

4.020 Quantitative thresholds for categories and criteria of threatened ecosystems

EMPHASIZING the leadership of IUCN in developing and establishing global standards for biodiversity assessment;

ACKNOWLEDGING the successful and widespread application of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* at the national, regional and global level;

RECOGNIZING the policy impact of the data summarized in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in global processes such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), as well as in national and regional policies;

APPRECIATING efforts carried out by the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) for the development of indicators of ecosystem status;

RECOGNIZING ongoing efforts around the world to classify, map and assess the distribution and status of ecosystems, as well as the increased availability of the required data and technology from global to local levels;

CONSIDERING the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) that "over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history... result[ing] in a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on Earth...";

ALSO CONSIDERING the need for a standardized process for assessing threat status and risk at the ecosystem level;

AWARE that the systematic identification of conservation priorities allows for improved investment of financial resources;

CONCERNED that the functioning and extent of ecosystems is likely to be impacted by climate change in the next decades, as well as by other major drivers of biodiversity change;

AWARE that human well-being is ultimately dependent on the services provided by functional ecosystems; and

CELEBRATING the commitment of the nations of the world to significantly reduce the rate of decline of biodiversity at all levels from global to local;

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 consultation with IUCN's Commissions and members, to initiate a consultation process for the development, implementation and monitoring of a global standard for the assessment of ecosystem status, applicable at local, regional and global levels, with a view to submitting it to a future Session of the World Conservation Congress for adoption.

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