

4.123 Promotion of Category V and VI Protected Areas for biodiversity conservation

CONSIDERING Recommendation 3.048 *IUCN Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) and Recommendation V.19 *IUCN Protected Area Management Categories*, endorsed by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), which were aimed at improving the use of protected area management categories at national and international levels;

RECOGNIZING the work of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Task Force on Management Categories and of the WCPA Task Force on the Protected Landscape Category, , that has borne fruit, among other documents and events, in the *IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories Summit*, held in Almería, Spain 7–11 May 2007, and the Workshop on Category V, held in Olot, Spain, 24–28 September 2006, with the support of the Catalan Department of Environment and Housing;

AWARE that there are still few countries that have classified their protected areas in accordance with the system of categories proposed by IUCN, in spite of Decision VII/28 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which urged governments to apply and use the IUCN system;

FURTHER AWARE that protection Categories V and VI contribute significantly to the conservation of biological diversity, in terms of surface area protected, as has been demonstrated by the publications and papers of the aforementioned working groups, and contributes in particular to the conservation of agrobiodiversity and traditional knowledge; and

ALSO AWARE that in the Mediterranean Basin, and especially in the Mediterranean region of the European Union, natural areas belonging to Categories V and VI predominate, and that conservation of biodiversity in this region – characterized in its totality as maintaining a great biological richness and a wealth of endemic, rare, and in part globally threatened species, in spite of the enormous human-induced pressures they are subject to – stems from the protection of areas belonging to both categories;

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

1. WELCOMES work that demonstrates the contribution of Categories V and VI to the conservation of biodiversity, and that encourages, through publications of case studies and methodological guides, the correct elaboration of management plans for protected areas in Categories V and VI; and
2. DECLARES that all categories of protected areas, including Categories V and VI, make a contribution to conservation within a non-hierarchical system as agreed at the Almería Summit and as reflected in the new guidelines for applying the IUCN protected areas categories.