

4.041 Following up on actions called for by the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas (Bariloche, 2007)

CONSIDERING that the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas, (Bariloche, 30 September to 6 October 2007), was attended by more than 2,200 participants representing a broad spectrum of varied interests, including managers of protected areas, representatives of national and local governments and regional integration organizations, civil organizations devoted to the conservation of nature and social development, international organizations, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists, academics and private business people;

SHARING a concern and common commitment that was expressed in the *Bariloche Declaration*;

RECOGNIZING that the protected areas of the region are part of a Latin American natural and cultural heritage, constituting indispensable instruments for achieving the objectives of sustainable development and for improving the well-being of the peoples of the region, while at the same time contributing solutions to major global environmental problems;

EMPHASIZING the emergence, advance and strengthening of various forms of social organization that have arisen in recent decades, out of which developed shared management of protected areas by states and local actors;

REAFFIRMING support for and commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* as a fundamental means for achieving the goals of protected area systems in a financially sustainable and efficiently managed manner;

RECOGNIZING the advances achieved in the development of national protected area systems, the evaluation of management effectiveness in many of these areas, and the growing capacity of the park ranger corps and other conservation workers;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the experience gained through the decentralization of governmental functions with respect to the establishment and management of protected areas, the development ecological and functional connectivity initiatives, and the contribution of various governance schemes, such as the co-management of protected areas, areas administered by sub-national and local governments, indigenous peoples, local communities and private property owners;

CONSIDERING that the region is a global leader in joint management and co-management of protected areas along with indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and various ethnic groups whose territories, lands and resources have been in many cases preserved through their traditional knowledge and practices, but that there is insufficient participation of these groups and less than full exercise of their collective and individual rights, which are guaranteed by national and international legislation;

CONCERNED because the impact of climate change, in the form of changes in temperature and precipitation, as well as the consequent variations in the pattern of distribution of biomass and species, constitutes a new threat for the protected areas of Latin America;

ALSO CONCERNED that coastal and marine areas are being subjected to ever-increasing pressures by uses such as fishing, tourism and urban development, which exacerbate their vulnerability; and

RECOGNIZING that the knowledge, innovations and traditional practices of indigenous peoples contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, and therefore to the environmental quality and the sustainable development of Latin America;

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

1. INVITES the governments of Latin America and regional integration organizations to recognize the fundamental role of protected areas in strategies for adapting to climate change, in combating desertification and in promoting regional monitoring, mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to these phenomena;

2. CALLS ON governments, international aid institutions and civil society, for the 2008-2012 period, to agree upon concrete annual budgetary goals and to implement the necessary legal and administrative reforms to close the financial gaps that have been identified in the financial sustainability plans of protected area systems;
3. REQUESTS governments to ensure that commitments, commercial agreements, economic development and infrastructure initiatives do not negatively affect protected areas and reduce the possibility of achieving the conservation and development objectives for which they were created, thus assuring the fulfilment of international conventions, which have a binding character for countries in the region;
4. PROPOSES that governments declare the 2008- 2018 period the Decade of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), prioritizing in Latin America the creation of national and regional networks of MPAs and the integrated management of the seas in order to achieve the commitments and goals of 2012 and 2015, increasing during this decade both the number and surface area of MPAs in the region, in coastal zones as well as in the high seas, thus contributing to the conservation and integrated management of biodiversity and marine processes and the maintenance of sustainable fisheries;
5. CALLS FOR the informed participation of local communities, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants, organizations of civil society, women's associations, scientists and academics, users, and the private sector in the participatory planning of protected areas, applying the principles of good governance such as transparency, fairness, accountability and access to conflict management and development mechanisms and initiatives that make possible the effective management of these areas and the equitable distribution of the costs and benefits associated with the establishment and sustainable management of protected areas;
6. CALLS ON civil society to make available and promote widely the results of the II Latin American Congress on National Parks and Other Protected Areas (the 'Bariloche Congress') and the application of its conclusions and recommendations in developing policies and practices designed to strengthen the protected areas of the region; and
7. CALLS ON multilateral cooperation organizations and agencies to adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the Bariloche Congress;

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:

8. REQUESTS the Director General, in consultation with IUCN's Commissions and membership, to incorporate and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Bariloche Congress.