

4.058 Conservation and poverty reduction

RECOGNIZING that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty reduction and for the benefit of all life on Earth;

APPRECIATING the fact that this target was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and incorporated as a new target under the *Millennium Development Goals*;

ACKNOWLEDGING that key global conservation and environmental conventions, including CBD, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as well as many regional, national and local organizations have adopted a variety of commitments linking conservation and poverty reduction;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the increasing volume of studies at differing levels which show the dependence of local poor people on the goods and services that ecosystems provide and the religious, cultural and livelihood values which they support, as well as the positive and negative impacts of conservation activities on these values;

REAFFIRMING the commitments made by IUCN at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in adopting Resolution 3.014 *Poverty reduction, food security and conservation*, Resolution 3.015 *Conserving nature and reducing poverty by linking human rights and the environment*, and Resolution 3.016 *On the role of conservation organizations in poverty reduction and development*;

NOTING that Resolution 3.016 reflects Outcome 5 and Key Target 3 of the *Durban Action Plan* and Recommendation V.29 *Poverty and protected areas* noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003);

FURTHER NOTING, with approval, the establishment by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) of the joint Task Force on Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods, which is addressing these issues expressly in relation to protected areas;

BEING MADE AWARE OF the initiative of the informal Steering Group Linking Conservation and Poverty supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and others to promote a wide and inclusive dialogue to develop principles and to provide guidance on this matter; and

WELCOMING the decision of the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD (Bonn, 2008) to highlight in the implementation of their strategic plan the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication and the achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals*, taking into account that conservation and sustainable use should contribute to poverty reduction at the local level, and not harm the livelihoods of the poor;

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

1. ENDORSES the principle: *Where conservation policies and activities affect people at the local level, those policies and activities should strive to contribute to poverty reduction and, at the very minimum, do no harm*; and
2. URGES IUCN members and Commissions to support a dialogue around this principle by providing case studies and sharing their experience, and by participating in workshops and other activities to further this process;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the *IUCN Programme 2009–2012*:

3. REQUESTS IUCN's Commissions, especially CEESP, WCPA and the Species Survival Commission (SSC), to collaborate with CBD Parties, the CBD Secretariat and the wider conservation community in the development of detailed principles and guidelines to contribute to the implementation of the principle set out in paragraph 1 above and to report progress to the 5th IUCN World Conservation Congress, including a text for consideration if appropriate; and
4. ASKS the IUCN Director General to ensure that the principle in paragraph 1 above is incorporated, where relevant, in IUCN's future policies and programmes.