

#### 4.082 Sustainable biomass-based energy

RECOGNIZING that demand for energy is growing in many parts of the world;

AWARE that oil is the most convenient source of energy for many applications particularly as fuel for transportation, but that it releases substantial amounts of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) to the atmosphere, thereby contributing significantly to climate change;

FURTHER AWARE that oil prices have substantially increased (reflecting a supply-demand imbalance), driving substantial new investments in alternative sources of energy that may be both more efficient and have a positive effect on greenhouse gases;

RECALLING that the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) adopted Resolution 3.059 *IUCN's energy-related work relevant to biodiversity conservation*, which "calls on IUCN to provide leadership in advancing ecologically-sound energy systems for sustainable development, as a necessary and core part of the biodiversity conservation objectives of the Union..." and Recommendation 3.086 *Coordination of sustainable development programmes for energy*;

FURTHER RECALLING that the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) adopted Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy*, which "calls on the Director General... to help educate government officials, civil society, and the private sector... about cleaner, more affordable available energy options";

RECALLING Decision IX/5 of the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP9) that urged Parties, other governments, and relevant international and other organizations to: "Address both, direct and indirect, positive and negative impacts that the production and use of biomass for energy, in particular large-scale and/or industrial production and use, might have on... biodiversity".

NOTING numerous government policies and rapidly growing investments in renewable sources of energy, especially based on biomass, and that large-scale and/or industrial biomass investments have already led to significant negative impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, including increased greenhouse-gas emissions;

APPRECIATING the progress that has been made by governments, universities, the private sector and civil society on developing principles, criteria and guidelines for sustainable bioenergy, such as the Dutch Framework Report for Sustainable Biomass (the 'Cramer Report'), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) *Performance Based Guidelines*, the *Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels*, and the International Risk Governance Council's (IRGC) *Risk Governance Guidelines for Bioenergy Policies*;

AWARE that major technological investments in sustainable biofuels are highly likely to generate new approaches to bioenergy, especially those based on cellulose, algae, municipal, industrial and agricultural waste, and other sources that would not otherwise be used as food (so-called 'second generation' bioenergy), and that the resulting new approaches may be significantly more sustainable than the current use of biomass such as sugarcane, maize, canola, soy and oil palm - all of which are also important for food security (so-called 'first generation' bioenergy);

RECOGNIZING that innovation in this field may require economic incentives, including public subsidies to test potential options, but that for the long-term sustainability of the sector, such support should decline over time; and

REALIZING that even with the application of advanced technology and production methods, biomass-based energy will meet only a relatively modest part of the global demand for energy, and therefore needs to be considered within the context of comprehensive energy plans that include demand management, conservation, efficiency, appropriate carbon sequestration technologies, other renewable sources of energy and others;

**The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 4-15 October 2008:**

1. CALLS ON governments who choose to develop large-scale or industrial bioenergy to implement and enforce criteria for the ecologically sustainable, socially appropriate and economically viable production and use of biomass, that:
  - (a) cause no net loss of biodiversity;
  - (b) cause no emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and degradation of other natural ecosystems;
  - (c) do not adversely affect food security;
  - (d) ensure that biomass energy reduces net emissions of greenhouse gases as compared to alternatives;
  - (e) provide benefits to feedstock producers, particularly vulnerable groups such as the rural poor, women and indigenous peoples;
  - (f) require production methods that use water efficiently and sustainably, favour the planting of native species, and avoid the planting of potentially invasive species; and
  - (g) discourage trade in unsustainably produced bioenergy, using non-protectionist measures;

**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 continue to support efforts to develop sustainable biofuels that conserve biodiversity, bring significant benefits to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and contribute to social development objectives (especially benefiting the rural poor, women and indigenous peoples).

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.