

4.104 The World Conservation Learning Network: next steps

RECALLING Resolution 3.026 *Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network* and Resolution 3.027 *Education for sustainable development* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

RECOGNIZING the Union's commitment to developing knowledge in the fields of conservation and sustainable development;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in today's knowledgebased society learning is life-long and that many individuals, organizations and society in general will benefit from on-going access to knowledge development;

AWARE that conservation and sustainable development practitioners, professionals, and researchers and academics worldwide can mutually benefit from access to, and can contribute to, knowledge development;

RECOGNIZING in particular that, practitioners, professionals and academics in the 'south' experience problems gaining access to current knowledge generated worldwide;

ACKNOWLEDGING that relevant knowledge related to capacity development is a relatively inaccessible yet rich resource worldwide;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that access to this knowledge must be through internationally-accredited higher education institutions; and

NOTING that the World Conservation Learning Network (during 2004-2008) has:

- (a) established major regional networks of representatives of institutions of higher education;
- (b) developed a database of on-line conservation and sustainable development courses currently available through these networks; and
- (c) developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations University (UNU) to explore the development of an IUCN/UNU Institute to deliver a globally-recognized, accredited credential;

The World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the *IUCN Programme 2009-2012*:

REQUESTS the Director General, in collaboration with the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), to facilitate the further growth of regional networks and of the IUCN/UNU Institute to promote network interaction and access to knowledge, to enhance capacity development in conservation and sustainable development.

State and agency members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion.