

4.072 Private protected areas and nature stewardship

RECOGNIZING the existence of protected areas owned and/or managed through private mechanisms in many parts of the world, and that their number and extent are growing fast;

CONSIDERING that often they are the result of local initiative and conducted without the direct intervention of governments, and that they are not yet fully integrated into national conservation planning or reporting in many countries;

NOTING that the international system of protected areas management categories emphasizes the role of governments in their management and therefore private protected areas are not as well understood globally as their contributions warrant;

RECOGNIZING that the current IUCN review of the protected areas management categories and the relatively recent focus on cross-cutting governance typologies, represents an opportunity to begin to better understand the proliferating spectrum of private protected areas and private land stewardship;

CONSIDERING that through the different mechanisms of private protected areas and nature stewardship, there is great potential for enlarging the social basis for nature conservation by recruiting new actors to support our work and obtaining more public recognition for protected areas and nature conservation in general;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT documents reflecting the relevance of private protected areas and nature stewardship in the world, including various decisions from the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), discussions related to the Strategic Objective on protected areas under the Biodiversity Strategy for the Fourth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-4) Trust Fund (Washington, 2005) and other relevant publications;

ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the discussions and outcomes of the following events held during the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), including:

- (a) workshop on International perspectives on land stewardship and private land conservation: A worldwide forum;
- (b) Alliances workshops Private conservation as a tool for achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability and Why should you care about land stewardship and private protected areas? A snapshot of a growing field in conservation; and
- (c) Learning Opportunity A private sector approach for practitioners - Conservation agreements in support of marine protection;

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*:

REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), in consultation with the World Commission on Protected Areas, to consider mechanisms to establish a task force on private protected areas and nature stewardship to organize and access the knowledge of a voluntary group of experts interested in private protected areas and nature stewardship.