

4.078 Appeal for action to address global environmental change

CONSIDERING that the world is being confronted by a global environmental change characterized by an array of biophysical transformations, defining a growing loss of biological diversity;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that climate change of human origin is advancing in an extremely dangerous manner, leading to serious degradation of vital balances in the atmosphere, the oceans, freshwater systems and productive lands;

NOTING that the quality of human life and sustainable development on the broadest scale is being affected;

CONSIDERING that unsustainable modes of production and consumption have been and are the basic causes of global environmental deterioration;

NOTING that such modes entail a continuing, growing and irreversible deterioration of natural support systems vital for comprehensive human development, encouraging demands whose satisfaction has threatened to exceed the capacity of sustainable ecosystem production and has consumed with growing speed the usable reserves of non-renewable resources;

NOTING that climate change affects every aspect of the IUCN Programme; and

RECALLING that civilization depended and depends entirely on its natural resources and on their cycles and recuperation periods;

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

1. CALLS on IUCN's members to:

(a) reduce and eliminate the current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, encouraging the priority introduction of those contributions from science and technology that recognize the existence of limits in natural resources and in productive capacity; and

(b) adopt immediate mitigation strategies and adaptation actions that can be the basis for the design of policies aimed at increasing the protection of ecosystems, their resources, environmental services and their productivity, and that encourages their ecologically sustainable use;

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*:

2. CALLS on the Director General to ensure that the effects of climate change are addressed as a prime consideration in every aspect of the IUCN Programme, and to report annually to the members on the implementation of this requirement; and

3. REQUESTS the Director General, in cooperation with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and Agencies of the United Nations, to explore the possibilities of organizing a 'World Conference on Economics, Ecology, and the Environment' with the goal of advancing toward a unified vision of sustainability that will enable us to address current global environmental change.

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.