

WCC-2012-Rec-173-EN

Offshore oil drilling in French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana

RECALLING the ecological fragility and the socio-economic importance of the coastline of the Guianas;

FURTHER RECALLING that the coastlines of French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana are places with the highest concentration of migrating and wintering waders in northern South America, and that their beaches are a site of international importance for the laying of sea turtle eggs;

RECALLING that the Guiana Shield is an area frequently visited by delphinids such as the Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and by certain cartilaginous fish such as the Giant Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*);

CONSIDERING the regional cooperation project for the conservation of sea mammals (MAMA COCO SEA), which should result in the creation of sanctuaries extending from the coasts of Brazil to Venezuela;

STRESSING the fact that the local population on the coasts of French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana depend directly on fishery resources;

CONSIDERING the risks of deepwater oil extraction, dramatically illustrated by the accident on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010;

CONSIDERING the uncontrollable impact that accidents like this could have on the natural environment, marine resources and the populations of French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana; and

RECALLING that the exploitation and use of oil releases high concentrations of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing greatly to global greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on our climate;

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

CALLS ON the governments of France, Suriname and Guyana to:

- a. adopt a moratorium on deepwater oil extraction in the three countries in the Guiana Shield;
- b. strengthen energy conservation policy and support for renewable energy sources, compatible with biodiversity conservation, in order to support the ecological transition of these territories;
- c. establish an international, cross-border marine protected area on the Guiana Shield, linked to the project for a marine mammal sanctuary stretching from the coasts of Brazil to Venezuela; and
- d. strengthen the sustainable management of fishery resources in order to protect marine biodiversity as well as the needs and economic activities of the local populations on the Guiana Shield.

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.