

4.088 Establishing the *IUCN Extractive Industry Responsibility Initiative*

RECOGNIZING that large-scale extractive industry developments offer both opportunity and risk to local residents, governments and the environment;

RECALLING that the World Bank's 2004 *Extractive Industry Review* provided a thorough examination of the problems and challenges presented by extractive industries around the world, and found that three overarching conditions must exist to guide investment in the extractive sector including pro-poor public and corporate governance, effective social and environmental policies, and respect for human rights;

ALSO RECALLING that the recommendations of the World Bank *Extractive Industry Review* called for improvements in transparency, governance reforms, environmental restoration, gas-flaring reduction, mine-closure protocols, waste management, protection of human rights, revenue sharing with communities, increasing local ownership/content, energy efficiency, increased stakeholder consultation, less carbon-intensive (coal and oil) investment (calling for a phase-out of investments in fossil-fuel projects by 2008), prior consent by local people as a pre-condition to project approval, and the application of best-available technical standards;

RECOGNIZING that few of the *Extractive Industry Review* recommendations have been effectively or broadly implemented to date and that there is substantial room for improvement in the environmental and social performance of extractive industries;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that many developing countries and local people lack the technical capacity and financial resources with which to implement these improvements on their own; and

CONSIDERING that IUCN is uniquely situated to facilitate the implementation of the *Extractive Industry Review* recommendations;

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*:

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- (a) explore the feasibility and funding requirements of establishing an *Extractive Industry Responsibility Initiative* (EIRI) within IUCN, drawing on the experience of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), other Commissions as appropriate, as well as the experience of the World Bank, governments, the United Nations, NGOs and IUCN members;
- (b) develop criteria for rigorous extractive industry certification; and
- (c) explore, with CEESP and the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), methods for identifying and mobilizing technical experts competent to review extractive industry performance in relation to these certification criteria.

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