

#### 4.076 Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies

RECALLING Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme*, Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy*, and Recommendation 2.94 *Climate change mitigation and land use* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* and Recommendation 3.084 *Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) first signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which entered into force on 29 December 1993, guides domestic law and the development of national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity;

NOTING that the CBD recognizes that biological diversity is also about people and their need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live;

RECOGNIZING that the responsibility for achieving the CBD's goals rests largely with the countries themselves, where governments need to provide the critical role of leadership, particularly by setting rules that guide the use of natural resources, and by protecting biodiversity where they have direct control over the land and water;

NOTING that under the CBD, governments undertake to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and are required to develop National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and to integrate these action plans into broader national plans for environment and development;

UNDERSTANDING the effects of climate change on biodiversity and that the effects of mitigation opportunities through biodiversity conservation are only now being given more attention;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the findings of the *Fourth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which identifies the risk of severe climate-change impacts on ecosystems and species;

RECOGNIZING the important role that biodiversity plays in the provision of ecosystem goods and services such as climate regulation, provision of water, mitigation of the effects of catastrophic events, food security and provision of traditional medicines and the need to maintain these ecosystem goods and services in order to help humans adapt to climate change;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that effective integrated landscape management including effective protected area systems will build the resilience of natural systems to climate change so that the supply of ecosystem goods and services can be maintained;

UNDERSTANDING that certain activities that might be undertaken to mitigate and adapt to climate change could have strong negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and the people who depend on them;

RECOGNIZING the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into all relevant national policies, programmes and plans, in response to climate change;

NOTING that many countries have not addressed the issues of climate change in national biodiversity strategies; and

RECOGNIZING the important role IUCN has played in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the CBD;

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

1. URGES Parties to the CBD to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity within their national biodiversity strategies and to ensure that ecosystem goods and

services from biodiversity are maintained through adequate integrated landscape and seascape management and effective protected area systems;

2. CALLS ON Parties to the CBD to develop specific strategies to be incorporated into their national biodiversity strategies that will:
  - (a) reduce the potential of accelerated loss of native biodiversity from climate change;
  - (b) ensure that the loss of native biodiversity is not increased by measures to combat or adapt to climate change; and (c) ensure the opportunities for conserving native biodiversity are included in mechanisms to adapt to and mitigate climate change with special attention to the most vulnerable ecosystems; and
3. URGES Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to incorporate in their national plans and strategies approaches that acknowledge the role that biodiversity, ecosystems and protected area systems can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

**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:**

4. REQUESTS the Director General to:
  - (a) write to all governments encouraging the development of such measures;
  - (b) support the development of such strategies by developing guidelines and case studies of best practice in consultation with Commissions;
  - (c) support capacity building for developing countries in building and implementing such strategies; and
  - (d) monitor the inclusion of such strategies and report on their effectiveness to the Conferences of Parties to CBD and UNFCCC.

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.