

4.006 IUCN's name

WHEREAS IUCN was created as the 'International Union for the Protection of Nature' (IUPN);

WHEREAS the 5th IUPN General Assembly (Edinburgh, 1956) changed the name to properly reflect the objectives of IUCN laid down in the Statutes to 'International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources';

WHEREAS the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) amended Article 1 of the Statutes by adding the clause stating that IUCN is "also known as the World Conservation Union";

NOTING that the French and Spanish versions of the phrase "The World Conservation Union" did not include the word "conservation", and used the word "nature";

NOTING that Article I of the Convention on Biological Diversity clearly delineated its objectives as "the conservation of biological diversity" and "the sustainable use of its components", thus reflecting general public understanding that the word "conservation" does not always embody the term sustainable use;

FURTHER NOTING that IUCN's Council decided at its 69th Meeting, in March 2008, to change the formulation "International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources" contained in Part I, Article 1 of the Statutes to "International Union for Conservation of Nature" without the required formal amendment;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the proposed amendment solves the problem of coherence of the IUCN name in English, French and Spanish; and

CONCERNED that this decision has not eliminated the problems of translating the word "conservation" into some languages, such as German, where the current translations imply that IUCN deals only with nature protection and not environmentally sustainable development and use of natural resources;

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

REQUESTS IUCN's Council to draft a procedure that enables the approval of the short version of IUCN's legal name in cases where a given language does not provide for a formulation which correctly reflects the objectives laid out in the Statutes and to ensure conformity when translated into other languages.

State and agency members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion.