

4.107 Cooperation between members and committees from Latin America and the Mediterranean

CONSIDERING the traditional historical, cultural and language ties, as well as the joint initiatives which have linked and link peoples, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Latin America to those of the Iberian Peninsula and the other countries of the Mediterranean;

ACKNOWLEDGING the increasing synergy developed during recent years and strengthened through intergovernmental agreements, treaties and cooperation initiatives between NGOs, governmental agencies and bodies, and the scientific and academic community of the Latin American and Mediterranean countries with common goals, including those relating to the conservation of nature and of biological and cultural diversity;

AWARE that it is important to strengthen and promote this cooperation, which fosters global sustainability and environmental security, and to consider the possibility of establishing new links that could significantly contribute to conservation and sustainable development in Latin America and the Mediterranean, as well as to IUCN's global Mission;

RECALLING the pressing need to promote and enhance international cooperation fora and initiatives, strengthening practical links between organizations, agencies and States, in the face of major challenges such as climate change, biological and cultural diversity conservation, and poverty reduction;

CONSIDERING the need to improve human and organizational resource use, as well as to promote training and sharing of experience and lessons learnt between IUCN governmental and non-governmental member organizations in Latin America and the Mediterranean; and

RECALLING the will expressed during the meeting held in Barcelona on 20 and 21 May 2008 in preparation for the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress, by IUCN members and National and Regional Committees, such as the IUCN Spanish National Committee, the South American Regional Committee and the Mesoamerican Regional Committee, and previously through the *Tarragona Declaration* (2003) and the Mediterranean Intersessional Forum (Bari, 2008);

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. ACKNOWLEDGES and supports collaborative and cooperative initiatives between Latin American and Mediterranean governmental and non-governmental IUCN members, such as the IUCN Spanish National Committee, the South American Regional Committee and the Mesoamerican Regional Committee;
2. URGES governments, international cooperation agencies and governmental, academic, scientific and technical bodies of Latin America and the Mediterranean to give priority to the implementation of intergovernmental and NGO cooperation plans and programmes, in order to promote training and sharing of experience and lessons learnt in support of nature conservation and ecosystem and community sustainability;
3. URGES international cooperation agencies, as well as Latin American and Mediterranean States, to support and promote programmes in the fields of conservation, sustainable management of natural resources and access by civil society to information and decision-making, in order to ensure an efficient response to major challenges such as climate change, biological and cultural diversity conservation and poverty reduction;
4. CALLS ON IUCN's members to support this initiative; and
5. RECOMMENDS that international organizations support governments and IUCN members working in Latin America and the Mediterranean, in order to raise and leverage resources aiming to strengthen and promote the proposed cooperation, in support of IUCN's Mission.

State and agency members of the 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 U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.