

4.033 Arctic legal regime for conservation

RECALLING Resolution 1.7 *An IUCN Strategy for the Arctic* and Recommendation 1.106 *Protection of the Arctic Ocean* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), Resolution 2.22 *IUCN's work in the Arctic* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), and Resolution 3.037 *Arctic legal regime for environmental protection* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 86 *Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind* adopted by the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

ALSO RECALLING Decision 5 *Sustainable Development of the Arctic* of the 10th Special Session of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Governing Council;

NOTING the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) *Fourth Assessment Report* concluded that average Arctic temperatures have increased at almost twice the global average rate in the past 100 years;

ALSO NOTING that annual average Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk by 2.7% (2.1 to 3.3%) per decade, with larger decreases in summer of 7.4% (5.0 to 9.8%) per decade;

FURTHER NOTING that the northern sea route is expanding and resource development will likely accelerate;

TAKING NOTE that the maximum extent of seasonally frozen ground has decreased by about 7% in the Northern Hemisphere since 1900, with decreases in spring of up to 15% and that temperatures at the top of the permafrost layer in the Arctic have generally increased since the 1980s by up to 3°C;

AWARE of the ongoing activities of the International Polar Year, 2007/2008;

ALSO AWARE of the possible need for new international arrangements or enhancements to existing arrangements;

RECOGNIZING that the Arctic Ocean Conference (Ilulissat, 2008) reconfirmed its commitment to the legal framework and to the orderly settlement of any possible overlapping claims;

CONCERNED that because of the cumulative effects of climate disruption on Arctic biodiversity, including sea-ice biomes, migratory birds, mammals and higher predators will be seriously impacted;

ACUTELY AWARE that the Arctic is a barometer for global climate disruption;

CONCERNED that the climate disruption is presently and significantly affecting the lives of Arctic indigenous peoples;

NOTING that Arctic indigenous peoples are recognized as among the key players in Arctic conservation; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the Statement of the 7th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (Kiruna, 2006);

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

1. CALLS ON relevant IUCN State members to utilize the Annual UN Treaty Event initiated by the Secretary General to deposit the legal instruments for those international agreements with an impact on the Arctic, which have not yet been deposited;
2. CALLS ON relevant IUCN members to consider:
 - (a) supporting activities to fulfil the overall recommendation of the joint UNEP, Nordic Council of Ministers, and Arctic Parliamentarians seminar: Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their relevance to the Arctic (Arendal, 2006); and

- (b) examining the need for new international arrangements or enhancements to existing arrangements; and
- 3. CALLS ON member states of the Arctic Council to implement marine ecosystem-based management approaches in the Arctic, including consideration of the establishment of a marine protected area covering high seas portions of the Arctic Ocean beyond national jurisdiction;

In addition, 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:

- 4. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) ensure that IUCN is well represented by appropriate experts at relevant negotiations dealing with the Arctic;
 - (b) take initiative to involve more volunteers among IUCN's members in furthering its Arctic work; and
 - (c) undertake initiatives to further involve Arctic indigenous peoples' organizations in furthering IUCN's Arctic work.