

4.069 Mangrove conservation in Mesoamerica

ACKNOWLEDGING that mangroves contribute to reducing the strength and limiting the impact of coastal weather events that result from global climate change and which could be potentially disastrous to human societies;

BEARING IN MIND the need to avoid or prevent loss of the rich biodiversity supported by these ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that the region's mangrove forests are severely threatened by conversion to other uses, and by inadequately planned tourism and urban development; and

RECOGNIZING that we have the collective capacity to reduce threats;

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

1. REQUESTS governments in the Mesoamerican region to:
 - (a) integrate mangrove-loss impacts into riskmanagement processes relating to threats associated with climate change;
 - (b) comply with their national commitments relating to wetland conservation, particularly mangroves, under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands - in particular the commitments made by Central American Governments to achieve the goals defined by the *Central American Policy for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands*; and
 - (c) involve civil society and the private sector in planning, risk prevention and impact mitigation associated with climate change in coastal areas;

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:

2. REQUESTS the Director General, in consultation with IUCN Commissions and National Committees, to give priority to actions relating to mangrove ecosystem conservation in Mesoamerica.

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.