

4.035 Strengthening IUCN's work on protected areas

RECOGNIZING the fundamental importance of protected areas in the resolution of global and regional problems of poverty, water shortages, climate change and biodiversity loss, and in the provision of essential environmental goods and services for society;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the strong position of the Union through its expert network on protected areas - the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) - and the exemplary working relationship between WCPA and the staff of the Protected Areas Programme of IUCN's Secretariat;

NOTING that, through the World Parks Congress, protected areas are the focal topic of the only themed Congress that is held periodically by IUCN;

ALSO NOTING that protected areas are a substantial part of the programme of the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in 2008;

MINDFUL that a recent survey reaffirmed that the membership views IUCN's work on protected areas as a central flagship role of the Union;

NOTING that 314 out of 562 responses to a recent IUCN member survey indicated that they were involved in protected areas (55.9% of respondents) (*Annexes to the Global Survey of IUCN Members, Supplementary Data to the Main Report, December 2007*);

NOTING that IUCN Council Resolution No. C/69/35 of March 2008 identified protected areas and climate change as the highest priorities in the *IUCN Programme 2009-2012* and requested the IUCN Commissions and Secretariat to support these priorities in an integrated and strategic manner;

RECALLING Decision VII/28 of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP7 CBD) that specifies the roles that IUCN should play in implementation of the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*;

AWARE that the Programme of IUCN should represent all of the work of the Union, including its Commissions;

NOTING that the total core funding allocated by IUCN to its Programme on Protected Areas is less than 1% of its current budget; and

CONCERNED that this level of funding allocation does not reflect the priority that IUCN should give to its Programme on Protected Areas and is insufficient to meet the Programme's pressing needs, or those of WCPA and IUCN's regional protected areas programmes;

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

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- (a) ensure that there is sufficient allocation of funds to the Programme on Protected Areas, including adequate staff and financial support at the regional level, and that funding is consistent with requirements of the *IUCN Programme 2009-2012*;
- (b) allocate adequate financial and technical resources for WCPA to fulfil all its responsibilities, including those specified in the CBD *Programme of Work on Protected Areas*; and
- (c) develop a strategy to ensure the long-term financial support of IUCN's work on protected areas.