

4.073 Support the building of an ecological vision for the Amazon biome

CONSIDERING that implementation of the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)*, adopted through Decision VII/28 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is to be done at the national and regional levels, and that CBD Decision IX/18 invited parties to "promote the development and importance of ecological networks for both terrestrial and marine areas, at national, regional and sub-regional levels, where appropriate";

NOTING that the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas (Bariloche, September- October 2007) gave attention to ecological networks and systems of protected areas at all levels, with particular emphasis on the regional approach, including the case of the Amazon, as a way to build complementarity with national systems to better achieve fully representative conservation;

WELCOMING the leadership role taken by REDPARQUES (the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wild Flora) in bringing together the eight Amazon countries and one territory, with the support of the CBD Secretariat, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), IUCN, WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and other organizations, in Bogota, in August 2008, to develop a Pan-Amazon ecological vision, related to the regional approach in the implementation of PoWPA as a complement to national systems;

ACKNOWLEDGING that during the Latin American Sub-regional Workshop 'Towards Capacity Building for the Implementation of the PoWPA' (Salinas, September 2008), organized by the CBD Secretariat and the Government of Ecuador, the Amazonian countries ratified the work plan proposed in Bogota;

AWARE OF the fact that the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD (CBD COP10), during which parties will evaluate the implementation of the PoWPA, will be an important opportunity for strengthening the Pan-Amazon ecological network of protected areas, including in relation to climate change, setting a beneficial precedent for the rest of the world in terms of the importance of the regional approach;

MINDFUL OF the recognition of IUCN, its members, and especially the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and the Programme on Protected Areas, as the world's foremost organization on the subject of protected areas;

RECOGNIZING the role that regional organizations such as ACTO and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) play in regional cooperation efforts for the conservation of the Amazon biome;

CONSIDERING that the agenda for the Pan-Amazon ecological vision recognizes the need for the vision to be developed together with indigenous peoples, local traditional communities and other organizations, acknowledging their ethnic and cultural diversity, according to the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

CONSIDERING that the Amazon contains the largest remaining contiguous rainforest on Earth with an unparalleled aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and hugely extensive ecological services, including an indispensable role in global climate stability, and its rich natural resource base that provides a source of livelihoods for many social groups both within and outside the region; and

CONSIDERING that the future of the Amazon depends on the maintenance of ecological processes to resist pressures from climate change and increasing demand for natural resources, that these are challenges that go beyond single states, and that protected areas are key to addressing those challenges and promoting adaptation to climate change;

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

1. ENCOURAGES the eight Amazon countries and one territory to continue the process to build the Pan-Amazon ecological vision and expresses congratulations to REDPARQUES and its partners for this initiative;

2. INVITES IUCN members in the region to join efforts for this initiative and IUCN members outside the region to support it;
3. RECOMMENDS that donors, particularly those already engaged in the region, should support this initiative;
4. RECOMMENDS that the Executive Secretary of the CBD continues supporting this regional effort as a good example of CBD implementation through the Ecosystem Approach, and as a means of achieving more comprehensive biodiversity conservation, particularly in relation to the PoWPA;
5. RECOMMENDS that ACTO and CAN incorporate elements of the Pan-Amazon ecological vision agenda in their biodiversity-related programmes and strategies; and
6. CALLS ON multilateral organizations, such as OAS, ACTO and CAN, and non-governmental organizations, such as WWF, TNC, Fundación Natura, Fundación Humedales and others, to continue providing technical and financial support for building the agenda;

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:

7. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) continue to support the building of the Pan Amazon ecological vision; and
 - (b) ensure that IUCN's technical expertise is available in the preparation of an Amazon regional technical report, complementary to national reports, to inform the progress of the implementation of the PoWPA, to be presented to CBD COP10; and
8. CALLS ON IUCN's Commissions to provide technical support to REDPARQUES and its partners in this initiative, joining forces with the IUCN Secretariat, WWF, ACTO, CAN and others.

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.