

#### 4.136 Biodiversity, protected areas, indigenous peoples and mining activities

RECALLING the Resolutions and Recommendations that have been adopted by Sessions of the IUCN General Assembly and World Conservation Congress:

- (a) Resolution 15.18 *Deep Sea Mining and Establishment of Protected Areas of the Deep Ocean* adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (Christchurch, 1981);
- (b) Res16/11 *Deep Sea Mining and Establishment of Protected Areas of the Deep Ocean* and Res16/27 *Christmas Island (Indian Ocean)* adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (Madrid, 1984);
- (c) Recommendation 17.54 *Mount Etna, Australia* and Resolution 17.60 *Carajas Pig Iron Plants, Brazil* adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (San Jose, 1988);
- (d) Recommendation 18.31 *Tropical Forestry Action Plan*, Recommendation 18.46 *Tatsenshini-Alsek River System, Canada and USA*, Recommendation 18.51 *Protection of Mount Nimba, Guinea*, Recommendation 18.63 *Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea*, Recommendation 18.64 *Conservation Measures within the Papua New Guinea Tropical Forestry Action Plan*, Recommendation 18.66 *Mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves Especially in Australia*, and Recommendation 18.67 *Kakadu National Park, Australia* adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990);
- (e) Recommendation 19.65 *Conservation of South American Native Forests*, Recommendation 19.69 *The Biosphere Reserve of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare, Venezuela*, Recommendation 19.79 *Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea*, Recommendation 19.81 *Conservation of the Gulf Region, Northern Territory, Australia*, Recommendation 19.86 *Mining in the Conservation Estate, Australia*, and Recommendation 19.87 *Conservation of Kakadu World Heritage Site, Australia* adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);
- (f) Resolution 1.81 *Productive Relationships between IUCN and the Private Sector* and Resolution 1.82 *Private Sector Financial Operations* adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);
- (g) Recommendation 2.82 *Protection and conservation of biological diversity of protected areas from the negative impacts of mining and exploration* adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000); and
- (h) Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change a framework for conservation action*, Resolution 3.060 *Influencing private sector actions in favour of biodiversity*, Resolution 3.061 *IUCN's interaction with the private sector*, Resolution 3.075 *Applying the precautionary principle in environmental decision making and management*, Recommendation 3.082 *The Extractive Industries Review* and Recommendation 3.101 *Advancing boreal forest conservation* adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

NOTING the vision of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) strategic plan:

“that society fully recognizes and support the importance of protected areas in the 21st century by:securing key places for biological and cultural diversity; promoting equity and justice, maintaining the quality of the environment, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources for poverty reduction, food and water security, and the prevention of conflicts”; and

AWARE of the increased pressure placed on natural systems containing mineral resources due to an ever-increasing world demand for these minerals, particularly as other sources of these resources are exhausted;

**The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:**

1. CALLS ON IUCN's State members to:

- (a) uphold the integrity of critical ecosystems, and of IUCN's Protected Area Categories in the management of the world's protected areas;
- (b) carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prior to considering any mining operation; and
- (c) establish and enforce international best practices and national laws for mining;

2. URGES the global mining companies, including the members of the International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM) to:

- (a) avoid mineral exploration and mining activities that will affect the long term integrity of:
  - (i) high conservation value areas (protected and not protected), critical ecosystems, water-catchment areas and biological corridors;
  - (ii) food security and traditional livelihoods;
  - (iii) territories of indigenous peoples where full free prior and informed consent has not been obtained; and
- (b) allow access and freedom of surveillance by civil society and the press to ensure good practice.

State and agency members of the United States voted against this motion.