

## **WCC-2012-Rec-172-EN**

### **Development of renewable energy and biodiversity conservation**

RECALLING that, in the first place, energy policies should be based on energy conservation;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy* adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), Resolutions 4.076 *Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies* and 4.078 *Appeal for action to address global environmental change* adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

CONSIDERING that the world is faced with global climate change, which leads to a growing loss of biodiversity and that the assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stress the risk of serious effects of climate change on ecosystems and species, for example the risk of the extinction of one third of all living species or the intensification of the bleaching of coral reefs;

RECOGNIZING the important role played by ecosystems in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;

EMPHASIZING that the extraction and burning of fossil fuels are responsible for 80% of all human-related greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere;

RECALLING that, in order to address both the challenge of global warming and the growing scarcity of fossil fuels, many countries are developing renewable energy sources;

NOTING that, according to a recent report by IPCC, renewable energy sources could provide 77% of the world's energy needs, if there is strong political backing; and

CONSIDERING that the projects based on the development of renewable energy sources present fewer risks for the environment than other means of production based on fossil fuels, although they can also have a major impact on ecosystems, as in the case of hydroelectricity;

#### ***The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:***

CALLS ON States to:

- a. commit themselves resolutely to renewable sources of energy, favouring their deployment in accordance with the demands of sustainable development, incorporating in particular energy conservation, the preservation of ecosystems and dialogue with the various stakeholders;
- b. support more strongly innovation and research into developing renewable energy sources in order to reduce and progressively replace the current, unsustainable means of production and consumption based on fossil fuels;
- c. formulate energy policies, systems and projects, by:
  - i. applying the precautionary principle for the most sensitive natural environments;

- ii. demanding the strict application of the regulation on environmental impact studies (biodiversity, landscapes, etc.) and of the 'avoid, reduce, compensate' principle;
  - iii. asking for precise ecological diagnoses to be carried out in accordance with the type of energy used;
  - iv. ensuring that the operators are correctly trained and evaluated in the safest techniques for biodiversity, in particular for offshore wind turbines, which must take into account the conservation of marine biodiversity, the preservation of fisheries resources, and possibly contribute to the creation of artificial reefs validated by the scientific community and the stakeholders;
  - v. avoiding the footprint of the equipment by using existing built-up areas, or by limiting their footprint as far as possible on sites that have already been created so as to avoid degrading natural areas;
  - vi. encouraging a focus on energy efficiency; and
  - vii. strengthening the dialogue with all civil society actors, notably with nature conservation associations and the managers of natural areas; and
- d. integrate the protection of biodiversity into all national and regional energy policies, in order to:
- i. allow for truly sustainable development of both terrestrial and marine areas, taking into account the preservation and enhancement of natural environments; and
  - ii. recognize and enhance the role played by ecosystems and protected area networks in terms of the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.