

4.106 Vote of thanks to the host country

NOTING that the IUCN World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session has brought together close to 8,000 participants from 179 countries, more than ever before in the history of IUCN;

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

AWARE that a number of new arrangements were introduced, such as the reduction in the use of paper, the concept of 'journeys' to organize the Forum programme, Pavilions exhibition and Learning Opportunities, and that these and other innovations presented challenges for the venue and local organizers;

RESPECTFUL of the fact that this gathering of close to 8,000 participants could only occur with the support of a large team of volunteers, workers and sponsors; and

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING that these conditions were fully met during the present meeting held in the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB);

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

1. EXPRESSES its deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King, for presiding at the Committee of Honour of the World Conservation Congress;
2. CONVEYS its deepest thanks to His Royal Highness Prince of Asturias for his presence and for officially opening the Congress;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the invaluable support of the Congress hosts: the Ministry for Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, the Department of Environment and Housing of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona City Council and Barcelona Provincial Council for their institutional support and generous financial contributions that made this Congress possible, and to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development for its financial support that allowed the participation of IUCN members from developing countries;
4. APPLAUDS the hard work and efforts of the officials and supporting staff of the host administrations, local sponsors, the staff of CCIB and the local volunteers who gave so generously of their time to make this Congress a success;
5. CONVEYS its thanks to the people of Barcelona, Catalonia and Spain for sharing the beauty of their culture, customs and scenic sites, thus enriching the experience of all Congress participants; and
6. DECLARES this 4th Session of the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona to have been a resounding success and memorable event.