

WCC-2012-Res-088-EN
Responsible renewable energy sources

RECALLING that the mission of the IUCN is to “influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable”;

CONSCIOUS that access to energy sources is important to human development;

RECOGNIZING that demand for energy is growing in many parts of the world;

RECALLING that the world is facing problems resulting from global warming, a consequence of the greenhouse gases produced by the use of fossil fuels;

RECOGNIZING the important role of renewable energy sources in replacing fossil fuels in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

RECALLING that the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) adopted Resolution 4.081 *Equitable access to energy* which expressed the need to diversify energy supply (...) developing cleaner, healthy, more efficient, socially acceptable and environmentally sound technologies;

ALSO RECALLING that the same Congress adopted Resolutions 4.082 *Sustainable biomass-based energy* and 4.083 *Industrial agrofuel production* in which concern was expressed over the environmental and social impacts resulting from the use of biofuels;

CONCERNED that industrial biofuel production is:

- a. causing serious deforestation and degradation of forests, which are replaced by monocultures for biofuel production;
- b. forcing people to leave their lands and removing their capacity to produce the foods that they need to survive; and
- c. responsible for the increase in greenhouse gas emissions during different phases of the production cycle of the aforesaid biofuels; and

RECOGNIZING the potential risk to biodiversity from development of renewable energy technologies and the importance of mitigating direct negative impacts on habitats and species where they occur;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that governments:
 - a. conduct analyses of the potential social and environmental impacts, and the impacts on human rights, throughout the life cycle of large scale biofuel productions and other renewable energy technologies;
 - b. conduct environmental impact assessments on renewable energy technologies, in accordance with the legislation in force in each country;
 - c. assess the effects of proposed renewable energy projects, including effects on protected natural areas of regional, national and international importance such as

the European Natura 2000 sites, and on habitats of especially sensitive and vulnerable species; undertake effective mitigation measures, which may include avoidance, and enforce actions in cases where national regulations have not been adhered to; and

- d. include in their energy plans the decentralization of renewable energy source production systems in order to avoid the large scale infrastructure associated with centralized systems, thus reducing social and ecological impacts;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to promote, on the basis of IUCN data, the compilation of a report to be made available to Members, including an assessment of the environmental and social impacts which, to date, have been caused by the production and use of biofuels on a global scale;
3. URGES governments to take forward new first and second generation biofuel production projects and other renewable energy projects which are safe and sustainable; and
4. REQUESTS governments to consider the importance of protected spaces and to avoid setting up large space energy projects within them.

State and agency Members of the United States voted against this Motion.