

4.008 Including local and regional governmental authorities in the structure of the Union

RECALLING the recognition during the Earth Summit in 1992 of the key role played by local and regional governmental authorities in sustainable development and their commitment to the implementation of *Agenda 21* on a local scale;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the role played by local and regional authorities throughout the world in land-use planning and nature conservation and in devising policies to complement those of States;

RECALLING Resolution 3.003 *Engagement by IUCN with local and regional government authorities* and Resolution 3.063 *Cities and Conservation* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

COMMENDING the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity launched at the 4th Session of the World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) on 7 October 2008; and

BEING OF THE OPINION that IUCN must convene all conservation actors and encourage all policies which enable biodiversity loss to be halted;

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

1. TAKES NOTE of the amendments to the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Regulations agreed by the present Session of the World Conservation Congress;
2. AGREES ON the need for IUCN to give further and serious consideration to including regional and local government authorities as members within the IUCN structure;
3. RECOGNIZES that regional and local authorities are critical actors in making progress on the conservation of nature in many countries;
4. RECOGNIZES the work done by the sponsors in developing and submitting the proposed amendments to the Statutes on a new membership category for local and regional government authorities; and
5. REQUESTS the IUCN Council to take actions, *inter alia*, to:
 - (a) seek legal advice from experts within the IUCN network and the Commission on Environmental Law on how local and regional authorities might be included in the structure of the Union, to distribute a legal technical report for discussion by the IUCN Council before the end of 2009 and to distribute this document to IUCN members;
 - (b) develop options on the basis of this legal advice and with the support of the IUCN Legal Advisor to address issues raised by members at the 4th Session of the World Conservation Congress to present to Council by the middle of 2010;
 - (c) consult, at the latest by 2011, the IUCN membership on these options, including through National and Regional Committees, and IUCN members representing local and regional government authorities, and also to bring into the discussion local and regional government authorities through representative organizations; and
 - (d) recommend to the 5th Session of the World Conservation Congress a reform to the IUCN Statutes to include local and regional authorities in the structure of the Union, as appropriate.