

#### 4.009 Transparency of the IUCN Council

RECALLING Resolution 3.002 *Improving the transparency of the IUCN Council* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which called on the Council "... to establish firm procedures to improve... [its] ... transparency";

WELCOMING Council Decision C165124 taken during the 65th Meeting of Council (22-24 May 2006), "... to make available to the members through the password protected Members' Portal, the Council agenda and the final adopted minutes of each Council meeting with immediate effect and that these documents be made available in IUCN's three languages...";

PLEASED that the draft agendas and minutes of Council meetings and important discussions since May 2006 have been available on the Members' Portal;

CONCERNED, however, that it took almost two years for this action to be taken and that minutes of earlier meetings and actions of IUCN's Council have not been posted;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the Members' Portal, <http://members.almlet.net/>, has not been widely used by the IUCN membership, is not fully maintained as an IUCN website, and has had major site and document access problems;

RECALLING that Resolution 3.002 proposed a number of additional actions to further improve the transparency of the Council's deliberations, including provisions for direct and regular transmission of the Council agendas, background materials and minutes to members who request them;

CONCERNED that IUCN's Council has not taken additional actions or adopted other provisions to improve the members' access to its discussions and action;

RECOGNIZING that the World Conservation Congress provides an opportunity for IUCN's Council to report on and discuss its work with the full IUCN membership; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the ideal time and location for all current and future Councillors to be informed of their obligations and responsibilities is during the World Conservation Congress;

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

1. CALLS ON IUCN's Council to continue its efforts to improve its transparency to the members including:
  - (a) improvement in access to and functioning of the Members' Portal, or, if necessary, development of a more appropriate site that provides full and timely reporting of Council's deliberations and actions;
  - (b) establishment of procedures that ensure direct and regular transmission of the Council agendas, background materials, committee reports and minutes to members who request them, and provide members with full information about these procedures; and
  - (c) convening one or more open meetings at each Session of the World Conservation Congress, with sufficient time allowed for questions and comments from the delegates:
    - (i) to receive and review a written report by the current Council members on their experience with the work of the Council, the support of the Secretariat and proposals for improvement of Council work; and
    - (ii) for all candidates for election as Councillors or Commission Chairs (both those running again and new candidates) to say what they would do if elected and how to improve on the past; and
2. CALLS ON IUCN's Council, beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress, to schedule a meeting at each Session of the World Conservation Congress to be attended only by all current and newly elected Councillors, to review and discuss

Council's obligations and responsibilities to the membership, as well as major issues facing the new Council.

State and agency members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion.