

4.074 Climate change and overexploitation of natural resources - inclusion in the IUCN Programme

RECALLING that Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* adopted by the 3rd

IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) emphasized the need for IUCN to prioritize integration into all its programmes the fight against climate change in order to avoid the loss of biodiversity;

OBSERVING that the *IUCN Programme 2009-2012: Shaping a Sustainable Future*, gives special importance to integrating reflections on and opportunities concerning biodiversity into policies and practices relating to climate change and to implementing ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient energy systems;

EMPHASIZING the need for the IUCN Programme to promote strategies for reducing the exploitation of natural resources, especially in wealthy countries, and that it is assumed that these resources are limited;

ALSO EMPHASIZING that economic development, based on unlimited growth, leads to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and causes the loss of biodiversity;

CONCERNED by the rapid approach of the 2°C rise in average global temperature with respect to pre-industrial levels that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has established as the limit for a catastrophic climate change, including grave losses of biodiversity;

FURTHER EMPHASIZING that:

- (a) in order to prevent this dangerous increase in temperature the IPCC stipulates that global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by half by mid-century, and that a significant proportion of these gases results from changes in soil use causing the loss of biodiversity, especially deforestation;
- (b) the IPCC has established that the next 10 years are key for reversing the increase in global greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, beyond their capacity for regeneration, constitutes a fundamental cause of climate change, and exacerbates the effects of climate change on biodiversity; and (d) the *IUCN Programme 2009-2012* needs to recognize that greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector in wealthy countries are the main cause of climate change, due to an unsustainable energy model based on the consumption of fossil resources; and

CONCERNED because the IUCN Programme focuses in a very generic manner under Thematic Area 2 on two global results dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation, precluding the great possibilities that the efforts to stop deforestation offer in the fight against climate change;

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

1. URGES IUCN's members to prioritize the integration into all of their programmes of actions to combat climate change in order to prevent the loss of biodiversity and to assure the integrity of ecosystems;

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. CALLS ON the Director General to incorporate the following points into the *IUCN Programme 2009- 2012*:
 - (a) inclusion of the necessary energy-model change, based on reducing energy consumption and production in wealthy countries, as the main objective of Thematic Area 2, without neglecting the need for equitable and sustainable distribution of energy consumption among all of the planet's inhabitants;

- (b) modification of proposed Global Result 2.1, to specify that policies and practices for mitigating climate change are to be carried out in parallel with efforts to combat deforestation, peatland degradation and other processes of biodiversity loss;
- (c) clear prioritization of the urgent need to act decisively in efforts to tackle biodiversity loss, and to prevent deforestation and destruction of peatlands, as means of fighting climate change; and
- (d) inclusion of IUCN support for a trade model that encourages locally oriented trade and the consumption of locally produced goods and services, and which incorporates the long-distance environmental and social costs.

State member New Zealand indicated that it was unable to support the motion.

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.