

4.022 Promotion of Dugong *Dugong dugon* during the UN 2010 International Year for Biodiversity

RECALLING the 2002 *Dugong Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories of the United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP/DEWA)*, which warned about the alarming status of the Dugong in most of its range;

FURTHER RECALLING Recommendation 7.5 *Range State Agreement for Dugong (Dugong dugong) Conservation* adopted by the 7th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, Bonn, 2002), which called on all Dugong Range States to develop and conclude a memorandum of understanding and an action plan for the conservation and management of the Dugong throughout its range;

RECOGNIZING that the Knowledge Marketplace Session *Dugong Conservation Network in Asia and Pacific* held during the World Conservation Forum of the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) acknowledged the alarming status of the Dugong and the urgent need to strengthen the network to support Dugong conservation in the Asia and Pacific region;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Asia-Pacific Dugong Protection Network Symposium held by NGOs in Tokyo and Nago, Japan in 2006, addressed the urgent need to establish an international framework for Dugong conservation; that the Governments of Australia and Thailand co-hosted the first meeting on Dugong conservation in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian region under the auspices of CMS in 2005; and that the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (Dugong dugon) and their habitats throughout their Range* was adopted and signed by Range States under the auspices of CMS in 2007;

RECALLING Recommendation 2.72 *Conservation of Dugong (Dugong dugon), Okinawa Woodpecker (Sapheopipo noguchii) and Okinawa Rail (Gallirallus okinawae)* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) and Recommendation 3.114 *Conservation of Dugong Dugong dugon, Okinawa Woodpecker Sapheopipo noguchii, and Okinawa Rail Gallirallus okinawae in Japan* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which urged the Government of Japan to establish a Dugong protected area and consider a zero option alternative in its environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the construction of the United States (US) Marine Corps facility in the habitat of the Okinawa Dugong in the northern part of Okinawa Island, and urged the Government of the United States of America (USA) to cooperate with the Government of Japan in its EIA;

WELCOMING that the Governments of Japan and the United States reconsidered in 2005 the previous offshore plan to construct the US Marine Corps facility in the habitat of the Okinawa Dugong in the northern part of Okinawa Island;

NOTING that the Government of Japan has begun its EIA for the new coastal plan to construct the US Marine Corps facility, requiring reclamation of a portion of the coastline of the Okinawa Dugong's habitat in the same area as its previous plan; and

CONSIDERING that the US Federal District Court has ruled that the United States Government failed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in its planning of the construction of the US Marine Corps facility in the habitat of the Okinawa Dugong, and that the US Federal District Court has ordered the US Government to comply with the NHPA, in particular, in taking into account the effects of the construction of the facility on the Okinawa Dugong;

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

1. URGES the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to promote especially the conservation of the Dugong during the UN 2010 International Year of Biodiversity;
2. RECOMMENDS that all range countries with Dugong habitats make efforts to minimize adverse effects on the Dugong and participate in the CMS *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their habitats throughout their Range*;

3. COMMENDS the efforts of the Government of Japan, in consultation with academics, researchers and NGOs, to conduct an EIA, including all options for the construction of the US Marine Corps facility in the habitat of the Okinawa Dugong considering environmental conservation and wild animal protection;
4. REQUESTS the Government of Japan to establish and declare an action plan to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the Okinawa Dugong caused by the construction of the US Marine Corps facility in the habitat of the Okinawa Dugong; and
5. REQUESTS the Government of the United States of America to work together with the Government of Japan to complete the EIA and the set-up of the action plan;

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

6. CALLS ON the IUCN Director General and the Species Survival Commission (SSC), in line with Recommendation 2.72 (adopted in Amman, 2000) and Recommendation 3.114 (adopted in Bangkok, 2004) to promote Dugong conservation during the UN 2010 International Year for Biodiversity.

State and Government Agency members from Japan indicated that they would abstain in the vote on this motion.

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