

4.094 Impetus and support for local and regional biodiversity conservation policies

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

CONSIDERING the great responsibility of municipalities and regional administrations in natural resource management and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity;

ALSO CONSIDERING that the legislations of most States provide for a wide range of tasks to be implemented by municipalities and regions in fields that have an important impact on biodiversity conservation and natural resource use;

MINDFUL that local and regional governments need to acquire more knowledge about biodiversity and scientific/ technical support in order for their actions to incorporate conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as one of their priorities;

RECOGNIZING the efforts that municipalities and regions have made since the 1992 Earth Summit to adopt plans and programmes that make progress towards more sustainable development models and to consolidate and extend networks that pursue this same objective; and

ALSO RECOGNIZING that sharing of responsibility by municipalities and regions is indispensable for the development of any territorial strategy aimed at sustainable natural resource use and for active citizen participation in pursuit of this aim;

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

1. REQUESTS local and regional governments and their representative organizations, in the exercise of their powers, to articulate specific policies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and to incorporate these elements into their sectoral policies as important factors in decision making;

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. ASKS the Director General to:
 - (a) explore possible mechanisms for collaboration between IUCN and municipal and regional authorities and their primary associations, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) on a global level, and other similar entities at the State and regional level, in order to strengthen local initiatives in favour of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use; and
 - (b) foster cooperation, exchange and networking with other local and regional authorities, organizations and non-governmental entities in pursuit of these objectives; and
3. CALLS ON IUCN's Commissions, in collaboration with IUCN Regional and National Committees and IUCN members, to encourage specific work programmes with local and regional authorities, within their respective spheres and associations, for the development of local biodiversity and sustainable development policies and for the management of spaces with natural values.

State and agency members of the United States voted against this motion.