

4.064 Integrated coastal management in the Mediterranean – the Barcelona Convention

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, known as the ‘Barcelona Convention’, which was originally adopted as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution at the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States, held in Barcelona in February 1976, where two Protocols signed by 14 Member States of the European Union were also approved;

BEARING IN MIND that the Barcelona Convention, the formal name of which was amended in 1995, has given rise to seven Protocols, which are basically aimed at protecting and conserving the marine environment and coastal zone of the Mediterranean, and that the most recent of these was the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management formalized at the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties in Almería (Spain) in January 2008;

AWARE that this Protocol will become the first legally-binding international instrument on the integrated management of coastal zones to contribute to the sustainable development of coastal zones, and to deal with the effects of climate change on these sensitive areas;

ALSO AWARE of the meaning of Recommendation 2002/413/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 30 May 2002, concerning the implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Europe, based on:

- (a) protection of the coastal environment;
- (b) recognition of the threat posed by climate change;
- (c) implementation of coastal protection measures, including the protection of coastal settlements and their cultural heritage;
- (d) sustainable economic opportunities and employment options;
- (e) a functioning social and cultural system;
- (f) accessible land for recreational purposes and aesthetic reasons;
- (g) cohesion of remote coastal communities; and
- (h) improved coordination of measures;

NOTING that Recommendation 2002/413/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 30 May 2002, offers the Member States:

- (a) national strategic plans for ensuring the control of any additional land-use planning and the exploitation of non-urban areas, which should respect the natural characteristics of the coastal environment;
- (b) land-purchase mechanisms and declarations of public domain to ensure public access to recreational areas without prejudice to the protection of sensitive areas;
- (c) contractual or voluntary agreements with coastal-zone users;
- (d) harnessing of economic and fiscal incentives; and
- (e) application of regional development mechanisms;

HIGHLIGHTING the fact that this Community recommendation also advises cooperation with neighbouring countries, even non-Member States, if the countries share the same regional sea;

RECALLING Resolution 1.10 *IUCN's Work in the Mediterranean* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), which makes special mention of the Barcelona Convention;

BEARING IN MIND that IUCN members urged action in favour of the Barcelona Convention in Recommendation 2.90 *Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean* that was adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), and which called for ratification of the Convention;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the cultural and natural diversity of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the close ties between local populations and the management of natural resources; and

CONGRATULATING the IUCN Secretariat for the monitoring work carried out with regard to the Barcelona Convention;

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

1. CALLS on Mediterranean countries to sign and ratify the Barcelona Convention's Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which was formalized in Almería in January 2008; and
2. CALLS on IUCN's Mediterranean members to promote the Protocol's objectives in the entire Mediterranean Basin as well as in local and/or regional actions;

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. URGES the Director General to encourage implementation of the integrated management system of the maritime-terrestrial zone of Mediterranean coastal regions, both in favour of future generations and to maintain and conserve their natural and cultural values.

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.