

4.057 Conservation of Pakistan's coastal resources for future generations

RECOGNIZING that the seas are Nature's bounties that provide free recreation to thousands of people and a source of livelihood to millions of men and women who inhabit the coastal communities;

RECALLING that Article 138 of the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) states that "... good governance is essential for sustainable development...";

ACKNOWLEDGING that the impacts of the tsunami that struck South-east Asia in 2004 and of Cyclone Nargis in 2008 have demonstrated that any development at the cost of natural resources can have disastrous consequences for coastal ecosystems as well as the inhabitants of coastal communities;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that Pakistan's coastal wetlands are rich in biodiversity with mangrove forests, breeding grounds for the green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, and habitat for migratory birds;

NOTING that recent years have witnessed an increased frequency and intensity of cyclones along the coast of Pakistan;

CONCERNED that the proposed waterfront development project in Sindh Province, Pakistan, initiated by the Government through a public-private partnership, will have serious consequences on marine ecosystems, livelihoods of the fishing communities, and local inhabitants will be denied access to the sea;

NOTING that no environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been conducted, project plans were not shared with civil society, and a consultative process with local communities did not take place;

FURTHER NOTING that this development in coastal lands will destroy fishing grounds, mangrove forests, sand dunes, and increase the threat of coastal disasters; and ALARMED that the waterfront development in Sindh Province will encourage similar developments along the coast of Balochistan Province without recourse to EIAs that are required by law;

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

1. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that any development along the coast of Pakistan should:
 - (a) strictly adhere to the conclusions of an independently conducted EIA;
 - (b) not displace local inhabitants or disturb the wetlands; and
 - (c) protect fishing grounds and natural barriers; and
2. URGES the Government of Pakistan to allocate funds towards the conservation of existing coastal ecosystems to reduce the risk of environmental disasters that would threaten the security of coastal communities and the lives of local people;

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:

3. REQUESTS the Director General to convey to the Government of Pakistan case studies and lessons that substantiate the importance of natural barriers in the protection of local communities against coastal disasters.

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.