

4.012 IUCN policy and strategy for the management of biodiversity data and information

WHEREAS the Mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage, and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

NOTING that IUCN's core strategies include ensuring the best available knowledge for the conservation of biodiversity;

RECALLING that IUCN is a signatory to the *Principles of the Conservation Commons*, supporting open access and fair use of biodiversity data, information and knowledge;

FURTHER RECALLING Principle 10 of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, noting that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level, and that at the national level each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, along with the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes;

RECOGNIZING that it is widely agreed that comprehensive knowledge on the status and extent of biodiversity is essential to successful conservation efforts on the ground, to the sustainable use of biodiversity, and to ensure effective policy and decision making;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that Resolution 2.23 *Improving IUCN capacity for strategic information management/information technology* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) calls on IUCN to develop and implement a strategic plan for information management and information technology; and

UNDERSTANDING that IUCN is a major contributor of data and information on the status of biodiversity worldwide and its conservation, and that open access to this information directly supports the Mission, strategy and Programme goals of IUCN;

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:

1. URGES the Director General to develop a clear policy and strategy for the management of biodiversity data, information and expert analysis generated through the work of the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions;
2. REQUESTS that this policy and strategy, including clear access and use guidelines, support the fundamental principle of open access to these assets as called for in the *Principles of the Conservation Commons*; and
3. CALLS FOR IUCN to play an active leadership role in the work of global, regional and national-level biodiversity data-sharing initiatives, and to ensure that all non-sensitive biodiversity data generated by the Secretariat and Commissions be made freely and openly available through these processes.