

4.034 IUCN's engagement on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

RECALLING Resolution 2.54 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) and Resolution 3.036 (*Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*) adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

ALSO RECALLING Resolution 16.9 *Antarctica (II)* adopted by the 16th IUCN General Assembly (Madrid, 1984), Resolution 18.74 *The Antarctic Conservation Strategy*

and Recommendation 18.75 *Antarctica* adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990), and Resolution 19.96 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean* and Recommendation 19.95 *Improved Protection for Wildlife in Subantarctic Island Ecosystems* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

NOTING that Annex V to the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* (the Madrid Protocol) allows establishment of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) in both terrestrial and marine environments;

CONCERNED about the potential for cumulative impacts on wilderness and scientific values of the Antarctic should the numbers of tourists coming to the Antarctic continue to grow rapidly, along with the sizes of tourism vessels, without effective and legally binding regulations covering the tourism industry being in place;

NOTING the increasing numbers of vessels using the Southern Ocean and the absence of an integrated approach to setting appropriate ice-classification standards for those vessels, regulating discharges of waste and ballast water, or controlling the types of fuels used by the vessels;

WELCOMING the progress made in recent years in reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Antarctic waters;

CONCERNED however by the continued IUU fishing in Antarctic waters for certain fish species, especially toothfish *Dissostichus* spp. and the increasing interest in the Antarctic Krill *Euphausia superba* fishery;

CONCERNED at the slow pace of Parties to the Madrid Protocol in ratifying and bringing into force Annex VI on liability and emergency response action;

RECALLING the IUCN *Strategy for Antarctic Conservation* (1991) which is now well out of date and the commitment from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to assist in revising and updating this Strategy;

NOTING IUCN's previous engagement with SCAR on Antarctic protected areas and Antarctic environmental education and training;

FURTHER NOTING that no IUCN region represents Antarctica and that there is no longer an Antarctic Region and associated Vice-Chairperson of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA);

RECOGNIZING the important role of IUCN in providing a forum for the discussion by governmental and non-governmental bodies of issues affecting Antarctica's environment and in contributing to the work of the components of the Antarctic Treaty System;

WELCOMING the interest in Antarctic issues from a range of IUCN members; and

REAFFIRMING the importance to conservation of IUCN's engagement in Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues;

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. CALLS ON the Director General to:
 - (a) reactivate and strengthen the IUCN Antarctic Advisory Committee with membership appointed by Council, and representatives of interested members and IUCN Commissions;

- (b) seek funding to establish and resource an Antarctic Network with membership from the Antarctic Advisory Committee, WCPA, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), interested members, and relevant components of the Secretariat to strengthen IUCN's Antarctic engagement; and
 - (c) ensure that IUCN is represented by appropriate experts at all relevant Antarctic Treaty System meetings and other meetings addressing Antarctic issues, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and
2. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chairs of WCPA, CEL and other IUCN Commissions as appropriate, to work closely together to:
- (a) complete and implement IUCN's Strategy for Antarctica, as a matter of priority and to ensure there is a locus of responsibility for IUCN's work in this region;
 - (b) undertake, as a priority, and in consultation with SCAR, a review and update of the *1991 IUCN Strategy for Antarctic Conservation*, including its application to marine areas (the Southern Ocean) to guide IUCN's engagement on Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues;
 - (c) assist the Antarctic Treaty System to develop by 2012 a comprehensive and representative network of marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean pursuant to Annex V of the Madrid Protocol; and
 - (d) promote Antarctic conservation and protection and IUCN policy related to Antarctica at Antarctic fora by ensuring strategic use of IUCN's observer status at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).