

4.016 Development of climate change guidelines for *IUCN Red List* assessments

AWARE that it has been suggested that over one million species may be at risk of extinction due to climate change;

RECOGNIZING that estimating extinction risk from climate change is a controversial topic of research and that reliable estimates of species at risk are urgently needed;

AWARE that urgent action is required to abate human greenhouse-gas emissions and to implement dynamic conservation strategies to prevent extinctions from climate change, even where such extinctions may occur years or decades into the future;

RECALLING that the *IUCN Red List* is the primary international vehicle for identifying species in need of urgent conservation action;

NOTING that the number of species currently on the *IUCN Red List* because of climate change is relatively small, due in part to lack of guidance on how climate change contributes to assessment of the extinction risk; and

RECOGNIZING that the scientific basis required for identifying the adaptation mechanisms that will best enable species to adapt to climate change, relies on information from species specialists and from the *IUCN Red List*;

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 and IUCN Species Survival Commission, in consultation with the other Commissions and members of IUCN, to pursue actively the development of guidelines to help speed up red-listing, as a pre-requisite step to prioritizing sound scientific modelling to underpin effective conservation actions for species at risk of extinction from climate change, including:

- (a) implementation, within one year of the adoption of this Resolution, of interim guidelines for listing species as threatened with extinction due to climate change; and
- (b) issuance of approved guidance as soon as possible thereafter, but in any case, prior to the 5th Session of the World Conservation Congress.