

4.136 Biodiversity, protected areas, indigenous peoples and mining activities

RECALLING the Resolutions and Recommendations that have been adopted by Sessions of the IUCN General Assembly and World Conservation Congress:

- (a) Resolution 15.18 *Deep Sea Mining and Establishment of Protected Areas of the Deep Ocean* adopted by the 15th IUCN General Assembly (Christchurch, 1981);
- (b) Res16/11 *Deep Sea Mining and Establishment of Protected Areas of the Deep Ocean* and Res16/27 *Christmas Island (Indian Ocean)* adopted by the 16th IUCN General Assembly (Madrid, 1984);
- (c) Recommendation 17.54 *Mount Etna, Australia* and Resolution 17.60 *Carajas Pig Iron Plants, Brazil* adopted by the 17th IUCN General Assembly (San Jose, 1988);
- (d) Recommendation 18.31 *Tropical Forestry Action Plan*, Recommendation 18.46 *Tatsenshini-Asek River System, Canada and USA*, Recommendation 18.51 *Protection of Mount Nimba, Guinea*, Recommendation 18.63 *Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea*, Recommendation 18.64 *Conservation Measures within the Papua New Guinea Tropical Forestry Action Plan*, Recommendation 18.66 *Mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves Especially in Australia*, and Recommendation 18.67 *Kakadu National Park, Australia* adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990);
- (e) Recommendation 19.65 *Conservation of South American Native Forests*, Recommendation 19.69 *The Biosphere Reserve of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare, Venezuela*, Recommendation 19.79 *Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea*, Recommendation 19.81 *Conservation of the Gulf Region, Northern Territory, Australia*, Recommendation 19.86 *Mining in the Conservation Estate, Australia*, and Recommendation 19.87 *Conservation of Kakadu World Heritage Site, Australia* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);
- (f) Resolution 1.81 *Productive Relationships between IUCN and the Private Sector* and Resolution 1.82 *Private Sector Financial Operations* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);
- (g) Recommendation 2.82 *Protection and conservation of biological diversity of protected areas from the negative impacts of mining and exploration* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000); and
- (h) Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action*, Resolution 3.060 *Influencing private sector actions in favour of biodiversity*, Resolution 3.061 *IUCN's interaction with the private sector*, Resolution 3.075 *Applying the precautionary principle in environmental decision making and management*, Recommendation 3.082 *The Extractive Industries Review* and Recommendation 3.101 *Advancing boreal forest conservation* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

NOTING the vision of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) strategic plan: *"that society fully recognizes and supports the importance of protected areas in the 21st century by: securing key places for biological and cultural diversity, promoting equity and justice, maintaining the quality of the environment, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources for poverty reduction, food and water security, and the prevention of conflicts"*; and

AWARE of the increased pressure placed on natural systems containing mineral resources due to an everincreasing world demand for these minerals, particularly as other sources of these resources are exhausted;

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

1. CALLS ON IUCN's State members to:
 - (a) uphold the integrity of critical ecosystems, and of IUCN's Protected Area Categories in the management of the world's protected areas;
 - (b) carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prior to considering any mining operation; and
 - (c) establish and enforce international best practices and national laws for mining; and
2. URGES the global mining companies, including the members of the International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM) to:
 - (a) avoid mineral exploration and mining activities that will affect the long-term integrity of:
 - (i) high conservation value areas (protected and not protected), critical ecosystems, watercatchment areas and biological corridors;
 - (ii) food security and traditional livelihoods; and
 - (iii) territories of indigenous peoples where full free prior and informed consent has not been obtained; and (b) allow access and freedom of surveillance by civil society and the press to ensure good practice.

State and agency members of the United States voted against this motion.