

#### 4.054 The Yasuní-ITT Initiative

CONSIDERING that on 5 June 2007 the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Rafael Correa launched the Yasuní-ITT Initiative, committing to keeping crude oil beneath the soil in the ITT (Ishpingo, Tambococha, Tiputini) petrol fields in exchange for fair partial compensation;

RECALLING that the Yasuní-ITT Initiative contributes to the global reduction of greenhouse gases, avoiding the release of millions of metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere;

RECOGNIZING that, in 1989, Yasuní National Park was declared a Biosphere Reserve as part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme; that the Park is of vital importance for global conservation since it is one of the few 'strictly protected areas' in the Western Amazon region;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that Yasuní National Park is located within one of the World's Global 200 Ecoregions (the Napo moist forest) declared in 2000 by WWF as of high biodiversity value and in need of protection, as well as within one of 45 priority places in the world for nature conservancy (the Amazon); and that, in 2000, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) selected Yasuní National Park for its prestigious Living Landscapes Program;

AWARE that during the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), within the framework of the High Level Dialogue on Climate Change, President Rafael Correa stated that the Yasuní-ITT Initiative would introduce a new economic logic for the 21st century, where the generation of value and not only that of goods would be compensated;

CELEBRATING that, within the framework of the Clinton Global Initiative, it was recognized that the Ecuadorian proposal would contribute to the conservation of the Amazon forests, a reduction in carbon emissions and the promotion of a green economy;

REALIZING that, according to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007), the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases increased from a pre-industrial level of 280 ppm to 379 ppm in 2005, and thus immediate effective measures to curb global atmospheric emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are necessary;

NOTING that the Government of Ecuador, through the Yasuní-ITT Initiative, is committed to using the resources from this initiative for the diversification of its energy sources and to meet the requirements of sustainable development programmes and projects;

OBSERVING that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at their 148th Ordinary Meeting held in Vienna in 2008, expressed interest in and support for the Yasuní-ITT Initiative;

ALSO OBSERVING that the II<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas, (Bariloche, September-October 2007), supported the Ecuadorian proposal and urged other Latin American countries to carry out similar initiatives; and

RECALLING that this initiative has been discussed recently during a series of workshops and meetings at the IUCN World Conservation Forum (Barcelona, October 2008), having gathered notable support from participants;

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

1. WELCOMES the Yasuní-ITT Initiative because of its commitment to global sustainable economic development;
2. RECOGNIZES the importance of the Yasuní-ITT Initiative as an innovative mechanism to reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to preserve one of the regions with the highest biodiversity in the world, and to protect the Tagaeri-Taromenani indigenous peoples; and
3. CALLS ON IUCN to play an active role in cooperation with other international organizations, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in the international promotion of the recognition of the principle of offsetting carbon emissions;

**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. CALLS ON the Director General to make the necessary efforts to support the dissemination of the Yasuní-ITT Initiative.

State and agency members of the United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.