

4.109 Funding programmes for small-scale civil society projects for global biodiversity conservation

CONSIDERING that poverty and the depletion of natural resources are intimately linked phenomena and that poverty reduction goes hand-in-hand with biodiversity protection, as underlined by Resolution 2.36 *Poverty reduction and conservation of environment* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

NOTING that multilateral financial institutions and development aid agencies, support and develop large-scale environmental projects, primarily at government and public administration level, funding for which is largely inaccessible to NGOs in developing countries;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that civil society in developing countries (NGOs, local authorities and small local enterprises) should play a more active role in the conservation of natural resources;

NOTING that biodiversity protection projects implemented by civil society can have significant impacts in relation to the means available for such projects and can give rise to tangible results in biodiversity-rich zones;

COMMENDING donors and development agencies (e.g. the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), IUCN Netherlands) for having embarked on this trajectory by creating NGO-adapted funding tools with flexible procedures and grants of the order of tens of thousands of Euros per project; and

RECOGNIZING that NGOs in developing countries need to be supported and assisted to strengthen their role and influence on environmental policies in these countries;

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

1. REQUESTS development agencies and public and private donors to create and develop funding programmes for small-scale nature-conservation projects (between €10,000 and €100,000) in developing countries; and
2. REQUESTS the European Union, and in particular the European Commission, to implement a funding mechanism for small-scale biodiversity conservation projects in developing countries.

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