs as applied to agriculture, could affect the whole food chain and its associated ecosystems, and thereby potentially threaten biodiversity;

APPRECIATING the potential IUCN sees in organic and other forms of agriculture, in which the use of GMOs is incompatible with the principles of such forms of agriculture and therefore forbidden, and that IUCN is seeking ways to conserve biodiversity while expanding production;

RECALLING Resolution 2.31 *Genetically Modified Organisms and biodiversity* adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), that among other things requests the IUCN Director General to propose to Council options for an IUCN contribution that will advance leadership, research, analysis, and the dissemination of knowledge regarding the potential environmental impact of the release of GMOs into the environment, focusing especially on biodiversity, socio-economic impact, and food security;

APPRECIATING the work IUCN has undertaken to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

NOTING the approval by IUCN's Council, at its 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 2–4 June 2004, of the background paper on *Biosafety and Genetically Modified Organisms*; and

CONCERNED about the lack of knowledge and information development on the co-existence of GMOs with biodiversity and ecosystems;

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

1. CALLS UPON the IUCN Director General, in the context of Key Result Areas 4 and 5 of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*, to undertake substantive work, within reasonable time and within reasonable resources, to develop credible knowledge and information concerning biodiversity, nature conservation and associated risks of GMOs, based on the existing IUCN background paper;
2. CALLS UPON IUCN's Council to develop a plan of action, including reasonable resources, to guide IUCN members on biodiversity and nature conservation in relation to GMOs; and
3. REQUESTS IUCN to promote and support initiatives to ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The Ministry of Environment, Sweden, provided the following statement for the record:

*We are in support of the IUCN working to integrate food related issues in biodiversity conservation, but [this Resolution] is drafted in such a way that it would mean IUCN starts to work with food safety issues in general, which goes beyond its mandate and experience.*

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.*