

4.129 Strengthening the integrated management of coastal areas

RECALLING the important natural heritage and ecological value of coastal areas, which provide several ecological services to human populations as highlighted by the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*;

RECOGNIZING the vulnerability of coastal areas, which are home to more than 60% of the global population and which are subject to several mounting pressures and increasing damage;

NOTING the close interdependence between terrestrial and marine ecosystems;

RECALLING the Ecosystem Approach recommended by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is defined as a “strategy for the integrated management of land, water, air and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use”;

CONCERNED by the rise in the number of threats and risks to coastal areas as a consequence of climate change, which could result in, *inter alia*, rising sea levels;

ALSO CONCERNED by the continued disappearance of wetlands, which are among the most productive and most threatened ecosystems, of which the widespread destruction of mangroves is a tragic example;

RECALLING the *Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity* adopted by the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD (Jakarta, 1995) which, “encourages the integrated management of marine and coastal areas”;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of achieving the objectives of integrated management of coastal areas as established by Chapter 17 of *Agenda 21*, aiming, *inter alia*, at the adoption of strategies for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, and the sustainable development of small island areas;

COMMENDING regional initiatives aimed at implementing a strategic and integrated approach to the management of coastal areas, such as *Recommendation 2002/413/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe* and the adoption under the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the ‘Barcelona Convention’) of the Protocol Concerning Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (Madrid, 21 January 2008), which is the first international treaty devoted to the integrated management of coastal areas and could serve as a model for other conventions on regional seas;

CONSIDERING that the integrated management of coastal areas is based on a dynamic process for the management and sustainable use of coastal areas, simultaneously taking into account the vulnerability of the ecosystems and coastal environment, as well as the diversity of activities and uses;

RECALLING Resolution 2.56 *Land-use policies and legal tools for coastal conservation* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

ALSO RECALLING Recommendation V.22 *Building a Global System of Marine and Coastal Protected Area Networks* endorsed by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), which calls for, *inter alia*, “Integrat[ing] MPAs with other ocean, coastal, and land governance policies” as well as Recommendation V.31 *Protected Areas, Freshwater and Integrated River Basin Management Frameworks*; and

AFFIRMING the necessity of strengthening the integrated management of coastal areas and promoting a global and coherent approach to coastal and marine ecosystems;

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

1. CALLS ON all coastal states and particularly Small Island States to immediately define and implement a policy for the integrated management of coastal areas which includes:

(a) appropriate planning tools based on an ecosystem approach, and integrating terrestrial, maritime and catchment areas;

(b) tools for the monitoring and evaluation of the condition of coastal environments, including procedures for the evaluation of cumulative impacts on the coastal area which take into account the carrying capacity and the fragile nature of coastal environments;

(c) national and local coordination between the various authorities responsible for terrestrial and maritime areas, aimed at ensuring coherence and sound articulation of the various policies, as well as the effectiveness of measures for the protection and management of coastal environments;

(d) governance bodies guaranteeing inclusive participation of all concerned parties in management and decision making, and especially of local collectives that are often responsible for the management of natural environments, but also of local populations with their traditional rights and management systems;

(e) the integration of the designation of protected areas (marine and terrestrial) in programmes for the integrated management of coastal areas with special attention to ecosystems and coastal landscapes outside the protected areas; and

(f) recognition and economic valuation of the services provided by coastal ecosystems;

2. ENCOURAGES development of actions aimed at regional cooperation, particularly at the level of Regional Seas through the elaboration of a plan and programmes for integrated management on bio-regional scales;

3. ENCOURAGES the European Union and its Member States to continue with their efforts to define an integrated marine policy to complement the one for the integrated management of coastal areas;

4. INVITES the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify as quickly as possible the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean so as to ensure its entry into force;

5. PROPOSES the organization of a new world conference on coastal areas in the context of the forthcoming 1st International Marine Conservation Congress (Washington, 20–24 May 2009); and

6. INVITES the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) to make the integrated management of coastal areas a priority for action.