

4.059 Promoting wildlife-based land uses in arid and semi-arid regions of Southern Africa

APPRECIATING that under appropriate wildlife management policies that maximize benefits for producer communities, and with logical land-use zonation to minimize human-animal conflict, wildlife-based land use has demonstrated an effective, competitive and low-impact mechanism to deliver sustainable incomes for rural communities in arid and semi-arid regions of Southern Africa;

NOTING that community-based natural-resource management approaches for wildlife and tourism, based on legally established tenure rights that allow rural households to benefit from the management of these resources, have recently been extended to other resource sectors such as forestry, non-timber forest and range-land plant products, grazing systems, water management and local landscape-level planning;

APPRECIATING ongoing initiatives, for example the Integrated Community-Based Ecosystem Management pilot project and the Country Pilot Partnership for Integrated Sustainable Land Use in Namibia, to extend and evolve these approaches to poverty alleviation through the most appropriate suite of local land uses for sustainable, indigenous, biodiversity production systems and into a holistic system functioning at the ecosystem level;

RECOGNIZING that dryland cropping and livestock production in Southern Africa have caused substantial damage to the health and resilience of ecosystems through, *inter alia*, loss of plant cover, increased rainfall runoff, soil erosion, siltation of rivers and water bodies, lower plant diversity, reduced uptake of atmospheric carbon, complex albedo effects, deliberate or indirect eradications of some wildlife species, use of pesticides, and exacerbation of conflicts between humans and wildlife;

CONCERNED that the environmental constraints to conventional agriculture in Southern Africa will be exacerbated by global climate change, which is projected to result in lower and less reliable annual rainfall and declining soil moisture in the arid and semi-arid regions;

ALSO CONCERNED that the increasing international and regional emphasis on bioenergy production as opposed to food production, especially in areas requiring irrigation, threatens to worsen food scarcity and resource imbalances in the rural areas of Southern Africa;

SUPPORTING the spirit of Resolution 2.29 *IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000); and

SUPPORTING Decision IX/17 *Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands* of the 9th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which noted that "... sustainable wildlife management may have a comparative advantage over other land use options due to the natural adaptations of native species to local environmental conditions such as low rainfall and the presence of diseases ... and that lands used for sustainable wildlife management may be more resilient to the predicted impacts of climate change than other land use options";

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

1. URGES IUCN members, especially those in or involved with Southern African countries, to recognize that indigenous biodiversity-based land uses (e.g. wildlife and tourism) through consumptive and non-consumptive means, have a comparative advantage over agriculture as a land use in many situations, and especially in the arid and semi-arid regions; and

2. URGES government agencies and bilateral and multilateral agencies to interact with various stakeholder groups and combinations thereof to promote balanced land-use policies that include indigenous wildlife and plant production;

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 the Director General to ensure that IUCN continues its efforts to facilitate greater appreciation within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of the importance of indigenous biodiversity production systems and other environmental goods and services in poverty reduction and development within the region, particularly in the arid and semi-arid regions.

State and agency members of the United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.