

#### 4.066 Improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea

AWARE of the environmental, strategic, economic, social and cultural values of the Mediterranean Sea, the *Mare Nostrum*, which represents a common heritage;

RECALLING the Resolutions and Recommendations of IUCN which, since 1958 have underlined the importance of the Mediterranean heritage and, in particular, Resolutions 3.034 *Strengthening the action of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation*, 3.052 *Protected areas in the Mediterranean* and 3.070 *Environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea from the risk of maritime traffic*, adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

ENCOURAGED by the desire and the will to protect the different natural and cultural elements of the Mediterranean region's heritage in a sustainable manner;

CONVINCED of the need to reinforce mutually beneficial cooperation to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources and the preservation of the marine environment of the entire Mediterranean Sea;

INDICATING the particular situation of the Mediterranean Sea with regard to the declaration of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and other extensions of national jurisdiction;

UNDERLINING therefore the importance of information exchange, the reinforcement of mutual consultations between states bordering on the Mediterranean for the improvement of the governance of the Mediterranean Sea;

AWARE of the relevant clauses in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in particular those concerning the Exclusive Economic Zone, the Continental Shelf and the protection and conservation of the marine environment;

RECALLING the principles and clauses of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its seven Protocols on: 'Dumping', 'Prevention and Emergency', 'Land-based Sources (LBS)', 'Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity', 'Offshore', 'Hazardous Wastes', and 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)';

AWARE OF the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) adopted in 1992, which calls for the conservation of genetic resources, the sustainable use of their elements and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from their exploitation, and for the creation of strategies, plans or national programmes ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

ALSO AWARE of the objectives of the CBD *Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity*; and

WELCOMING the *Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean*, agreed at a summit in Paris (13 July 2008), and committed to work for the peaceful use of the Mediterranean Sea;

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

1. CALLS ON IUCN to support, in collaboration with the organizations and processes involved, and in particular the Union for the Mediterranean, the setting up of an informal and permanent consultation process on the governance of the Mediterranean Sea;
2. CALLS ON IUCN to study in detail all the possibilities and conditions with regard to improving the governance of the Mediterranean, basin by basin, including the possible joint declaration of Exclusive Jurisdiction Zones (EJZs) relating to environmental and ecological aspects; and
3. CALLS ON IUCN's members and partners to facilitate the implementation of the following actions by relevant States, international organizations and, in particular, the Union for the Mediterranean:
  - (a) to develop an informal consultation process, in the form of a permanent consultation forum, facilitating the exchange of information, exchanges of

perspectives between States bordering the Mediterranean on the declarations of each State regarding the extension of its national jurisdiction over the sea, in order to ensure consistency between the respective declarations and thus better governance of the Mediterranean Sea;

- (b) to create the required bases, at both legal and scientific levels, for the implementation of the solutions proposed through the consultation process;
- (c) to support the participation of all Mediterranean States, basin by basin, in these informal consultations, ensuring respect for each State's conditions of sovereignty and jurisdiction; and
- (d) to reinforce all the other possibilities of regional or sub-regional cooperation for improving the governance of the Mediterranean Sea, in collaboration with various international organizations, in particular the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and its centres of regional activity (CRA), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Convention on Migratory Species - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (CMS/ACCOBAMS), whilst respecting their respective mandates.

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.